Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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Tucson Goes Pro Softball

TUCSON - Tucson has become one of eight cities in the country to acquire a Professional Women's Fastpitch Softball Team. There is a new ownership group for the National Pro Fastpitch (NPF) softball franchise that will play in Tucson next year. And it could include you.

Champion Sports Promotions Inc. of Tucson, a group led by Jim Tiggas and his son Matt are the new primary owners of the new unnamed team.

In an all out effort to include more diversity in professional sports ownership Champion Sports Promotions (CBA Member) is seeking to include more members of the community to it's list of owners.

"It's a great game, and we want to bring this exciting professional sport to Tucson and all of Arizona. We want to give women athletes the opportunity for a professional sports career and provide a guide for young girls aspirations," said Tiggas the principal owner of Champion Sports Promotions. "This will be a successful adventure, both on the field and on the bottom line."

Jim Tiggas continues to coordinate the Tucson Invitational Games, a national women's collegiate fastpitch softball tournament held the last two springs. He is also the promoter that brought the National Pro Fastpitch All Stars traveling team to Tucson Friday July 11th in which 1,034 fans attended.

The Tucson affiliate is part of a re-launch of the league for June, July and August of 2004. The Tucson team will be joining other affiliates in Akron, Boston, Denver, Houston, Sacramento, New York/New Jersey and Oklahoma City. Other potential markets are Philadelphia, Minneapolis, Cincinnati, Milwaukee, Omaha and Fresno, California.

"It is a very exciting time for the NPF" said NPF president Richard Levine. "We know the expansion teams need to have independent ownership, quality facilities and strong community support. We also know from a league prospective, fans are looking for this kind of entertainment."

Headquartered in Denver, National Pro Fastpitch (NPF) was created to give elite women fastpitch players the opportunity to pursue a professional career in their chosen sport. The NPF has operated since 1997 under the names Women's Pro Fastpitch (WPF) and Women's Pro Fastpitch Softball League (WPSL). In November 2002 Major League Baseball became a Developmental Partner with the NPF.

For more information about ownership in this exciting opportunity call Jim Tiggas at his office, (520) 296-9595.

Openly Gay Reporter Target Of Bush Smear

WASHINGTON - Openly Gay journalist Jeffrey Kofman has apparently become the target of a smear campaign after he broadcast a report for ABC News about the plummeting morale among U.S. soldiers serving in Iraq.

Internet gossip Matt Drudge told The Washington Post last week that he had received a phone call from the White House communications department tipping him to the fact that Kofman is not only Canadian but also Gay. The White House has since denied making the call. Under the headline "ABC News Reporter Who Filed Troop Complaint Story Is Canadian," the Drudge Report Web site provided a link to a profile of Kofman that had run in The Advocate.

Kofman filed a report on ABC's World News Tonight last Tuesday, noting that morale among U.S. troops stationed in Iraq is falling dramatically. Soldiers in the Second Brigade, Third Infantry Division, stationed in Falloujah, expressed their discontent with the White House's decision to delay their return to the United States, the third time their return home has been postponed. One soldier said the changes "pretty much make me lose faith in the Army. I mean, I don't really believe anything they tell me." Another said, "If Donald Rumsfeld was here, I'd ask him for his resignation."

After the report aired, the military said the soldiers who had spoken out would be disciplined. Some reports suggested that the six men Kofman interviewed might face the end of their military careers because of their comments. The news broadcast and the revelations on the Drudge Report also engendered sharp criticism from several right-wing pundits, who have accused Kofman of disloyalty because of his sexual orientation and Canadian citizenship. "When you take a job in the United States in the public eye, that goes with the territory," Kofman told the Toronto Globe & Mail. Kofman said he is willing to believe the White House's denial of involvement in the incident. "I'm going to take the White House at face value and accept the comments that they made, which is that this is the first that they've heard of it and if it did happen, then it was totally inappropriate."

Kofman is one of the best-known Gay journalists in the United States. His partner of 17 years is the Canadian opera and theater designer Michael Levine. When Kofman was hired by CBS News, he pushed for the network to grant full benefits to the partners of Gay staff members. Though he says he has never felt under attack because of his sexual orientation, some fundamentalist religious advocates have criticized him and his membership in the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association. During an interview with The Advocate in December 2001, after moving to ABC News, Kofman expressed the importance he placed on being openly Gay on the job. "I am aware that part of my responsibility in this job is to be a role model," he said. "It's important to me because when I was a young reporter there were no role models. I didn't know that it would be possible for me to be openly Gay and do what I'm doing."

Frist Revises Marriage Amendment Support

WASHINGTON - Support for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that bans Gay marriage may be waning, as a recent statement from Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist suggests the Republican leadership may be backing off the idea.

At present, 39 Republicans and five Democrats have signed on as co-sponsors of the anti-Gay marriage amendment, which was introduced in the House in May.

Last month Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., told ABC's "This Week" he supports the amendment, saying "I absolutely do. Of course I do." But more recently, discussing a case in Massachusetts' highest court that could grant Gay marriage in that state any day now, he said if the court legalized Gay marriage, "one alternative is a constitutional amendment."

Frist's subtle shift in support seems to be falling more in line with the White House. President Bush said he'd take a wait-and-see attitude toward the amendment.

Like President Bush, Frist still maintains marriage should be between a man and a woman, not, as Frist added, "two men or three men or four men, or one man or one woman or two women and three women or three women and three men."

"Well, 'Frist is certainly not embracing Gay marriage; while he may be backing off, it seems like he's mocking the whole idea," said John Marble, the spokesman for Stonewall Democrats. "We still need to work hard to make sure an amendment like this never gets off the ground."

"We welcome any shift in our direction with Frist's policy," said Mark Mead, spokesman for the Log Cabin Republicans. "Frist is a smart and competent leader. My partner could tell you I was speechless when I heard his original comments in favor of the amendment, and it takes a lot to leave me speechless."

Mead said he thinks Frist was just reacting to what he called the "religious right's temper tantrum" after the U.S. Supreme Court ruling; which overturned

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Library Worker Reprimanded For Discussing Gay Rights

TOPEKA - A public library employee in Topeka, Kan., says she was reprimanded for talking openly at work about Gay rights.

Bonnie Cuevas, 54, a board member of the Kansas Unity and Pride Alliance, said two administrators at the Topeka-Shawnee County Library verbally reprimanded her for discussing the Supreme Court's decision striking down sodomy laws in Texas.

According to the ACLU in New York, library administrators say they received a complaint from a co-worker who felt the subject was creating a hostile work environment; Cuevas was prohibited from any further discussion of Gay rights at work.

Cuevas, the mother of a Gay man, spoke by telephone to friends and reporters about the high court's ruling and how it affects her family. She also spoke with a co-worker about the ruling.

David Leamon, director of the library, said the staff complained that Cuevas was being disruptive because of frequent, "impassioned" telephone calls. "We never issue gag orders," Leamon told the Associated Press. "The library is on neutral ground and we don't take positions on issues."

Ken Choe, staff attorney for the ACLU in New York, said, "If there was a concern about spending too much time on the phone for personal reasons, that's one thing," the lawyer told AP. "All Mrs. Cuevas is seeking to do is talk about this landmark Supreme Court decision as any employee has the right to talk about matters of public concern."

According to Choe, Cuevas was interviewed on the phone by USA Today the day after the Supreme Court decision, who asked her opinion about the sodomy

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UPDATE

Community Survey Results Released

TUCSON (ON) - At the July meeting of the City of Tucson Commission on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender(GLBT) issues, the final draft of the Community Survey was officially released.

This survey was administered to more than 1,600 GLBT individuals, October 12, 2002, at the annual OUToberFEST event at Reid Park to measure the social climate for GLBT persons in the Tucson area.

Thirty-seven percent who participated in the inaugural survey identified themselves as Gay, 31 percent as Lesbian, 10 percent Bisexual and 13 percent as heterosexual. A majority of participants, 52 percent, were female, 1.7 percent, Transgender, 45 percent, male.

Asked about the perception of the general climate, participants said Tucson was "a fairly welcoming place for GLBT persons" and most individuals reported "that their own workplace was fairly non-discriminatory" but the participants response to the sensitivity of the Tucson Police Department were closer to neutral but still positive, the survey reports.

Verbal harassment or threats were reported by close to half, the survey said, of the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual respondents while more than 56% of Transgender respondents reported verbal harassment or threats.

GLB respondents, by 16-28 percent, said they had physical or verbal abuse by a family member and that 10-16% of respondents, reported having objects thrown at them. Eleven percent of Transgender respondents reported that they had been victims of a physical assault while 5-8 percent of GLB respondents reported being victims of physical violence.

Fourth Friday On Holiday

TUCSON (ON) - Usually in the Observer you will read about the monthly Fourth Friday event, a social for Gay, Bisexual and Transgender men held at a local restaurant or watering hole around the Old Pueblo held on the fourth Friday of the month but not this time.

So what gives? A holiday.

Organizers said that since it is the Summertime, they will be taking July and August off and resume the event, also a fund raiser for Wingspan in September. For more information, call (520) 624-1779 or go online to wingspan.org.

Out At Ball Game Benefits TIHAN

TUCSON (ON) - More than 100 people went "out" to the ball game at TEP Park, Sunday, July 20, in the fourth annual baseball benefit, with the proceeds, more than $1,000 going to the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Action Network (TIHAN).

Those in attendance, an overflow crowd, got to watch the Tucson Sidewinders take on the Edmonton Trappers in baseball action, with fine food, beverages, and in air-conditioned comfort in TEP's most luxurious sky box.

Unfortunately the Sidewinders fell short in the game but those "out" at the ball game still had a great time, especially when Sandy the Sidewinder came by to visit and are looking forward to next year's event.

Pictures of the event are in this week's Observer, both print and online.

Anti-Violence Project Expands

TUCSON (ON) - Wingspan's Domestic Violence Project (WDVP) is expanding.

Cathy Busha, the executive director of the program said at the July meeting of the City of Tucson Commission on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) issues, that the program will be called the Wingspan Anti-Violence Project (WAVP), and is "a social change and social service program that works to address and end violence in the lives of GLBT people."

WAVP will provide 24-hour crisis intervention, information, support, referrals, emergency shelter, and advocacy to GLBT victims/survivors of violence.

Busha said that the expansion has taken place but will officially start in October. For more information, call (520) 624-1779. WAVP's 24 hour crisis line number is, (520) 624-0348 or (800) 553-9387 and all calls are confidential and support is available in both Spanish and English.

Santorum Again Talks Homosexuality With The Press

WASHINGTON - Sen. Rick Santorum would advise his children to resist any "temptations" of homosexuality, according to an interview.

In the interview with GQ, Santorum, R-Pa., was asked what he would do if one of his six children told him of Gay urges. "I would treat it like I would any other thing my child comes to me with," Santorum answered. "Try to deal with it in a loving, supportive way." He continued: "You try to point out to them what is the right thing to do. And we have many temptations to do things we shouldn't do. That doesn't mean we have to give in to those temptations. I have temptations, as we all do, all the time, to do things we shouldn't do. Whether we have that disposition because of environmental factors, genetic factors, whatever, it doesn't mean you have to submit. We are people of free will and free choices."

The GQ interview focused largely on comments Santorum made to The Associated Press in April, when he said he has "no problem with homosexuality--I have a problem with homosexual acts" and compared homosexuality to bigamy, polygamy, incest and adultery. Following those comments, Santorum was targeted by Gay rights groups, Democrats, and some Republicans. Some urged him to step down from his leadership post in the Senate, where he is the third-ranking Republican. He survived the flap and is widely viewed as laying the groundwork to pursue the post of Senate majority leader as early as 2006.

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Gay TV Ad Shows Tide Turns For Marketeers

NEW YORK - "You can cruise for women; we'll cruise for men," quips Carson Kressley, the flamboyant fashion consultant on cable television channel Bravo's new smash hit, "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy," to his straight companion, reported Reuters.

It is a message not lost on advertisers, who are taking a closer look at reaching the Gay and Lesbian market with a batch of summer programs highlighting Gay-versus-straight themes.

Bravo's "Queer Eye," in which five Gay experts on style come to the rescue of a hapless straight slob, is a prime example. In addition to ads by major brands such as L'Oreal and Whirlpool, the show became a venue for the first TV spot directly targeting Gay consumers by Internet travel reservation site Orbitz.

Advertisers have spent years, and millions, cultivating diversity in their campaigns to sell products across a spectrum of American society, but mostly stopped short of including openly Gay representations in mainstream pitches.

Industry watchers say they are surprised it has taken the advertising sector so long to invest in a community whose estimated spending power amounts to $500 billion.

Major companies "probably spend more on paper clips than they do on the Gay market," said Michael Wilke, executive director of the Commercial Closet Association, which tracks representations of the Gay community in advertising.

"Typically a company may come into the market, but in a very inexpensive way. ... Now that television is starting to become an option, this requires a rethinking of their budgets," he said. "There's still a lingering concern about the past taboo of what the Gay community means to people, combined with a lack of information about the market."

But the tides are shifting, as Gay characters or themed programming become entrenched for broadcast and cable networks, built on the success of shows such as NBC's "Will & Grace."

Interest is also buoyed by political developments, such as Canada's move toward legalizing Gay marriages and the U.S. Supreme Court s decision to overturn sodomy laws, gfn.com reported.

"There has been tremendous growth and interest in reaching Lesbians and Gay men on the part of advertisers," said Howard Buford, chief executive of ad agency Prime Access, which has created Gay-targeted print campaigns for major companies.

"When one company goes in there, then there's pressure on its competitor (to do the same)," he said. He noted a "dramatic" increase of Gay-specific ads in niche publications and expects more Gay portrayals in mainstream spots.

Buford said the shift also gets a push from the cultural buzz around "metrosexuals" – a new definition for young, urban straight men "who are looking to the Gay community to be arbiters of good taste."

In addition to "Queer Eye," Bravo will premiere "Boy Meets Boy," a reality dating show in which a Gay man searches for love among male contestants. Bravo, owned by the NBC unit of General Electric, has long put a special emphasis on programs for the Gay community.

Satellite provider DirecTV will debut in August a new pay-per-view service for Gay and Lesbian viewers offering movies and special programming.

MTV Networks and Showtime, owned by Viacom Inc.,have also mulled building a network dedicated to Gay viewers, but no plans have been finalized, an MTV spokeswoman said.

Many advertisers took their first stab at marketing in the Gay community by placing their mainstream ads in publications such "Out" and "The Advocate" or online. The main industries involved include automakers, financial services, travel and more recently, skin and beauty care.

"What the recent change for us is saying now that we've got a little more resources, a little more refinement, we'd like to do tailored ads in targeted publications," said John Maloney, vice president of communications for Volvo cars North America.

Volvo has a customized campaign inviting Gay and Lesbian families to tell their stories and compete for a weekend vacation under the slogan "Safety. Security. Family."

On television, some advertisers sought to pique interest with spots underpinned by more or less sexually ambiguous subtexts between two male or female characters.

"It's kind of fun for Gay people, because we figure them out and a lot of straight people probably don't," said Ted Allen, a contributing editor to Esquire magazine and a member of the "Queer Eye" team advising on food and wine.

The Orbitz ad, however, pulls no punches. Using marionettes, it shows a travel agent booking reservations for a Miami hotel.

The scene switches to a couple standing on the balcony of their hotel room, where the woman comments on the beautiful view. The man, spying a muscular male sunbather at the pool with his binoculars, heartily agrees.

"By having Gay content and not being afraid to do so...the Gay community honestly will reward you with their business," said Jeffrey Marsh, director of marketing strategy at Orbitz.

He who has a thing to sell and goes and whispers in a well, is not so apt to get the dollars as he who climbs a tree and hollers.

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROJECT

Bravo Sets Ratings Record With 'Queer Eye"

NEW YORK - The Bravo cable channel saw record ratings Tuesday night, July 17, with the premiere of its reality TV show "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy."

The NBC-owned network pulled in 1.64 million viewers with "Queer Eye," according to Reuters. Those numbers catapulted Bravo from No. 38 to No. 2 among ad-supported cable channels during the show's time slot, reported the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

The show airs Tuesday nights at 10 p.m. ET and features five Gay men with a weekly mission to transform a style-challenged straight man. Each member of the "Fab Five" has a specialty, allowing the group to work on the straight guy's culture, grooming, fashion, food and design skills.

Bravo's Web site now calls "Queer Eye" its "new hit series."

Not everyone is singing the show's praises, however.

Washington Post style columnist Tom Shales said Tuesday in his column that the show feeds on Gay stereotypes. "One can hope the series ... will prove to be as harmless as it is frivolous," he wrote.

Scott Seomin, entertainment media director for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), is defending the show.

"None of the 'Fab Five' are playing characters," Seomin told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network. "They are simply being themselves and out and proud. Viewers may see them as a stereotypes, but as the show progresses, the men are revealed to be more complex than a simple stereotype."

Bravo could see Gay programming become its summer ratings mainstay. "Boy Meets Boy" will premiere July 29 with a Gay bachelor attempting to select a mate out of a pool of contestants. The twist for the new series is that the bachelor doesn't know that only some of the men are Gay.

Scalia Dissent Compared To Slavery Justification

WASHINGTON - In the wake of the recent Supreme Court ruling that wiped out sodomy laws, one law professor says that parts of Justice Antonin Scalia's angry dissent echo the reasoning used in the court's 19th-century decision that justified slavery, Knight Ridder reports.

In both cases, Dred Scott in 1857 and Lawrence v. Texas in 2003, justices faced crucial questions about constitutional liberties: Are they set in stone? Or should the court take an evolving view of the Constitution and extend rights to groups the founders left out?

In Dred Scott, Chief Justice Roger B. Taney said the Constitution and the nation's legal history offered no suggestion that blacks should have the rights other Americans enjoyed. The laws defined them as property, not people, he said, so they couldn't be citizens. Similarly, Scalia's dissent from June's landmark ruling argues that the Constitution and the nation's legal history contain no explicit protections of Gay sex. So Gays have no fundamental right to engage in the private, intimate relations that other Americans take for granted. "In terms of constitutional interpretation, there are uses of legal history which freeze a sense of morality in a point in time," said Lea Vandervelde, a University of Iowa law professor who is writing two books about the Dred Scott decision. "They don't acknowledge that liberties should be expanding with human progress." Scalia and other judges like him are proponents of that line of thinking, she said.

Scalia didn't prevail in Lawrence, because only two other justices agreed with him. But his dissent is drawing more than passing attention because President Bush has described Scalia as his judicial role model. Should the president get the chance to fill one or more high court seats, he has said he would try to find judges who share Scalia's view of the Constitution.

Gwen Araujo Case Stalls Over Bail Question

OAKLAND - A California judge has questioned another judge's decision to revoke bail for one of the suspected killers of Transgender teen Gwen Araujo, forcing a new hearing next week about the suspect's bail, reported the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

Alameda County Superior Court Judge Larry Goodman ruled on Wednesday, July 16, that fellow judge Mark Kenneth Burr must "state specific grounds" for his decision last March to revoke bail for Michael Magidson.

Magidson, 22, is one of three suspects awaiting trial in the beating and slaying of Araujo in Newark, Calif., last October. In January, a judge set his bail at $1.68 million, which his family posted, according to the Argus newspaper. But after a preliminary hearing in March to determine if there was enough evidence to go to trial, another judge, Judge Burr, revoked bail after determining that Magidson was the "primary actor" in the slaying.

Magidson's lawyers have challenged the bail decision. A hearing is set for July 24 to resolve whether Magidson is entitled to bail.

The idea that the suspect could be free on bail troubles advocates for Transgender people.

"If such a brutal killing had taken the life of a non-Transgendered woman, this would not be an issue," said Gwen Smith, founder of the Remembering Our Dead project. "Magidson would not have gotten out on bond the first time, and should not be out now."

"There is concern for public safety, and possibly even a flight risk," said Vanessa Edwards Foster, chair of the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition. "Releasing Magidson will provide no benefit to the community."

Magidson and two other men face murder charges with a hate crimes enhancement for killing Araujo, 17, at a house party in Newark after discovering she was born male. The case received widespread coverage and generated several protests and vigils.

A fourth suspect, Jaron Chase Nabors, pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter and is serving an 11-year prison term.

AROUND THE GAY USA.....

Trial For Lesbian Hikers' Murders Postponed

WASHINGTON - A federal judge has postponed the trial of a man accused in the slashing deaths of two Lesbian hikers seven years ago in Shenandoah National Park.

Darrell Rice is accused of killing Julianne Williams, 24, who grew up in Minnesota, and Laura Winans, 26, of Maine, at their campsite in May 1996. Prosecutors say the women were tied up and their throats were cut. A U.S. district judge on Monday, July 14, delayed the start of Rice's trial, which is scheduled for July 24, at the request of the defense lawyer, who said he needs time to review thousands of government documents pertaining to the attack. The lawyer said he has had trouble locating witnesses due to stale contact information provided by the government and that prosecutors haven't turned over files he requested.

Prosecutors will seek the death penalty. The Justice Department invoked the federal hate-crimes statute, quoting Rice as saying the women "deserved to die because they were Lesbian." Rice, 35, is serving 11 years for the attempted abduction of another woman the year after Winans and Williams were killed. She said that she was cycling alone in the park when Rice forced her off the road and told her to get into his pickup truck.

School District Settles Suit, Alters Policy

LITTLE ROCK - The ACLU said on Thursday, July 17, that a lawsuit filed on behalf of a 14-year-old Gay Arkansas student against his school district has been settled, with the district agreeing to policy changes that protect Gay and Lesbian students.

The student, Thomas McLaughlin, charged in the lawsuit that school officials "outed" him to his parents without permission, made him read from the Bible and punished him for talking about his sexual orientation.

According to the ACLU, the Pulaski County Special School District violated McLaughlin's rights to free speech, equal protection, privacy and religious liberty.

As part of the settlement, the district agreed to enforce policies against disclosing a student's sexual orientation, punishing students who talk about their sexual orientation during non-instruction time, discriminating against GLBT students and preaching to students (including forced reading of the Bible).

In addition, the district will expunge McLaughlin's disciplinary record, issue a formal apology and pay a total of $25,000 in damages and legal fees.

"We're pleased this school has seen the error of its ways and hope schools everywhere will learn from this example," Rita Sklar, executive director of the ACLU of Arkansas, said in a statement. "Public schools aren't above the Constitution, and they can't get away with silencing Gay students and violating their rights."

"No more students should have to go through what I did," McLaughlin said.

Michigan Police Probe Torture, Rape Case

GRAND RAPIDS - Police in Grand Rapids, Mich., are investigating the brutal rape and death of a Bisexual teenager.

On July 8, Justin Bogdanik, 18, died -- two weeks after his bloody, tortured body was found lying in a ditch on the side of a major Michigan highway.

Bogdanik, who was described by friends as Bisexual, was found in a ditch about 100 miles from Grand Rapids nearly unconscious, with his eyes glued shut with super glue following an alleged brutal sexual assault. He was taken to a hospital, where he survived on life support for nearly two weeks.

He eventually died from pneumonia after his fever spiked. Family members removed Bogdanik from life support after being told his chances of survival were grim.

On June 25, witnesses said they saw Bogdanik willingly get into the cab of a white semitrailer with a man at a park in Grand Rapids.

What happened next is a mystery to the police.

"It's hard to speculate on the motive: Was he attacked because of his lifestyle? It's a possibility. Did something happen between the two parties? We don't have an exact scenario," Detective Tom VanderPloeg of the Grand Rapids Police Department told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network. "There were seven hours that transpired that we don't know what happened to him."

What they do know is that Bogdanik was the victim of a vicious sexual attack.

Police in Grand Rapids, where Bogdanik lived for most of his life, are investigating this as a homicide and a possible hate crime-related death.

Michigan does not have a hate crime law to protect someone in an anti-Gay attack, according to Sean Kosofsky, director of policy at Triangle Foundation, Michigan's leading Gay and Lesbian civil rights organization.

"A sexual assault of this nature would carry a penalty of life in prison. It's handled as an extremely serious case," VanderPloeg said.

VanderPloeg explained that when Bogdanik was found, it appeared that his wrists had been bound. He had scratches and cuts on his face and was very incoherent, not recognizing his adopted father.

Bogdanik had been living in a local YMCA for a few weeks prior to his disappearance, but was living on the street for some time before moving into the YMCA, according to VanderPloeg.

The teenager had a troubled life since childhood, when he was reportedly

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Thursday, July 24, 6 - 8 pm
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NOW SHOWING
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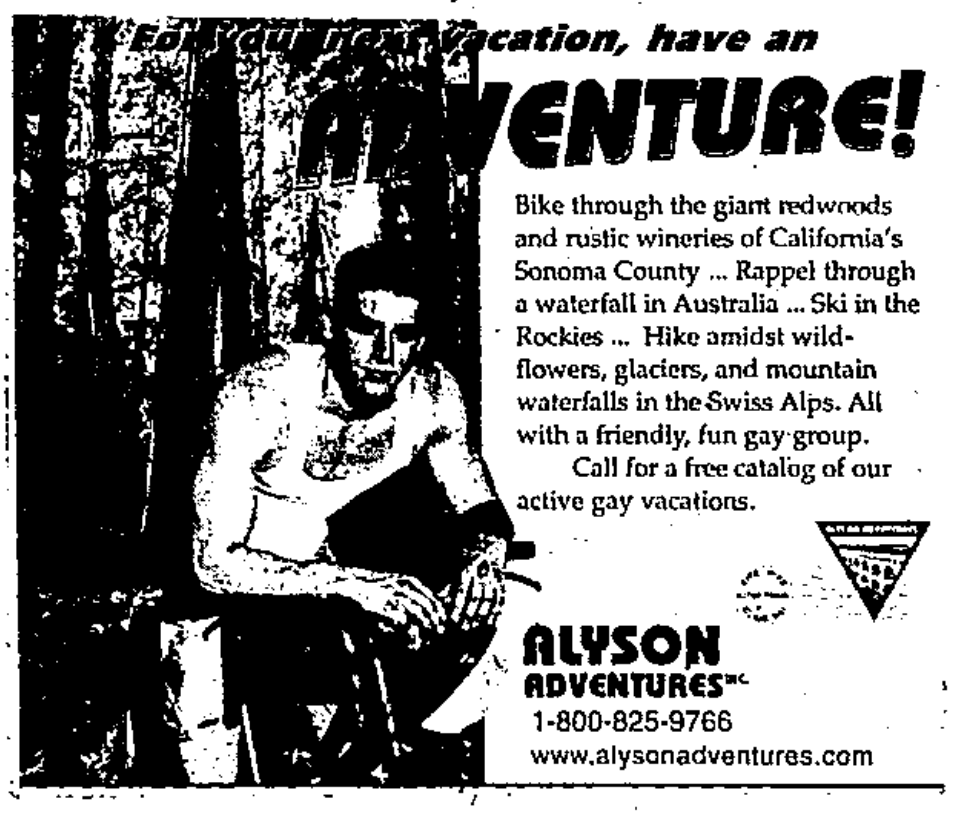

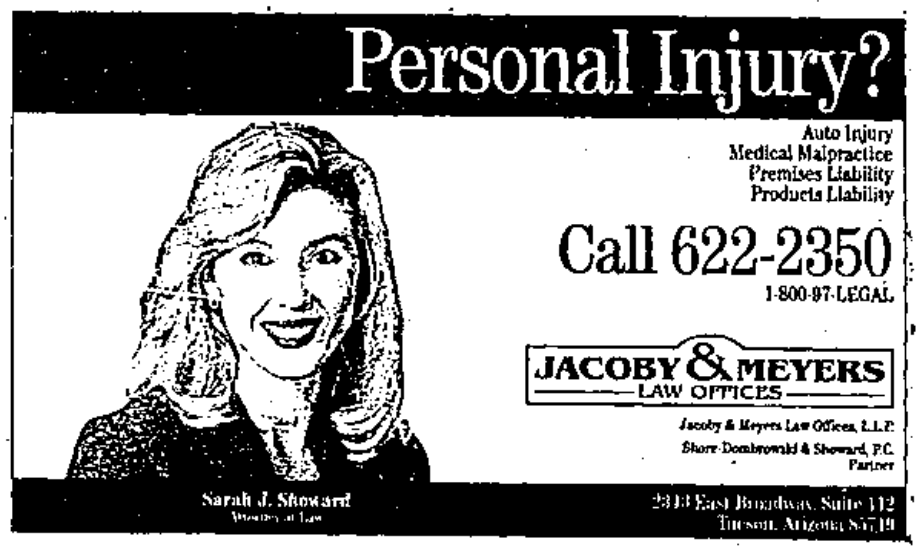

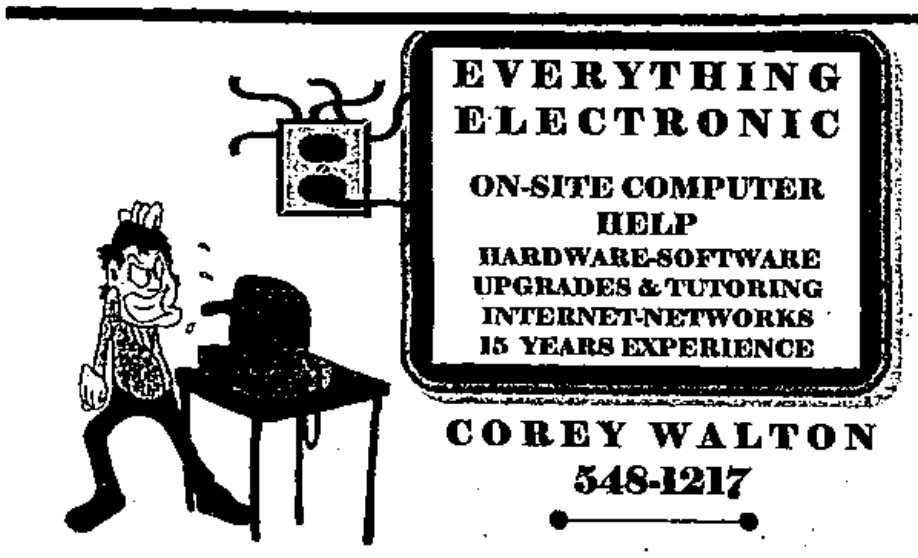

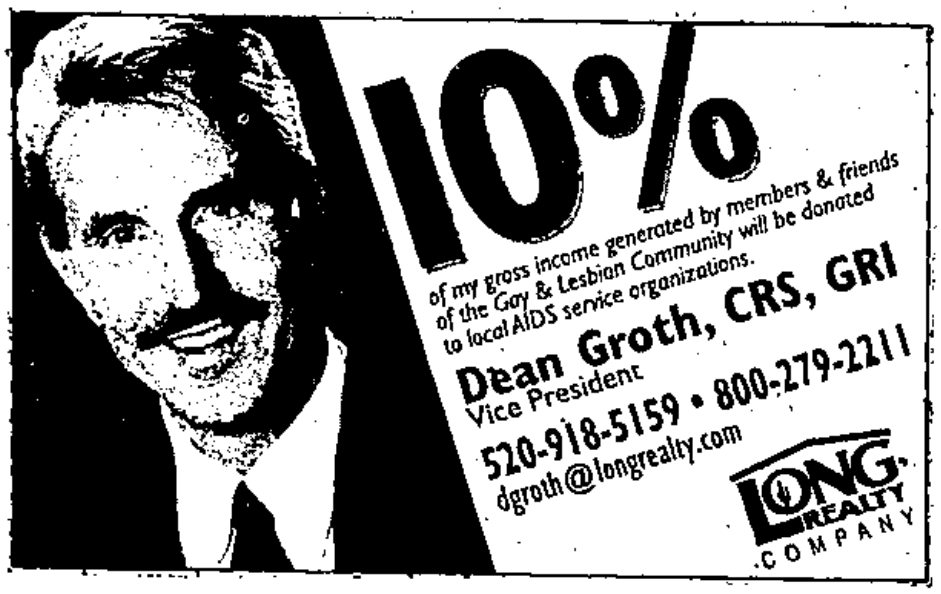

POLITICS 2003

by Mark R. Kerr

'Survey Says'

After the historic "Speaking of Equality" forum held Wednesday, July 15 in Washington D.C., by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the nationwide Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender rights organization, marking the first such political forum where the Democratic presidential candidates (sans Senators Edwards and Graham) openly courted the GLBT vote themselves, HRC also released the responses of all nine presidential candidates on a questionnaire issued by the organization.

This questionnaire, according to HRC, covered several topics, including:

civil marriage rights;

increased funding for HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment;

"don't ask, don't tell";

workplace non-discrimination policies for GLBT people;

comprehensive hate crimes law; and,

equal tax treatment and immigration benefits for same-sex couples.

"Overall these candidates showed significant support for GLBT issues," said Winnie Stachelberg, HRC's political director. Stachelberg went on to express that HRC "were disappointed, however with several of the candidates' stance on equal marriage rights and opposition on other matters that, on a daily basis, affect the lives of millions of Americans.

Indeed, the nine candidates expressed support for:

adoption of an Employment Non-Discrimination Act;

expansion of the federal hate crimes law to cover sexual orientation and gender identity;

a funding increase for the Ryan White Care Act;

passage of the Early Treatment for HIV Act;

increasing money for HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and research;

comprehensive sex education programs; federal domestic partner benefits; and,

Gay and Lesbian adoption.

Although, on the issues of:

gender identity employment non-discrimination;

federal recognition of state approved marriage;

extending federal benefits, rights and responsibilities of marriage;

passage of The Family and Medical Act;

Social Security survivor benefits;

equal tax treatment;

immigration equality; and,

"don't ask, don't tell", they differed.

HRC said that according to a survey commissioned by the organization, GLBT voters made up 5 percent of the electorate during the 2002 midterm elections and in the four prior elections, GLBT voters consistently represented four to five percent of the electorate.

Since Arizona's presidential primary will take place on Tuesday, February 3, 2004, we've become an integral part of the nomination process, since the primary will be the fourth one held on the presidential political calendar, the candidates in-depth answers to the HRC questionnaire will each be featured in this column.

Frank Leads Fight Against Amendment

WASHINGTON - Democratic Rep. Barney Frank of Massachusetts is rallying opposition to a proposed constitutional amendment banning Gay marriages and using the number two man in the Bush administration to make the point.

The move is being made in response to Republican efforts to assemble cosponsors for a constitutional amendment, favored by Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, Republican of Tennessee, that would ban Gay marriages nationwide.

In a letter to his colleagues, Frank quotes a statement made by Vice President Dick Cheney during a televised vice presidential debate with Sen. Joseph Lieberman in 2000.

Cheney declared before the nation that same-sex marriage is an issue best decided by each state and not by the federal government. "I think we ought to do everything we can to tolerate and accommodate whatever kind of relationships people want to enter into," the letter quotes Cheney as saying.

In the letter to their House colleagues, Frank and other lawmakers said Cheney's answer during the debate makes a strong case against a constitutional amendment banning Gay marriage.

Last month's Supreme Court decision that declared state sodomy laws unconstitutional was interpreted by many conservatives as laying the groundwork for future court decisions legalizing Gay marriage. In comments made later that same week, Frist declared he would "absolutely" support an amendment to the U.S. Constitution banning Gay marriage.

Another highly anticipated Gay civil rights ruling, this one from the Supreme Judicial Court in Massachusetts, was expected this week. Though the deadline for the decision was extended, many observers think it likely the state high court will eventually rule in favor of seven Gay plaintiffs making Massachusetts the first state in the nation to legalize the marriage of same-sex couples.

The White House, which was cool to Frist's initial call for a constitutional amendment, is now said to be reviewing the matter carefully. Administration officials now say that Bush wants to see how the Massachusetts court rules before any firm decision on the matter is made.

NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

by Lee Thorn

Recon Tucson

My most recent fortnightly reconnaissance foray into Tucson in search of architectural projects worth writing about yielded two startling finds: the best and most important public sculpture in Tucson and, some miles away, a valiant attempt to find an interesting way to put a large private residence on a long narrow lot.

The sculpture is at Freeway and Congress. The Tucson-Pima Arts Council tells me that the work was a team effort led by Andrew Rush, that it was recently installed and that the medium is rammed earth.

The work consists of four giant asymmetrical pillars that look like they could have been pylons for enormous bridges. I*m not good at guessing heights, but I*d put the tallest one at over 30 feet. Regardless of their exact physical sizes, the impression they give is one of overwhelming monumentality.

There*s a wonderful contrast between the massive feel of the forms and the meticulous precision of their shapes. Despite the rammed earth medium, the shapes are so sharp and crisp they bring an Xacto knife to mind, one with a handle two blocks long.

The pillars bear a family resemblance to each other that does not arise from merely repeating a design element or doing some obvious variation of it. The best analogy I can think of is that of four highly eccentric siblings whose family resemblance is as difficult to specify as it is impossible to deny.

Each shape is complicated and interesting in itself. The relationships between the shapes are also complicated and interesting. The effect is that of many complementary resonances, something like the final movement of a rousing symphony.

The work*s setting is a paved courtyard bordered by curved benches which are well placed for contemplation. And this sort of heroic art that frankly intends to knock your socks off, kick your butt, and all that has quite a different effect when leisurely contemplated. It makes you think that maybe everything will be all right after all, not just on the small scale of your individual existence, but all right on the cosmic level.

Some miles away, at Country Club and Fourth, I saw a building whose dramatic character and daring originality made me think that it must have been designed by Repp Construction, our city*s most innovative architectural firm, but the building*s ugliness made me think that it couldn*t possibly be a Repp.

Turns out to be a Repp with an explanation. The problem was to put a big house on a small lot, a long skinny lot at that. Repp took a bold shot but whether or not it would have succeeded is obscured by the fact that the building was painted black with a yellow square on it and an orange door. Honest.

Since one of Repp*s most distinctive signatures is unpainted cinder block, one assumes that the idea to paint it black came from elsewhere. Something that might have come off as a bold and elegant solution to a tough practical problem now languishes under a garish paint job. Hiring the Repp outfit to do its highly original thing and then painting it black is like hiring Barry Bonds to play baseball for you and then telling him to bunt, like putting a mustache on the Mona Lisa, like putting a hula hoop on Venus de Mi..

The very tall cinder block wall that anchors the project might have worked with the right landscaping. Adding a dramatic vertical element didn*t change the shape of the lot, but it might have changed the terms of the entire visual equation. This simplicity and directness is typical of the Repp approach. They don*t tend to hide things or disguise them. They seem instead to rethink the basic geometric aspects of a problem. And then, or course, they do love drama.

As is usual in Repp work, metals are used in interesting ways. Here we have a metal fence made from material that I believe is generally used for industrial roofing. It looks very strong and its shiny finish would have contrasted nicely with the dull gray of cinder block. Amazingly, no one*s yet painted the fence pink.

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

Americans Favor Civil Unions Over Marriage

NEW YORK - According to a June Gallup poll, 39% of Americans feel that the law should recognize Gay marriages, while a majority, 55%, do not.

In May 2003, Gallup asked Americans a similar question--whether they favor or oppose Gay couples forming legal "civil unions," thereby receiving some of the same legal rights as married couples. About half of Americans, 49%, said they favor the idea, while the other half, 49%, opposed such a law. The exclusion of the word "marriage"--considered by many to carry religious overtones that the phrase "civil union" does not--may explain the lower favorability rating for this question, Gallup said. But the idea of Gay marriage has steadily gained support, just as Gallup's readings regarding homosexuality have shown increased acceptance of same-sex relations. When the question of Gay marriage was first asked in 1996, only 27% of Americans thought marriage between Gays and Lesbians should become legal.

The latest poll also looked at the connection between religious participation and support for Gay marriage. Respondents who attend church weekly were overwhelmingly opposed to Gay marriages, at 74%. But 57% of Americans who seldom or never attend church support Gay marriages, while only 36% are opposed. Similar differences are observed according to political ideology and partisanship, both of which are related to religiosity. Conservatives and Republicans are far more likely to oppose Gay marriages than are liberals and Democrats. Americans with higher levels of education are more likely to feel that Gay marriage should be legally valid (44%) than those with a high school education or less (31%). In fact, a majority of Americans with a postgraduate education (51%) approve of same-sex marriages. The poll found that one of the largest gaps in opinion on this issue is between age groups. Sixty-one percent of young adults (aged 18 to 29) think Gay marriages should be valid, compared with 22% of those over age 65.

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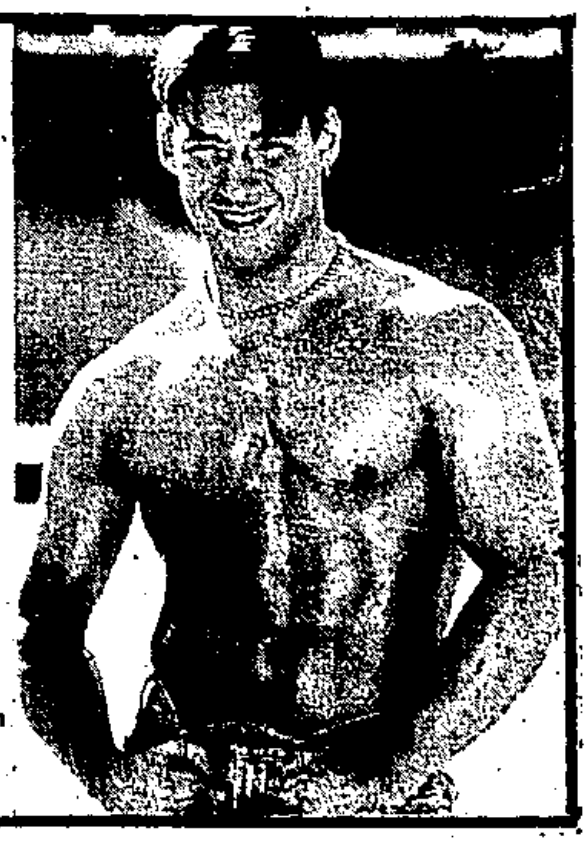

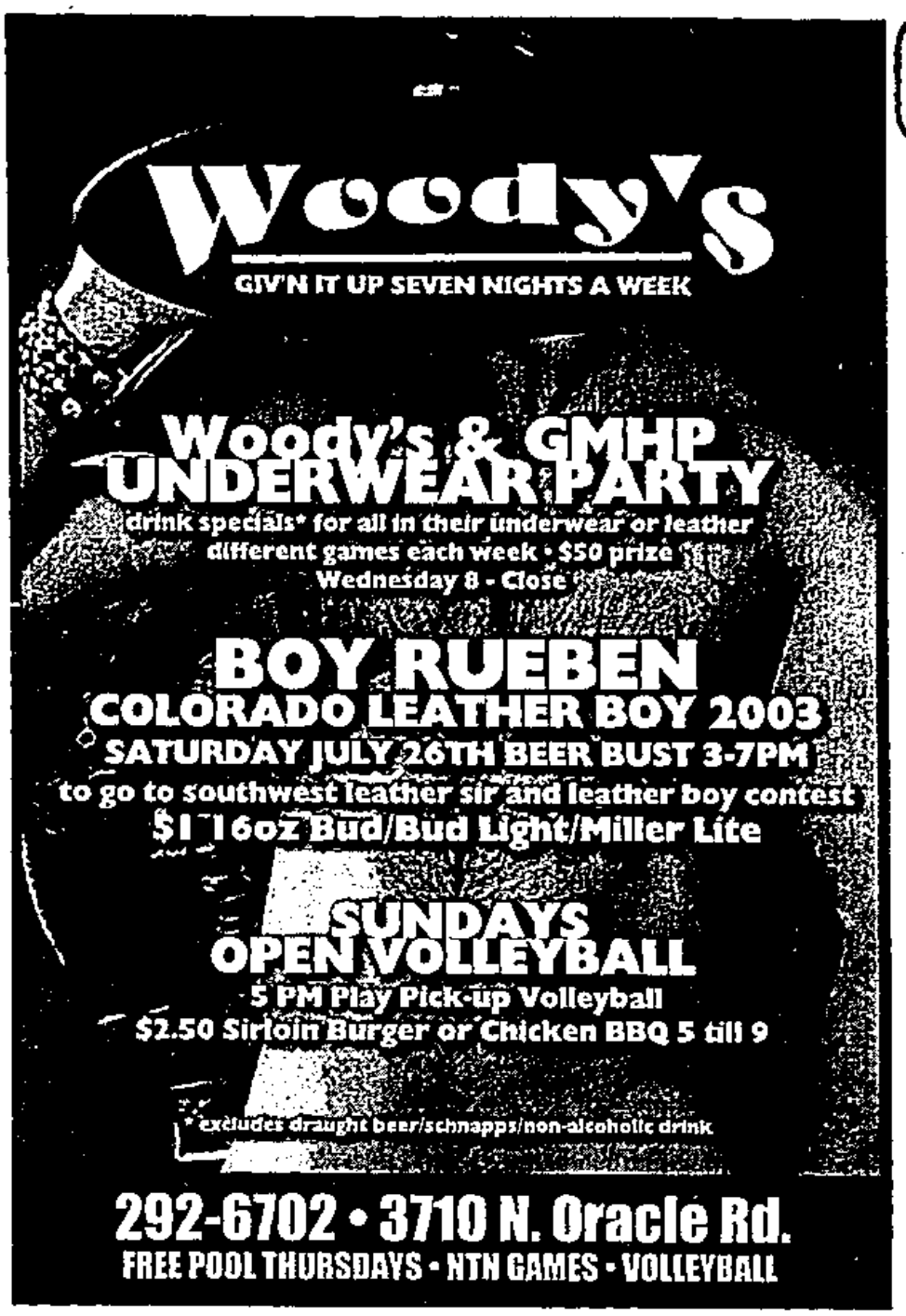

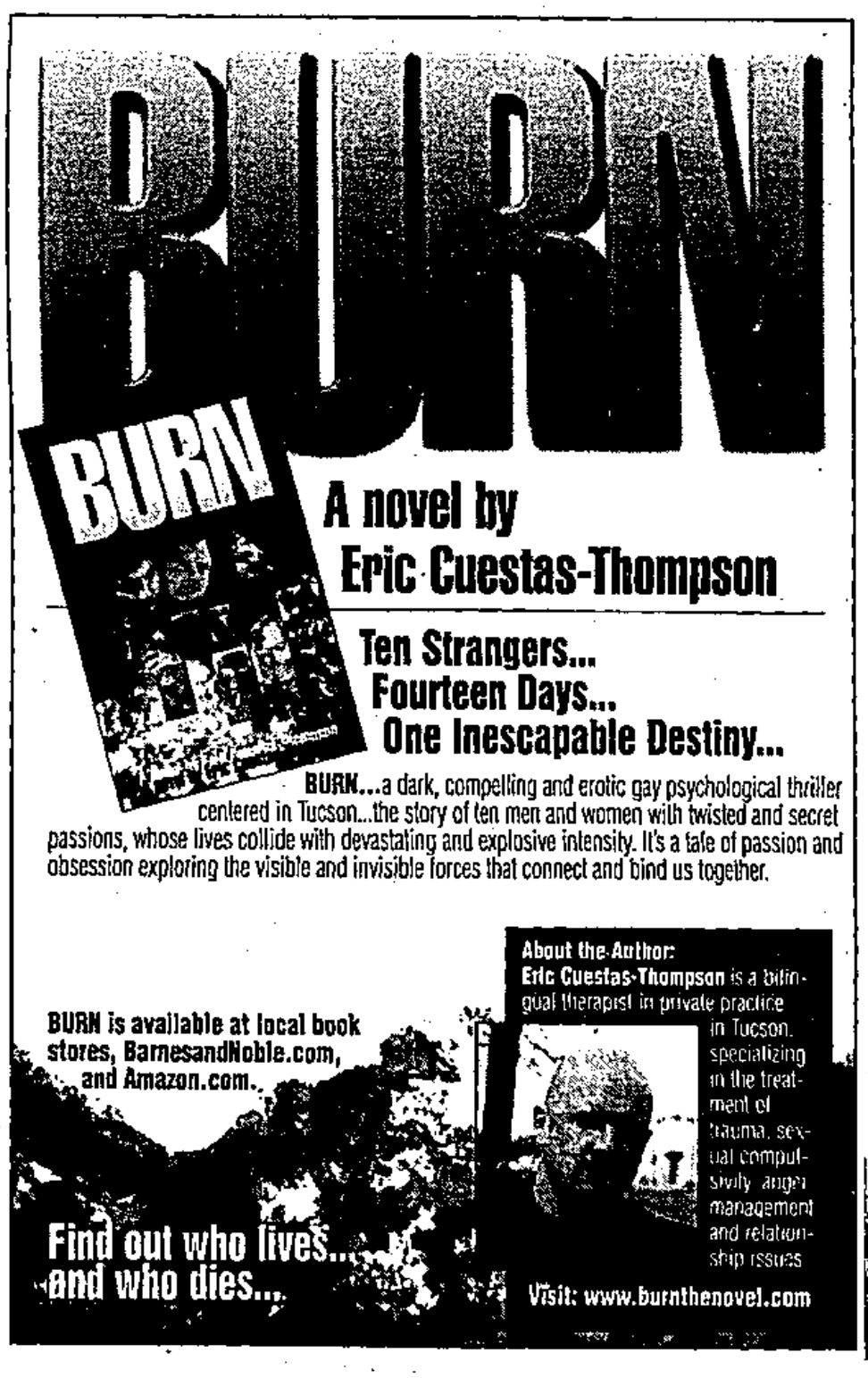

HOROSCOPES

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Let's pick the best that life can offer when the jolly Sun enters expansive Leo this week. This proud energy has a warm glow so pull out your reflectors and grab a few Rays .... Pats .... or what's their names.

ARIES
MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

The A-list invitations never stop when the glorious Sun dips into jolly Leo. Not only are you especially alluring now but you are remarkably creative as well, if you decide to take up an art form. Use this time to enjoy life any way you can. Gay Rams bask in the sociable July heat with a bevy of willing party hounds. Take off your leash and run amok. Or leave it on, if that is your thing.

TAURUS
APRIL 21 - MAY 21

Queer Bulls are more than happy to lie around the house and cocoon while the Sun ambles into Leo. And why not? You have carefully crafted a comfortable universe and can now enjoy the results. But don't rest on your laurels as delightful as they may be. The Leo energy requires an adoring audience and urges you to get Out there and seek a few admirers. Maybe only one will do.

GEMINI
MAY 22 - JUNE 21

The expansive Sun shines in Leo and pink Twins feel an immediate benefit. You are naturally charismatic and now your words have extra impact. But don't waste this superb energy on just creating a hot stale wind. Make it a refreshing gale force that can clear the clouds and move mountains. There is a new force brewing from the north. If not you, who? If not now, when?

CANCER
JUNE 22 - JULY 23

Pink Crabs are tempted to spend, spend, spend when the wilde Sun enters expansive Leo. This is the time of year when you are more apt to splurge than purge. Your mind is focused on the bottom line and the term "discount" is not part of your vocabulary. And why should it be, compadre? You are a priceless commodity that deserves the best. Yeah, keep telling yourself that.

LEO
JULY 24 - AUGUST 23

Although it may seem disconcerting to know all the answers before the question is asked, I know you will take your overwhelming superiority in stride. It is by far the best way to prove to the world that you are truly the proud king of beasts. The Sun in your own sign bestows magnificence and stature upon you. But avoid pigeons and pack the elevator shoes just in case.

VIRGO
AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23

The affirming Sun in proud Leo opens up your closet door with a refreshing blast. Experience the liberation and just let it all hang Out. Queer Virgins feel in top form and are bursting with confidence. This is the best time of year to give back to the community and build up the deposit of good Gay karma for future withdrawals. Later you may need overdraft protection.

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23

How easily can you get into trouble this week? Let's find out as the jolly Sun posits into Leo. Comrades in arms are ready for all sorts of mischief and sociable Gay Libras cannot be held back (unless they want to and then that is another thing...) It is time to expand your social circles into globes and go around the world in the comfort of your own sphere. I just love global warming!

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22

All your plotting and planning pays off when the Sun enters Leo. Proud Scorps can master the art of corporate intrigue and climb yet another rung on the ladder. But all work and no play makes you one mean pinstripped shark. Learn to achieve balance and harmony before you become broiled and served on a platter in the corporate dining room. Do you require extra butter?

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22

This is an excellent time of year to travel and expand your horizons. The world is your oyster so slurp it up. The Sun in Leo helps you scratch those itchy feet and satisfy that Gay Archer wanderlust. Who will you discover in some remote part of the world? Better search every nook and cranny. If money and time are tight, let your fingers do the exploring .... on the internet.

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20

Lusty pink Caps cannot control themselves when the hot Sun probes heated Leo. Sex becomes the be all and end all. Set your sights on the next conquest and go get 'em, buster. You are on a mission and that is your position. However, there may be a few pensive Gay Goats who will use this time for introspection, personal contemplation and reaffirmation. Very few however.

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19

How secure is your relationship, Aqueerian? You will find out when the Sun enters Leo and casts a light on every sordid corner of it. There may be those who use this time to strengthen their bonds and there are others who will choose to seek new liaisons. No matter what you choose to do, make sure that you are appreciated for the prize that you are. Is that a booby prize....?

PISCES
FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20

Work off your sweat this week as the glorious Sun in bold Leo turns up the speed on your treadmill. Guppies take a peek of themselves in the mirror and become more involved in exercise and overall health regime. Good thing. It may be July but it is never too late to prepare for swimsuit season. Better still, think naked beach season instead. Be sure to pack the sunscreen, pal.

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EDITOR:

I want to express my sincere thanks to Dave Locke for his leadership in organizing the biggest and best Tucson Sidewinders Benefit for TIHAN.

In its fourth year, the event has grown into something that we look forward to all year long. For this year's benefit, Dave actually filled the largest skybox in the ballpark with friends of TIHAN and raised over $1,000 for the services we provide.

Dave devoted many hours towards making this such a success, and the Board, staff, volunteers, and CarePartners of TIHAN are very grateful. In addition to serving as liaison with the Sidewinders organization, Dave pulled together a great team to help with design, publicity, and ticket and raffle sales, and that team really came through. The Sidewinders provided the great venue, good food, and wonderful entertainment. Dave provided 100 fabulous people out to enjoy the game and generously support TIHAN. It was a great team effort, and the people who TIHAN serves will be the real ones who benefit from the event.

Thanks, Dave, and everyone involved in this event, for your tireless efforts on our behalf. I'm sure you were exhausted when it was over, but I hope you can take a moment to bask in the success of the event. The Sidewinders skybox benefit for TIHAN is one of the most unique fundraisers I know, and I'm looking forward to doing it all over again next year!

Scott Blades
Executive Director
Tucson Interfaith
HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN)

TO THE TUCSON LGBT COMMUNITY:

As the owner of Desert Pride for the last four-and-a-half years, I have come to know many of you. It has been my pleasure to be a part of this wonderful community.

The original plan was to close the store at the end of this year and continue operating our web store. Due to changed circumstances I have sold Desert Pride, but the doors will remain open. I am happy that Desert Pride will live on in the community.

I am confident that the new owners will bring some wonderful changes to the store, and I hope you will continue to remain part of our community and will start a new career.

Thank you all for letting me be a part of your lives. I will sincerely miss you all.

Steven Galbert

EDITOR:

Like Martin Luther King, I alsp have a dream. That one day my co-Filipino people, basically the Gay people will have the benefit rendered by agencies like TIHAN, TKO, Wingspan, etc.

The Gay people that live in remote places in the Philippines, and some of those places are stricken by poverty, that food would be a first priority over medicine or anything else.

Some of these Gay people that live in small towns and villages have ambition too like everybody else. They go to the big city looking for greener pastures, and this is the way that some of them are exposed to people infected with HIV. Most of them when they found out that they are sick they go back home. Waiting to die, don't even knowing what is happening with their health.

I wish one day, agencies like we have in Tucson, would reach the Far East where I come from. I feel sad that I will not be much help to educate them about HIV and how to protect themselves and medicate them.

Sincerely,
Bebe

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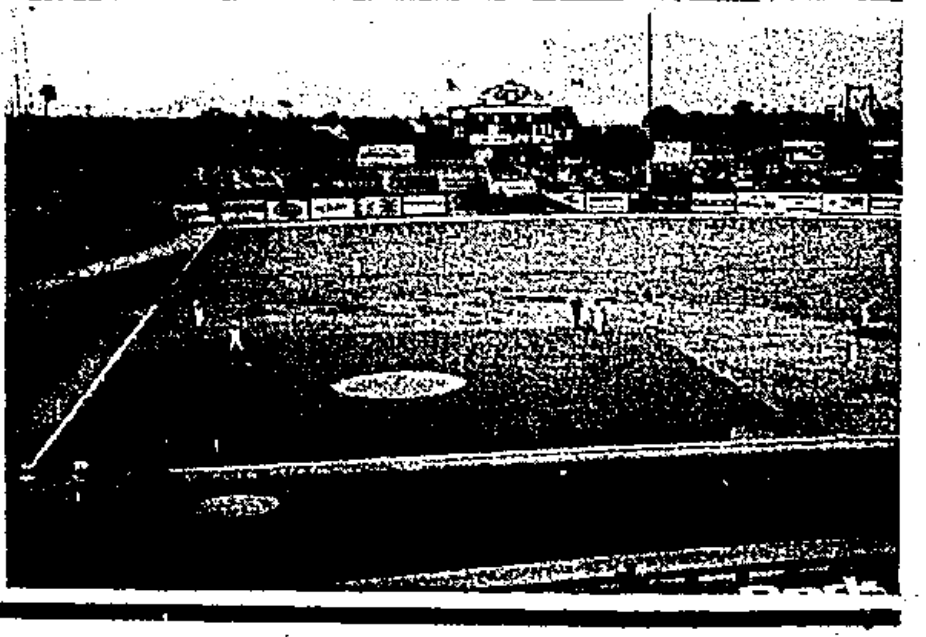


What Makes Our Town Tick?

Calabazamusic@yahoo.com By Jerry D

Hello readers! With the Hispanic population growing at a larger percent than any other minority in this country, everyone is affected by its wave of culture and history. Driving through Texas a couple of weeks ago, I could not find two radio stations in a row that was not broadcasting in Spanish. The media has of course done its part to capitalize from the growth by launching several popular magazines and television shows in Spanish language formats to accommodate the masses.

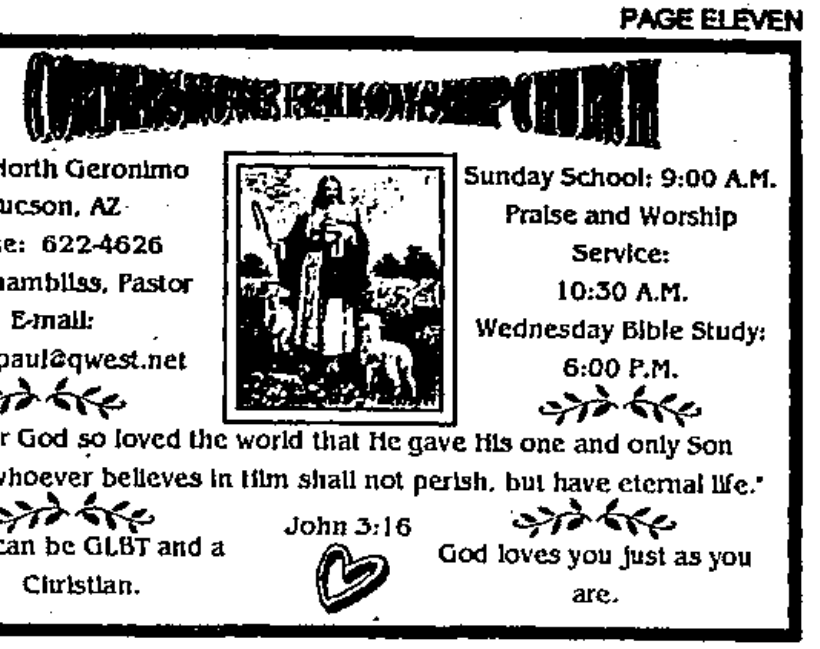
Last week's passing of Salsa legend Celia Cruz gave those not familiar with the culture another chance to take in its history and long standing love affair with its icons. For those who are not familiar with Cruz's legacy, try to imagine the likes of Aretha Franklin passing away. The media took its place in giving Cruz her send off to entertainment's version of heaven. Unfortunately though, the media also did its part to include a political message in its stories about her.

Cruz was born in Cuba, at a time when the United States had direct trade and industry with the Caribbean nation. Cigars, rum, sugar and entertainment were the exports that Cuba bragged of in the 1940's and early 50's. Big business tycoons owned mansions and plantations, making millions off the work and toil of the island's population. All that of course changed with the revolution launched by Fidel Castro.

Celia Cruz, along with countless other entertainers, had the means to escape the Communist overthrow. Their fame aided their migration to other countries, and their notoriety gave them a voice with the media against the revolution that took them from their homeland. Cruz did not become an advocate for Democracy though; she simply kept singing, and became even more famous with a new audience base, a global one. The only word of protest came when her mother passed away and she was denied access back to Cuba. She vowed to never return to her native soil until Castro was no longer in power.

The mainstream media used that fact as an anchor for most of the stories submitted at the time of her death. They mentioned that in Cuba there was only a small mention of her passing and that the statement made by the government closed with calling Cruz an enemy of the revolution. Those who were not familiar with the musical icon could not have learned a lot from those reports, at least not learned of the influence and guidance she gave to several generations of fans and fellow musicians.

Being in the media spotlight comes with its pitfalls. You have the advantage of a microphone at your disposal, but in turn you are under the microscope of those just waiting for you to slip and fall. Death should be a time of reflection on the deeds made by the ones no longer with us. It should give those of us the time to think about what purpose we are serving and how we ourselves would like to be remembered when we are no longer on this plane. I am going to remember Celia Cruz as an artist whose music spanned 5 decades and as a woman who ruled in a man's world for a long time. I am sure she would have wanted me to think of her that way. Have a great week and remember to register to vote!



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A View From The Rock

by Joy L. Childress — A Commentary From Cornerstone Fellowship

Knowing God's Love As A Lesbian

My heart and soul and mind are so full of God's love right now, and His love is overflowing and bubbling out from me. I don't know if you have ever had moments like this where your heart was bursting with the love of God.

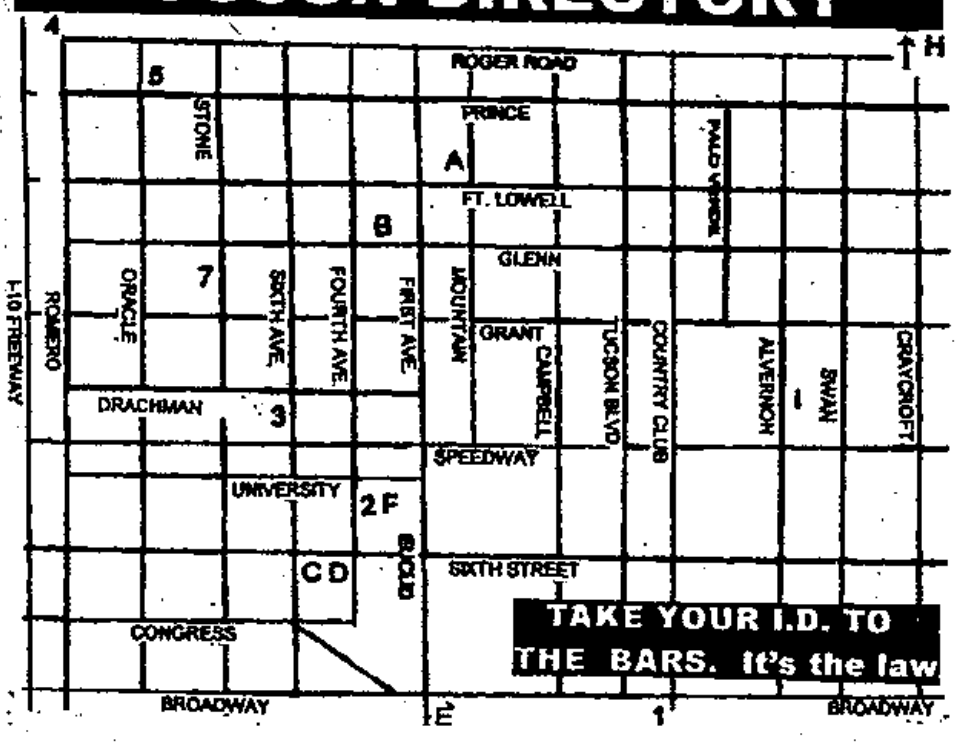
I pray that you have had this experience. It's so wonderful to know that God loves me to the extent that He would bless me so abundantly. I am truly blessed right now. I have many friends who have supported me and upheld me in prayer in my time of grief. I am blessed with their love and concern. Do you know why I know beyond the shadow of a doubt that God loves me, a Lesbian? I know because I am experiencing it day by day, moment by moment. If you do not know Jesus, then you won't know what I am talking about. If you do know Jesus but feel condemned because you are Gay, then you won't know what I am talking about, either. I would like for each person in our community to know Jesus as I know Him. It is awesome to know that God created me as I am, and because He created me, He must love me. I am His child. Stop and think for a moment about your own creation. God is a perfect God, and He doesn't create people to condemn them. He created each one of us to love Him, to adore Him, to worship Him. I am of the persuasion that being Gay actually comes from God in the form of genes. I fully believe that being Gay is an inherited characteristic of each one of us--just as blue eyes are inherited. I say this because both my brother and I are Gay, and that Gayness had to come from somewhere other than environment.

Think with me for just a moment. Think of yourself as a person who was created by God. Now, would God knowingly create you as a Gay, and then condemn you because you are? I think not!! I don't know why some people are straight, and some people are Gay, but I do know that God in His love for each one of us made us the way we are. If you can't accept that and accept that God made you, then you cannot fully enjoy the love that God gives through His Son, Jesus Christ. If you feel condemned because you are Gay, I urge you to seek out God's love for you, and then ask God to help you accept yourself as you are. Enter into a communion with God, feel His love pour into you. He loves you no matter what you are or who you are. God so loves each one of us that He sent His only Son to die for each one of us. He did not exclude anyone! You, as a Gay person, are loved by God just as much as a straight person is loved by God. Burn that thought into your heart and soul. And then just allow God to fill you with His love and mercy.

For God so loved that world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. - John 3:16,17

You sit there all alone wondering where you have been, You used to want to learn to love but now you can't begin. You've lived so long without that love but now you want it back Call Jesus' name, He'll run to you, He'll give you faith to finally act. Your world rejected you and you don't understand, You think all your loneliness is in the Maker's plan. You feel the time is almost up, to find a love that's true, But little did you know right now, your waiting's almost through. Don't you miss the peace you knew before your wounded heart withdrew. The waiting's over, God's been there all along and wants you to decide. The waiting's over, Jesus calls to your heart, If you ask Him to come inside.....the waiting's over, it's over. - Marsha Stevens

TUCSON DIRECTORY



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Dear Dr. X,

I have a problem with my boyfriend. I thought everything was perfect until recently when we got into a fight because he is upset that I have school (full-time) and work (part-time). With finals and everything else I was very tired and stressed out. One day I told him that I needed some time for myself, and he just snapped. I told him that even though I love his support and love being with him, with having so much to do sometimes I need some alone time. We got into an argument and he said some harsh things to me. He was angry (so I kind of understood) but I'm a very emotional person and when I began to cry he told me that I shouldn't start that mess (crying), that's just how women act, and if he wanted a whining B*^$H he would have been with a girl. Other things were said and they really hurt. I haven't spoken to him in about a week. I do miss him but my pride and the hurt prevent me from seeing him again even though he calls and tries to come over. What should I do?

Mike

Dear Mike,

If your boyfriend can't respect your need for time alone, he is not ready to make this relationship work.

If he is not able to understand your emotional side, then he is not capable of connecting with you on more than a superficial level.

He clearly has problems of his own, and I'm not knocking him for that. He has likely learned over the course of his life to suppress his own emotions. But that is an issue he needs to work out, and the last thing you need right now is to be abused for being human.

There is a lot more about this relationship I don't know about. How long have you been together? Has this kind of situation happened before? Would some kind of couple counseling help your relationship? Is your partner even open to counseling? If he isn't, is this partnership a loosing battle? If you can answer these questions and you don't like what you see, I would advise you to tell this man to take a hike. At this point in your life you need a more understanding and nurturing partner, and in the meantime you can manage just fine on your own. Help and counseling for emotional abuse can be obtained by calling the Wingspan Anti-Violence Project 24hour hotline at 624-0348 or 1-800-553-9387.

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

Michigan Police

Continued from Page Five

abused. When Bogdanik was 5, he and his siblings were placed in a foster home, where they lived until they were adopted a few years later by the Bogdaniks of Lowell, Mich., a suburb of Grand Rapids. At 18, Bogdanik moved out on his own.

"He decided he enjoyed living on his own," VanderPloeg said. "He didn't do anything wrong at home. I think he was going through a period of stress. He was homeless by choice."

Grand Rapids police are awaiting autopsy results from the medical examiner to determine whether Bogdanik's death was a result of his attack. If so, the case will go forward as a homicide.

While many facts are still cloudy, the attack has similarities to the 1998 death of Matthew Shepard, a 21-year-old University of Wyoming student who was tied to a fence, beaten and left to die on a freezing night.

In both cases, the young men willingly went with their attackers. Both attacks were fueled by rage and anger.

"Hate crimes need to be recognized as a class alone, because they don't affect one person," Judy Shepard, Matthew's mother and now an activist, said to the Washington Post on July 13. "They affect thousands of people. When Matt was murdered, thousands of people said: 'That could be me.'"

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NON-BAR CALENDAR
GROUPS / CLUBS / ORGANIZATIONS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23
Tucson Prime Timers - Breakfast – 9:00 a.m. The Egg Connection, SE corner on Ft. Lowell & Country Club

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Marv for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Marv at 745-0304.

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

THURSDAY, JULY 24
#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join us as we get out our monthly 10-page newsletter. It simple, and you get a chance to meet new guys as we assemble the newsletter. The work goes quickly, and is usually done with 45 minutes. For reservations and directions, please call Bill at 546-7539.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:30 p.m. Bill shows "Europa, Europa", the incredible, true story of a young German Jewish boy who eludes the Nazis and Russians. For reservations and directions, please call Bill at 546-7539.

7:00 TO 10:00 p.m. The Men'S Relationship Group meets includes a video on tantra. A great way to meet new men and make friends. Fee. Call Marc 881-4582.

SATURDAY, JULY 26
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Marv hosts Pinochle Night. If you don't know how to play, but would like to learn, this is the place. For more information, please call Marv at 745-0304.

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

SUNDAY, JULY 27
3-6 p.m. Tantra Workshop. A better approach to sex. Discover a safe/enjoyable sex approach for fun and relationships. Call Marc 881-4582.

MONDAY, JULY 28
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.

TUESDAY, JULY 29
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Chris for an evening out at Rainbow Planet. This is a chance to have a cup of coffee and chat with the men of MSN. For directions or more info, please call Chris at 304-5814.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30
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 Terry at 577-2396.

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2
#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:30 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.

MONDAY, AUGUST 3
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. The Triangle Tribe is a support group that helps you deal with yourself and your relationships with others. For directions and reservations, please call Tom at 318-1650.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4
#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Chris for an evening out at Rainbow Planet. This is a chance to have a cup of coffee and chat with the men of MSN. For directions or more info, please call Chris at 304-5814.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Carl for the Investment Club. For directions and reservations, please call Carl at 331-4238.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5
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 Marty at 722-8531.

The Gertrude Stein Salon, Tucson's group for LGBT Jews, hosts a Potluck Shabbas Dinner on Friday, August 8 at 7:30 pm. All LGBT Jews and their partners, families and friends are warmly invited to attend. We will greet the Shabbas Queen at 4514 E. Water Street (from Grant, north onto Goyette, East onto Water). Please RSVP to Meredith Trauner at 405-4841 or mhtrauner@yahoo.com.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23
IBT'S - 9:00 p.m. The 'DivaLicious" Show hosted by Lucinda Holliday and starring Bunny FuFu, Veronica Hallwell and Miss Saigon.

THURSDAY, JULY 24
VENTURE-N - Steak Night from 6:00 to 8:00 p.. $5.00 your meat or theirs. They provide the side dishes.

SATURDAY, JULY 26
NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Latino Night with show featuring Chica Mink and Galilea, 9:00 p.m. Latino dance music until closing.

WOODY'S - Beer Bust to send Colorado Leather Boy Ruben to the Southwest Sir and Leather Boy Contest. 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. $1.00 16oz Bud/Bud Light/Miller Lite.

SUNDAY, JULY 27
IBT'S - Party line-up includes Troy's Recovery Bar from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. $1.75 Bloody Mary Buffet, Screwdrivers or Mimosas. 3:00 .m. Sangria Party. $2.50 Sangrias til closing. 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 Wingspan. 8:00 p.m. Monsoon Madness Party starts with Wet Shorts Contest. $100 first prize. (Signup starts at 8pm, Minimum 4 contestants). Drink Specials all night..

TUESDAY, JULY 29
VENTURE-N - Bravo TV Show 'Boy Meets Boy' at 9:00 p.m. and 'Queer Eye for the Straight Guy' 10:00 p.m. On the patio.

THURSDAY, JULY 31
IBT'S - 11TH Anniversary Party. 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Buffet. 8:00 p.m. Music Videos. 9:00 p.m. Door Prizes. And much more! Check it out!

Arts & Entertainment

THURSDAY, JULY 24
Casino del Sol Amphitheater presents Heart, singing their hits "Barracuda", "These Dreams" and "Crazy on You" and much, much more. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Show starts at 8:00. TicketMaster 321-1000.

FRIDAY, JULY 25
Desert Diamond Casino Entertainment Center, Kenny Loggins. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Tickets $30, $35, $45 in advance. ($5 more at the door.(520) 383-2799.

SATURDAY, JULY 26
Casino del Sol Amphitheater presents The Doors 'Of The 21st Century'. Show starts at 8:00 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. TicketMaster 321-1000.

TUESDAY, JULY 29
Casino del Sol Amphitheater presents "Rock the Desert Fest" starring David Le Roth, Ted Nugent and Alice Cooper! Show starts at 7:00 p.m. Gates open at 5:30. TicketMaster 321-1000.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2
Casino del Sol Amphitheater presents Boz Scaggs. Show starts at 7:30 p.m. Gates open at 6 p.m. TicketMaster 321-1000.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14
Casino del Sol Amphitheater presents Earth Wind and Fire. Show staarts at 8:00 p.m. Gates open at 6:30 p.m. TicketMaster 321-1000.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19
Casino del Sol Amphitheater presents The Go Go's, Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo with special guests Green Vinyl Cream. TicketMaster 2321-1000.

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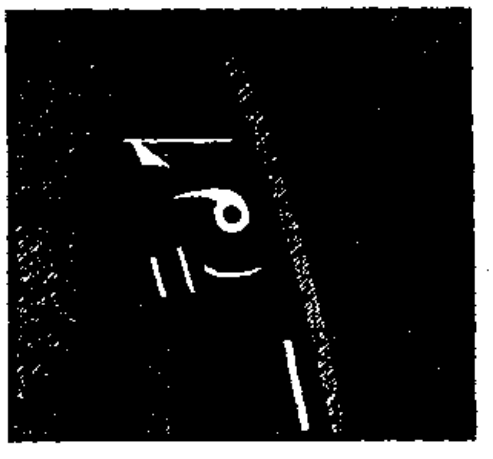
The Observer



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AINT NOBODY'S BIZ - Open 2pm. Beer Bust 5-10, $1.25 pitchers Bud or Bud Light. Latin Music with DJ Hill 8pm to close. Drink & Shot specials all night.

IBT's - 10am-8pm $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 High Life draft 75¢ all day. From 12-6 Bloody Marys $1.50. Drag Show (last Sunday of the month)

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 Beach Volleyball games 5-7. $2.50 sirloin burger w/salad 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

AINT NOBODY'S BIZ - Open 2pm. Happy Hour Two-For-One domestics and well 2-7pm. Free pool 8-10pm. 50¢ cups draft Bud & Bud Light 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 4-7pm. $1.75 Domestic Beer. 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

AINT NOBODY'S BIZ - Open 2pm. Happy Hour Two-For-One domestic beer & well 2-7pm. Pooltourney 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 4-7pm. $1.75 domestic beers & $2 all wells.. 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

AINT 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 4-7pm, 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/Gary and Chris along with GMHP. $1 off any drink or bottled beer.(Excludes draft & schnapps) for all in leather or underwear.

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

Thursday

AINT 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-8pm, $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 4-7pm. 10oz Sirloin Steak w/potato & salad 5:30-8pm, $8.99.

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

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

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

Friday

AINT 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 4-7pm. 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

AINT 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.Grill open 1-7pm. Margaritas $3 6pm-close. Latino Nite. Beer Bust (1st Saturday of the Month)Drag Show (last Saturday of month). 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 4-8pm. $1.75 well or domestics. Patio Bar opens 5pm. 5-9pm Filet Mignon or Swordfish BBQ with all the trimmings $5.

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

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NOTICES

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 791-7678.

GRACE GROUP - CATHOLIC GAY/LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP meets every 2nd and 4th Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the Madonna Hall at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, 1436 N. Campbell across from University Hospital. For more info. Call 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 888-6010 before 10:00 p.m. The group dines out and attends shows or movies. Now in their 16th year! (2nd in Tucson).

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

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 299-6847.

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

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

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

COMMUNITY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (CBA), Tucson's Gay and Lesbian business networking group holds regular meetings the third Thursday of every month. Call 615-8436 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, 8523 N. 14th St., #112, Phoenix, AZ 85014 or call 602-279-4805.

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

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

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

TUCSON CATHOLIC GAY & LESBIAN FAMILY MINISTRY. Currently meeting the 4th Monday of every month at SS Peter & Paul Church, Madonna Hall 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Fr. Fiedler in attendance every meeting and willing to speak one on one. Reaching out to Parents and Families. For more info call Doc or Barbara 293-6824.

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. 322-5855. Leave message. TucsonSources@aol.com

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

ATTENTION ALL NUDISTS - Tucson Tanners is a nudist group open to all – Nude activities scheduled both indoor and outdoors. Not "Gay Only", but Gays are welcome and invited to join. For further information send SASE to: Tucson Tanners, P.O. Box 84-G, Cortaro, AZ 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 group support for Gay, Bisexual or Trans men who are victims/survivors of domestic violence. For more information call 624-0348 (24-hour line)

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

TGNetArizona: The central source for news and information for, by and about the TS, TG, and Gender-variant communities of Arizona. Website URL: http://www.tgnetarizona.org - e-mail address: 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. 822-4828.

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 615-3491, 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 of visit our website at www.botop.com All are welcome to our general meetings/potlucks on the 2nd Friday of every month, 7pm at Sentinel Bldg. On the City of Tucson Resource Campus, 310 N. Commerce Park Loop on Bonita St. between St. Marys and Congress.

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

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

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

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

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

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

COME EXPLORE YOUR SPIRITUALITY! St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church offers a variety of Gay and Lesbian groups and services for the spiritually minded. Come meet the 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 EDUCATION CLUB is the tantric men's group that offers passionate friendships, fun activities, and sex education,. Marc - 881-4582

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COMMENTARY

Exactly What Is The Gay 'Agenda' and 'Lifestyle'?

By Greg Sagan

I'm with David Horsley. If there is such a thing as a "Gay agenda" I must be one of its supporters by default. I've never been "recruited" for this cause; never received any political material describing the agenda, the forces opposed to it, or how it will prevail in the law and the institutions of America; and I've never attended any meetings suggesting my heterosexual predilection is a target for Gay subversion. But there are people out there with whom I disagree who tell me that Gays of both genders are promoting this "agenda," and the demand that Gays be given equal treatment under the law is apparently the first step on a path that will soon have me dating Bruce Willis.

I am not persuaded.

There's a lot of nonsense surrounding the phenomenon of homosexuality.

There's the idea that homosexuals "recruit" heterosexuals. This is absurd because you can't change someone else's sexual orientation. If you don't believe that, try changing your own. If you can't do it to yourself, what chance does anyone else have to do it to you? My sexual orientation is not up for grabs, and I defy anyone to sweet-talk me into sleeping with men.

There's the idea that Gays corrupt the young. Some may, but as science repeatedly points out, most episodes of sexual abuse involving adults and children are perpetrated by heterosexuals. I suspect someday we will see a movement to outlaw heterosexuality because of all the perversions it spawns, but for now I would rather rest my weight on the idea that acts of sexual perversion are separate and distinct from sexual orientation. That way we can sweep up offenders of both persuasions.

And there's the idea that Gays "choose" the "Gay lifestyle" - whatever that is. As I've pointed out before on this page, if anyone can "choose" to be Gay, so can you. And if you can choose to be Gay, your right of choice should be protected as long as you meet the new criteria - consenting adults, privacy of the bedroom.

But the only element of "lifestyle" common to all Gays is that they prefer sex with people of their own gender. Beyond that you can find Gays who are committed and Gays who sleep around, just like us. You can find Gays who drink wine and Gays who drink beer, just like us. You can find Gays who are Republicans and Gays who are Democrats, just like us.

The only "agenda" Gays hold that I'm aware of is to correct mistreatment under the law, and since the Gays doing this are American citizens who work, pay taxes and vote, there is no reason to deny them this much of what they want. Gays should be able to form lifelong committed relationships, participate as full partners in medical decisions of their mates, pass on property to survivors as easily as the rest of us can.

And, yes, they should be able to raise children as a family unit.

This is the idea that troubles some people to distraction - what about the children? Won't kids who grow up in a homosexual-parent family turn out Gay? Well, do all children who grow up in heterosexual-parent families turn out straight? Of course not. I had three children by my first wife. Two are heterosexual, one is Gay. So that argument doesn't hold water.

What is important to children in any family is the quality of the relationship between the parents and between parents and children. Two heterosexual parents can make the lives of their children a living hell. Two homosexual parents can make the lives of their children an example of trust, commitment, integrity, and love.

We all ought to seek and savor the second kind of relationship, not reject one of them out of hand because we don't like the pairing.

But giving Gays some minimal protection under the law is an essential first step to understanding their relationships, because nothing distorts research like criminalizing the behavior to be studied.

Besides, when Gays are denied fundamental protection under the law, we are stating to the whole world that justice in America depends on your choice of sleeping partners. This is an insupportable premise for public policy.

For those who are rabidly opposed to homosexuality, I say by all means stay heterosexual. Just don't expect to see your zeal elevated to legal prohibition. Gays can be good Americans, too, and discriminating against good Americans with the law has yet to prove itself a viable long-term strategy.

[Greg Sagan is a columnist for the Amarillo [TX] Globe News, for which this article was reprinted from its July 15, 2003 edition.]

Library Worker

Continued from Page One

law still on the books in Kansas.

In an interview that lasted just a few minutes, Cuevas said she told the paper how her son nearly died when he was beaten while leaving a Gay bar with his boyfriend. After the call, she spoke with several other supporters on the phone, and to one other library employee.

Choc said the American Civil Liberties Union sent a letter to the library Wednesday, asking officials to reconsider their prohibition on Cuevas' ability to discuss the case, without the group resorting to legal action.

Frist Revises

Continued from Page One

sodomy laws.

In the meantime, the Democratic National Committee Chair Terry McAuliffe issued a statement on Wednesday, July 16, against the amendment.

"It is wrong to write discrimination against Lesbian and Gay Americans into the Constitution or to deny any American equality under the law," he said.

Both the Stonewall Democrats and the Log Cabin Republicans said they are worried that there could be a backlash against the GLBT community if the Massachusetts court allows for Gay marriage.

Both said they will continue to work on members of their respective parties to keep this amendment out of the Constitution.

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