Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

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WEEKLY OBSERVER | JULY 30, 2003 | ISSUE 993

HIV Rates Up Again For Gays & Bisexuals

WASHINGTON - The U.S. government reported that HIV diagnoses among men who have sex with men increased by 7.1 percent in 2002, raising concern that infection rates are on a steep rise.

The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention(CDC) reported on Monday that HIV diagnoses among men who have sex with men (MSM) increased by 7.1 percent in 2002, raising concern among GLBT activists and AIDS health experts that rates of infection are on a steep rise.

According to the CDC, HIV diagnoses among Gay and Bisexual men have increased by 17.7 percent since 1999, when the rate of MSM diagnoses for the virus was at its lowest. Most troubling to researchers is the fact that HIV diagnoses among other high-risk groups have remained stable since 2001. The CDC, which released its report at the 2003 National HIV Prevention Conference in Atlanta, compiled data from 25 states that have comprehensive HIV/AIDS reporting programs, reported the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

"The AIDS epidemic in the United States is far from over," Harold Jaffe, director of the CDC National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention told Reuters Health, noting that overall diagnoses rose by 2.2 percent from 2001 to 2002, with 42,136 new cases recorded last year.

Jaffe cautioned making any assumptions from the numbers, since the increases could be attributed to better testing strategies. Current tests cannot tell when a person was infected with HIV, but a new blood test that can detect whether the infection had occurred over the last six months will soon be available.

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) jumped on the CDC report as a sign that the Bush administration's reliance on abstinence-only sex education is a dangerous mistake that will lead to even more infections.

"The federal government is now giving more than $100 million a year to states to teach abstinence-only until marriage education," said Winnie Stachelberg, HRC political director. "The percentage of public schools replacing comprehensive sex-ed with abstinence-only education has gone from 2 percent 10 years ago to 25 percent today."

Although other activists and medical researchers have suggested everything from increased crystal meth use to overall community apathy could be reasons for jumps in HIV diagnoses, the HRC warned of the dangers of solely relying on the "no sex until marriage" message.

"While abstinence should be taught as a viable option as part of a comprehensive sex-ed program, we have a national obligation and a responsibility to provide our children with a broad base of knowledge so they can effectively protect themselves from HIV," Stachelberg added. "Beyond that, abstinence-until-marriage programs do not address the needs of Gay and Lesbian youth who are not currently permitted to marry in this country."

Vatican Declares War On G/L Rights

VATICAN CITY - The Vatican has embarked on a major new initiative in an attempt to halt what it deems to be the alarming progress made on the Gay civil rights front worldwide, especially as it relates to legal recognition of Gay and Lesbian relationships and families.

On Monday, July 28, Vatican officials announced that it was enlisting the support of bishops and Catholic politicians in the world's major industrialized democracies to stand firmly against Gay and Lesbian demands for equal treatment under national law.

Issued in seven languages, the 12-page document called "Considerations Regarding Proposals to Give Legal Recognition to Unions Between Homosexual Persons" demands that conservative politicians stand firmly against laws which it claims dilute the sanctity of marriage.

The Vatican declared laws "safeguarding" marriage between man and woman must be promoted and "in no way can other forms of cohabitation be placed on same level as marriage, nor can they receive legal recognition as such," the document states.

On Sunday, Pope John Paul II underlined the document's importance in lamenting that the church's message on marriage and family was being watered down in Europe. He also seemed to condemn other more tolerant religious views on the subject, decrying the spread of a "vague and little-demanding religious sentiment, which could become agnosticism and practical atheism."

The document was prepared by the Church's guardian of orthodoxy, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

The pope and other higher ups in the Vatican leadership have been speaking out for months against legislative proposals to legalize same-sex marriages. In January, the Holy See approved guidelines for Catholic politicians that said church opposition to abortion, euthanasia and same-sex marriage was not up for negotiation.

The Vatican has noted with apparent alarm recent court decision in the United States, Canada and the European Union that extended broad recognition to Gay civil rights --and in Canada's case, recognized the rights of same-sex couples to participate in marriage.

In response to a German law which would grant Gay couples enhanced legal status, German Cardinal Karl Lehman complained, "Now the associations of homosexuals have a potent arm to obtain further concessions on the road toward full equality with married couples, including the right to adoption."

The waning of the Vatican's influence in Europe pains the leadership greatly. The European Union recently ignored the Vatican's request for explicit reference to Europe's Christian roots in the drafting of its new constitution.

Pryor Gets Senate Committee Nod

WASHINGTON - Republicans used their one-vote committee majority on Wednesday, July 23 to push through the nomination of an anti Gay judicial candidate to the full Senate for a vote; the nominee is likely to become the third to face a Democratic filibuster, however.

Alabama attorney general Bill Pryor, who has been outspoken in his opposition to abortion and Gay rights, received support from all 10 Republican committee members, while all nine Democratic members voted against him. The Democrats objected to the vote because they contend that Judiciary Committee chairman Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) rushed the confirmation vote before they could finish an investigation into Pryor's fund-raising activities for a group of GOP attorneys general. Hatch overruled the objection and forced the vote.

The disagreement increases the chance that Democrats will filibuster Pryor, who wants a seat on the 11th circuit U.S. court of appeals in Atlanta. "By rushing it, you're helping our side, in a sense," Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) told Hatch. Democrats are currently filibustering two of President Bush's nominees to the federal appeals court, Miguel Estrada and Priscilla Owen, and are expected to try filibustering at least two others, Carolyn Kuhl and Charles Pickering.

Republicans emphasized that while Pryor has strong feelings about abortion and Gays, he would rule according to established laws. "Yes, he does have political views, but his commitment to the law is extraordinary," said Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.), who has sponsored Pryor. It was not immediately known when Republicans will try to bring Pryor's nomination up for a vote, although GOP leaders indicated they may try before leaving for their monthlong August recess.

Eight Canadian Provinces Stall On G/L Marriages

OTTAWA - Though Canadian Justice Minister Martin Cauchon advised provinces to proceed according to the draft bill on same-sex marriage, many are not, reports the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

When Canadian Justice Minister Martin Cauchon unveiled the government's draft bill legalizing same-sex marriage last week, he invited all provinces to "proceed and act according to the draft bill we have tabled" well in advance of any parliamentary vote.

Several provinces have reacted with puzzlement to the suggestion. Although all but one of Canada's provinces have said they will abide by the eventual federal legislation, most have no intention of changing local marriage policies before the federal government has acted, perhaps six months from now.

Presently, two of the 10 Canadian provinces have legalized same-sex marriage based on rulings from their high courts. Ontario and British Columbia have been issuing licenses since mid June and early July, respectively.

Faced with the inevitability of same-sex marriage, the federal government decided last month to institute a new definition of marriage throughout the country. The draft bill defines civil marriage as "the lawful union of two persons to the exclusion of all others." Once it has passed the inspection of the Canadian Supreme Court, the bill will be presented to Parliament for a "free vote," where members can vote their consciences free of political pressure. The bill is expected to pass fairly easily.

According to the Ottawa Citizen, Justice Department spokespeople described Cauchon's call for instant equality "perplexing" and "peculiar." Manitoba official Riva Harrison summarized the position of many of her counterparts in other provinces, telling the Citizen that Manitoba is "bound

CONTINUED ON PAGE SIXTEEN

UPDATE

Suit Challenges Anti-Bias Edict

MESA - A Christian group has filed a petition with the Arizona Supreme Court arguing that Gov. Janet Napolitano overstepped her authority when she issued an executive order barring employment discrimination based on sexual orientation in some state agencies, the Associated Press reported.

Rep. John Allen, R-Scottsdale, is one of three state legislators involved in the suit, which was filed by the Alliance Defense Fund.

"She is trying to circumvent the system for expedience and for political purpose . . . She's legislating through executive order," Allen said, referring to Napolitano.

Tim Nelson, Napolitano's general counsel, said the governor acted within her authority and will fight the lawsuit.

The petition, the equivalent of a civil suit, asks that the Supreme Court void the governor's order as unconstitutional.

Based in Scottsdale, the Alliance Defense Fund describes itself on its Web site as a "unique Christian legal organization that works to protect and defend traditional family values, religious freedom and the sanctity of life."

Rep. Andy Biggs and Sen. Thayer Verschoor, both R-Gilbert, are also listed as plaintiffs in the lawsuit.

The lawsuit argues that the governor reached into legislative authority by setting employment policy and, in effect, made new law.

Napolitano, a Democrat, announced the executive order last month at an event held by the Arizona Human Rights Fund, a Gay and Lesbian advocacy group.

The order applies only to state agencies under her control. It does not apply to private employers, state universities or state agencies under the control of the Legislature or the courts.

Nelson said the executive order does not make new law because it only applies to those agencies under the governor's authority.

"It is well within the purview of the governor to say we are not going to discriminate against people on grounds that have nothing to do with job performance," her said.

Gary McCaleb, a lawyer for the Alliance Defense Fund, said state lawmakers have spoken on the issue.

They defeated legislation that would have included sexual orientation in anti-discrimination language of several laws, including three bills in 2001 and another proposal which died in the House last year

First Public High School For GLBT Teens Set To Open

NEW YORK - The Harvey Milk High School, a small alternative public school for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered students, is set to open in September. The school will enroll about 100 students and open in a newly renovated building.

"I think everybody feels that it's a good idea because some of the kids who are Gays and Lesbians have been constantly harassed and beaten in other schools," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said at a briefing Monday. "It lets them get an education without having to worry. It solves a discipline problem. And from a pedagogical point of view, this administration - and previous administrations - have thought it was a good idea and we'll continue with that."

The school is undergoing a $3.2 million renovation approved by the old Board of Education last year.

The Hetrick-Martin Institute, a Gay-rights youth advocacy group that has managed and financed the program since its inception, has hired William Salzman as principal of the new school.

Salzman, a former Wall Street executive, told the New York Post the school will be academically challenging and will follow Schools Chancellor Joel Klein's mandatory English and math programs. It also will specialize in computer technology, arts and culinary arts.

State Conservative Party Chairman Mike Long criticized the creation of the school.

"Is there a different way to teach homosexuals? Is there Gay math? This is wrong," Long said. "There's no reason these children should be treated separately."

On its Web site, the Hetrick-Martin Institute describes the Harvey Milk School as "the nation's first accredited public high school designed to meet the needs of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and questioning youth (LGBTQ)."

The school "offers LGBTQ youth an opportunity to obtain a secondary education in a safe and supportive environment. ... We believe that success requires the ability to respect and value the diverse human community."

John Waters 'Cry Baby' To Follow 'Hairspray' To Broadway

NEW YORK - Variety reports that a second movie from out director John Waters is getting the Broadway musical treatment.

On the heels of the Tony-winning smash Hairspray, Waters's 1990 comedy Cry-Baby is heading for the Great White Way under the auspices of movie producer Brian Grazer (A Beautiful Mind). Grazer will coproduce the show with Hairspray veterans Adam Epstein, Allan Gordon, and Elan McAllister. No word yet on who will write the book or the music.

Cry-Baby, which Grazer produced for the big screen, tells the story of a 1950s good girl who falls in love with a rockabilly singer from the wrong side of the tracks. A director's cut of the film is headed for DVD. "Hairspray was a story about race; Cry-Baby is a story about class," Waters told Variety. "The only thing I will insist on, as I did with Hairspray, is that I be the Grease police. This can't be Grease; it happened way before. The period is pre-Elvis, and the music was rockabilly. It is strong and it is sexy."

Hi-Ho, Hi-Ho, It's Off To Work We Go!

By Mae Krueger

TUCSON - Desert Voices, Tucson's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass chorus (GLSATB) announces its 15th Season, beginning August of 2003! Desert Voices board and chorus members are busy planning their upcoming season, including concerts, community appearances and fund raisers.

"Desert Voices provides a unique opportunity in the community for men and women to work together and make beautiful music together," said long-time member and board vice-president, Sylvia Yeager, with a sly smile. For the past year, the chorus has been making its own decisions and collaborating to develop a group identity and collective goals.

The chorus plans to present two concerts in the 2003-2004 season, beginning with a Holiday concert scheduled for Saturday, December 6th and Sunday the 7th (a matinee), to be held at Muse, Tucson's Home for the Arts. The chorus members "are currently selecting Holiday music, and also collecting ideas for our 'just a little bit naughty' Cabaret show in the spring," adds Tim Lewis, head of the music committee for DV and bass singer in both Reveille and Desert Voices. Music choices are a collaborative process, involving members of the chorus and the musical director.

Newly appointed Musical Director, Chris Tackett, is eager to get started on ideas for the show and musical selections. "Chris comes to us with a musical background that is making us salivate!" says long-time member Dick Rehse. "His enthusiasm is absolutely contagious!"

One puzzle piece that is still missing is an accompanist for the year. The group is currently conducting a search for an accompanist to work with the group for rehearsals and performances. Interested parties can contact the chorus by calling (520) 791-9662 or email by going to the website at www.desertvoices.org and clicking on the 'contact us' link.

Desert Voices is also proud to announce their new board of directors for the coming season. They are: Mae Krueger, President, Sylvia Yeager, Vice President, Tim Lewis, Treasurer, Margrit McIntosh, Secretary, as well as Dick Rehse, Lou Ann Darras, and Julia Balen, members at large.

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Beliefs About Gays & Lesbians Could Split Church

TUCSON - A rift over homosexuality is expected to dominate the Episcopal Church USA's General Convention but there's no such controversy among Episcopalians in Tucson, the Arizona Daily Star reported.

Not only are Gays and Lesbians welcome to worship at local Episcopal churches, but they also can be blessed by Episcopal priests in same-sex commitment ceremonies here. And two local Episcopal priests, both with high-profile positions, are openly homosexual.

The General Convention of the Episcopal Church begins in Minneapolis on Wednesday, with some predicting apocalyptic outcomes for the denomination, which is part of the worldwide Anglican Communion.

"The last time we met in Minneapolis was when we got a new prayer book and started ordaining women," said the Rev. Jeffrey B. Reed, who earlier this year became the Episcopal chaplain for the University of Arizona's Campus Christian Center. "Again we find ourselves with huge things facing the church."

Reed, who is openly Gay, will be in Minneapolis to observe the debates.

The convention is scheduled to take two votes that could raise the divisive issue of sexuality: whether to confirm the election of the Rev. Gene V. Robinson, an openly Gay priest, as bishop of New Hampshire; and whether to direct the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to prepare blessing rites for couples living in committed relationships outside of marriage.

A group of 62 Anglicans and Episcopalians, including some bishops, held a news conference to issue a formal warning of a schism in the church if both measures are approved. The group says the proposed actions "would shatter the church."

The conservative American Anglican Council has called Robinson's election an example of "deep dysfunction in the Episcopal Church" and evidence that the church has moved out of the mainstream of worldwide Anglicanism. The group says Scripture, tradition and reason are on its side and calls the upcoming convention a defining moment for Episcopalians.

"My hope is the issues around human sexuality will not eclipse the work of this church in living into the fullness of ministry," said the Rev. Susan Anderson-Smith, an associate rector at St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church, 4440 N. Campbell Ave. "I hope those issues will not bring about so much antagonism that we forget about who we are and what we are called to be."

Anderson-Smith's church, which has the largest Episcopal congregation in the city, has had a Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered spirituality group for nine years. Anderson-Smith herself is open about being a Lesbian.

"St. Philip's has been extraordinarily welcoming and loving, and I experience really wonderful relationships there," Anderson-Smith said.

Unlike the Roman Catholic Church, which looks to the Vatican for its policies, the head of the worldwide Anglican Communion - the archbishop of Canterbury - can only make suggestions to American bishops, and his recommendations are not binding, Reed explained. For example, the bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth in Texas does not recognize the ordination of women.

However, churches in a majority of Episcopal dioceses in the country not only ordain women, but also welcome and in many cases ordain Lesbians and Gays and bless the commitments of monogamous same-sex couples. The Episcopal bishop of Arizona, the Rev. Robert Reed Shahan, leaves same-sex blessings up to the discretion of individual churches.

Shahan is retiring this year, and many local Episcopalians are carefully watching the election process for a new bishop because they want to ensure such openness is preserved. The Episcopal Church includes nearly 8,000 adherents in metropolitan Tucson and 32,000 statewide.

"A Gay or Lesbian Episcopalian would not have a problem feeling completely welcome in Tucson," said the Rev. Gordon McBride, rector of Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2331 E. Adams St. "The funny thing is that I've never been asked to do a same-sex ceremony, though I am perfectly willing to do one."

McBride's church has a rainbow plaque on the front wall indicating that it is a "welcoming" church to any race, ability or orientation. Many of the church's lay leaders are homosexual. During a discussion about the General Convention with some parishioners last week, McBride said supporters of a more inclusive church are not expecting to break off from the denomination even if the votes at a national level do not affirm Robinson's election or the same-sex blessing.

"We wouldn't break from the church. Unity is more important," McBride said.

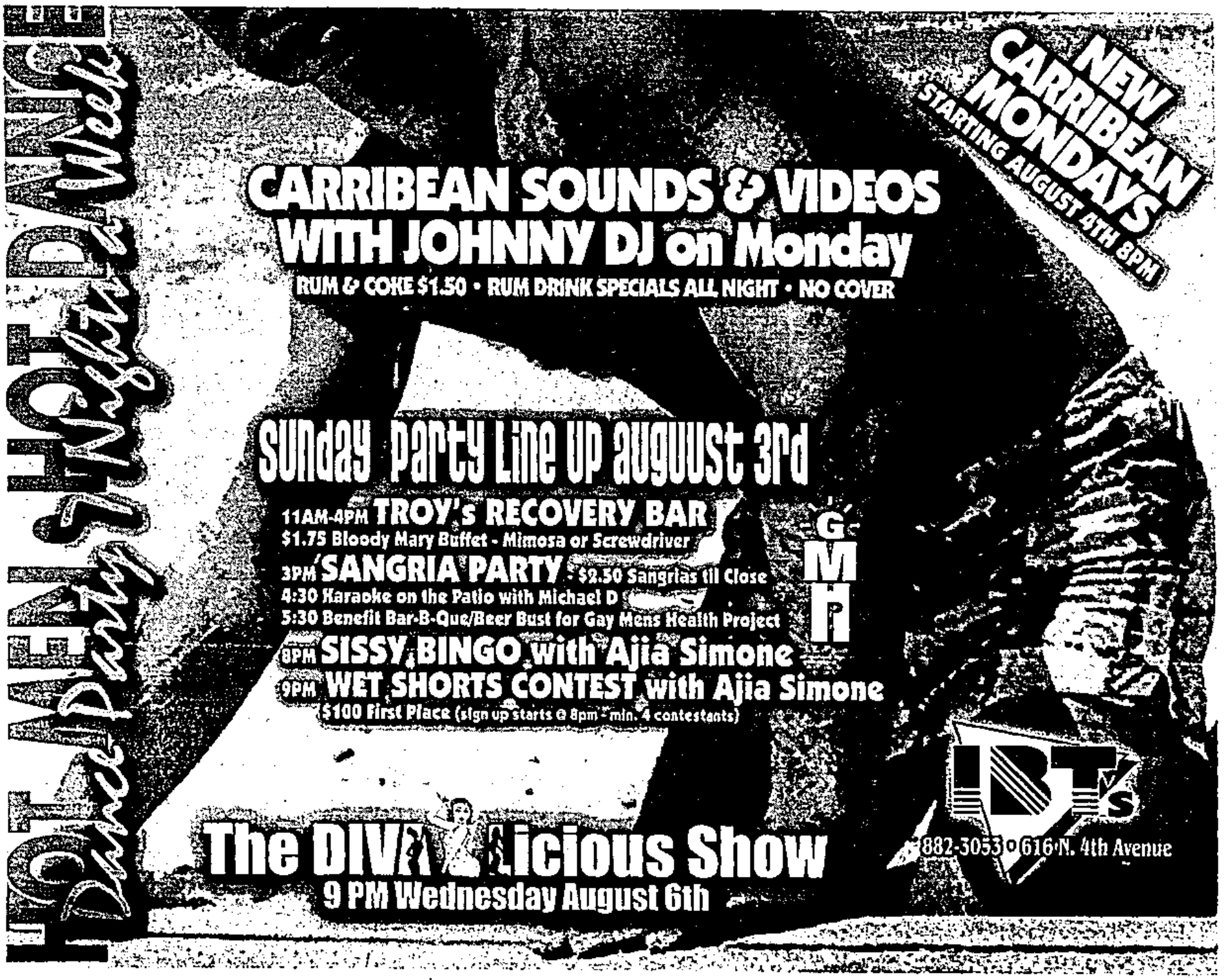
The openness and inclusiveness of the local Episcopal Church is something that Reed, the UA Episcopal chaplain, is using to appeal to young people. He plans to run advertisements in the Wildcat, the UA's student newspaper, inviting students to worship and to join the Canterbury Club, the Episcopal student organization at the Campus Christian Center.

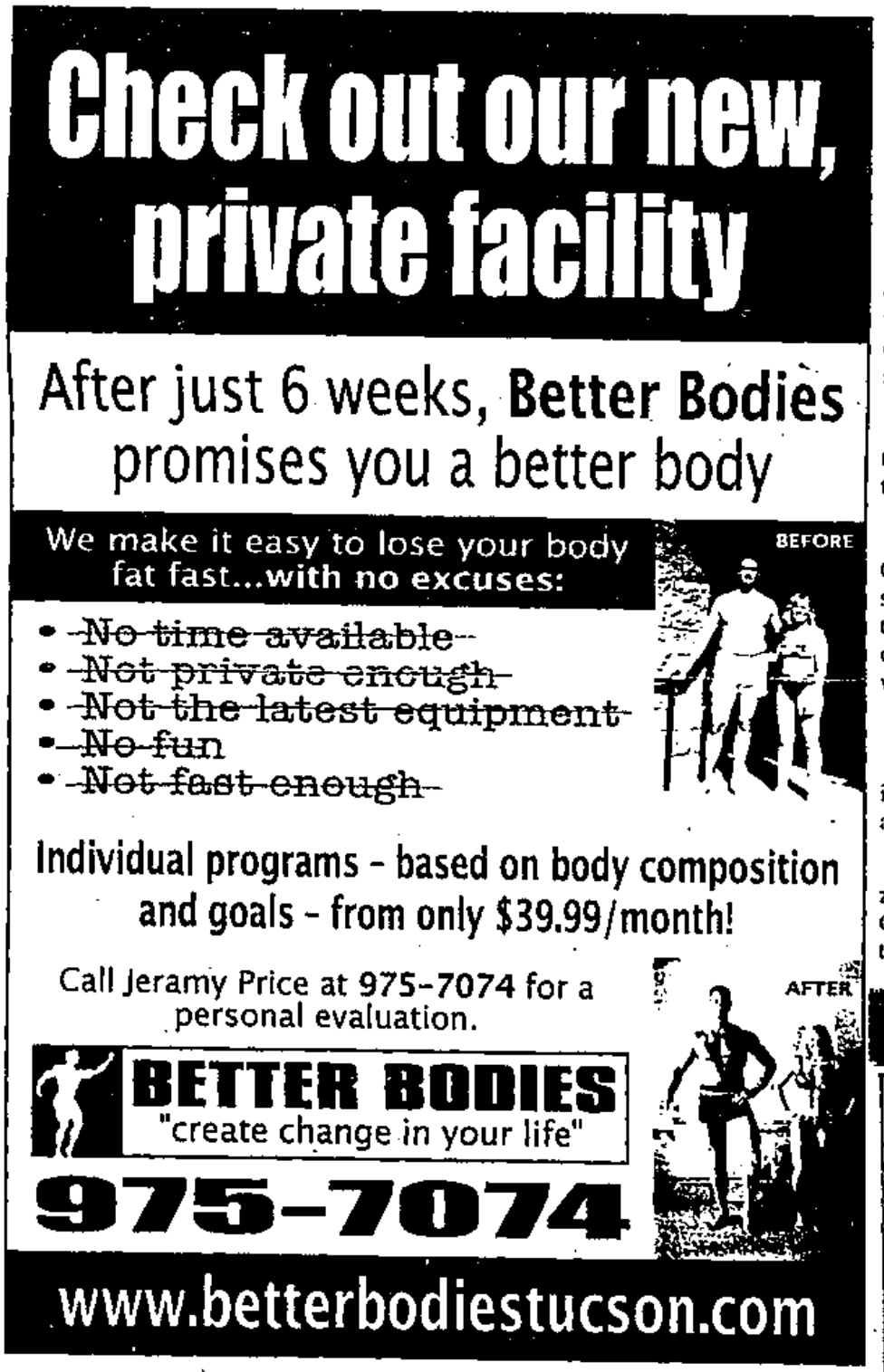
Reed is candid about the fact that he is Gay, but he emphasizes that people's sexuality does not define who they are.

Like Anderson-Smith, he said there are more important parts of Episcopal worship, like the Holy Trinity, the resurrection, the eucharist and baptism, that create more similarities than differences among worshippers.

Reed also does not want the homosexuality debate to split the denomination, as some have predicted.

"I'd be considered a raging liberal, but we need both voices," Reed said. "All those voices make up who we are. I hope no matter what happens, we'll continue the dialogue with those who disagree. Someone is going to be unhappy when all is said and done."





"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Troy Perry Rallies U.S. Gays And Lesbians To Marry

WEST HOLLYWOOD - The Rev. Troy D. Perry, the founder and moderator of the Metropolitan Community Church (MCC), held a press conference on Thursday, July 24, to announce his same-sex marriage in Canada and to encourage other U.S. Gay couples to do the same.

"I want to thank God for Canada," Perry said to reporters at the MCC sanctuary in West Hollywood, Calif. "Marriage is the premier issue for our community."

With a ruling in the province of Ontario earlier this summer, Canada became the third country in the world to allow same-sex partners to marry. Unlike the Netherlands and Belgium, Canada does not require same-sex couples to reside in the country or be citizens. Perry and his partner of 18 years, Phillip Ray De Blieck, are now among the small but steadily growing number of American couples to cross the border and get married in Canada.

Perry announced he was developing a five-point strategy to bring legal marriage to the United States. He called for a 2004 Valentine's Day protest, encouraging same-sex couples to go to their local courthouse and ask to be married; a renewed effort to carry the same-sex marriage message to state legislatures; a strengthening of the relationship between same-sex couples and Gay rights organizations; research into the efficacy of court battles; and the development of a registry of all the American same-sex couples who have been married in Canada so far.

Although he encouraged couples to take the legal Canadian plunge, he noted they should be doing it for the right reason.

"I'm not asking for people to go to Canada if they don't love each other," he said. "And this is not to start a lawsuit tomorrow. I think we really have to have our community attorneys view this and see what it means."

Despite his conditions, Perry made it clear that people shouldn't hesitate if they are in love.

"I disagree with any of the organizations that say couples shouldn't go to Canada to get married. The more we have the better we'll be," he said.

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund Senior Staff Attorney Jennifer Pizer was less enthusiastic than Perry, noting that if a couple is binational, reliant on government subsidies or in the military, it is unclear what a Canadian marriage would mean to their professional, financial or legal status.

"Every couple needs to look carefully at their personal situation, because the law in the United States discriminates against them," Pizer said, adding that Lambda Legal wasn't taking a more cautious approach simply to dictate what Gay couples should and should not do.

"Our role as the legal groups is to help people understand a range of risks. That's our responsibility and in doing that we aren't at all expressing a lack of celebration of a couple's love and commitment," she said.

"We don't want couples facing harsh consequences because they understandably made this commitment to one another," Pizer added. "We would want to have as few people as possible harmed on the path towards equality, which we don't presently have."

Latin America Marks First Civil Union

BUENOS AIRES - Two Argentine men were united in a civil union on Friday, July 25, in Buenos Aires, becoming the first pair to take advantage of the city's new law recognizing same-sex couples, reported Gay.com UK.

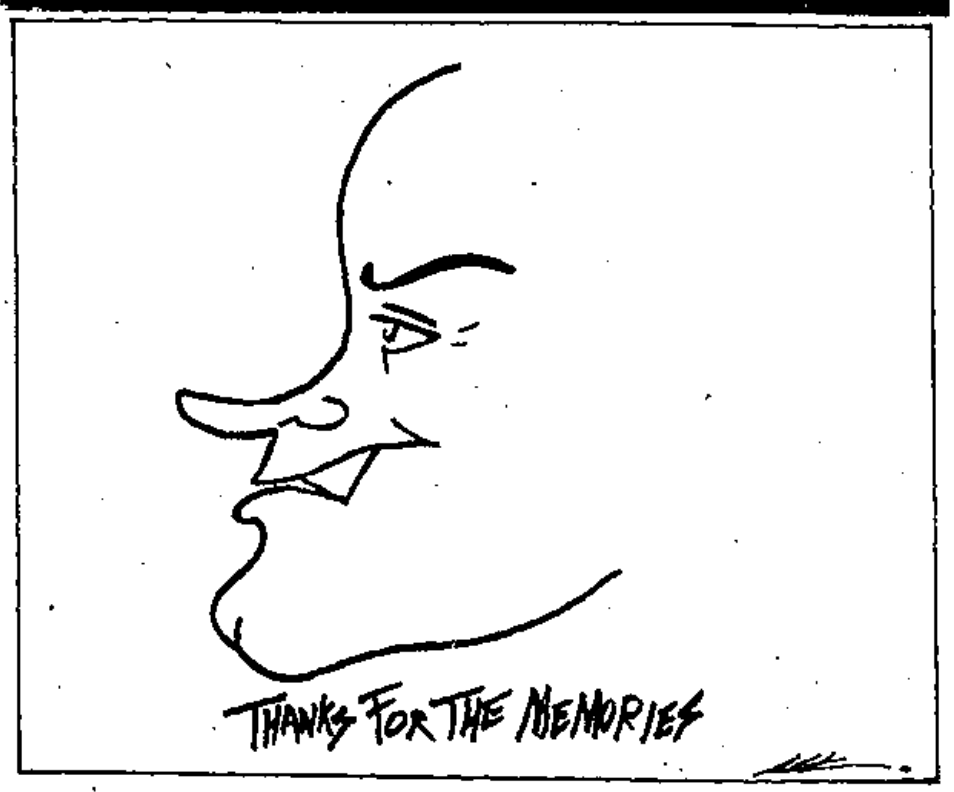
The law, which was endorsed by the city's legislature last December, has been hailed as the most far-reaching of its kind in Latin America. The law did not go into effect until this week.

Cesar Cigliutti, 45, and Marcelo Suntheim, 35, were joined during a small ceremony that made news around the world.

"Every Gay, Lesbian, transvestite and transsexual in Argentina has always fantasized about this moment," Suntheim said, as reported by Reuters.

The new law extends many marriage benefits to same-sex couples, including health and pension benefits. The couples do not have the right to adopt children, however.

As I See It by Clark



AROUND THE GAY USA.....

Outing Threat May Have Sparked Shooting

NEW YORK - Just hours before 31-year-old Othniel Boaz Askew killed New York City councilman James E. Davis in the city council chamber Wednesday, July 23, a man identifying himself as Askew called the FBI and complained that Davis had threatened to out him as a Gay man, The New York Times reports.

"Late this morning, a caller who identified himself as Askew alleged that he was the victim of harassment by Councilman Davis in connection with the upcoming primary election. He expressed no intention to cause harm to Councilman Davis," FBI spokesman James Margolin said on Wednesday. Askew was himself fatally shot by authorities just moments after he shot Davis. Davis, by many accounts, was one of the strongest supporters of Gay rights on the city council.

The Times reports that Askew, who has been described as a political rival of Davis's, may also have shared a mentor-protege relationship with the councilman. Askew apparently moved to Brooklyn last year and immediately got involved in local politics, filing papers this year to run for city council, challenging Davis. But according to staff members in Davis's office, Askew failed to get enough signatures to qualify for the ballot and, about three weeks ago, had asked Davis for a job.

"The councilman began to think of himself as something of a mentor to him," Davis spokeswoman Amyre Loomis told the Times, adding that Askew had asked Davis to write a letter for him saying that Askew had a promising future in public service.

But according to the complaint made to the FBI Wednesday morning, Askew and Davis had taken a walk together in a Brooklyn park earlier this month. While there, Davis apparently told Askew that he had done a background check that revealed that Askew was Gay and that the information would be released in a race between the two men.

Askew and Davis met again Wednesday afternoon. And, according to surveillance tape at City Hall, Askew was able to get into the city council chambers without going through security because he was a guest of the councilman's. That, in turn, allowed him to get a gun into the chamber, and he used it to kill Davis.

California Senate Passes Transgender Rights Bill

SACRAMENTO - Signaling growing tolerance for Transgendered people, the California senate agreed Thursday, July 24, to ban housing and job discrimination against residents whose "perceived gender characteristics are different from those traditionally associated with the individual's sex at birth."

The senate voted 23-11 to add "gender identity or expression" to the dozen characteristics already protected under the state's Fair Employment and Housing Act. If the governor signs the bill, California would become the fourth state to make it illegal to deny someone a job or place to live on that basis. Although the law would apply to all men and women whose appearances do not conform with masculine or feminine norms, its passage is widely viewed as a victory for Transgendered people. "Having a law that specifically states who's protected makes it clear to employers that the majority of people in California want Transgendered people to be able to work in a nondiscriminatory environment," said Chris Daley, codirector of the Transgender Law Center in San Francisco. A 1999 study by the San Francisco Department of Public Health reported that the city's Transgender population had a 70% unemployment rate.

The state assembly approved the bill in April by a vote of 41 to 34, the minimum needed to pass. Sponsored by Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), the legislation still allows employers to require their workers to follow "reasonable workplace appearance and standards" as long as those rules don't prevent employees from dressing "consistently with their gender identity." Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights and a Transgendered person, said that even though the courts in California have already extended legal protection from discrimination based on sex to Transgendered residents, Leno's bill helped plug an important loophole. "Most employers and landlords don't know Transgendered people are protected under state law," Minter said. "Even worse, most Transgendered people don't know they are protected, so it's important to clarify that."

Leno's legislation was part of a package of bills promoted this year by the California legislature's five-member Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Caucus. A bill that would grant domestic partners most of the same rights and protections as married couples was approved by the assembly in June and is expected to be taken up the senate next month. Some are arguing that the future of the pro-Gay bills has been made uncertain by the current gubernatorial recall election in the state. "If anything, the recall effort should make it clearer to [Gov. Gray Davis] that he needs to continue to support equality as the vast majority of Californians do," argued Jeffrey Kors, executive director for Equality California, a statewide lobbying group.

Judge Upholds Murder Charges In Araujo Case

OAKLAND - A California judge upheld murder charges Wednesday, July 23, against three men accused of killing a Transgendered teen in a hate crime.

Judge Robert Kurtz ruled that there was "adequate evidence" for another judge's findings that Jose Antonio Merel, Michael William Magidson, and Jason Michael Cazares should be tried for murder in the killing of Eddie "Gwen" Araujo. Attorneys for the men had sought to overturn the earlier ruling, issued after a preliminary hearing in February. Attorneys for Merel and Cazares had asked that the murder charge ruling be overturned, and all three attorneys argued against the hate-crime enhancement. The three men have pleaded innocent.

Araujo, a 17-year-old who was

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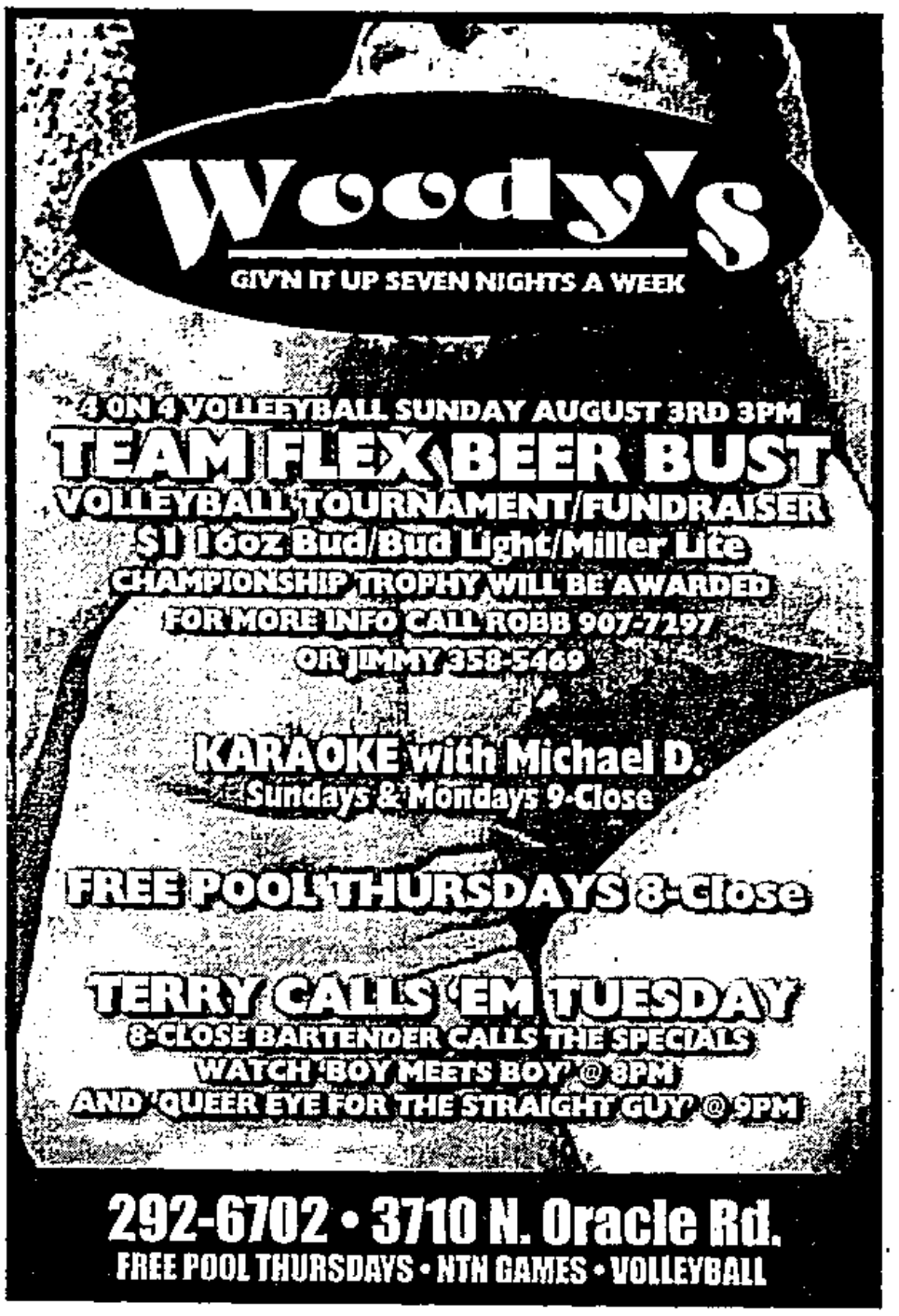

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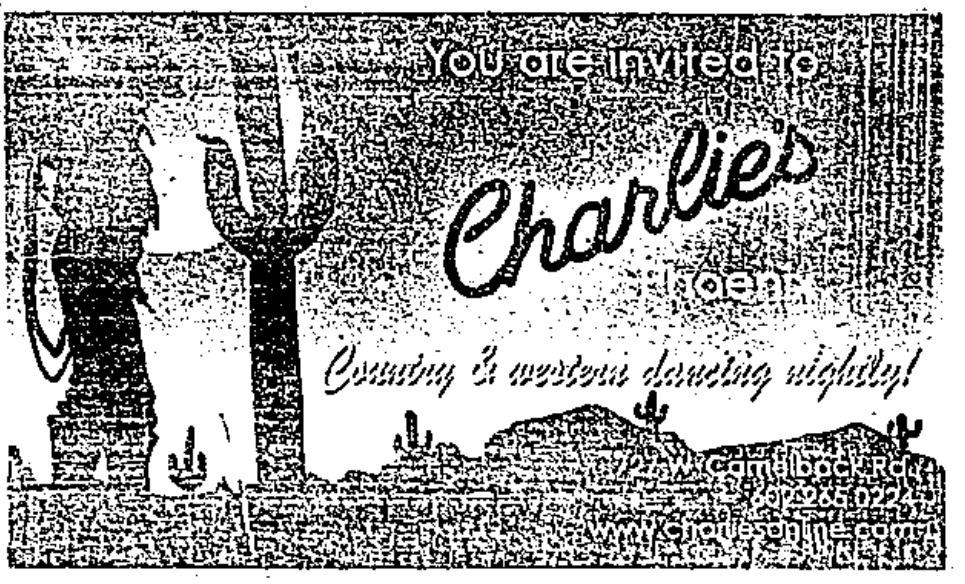

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WINGSPAN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROJECT

POLITICS 2003

by Mark R. Kerr

'States Rights My Ass!'

Dear Gracie:

It was interesting again to see the hypocrisy of the Republican Party, of course running rampant on everything at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue but now add the action taken by the U.S. House on H.R. 2210, the "School Readiness Act," which authorizes funds for Head Start programs.

Under current federal law Gracie, religious groups are eligible to receive federal funding to operate Head Start programs as long as they do not discriminate on the basis of religion, and the new resolution, according to the National Stonewall Democrats, removes that provision, potentially opening the door to discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

H.R. 2210, was passed late Thursday, July 24, by one vote, 217-216, in the U.S. House of Representatives despite the effort to remove the language in question.

"It's in these circumstances that even pro-gay Republicans cave under party pressure," said Dave Noble, executive director for the National Stonewall Democrats. "They can try to dismiss their actions as just another procedural vote, but in reality these votes usually result in a long-lasting, negative impact on our community."

Indeed, 203 Democrats, 12 Republicans and one independent (Sanders of Vermont) Gracie, voted to remove the language while 217 Republicans approved it and two of those of note, voting in favor, were Congressman Mark Foley of Florida, and Jim Kolbe of Arizona.

Surprised, shocked Gracie? It's not new for Kolbe because his record is mixed at best, only since his vote on the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) in 1996, when the only courageous Gay Republican, Steve Gunderson of Wisconsin voted against it but his recent "actions" makes one wonder.

So where was Kolbe when the momentous decision came down in the case before the U.S. Supreme Court, Lawrence v. Texas, and what his comment? Nowhere to be found and none.

Why didn't Kolbe, who said publicly after his vote on DOMA that he didn't believe in same-sex marriage, didn't say a thing about the proposed domestic partner registry for Tucson? Good question Gracie!

What was Kolbe's real reason, according to his press secretary for publicly opposing the proposed federal constitutional amendment by Senate Majority Leader Frist of Tennessee, barring recognition of any same-sex marriage? Get this, it was because the proposal would impede on "states rights", Kolbe's press secretary said in an interview for the local morning paper on the topic.

States rights my ass Gracie, it is about discrimination, something he just doesn't get, especially after his personal experience with the Baptist Church here in Tucson a couple of years ago when they didn't want a homosexual to help serve Christmas dinner.

So more turkey will be served as this bill goes to the U.S. Senate to continue Dubya's path of GLBT discrimination.

As ever faithful always.

COMMENTARY . . . .

Fund Aids Pledge

President Bush promised with great bravado to fully fund his $15 billion pledge to fight AIDS in Africa while touring the disease-ravaged continent earlier this month.

It's time to put some money behind the swagger.

His plan to spend $3 billion each year for five years, including $1 billion annually for the Global Fund, has been derailed. He made the promise during his State of the Union speech in January. Yes, the same speech in which he said British intelligence suggests Saddam Hussein was trying to buy uranium from Africa.

For the past few weeks, talking heads and political pundits have continually yakked about the "16 words" in that speech regarding the uranium flap.

However, amid that clatter, we must not forget the 36 words he uttered about our "blessed country" making the world a better place: "I ask the Congress to commit $15 billion over the next five years, including nearly $10 billion in new money, to turn the tide against AIDS in the most afflicted nations of Africa and the Caribbean."

This year, Bush's budget request for the initiative was $1.9 billion, and much of it was existing money shifted from different budgets. His proposal was more shell game than salvation for Africa's people.

Congress has upped the ante to about $2 billion for fiscal year 2004, but it's still $1 billion short.

Sixteen thousand people die every day from AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria - the three diseases Bush vowed to fight. Millions more can't wait much longer for the promised relief.

The Bush administration has considered the Global Fund dubious at best since it doesn't have an abstinence-only program. Certainly there's a place for abstinence education in Africa, but it can't be a sticking point for a plan that will save thousands upon thousands of lives and allow millions to live longer and healthier lives.

A bill signed by Bush in May challenges other countries to donate cash to the Global Fund with a promise of up to $1 billion in matching funds from the United States. We must live up to that promise and lead by example.

Five years from now we can't be talking about empty promises and those "36 words."

[This was a reprinted editorial that appeared in the Denver Post, Monday, July 28, 2003.]

Director John Schlesinger Dead At 77

PALM SPRINGS - Oscar-winning director John Schlesinger died Friday, in Palm Springs, Calif., after a prolonged illness.

The openly Gay filmmaker's cinematic output included such classics as Midnight Cowboy, Marathon Man, The Day of the Locust, Darling, Far From the Madding Crowd, Cold Comfort Farm, and Sunday Bloody Sunday. Schlesinger received his first Academy Award nomination for Best Director for his fourth film, Darling (1965), and went on to win the trophy for his 1969 Midnight Cowboy. He was nominated again two years later for Sunday Bloody Sunday. All three films broke ground in the presentation of Gay characters and themes in mainstream cinema.

Schlesinger grew up in Hampstead, England, and studied English literature at Oxford, where he also acted in several university productions. Professionally, he began acting with several repertory companies and worked in numerous television productions. (Years later, even after establishing himself as a major filmmaker, he continued to act in such films as Twilight of the Golds and The Lost Language of Cranes.)

He made several short films for the BBC, including the acclaimed documentary Terminus, about a day in the life of a train station. That film won several awards and led to the making of Schlesinger's first feature, A Kind of Loving, starring Alan Bates. His next film, Billy Liar, gave Julie Christie her first leading role in a feature. She would go on to win a Best Actress Oscar for her work in Schlesinger's Darling. Other films directed by Schlesinger include Yanks, An Englishman Abroad (about actress Coral Browne's Moscow encounter with defected Gay British spy Guy Burgess), The Falcon and the Snowman, The Believers, Madame Souzatska, The Innocent, Pacific Heights, and Eye for an Eye. Schlesinger's last feature was The Next Best Thing, starring Madonna and Rupert Everett, about a straight woman and her Gay best friend and their adventures in parenthood.

In a statement Richard Gere noted, "John was the best, and the best always wanted to work with him. As a young actor I considered it an enormous privilege to be in Yanks. I still consider it one of my very best films. John's string of films in the '60s and '70s are as astonishingly good as any film made--anytime, anywhere...audacious, challenging, irascible, moving, witty, wise, and deeply personal. He was an original."

In 1970 Schlesinger was made CBE (Commander of the British Empire) by Queen Elizabeth II. He is survived by his partner of 30 years, photographer Michael Childers; his brother, Roger Schlesinger; and his sister, Hilary Schlesinger. There will be a private Jewish memorial service in London for family next week. There will be public memorials in Los Angeles and London in late September.

Donations in Schlesinger's memory may be made to Project Angel Food in Los Angeles or the Motion Picture and Television Fund in Woodland Hills, Calif.

ACLU Boosts Case Against Adoption Ban

MIAMI - On Monday, July 21, the American Civil Liberties Union filed a 20-page supplemental legal brief with the federal appellate court that is now considering the fate of Florida's ban on Gay adoptions.

The challenge to the Florida adoption statute began in 1998, when the ACLU filed suit on behalf of several Gay foster fathers. After losing in lower court, the plaintiffs appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit, where oral arguments were heard last March. The arguments against the law were powerful to begin with, but last month's ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court in Lawrence v. Texas made them even stronger, reported the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

"After Lawrence," wrote the ACLU, "courts cannot look the other way when government treats Lesbians and Gay men as second class citizens. The time when the state could just make up an explanation for a law and have it accepted at face value without careful examination has passed." In the post-Lawrence world, they concluded, Florida's morality-based prohibition on Gay and Lesbian adoptive parents "can not stand."

According to the ACLU, Lawrence undercuts the position of the state of Florida in two ways. First, the state can no longer use the high court's 1986 anti-Gay opinion in Bowers v. Hardwick, to support the right to pass discriminatory legislation based on the moral sentiments of the majority. That reasoning, used so effortlessly for so many years in so many contexts, "is completely foreclosed" by the Lawrence decision, which rejected Bowers as "not correct when it was decided, and ... not correct today."

More interestingly, the ACLU argued that Lawrence established a profound respect for the dignity of homosexual relationships that obliges future courts to give heightened scrutiny to laws that undermine Gay families and partnerships. By linking the right to private same-sex intimacy with previous privacy rulings, said the ACLU, the court has "recognized for the first time that Lesbian and Gay men have the same liberty interest in forming intimate, personal relationships that heterosexuals have."

Once this interest is established, they continued, "the state cannot penalize people for exercising it ... absent an important and narrowly tailored justification for doing so."

Florida's second major claim, that children are better off in two-parent heterosexual families, fails on all counts: It is not true. It is belied by the state's placement of foster children in Gay households. And, given the backlog of children waiting to be adopted, there is no connection between a law excluding Gay adoptive parents and Florida's stated goal of increasing the number of heterosexual parents wishing to adopt.

Yet prior to Lawrence, courts have deferred as a matter of law to even the most far-fetched explanations offered up in defense of anti-Gay statutes. Under the ACLU's interpretation of Lawrence, however, those days are over.

"After Lawrence," wrote the ACLU in a footnote, "sexual orientation classifications should generally get intermediate scrutiny as quasi-suspect classifications."

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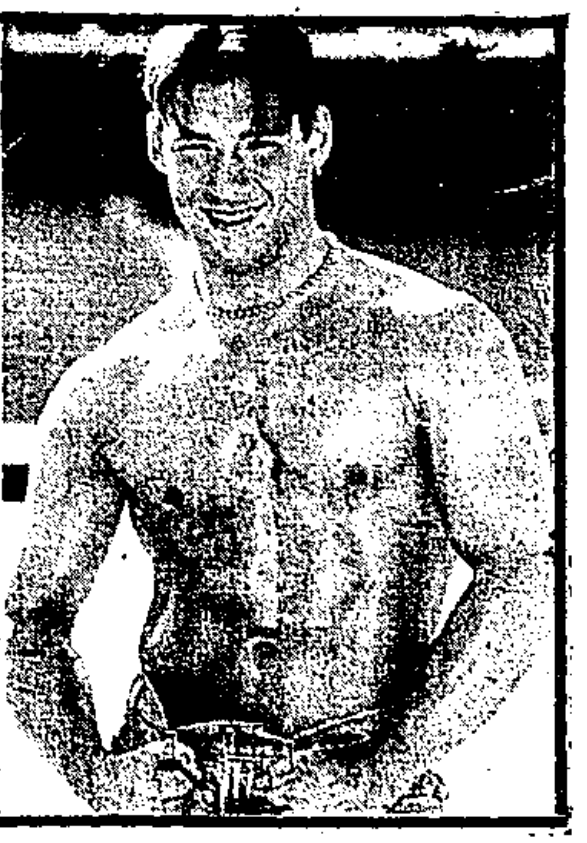

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Report Tallies GLBT Domestic Violence

WASHINGTON - The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) released its seventh annual report on GLBT domestic violence on Wednesday, July 23, recording more than 5,000 reported cases of domestic violence in 2002.

The report contains data from 14 service organizations in 11 regions, including Gay meccas Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York City, and less populated areas like Tucson, Ariz., Burlington, Vt. and Kansas City, Mo.

The largest number of reported cases came from the coastal cities. Los Angeles, for example, reported 3,434 cases in 2002, but it represented a 9 percent decrease from the numbers reported in 2001. San Francisco saw a 25 percent decrease in reports in the same time period.

The report was quick to note that the lower percentages were not necessarily a sign that the vastly under reported and often taboo subject of same-sex domestic violence is becoming less of a problem.

"Changes in the number of domestic violence incidents reported to NCAVP are almost entirely the function of evolving program and organizational capacities, as well as outreach campaigns and program activity focus," the report said in its summary, noting that these figures are designed to give readers a better understanding of the phenomenon, not quantify all the cases out there.

"Though the overall number of cases examined in the report increased slightly, that increase was largely attributable to the addition of three new reporting regions/programs," the report continued.

NCAVP associate director Rachel Baum said the lower numbers in some cities could be attributed to cutbacks in services, since many organizations working with GLBT victims have had to trim their programs.

"Funding for these things is far less," she told Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network.

There were slightly more male victims (52 percent) than female victims (46 percent), while Transgender victims made up the rest at 5 percent. Four of the recorded same-sex DV cases resulted in deaths -- one in Colorado, one in Boston and two in New York City. The report noted that the actual number of murders is most likely much higher, since they are often mischaracterized as "acquaintance" killings or are classified as solely hate incidents.

Baum noted that there is a rising number of GLBT youth who now report they are victims of domestic violence. People in the 18-22 age group made up 10 percent of the reported victims, a 5 percent jump from last year's report.

"Organizations that historically served adults are looking to create services for youth," Baum said.

The report gave a number of recommendations for helping to lower rates, arguing that increased research, better legal definitions of relationships and training more service providers to better understand GLBT relationships are crucial in the fight against domestic violence.

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National Survey Reveals GLB Media Preferences

ROCHESTER - According to the most recent online consumer research study by Witeck-Combs Communications and Harris Interactive®, Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual (GLB) consumers tend to read and view many of the same forms of media as their heterosexual counterparts. However, across the board, they favor lifestyle, home decorating and design magazines, news magazines, and premium cable networks more than their non-Gay counterparts.

Sixty percent (60%) of GLB individuals frequently or occasionally read mainstream news magazines such as Time and Newsweek, while the same is true of 45% of heterosexuals surveyed. In addition, 41% of GLB consumers say they read lifestyle, home decorating and design magazines, such as Martha Stewart Living or Architectural Digest, frequently or occasionally when compared with 30% of non-Gay respondents. More GLB consumers also report watching premium cable networks like HBO, Showtime, and Cinemax frequently or occasionally than do heterosexuals (52% to 45%).

These are a few highlights of a nationwide survey of 2,394 adults, of whom approximately five percent (5%) self-identified as Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual. The survey was conducted online between June 16 and 22, 2003 by Harris Interactive, a worldwide market research and consulting firm, in conjunction with Witeck-Combs Communications, Inc., a strategic public relations and marketing communications firm with special expertise in the GLB market.

When asked about readership patterns for national Gay magazines, such as The Advocate, Out, and Curve, one-third (34%) of GLB respondents say they read these publications frequently or occasionally. However, when asked about news sources that allow for greater anonymity such as online channels like Gay.com and Planetout.com, over four in ten (41%) GLB individuals surveyed frequently or occasionally visit Gay online channels. One in five (19%) GLB respondents also report they frequently or occasionally read their local Gay newspaper.

"These data support our earlier research that revealed Gay and Lesbian consumers are media-hungrier than ever and seek information and entertainment from both mainstream and Gay channels," said John Butler, senior strategist at Witeck-Combs Communications. "Corporate marketers should consider the options as they develop strategies to reach their Gay and Lesbian customers. The companies that succeed in capturing their share of the GLB market's estimated $450 billion in buying power will do so by placing inclusive ads with tailored messages in places where GLB consumers find information."

"The increased inclusion of openly Gay and Lesbian characters and programming on premium cable as well as network programming means GLB people are tuning in more than ever. Programs like Showtime's 'Queer as Folk' and NBC's 'Will and Grace' also attract a large crossover

CONTINUED ON PAGE SIXTEEN

What Makes Our Town Tick?

Calabazamusic@yahoo.com By Jerry D.

News You Can Use

Hello readers! If you watch either our local or any national news broadcasts lately, you will find the usual format has taken an odd turn. Back in the day, the order of business was usually national, local and interest news. That was followed by sports and weather and if time remained a cute story to leave us smiling at the end of the broadcast. That format has taken a bizarre new direction, due mostly to the combinations of the standard headers.

Here in the West, the weather is of course a major issue. Fires have consumed more forest than in any other time recorded. Just here in Arizona,the acreage destroyed will take not just decades, but some are saying even hundreds of years before it has returned in full. Local news interrupting shows are common place this summer. It was only two months ago when we had no burning going on, but for those close to the central point of the destruction, I am sure it has felt like forever.

Monsoon season here in the Old Pueblo has gone high tech too. The high pitched siren of the National Weather Service now has computerized tracking to the pinpoint of the storm. You can watch the news, and at the same time at the bottom of your screen, see where the major cloud coverage is migrating. Local reporters are sent to the heart of storm happenings with only so much as an umbrella to do local feeds of what the destruction looks like. What used to take a day to see is now visible to all in a matter of seconds, sometimes at the risk of losing life to mother nature.

Sport on the other hand has taken center stage in the national press. The unfortunate turn though is the part of the news that usually brought us scores of games, has been reserved for the latest in a rash of crimes being committed by our athletes. I remember when the sports segment of news broadcast started with the most exciting game of the day. The time allotted for that part of a newscast is now being taken by film of basketball stars being led into court. You can still get the scores of the games; you just have to be a fast enough reader to see it on the crawler at the bottom of your screen.

As we approach another semester in our nation's universities, I can only wonder what the curriculum for those majoring in journalism has become. Instead of using the thesaurus for finding creative buzzwords on physical acts, there is probably use for it for the legal jargon facing athletes in their court cases. Probably gone are the assignments to the locker rooms for that interview after the big game, replaced by etiquette when standing outside a police station waiting for a star player to place bail. The usual migration of former athletes to the broadcasting booth is going to slowly be replaced by recent law graduates explaining what charges can be easily beat by the defendant.

I know the picture I paint of the future of broadcasting is probably in exaggeration. I can only hope that is the case. Being someone who lives to see the news, I can only call it disappointing when the stories that help shape this column are only retrieved from printed media, or that crawler going 100 miles and hour on my screen. There used to be a time when I considered being on the air a privilege, now its just another vocation that can be cherished or demeaned to its lowest form.

I think the ones I feel the most sorry for those newsmakers who truly should be showcased. The people who make news, but unfortunately never get the recognition they truly deserve, because the six o-clock news has a time limit, and they have to get the latest arrest of a million dollar star out. Have a great week and remember to register to vote!

ETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLET

EDITOR:

A belated, sincere thank you for forwarding a copy of The Observer to me here in the hinterlands. Being in a town without a Gay publication, it was great to see a "real" community newspaper. I was very impressed by the range and depth of Gay news you carry of not just your local community but the rest of the nation and around the world.

After reading your publication, I am more convinced than ever that Tucson is the place to call home. One my work is completed, I plan to move there as soon as possible.

It was great talking to you on the phone and hearing your enthusiasm for Tucson. And thanks again for The Observer. It was a really positive eye opener to me.

Thanks again,
Joe Schaecher, Jr.
Knoxville, TN

EDITOR:

This past Sunday night we held the 4th annual TIHAN Sidewinders Baseball Benefit at Tucson Electric Park.

The first year this benefit started with sixteen people, each year it has almost doubled in attendance. A record crowd of 101 were in attendance.

Sitting in a luxury skybox watching the game directly behind home plate, eating hot dogs, hamburgers and all the fixings, as well as enjoying some spirits, is a very welcome change for a night out. All of which helped to benefit a fantastic cause.

I would like to thank a few people who helped make this event one of the best Tucson has to offer. To the Sidewinders management, team and employees, thank you for your donation of the skybox and all the services you provided. I would especially like to thank Brian who worked with me to set up this event. Terry at Woody's, thanks for the great job of selling those tickets. To the staff of TIHAN, thanks for all your hard work with the ticket sales as well. Gary, you will probably be sore for a while for all the bribing you did to sell tickets for our 50/50 drawing. That alone brought in $117.00 to both TIHAN and the winner. Of course the wonderful Aija donated her time to help with these tickets as well. Jeremy, the flyers were great. Bob and Gary, thanks for the advertisements. To Scott Blades, once again you helped make this process smooth and trouble free. To the community that attended this event; your generosity will go along way with helping TIHAN and their cause.

Please remember to support those above who have helped make this fundraiser a great success. If you get the opportunity, go to the Sidewinders and enjoy a great time.

We already have begun plans for next year. It will be bigger and better than ever, so watch for it!

With Gratitude,
Dave Locke

The Joy Of Sax

By U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-MA

Congressman Barney Frank addressed a question to seven of his colleagues who circulated a Dear Colleague letter - a copy attached - calling on "supporters of same-sax unions" to support a Constitutional amendment to ban them.

"I was disappointed to see how vehemently my colleagues oppose same-sax unions," Frank said. "I assume they will be patrolling nightclubs in their districts to prevent any such duet from undermining public morality. My question is whether they are willing to allow clarinet-saxophone liaisons. We, of course, already know that Senator Frist would be vehemently opposed to any union consisting of two trumpets and a trombone."

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Rowdy reckless Mars retrogrades this week and continues its jagged out of control course until September. Our small and unobtrusive actions suddenly become weapons of mass destruction. Oops! Sorry!! Will you be around to clean out the fallout, comrade?

ARIES
MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

Gay Rams smell a rat. Heck, they smell a nest of nasty, skulking rats that need to be disposed of yesterday! You rush to bring out heavy armor and roll out tanks as retro Mars is ready, able and willing to take action. But stop, look and listen compadre. The rustling you hear behind the walls may just be the wind. Control your angst and just buy a piece of poisoned cheese and wait.

TAURUS
APRIL 21 - MAY 21

Your dance card has become oversubscribed and you think the world is turning too fast for your taste. Blame the over revving energy on retrograde Mars which drives the masses to your door in droves. Queer Bulls are popularity plus personified but if you feel like you just want to be alone, don't feel guilty. You are bound to trod on a few insteps if you keep up the rapid pace.

GEMINI
MAY 22 - JUNE 21

Can you prevent some form of a professional to-do when retrograde Mars pushes you to the corporate extreme all through the summer? Pink Twins may feel that they are not getting the recognition or credit they deserve but learn to manage and control petty tirades and reduce your volume. You have a chance to make a solid impression on the bosses. Don't forget to flush.

CANCER
JUNE 22 - JULY 23

Summer is the time for relaxing vacations but queer Crabs may find that retrograde Mars packs a powerful, decidedly unrelaxing punch to any getaway plans. How does a week lounging on a demolition site sound? Or maybe a cruise on the Euphrates as it flows into Baghdad? My advice; find your relaxing interludes closer to home and plan an all Out vacation in the fall.

LEO
JULY 24 - AUGUST 23

Proud Lions have all their guns blazing as piquant retrograde Mars piques your taste buds and sets your ardor ablaze. But are you only packing a popgun, pardner? Before you show them your goods make sure that it is good enough. There is nothing more disappointing than a promise that is bigger than the actual delivery. By the end of summer though you will over deliver!

VIRGO
AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23

If you feel like relationships are not measuring up, you may be tempted to take drastic action while Mars retrogrades. Queer Virgins may feel that their good nature is being taken for granted and are apt to rebel. Swallow your bile; this is not the time to assess the situation dispassionately. Use this time to accentuate the positive and dive into pleasant areas. No names please!

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23

Rainbow Libras are whirlwinds at work. You are a tireless motivator and a worker bee. But as you whip the air into a tornado, courtesy of retrograde Mars, take an inventory of what you have really accomplished. Are you just moving the dust around and generally pissing your colleagues off? You are a "can do" type of person. Now please just do it somewhere else.

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22

Bring out the party whips now that Mars is retrograding in Pisces. Proud Scorps are sizzle on the steak most times and now you are on the verge of singeing your beef tips. Pleasant pastimes can go to extremes and blithe fun can take on a menacing dangerous demeanor. But I suspect that is the way you really like it anyway. Pack a fire extinguisher just in case.

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22

There is no place like home especially when Mars retrogrades and turns your homelife inside Out. A new broom not only sweeps clean, it vacuums the paint off the walls. This is no time to do massive renovations since retro Mars never knows when enough is enough. It is a good time to consolidate and enjoy your surroundings just the way they are. Just like some people...

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20

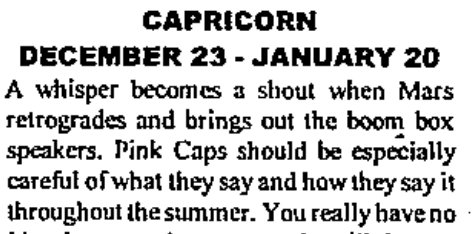
A whisper becomes a shout when Mars retrogrades and brings out the boom box speakers. Pink Caps should be especially careful of what they say and how they say it throughout the summer. You really have no idea how much your words will impact people and events. You can change the landscape. Shucks! It is a shame that Congress is off for the summer.

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19

All that glitters is not gold and all that is not gold can throw off a pretty damned good impression of it. Aqueerians are chasing the pot at the end of the rainbow only to find that it is full of mirrors. Retro Mars has you convinced that there is a big payoff at the end of the climb. However the secret is to value the pleasant ride on the rainbow itself, especially with fellow travelers.

PISCES
FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20

Mars retrogrades in your own sign and makes any first moves memorable ones for better or worse. Guppies are not usually forces of change and now you find that even a glance can produce impactful results. But are they the results that you want? Sit tight while events unfold and stick with the tried and true, at least until you sufficiently test the waters for your big splash.



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John 3:16

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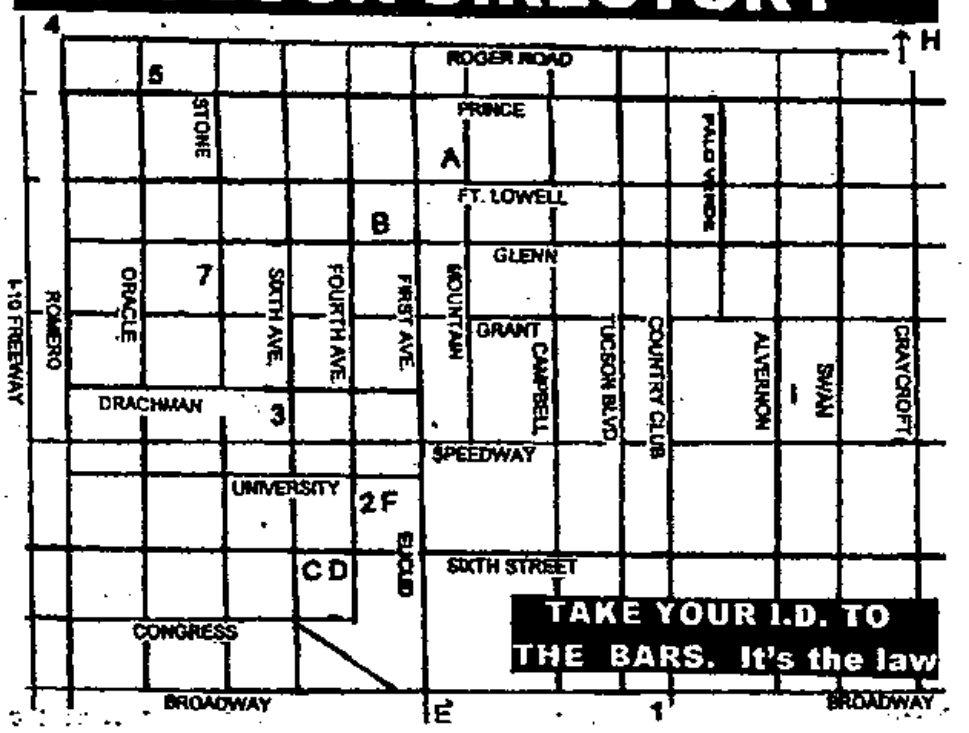

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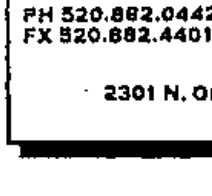

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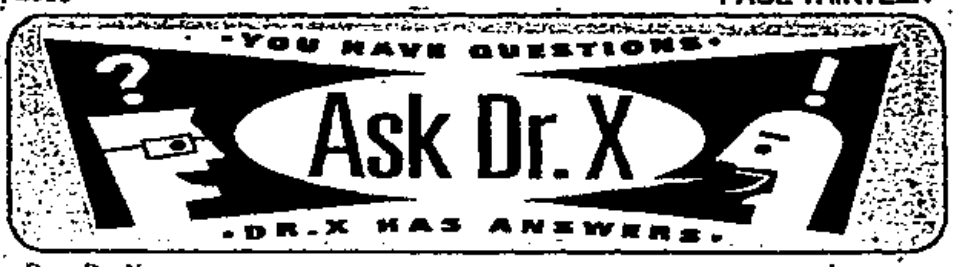

Dear Dr. X,

Before I cum or engage in sexual intercourse, I seem to have a lot of pre-cum, which puts my lover off. So my question is how to get my level of pre-cum down or my lover's pre-cum levels up?

Drippy

Dear Drippy,

Precum is a natural sexual function which cleans the tube of the penis to make way for ejaculation. You cannot reduce/increase the amount of your/his precum. If your lover doesn't like precum, he needs to stay away from penises!

Dear Dr. X,

I have a question regarding oral sex and HIV. Some of my "friends" who are HIV+ have stopped having sex, or make sure they use a condom when they do play. However, I have a friend that is HIV+ and insists that you can't get it from having oral sex as long as you spit and not swallow. Is this true? I really want to be intimate with this one person, but I am afraid and don't know the consequences. Are there ways my HIV+ "friend" and I can have fun so that I won't get it?

Needy for Love

Dear Needy for Love,

For a long time the saying among Gay men went something like this "On me, not in me." Meaning you should keep semen out of your/his body. Over the years, people (and the CDC) have come to think that swallowing semen is a low risk activity. Your stomach acids will kill any traces of the virus that is in the semen. What you have to be careful of is any sores, cuts, bleeding gums etc. in your mouth. Bad oral hygiene creates the perfect opportunity for the virus to get into your blood stream. In holding the semen in your mouth, you may actually be more at risk than swallowing (though it is still low). If you feel like this is something you need to do be aware of the possible consequences and take precautions.

Dear Dr. X

What exactly is "docking?" My friend told a joke the other day and "docking" was in the punch line. I laughed at the joke but didn't get it. And no I'm not blond but I think it has something to do with penises. Could you please help me out?

JD

Dear JD,

Don't feel bad. It is almost impossible to keep track of all the slang terms about sex that are used nowadays. Docking is when a man with an uncircumcised penis places his foreskin around the head of another man's penis and simulates both penises by rubbing them together. You are going to have to email me the joke when you remember it!

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

Araujo Case

Continued from Page Five

born male but lived as a woman, was killed in October after her biological identity was revealed at a party at Merel's home in the San Francisco suburb of Newark. According to testimony at the preliminary hearing, Araujo was slapped, choked, beaten with a skillet, tied up, and strangled in an attack that lasted about two hours. Her body was driven to the Sierra foothills about 150 miles east and buried in a shallow grave.

Attorneys for the three men argued that they were emotionally overwhelmed by the sudden realization that the beautiful girl they knew as Lida—the girl two of them had had sex with—was a man. However, a judge rejected those arguments.

A fourth man, Jaron Chase Nabors, 20, was also charged in the murder but struck a deal to plead guilty to voluntary manslaughter in return for testifying against his friends.

After the ruling David Guerrero, Araujo's uncle, said he was pleased with the outcome. "We want the public to know that this was a hate crime," he said.

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.

NON-BAR CALENDAR
GROUPS / CLUBS / ORGANIZATIONS

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.

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

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.

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

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, AUGUST 6
Tucson Prime Timers Video Night - 7:00 p.m. Non pornographic movies with Gay themes are shown. Phone: 740-0620

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9
Tucson Prime Timers Food & Drinks- 5:00 p.m. Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10
Tucson Prime Timers Brunch – 12:00 p.m. Molina's Restaurant, 3001 N. Campbell Ave.

MONDAY, AUGUST 11
Tucson Prime Timers Lunch – 12:30 p.m., The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13
Tucson Prime Timers Video Night - 7:00 p.m. Non pornographic movies with Gay themes are shown. Phone: 740-0620

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16
Tucson Prime Timers Lunch/Business Meeting - Noon, Home Town Buffet, 5101 N. Oracle Rd.

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 18
Tucson Prime Timers Lunch – 12:30 p.m. The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20
Tucson Prime Timers Video Night - 7:00 p.m. Non pornographic movies with Gay themes are shown. Phone: 740-0620

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22
Tucson Prime Timers Dinner – 6:00 p.m. Maxim's Chinese Restaurant, 6440 E. Broadway

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23
Tucson Prime Timers Food & Drinks - 5:00 p.m. Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd.

MONDAY, AUGUST 25
Tucson Prime Timers Lunch – 12:30 p.m. The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27
Video Night - 7:00 p.m. Non pornographic movies with Gay themes are shown. Phone: 740-0620

Bar Calendar Of Upcoming Events

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30
IBT'S - 9:00 p.m. The 'DivaLicious" Show hosted by Lucinda Holliday

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!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1
AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Hip Hop Friday and Shot Specials every half hour, $1 Hot Sex Shots or Puckers all night!@ Dj Hill 9:00 to close.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3
IBT'S - Party line-up includes Troy's Recovery Bar from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. $1.75 Bloody Mary Buffet, Screwdrivers or Mimosas. 3:00 p.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 Gay Men's Health Project. 8:00 p.m. Sissy Bingo with Ajia Simone. 9:00 p.m. Ajia hosts the Wet Shorts Contest. $100 first prize. (Signup starts at 8pm, Minimum 4 contestants). Drink Specials all night..

WOODY'S - Team Flex Volleyball Tournament / Fundraiser, 3:00 p.m. 4 on 4 volleyball. Beer Bust $1.00 16oz Bud/Bud Light/Miller Lite,. Championship trophy will be awarded. For more information call Rob at 907-7297 or Jimmy at 358-5469.

MONDAY, AUGUST 4
IBT'S - Something new to start the week here - Carribean Mondays starts tonight and every Monday beginning at 8:00 p.m. rum & coke $1.50 and run drink specials all night. Carribean sounds and videos with Johnny DJ. No Cover!

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6
IBT'S - 9:00 P.M., The "DivaLicious" Show hosted by Bunny FuFu and staring Sachè, Chantelle Douglas and guests.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12
VENTURE-N - Spaghetti Night.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15
AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Hip Hop Friday and Shot Specials every half hour, $1 Hot Sex Shots or Puckers all night!@ Dj Hill 9:00 to close.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23
VENTURE-N - Jungle Party

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28
VENTURE-N - Steak Night

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29
AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Hip Hop Friday and Shot Specials every half hour, $1 Hot Sex Shots or Puckers all night!@ Dj Hill 9:00 to close.

Arts & Entertainment

NOW PLAYING THRU AUGUST 24
Live Theatre Workshop presents "The Fourth Wall" by A.R. Gurney. Peggy has redecorated the living room. Her usual good taste has been tossed out the window. She has been driven to re-do the living room as if it were a stage. Everything faces one wall...the "fourth wall". Unable to handle the strange behavior of his wife any longer, Roger invites an old friend, Julia, up from New York to help him cope. Julia agrees that the situation is desperate and suggests that Roger call 976-NUTS and have Peggy put away which would also allow the two of them to have the affair they have never before thought about. Desperate to save his wife and marriage, Roger makes one last ditch effort and calls in the help of Floyd, an Assistant Professor of Dramatic Literature at a local college. Roger's plan backfires when Floyd, instead of bringing Peggy's "play" to a close, becomes completely wrapped up in her passion and inspires her to follow in St. Joan's footsteps, do what she must do, and break the fourth wall!

Show times are Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday matinee at 3:00 p.m. only. Tickets range from $14 - $12. Call 327-4242 for reservations and information.

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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Daily Bar Calendar

Sunday
AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Open 2pm. Beer Bust 5-10, $1.25 pitchers Bud or Bud Light. Latin Music with DJ Hill 9pm to close. Drink & Shot specials all night.

IBT's - 10am-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 5-8pm. Karaoke with Michael D. 9pm

YARD DOG - Open Sundays 10am - 1am. Bloody Marys or Screwdrivers $1.75 from 10am - 1pm. 50¢ off any Rum 1pm-7pm. Dinner and live jazz 5-8pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Monday
AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Open 2pm. Happy Hour Two-For-One domestics and well 2-7pm. Free pool 8-10pm. 50¢ cups draft Bud & Bud Light 6pm 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
AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Open 2pm. Happy Hour Two-For-One domestic beer & well 2-7pm. Pool tourney 7:30pm $3 entry, bar matches pot. Country music 9pm to close. $2 bottled Bud products 8 to close.

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

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Bar Opens noon. Happy Hour 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
AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Open 2pm. Happy Hour 2-4-1 domestic beer and well from 2-7pm. 90s retro music 9pm - close. $1.25 pitchers of Bud/Bud Light or $1 Tequila shots 8-1.

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

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

IBT's - Open 11am. Happy Hours 11am-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-8pm. 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 8pm-close plus 50¢ off all Big Ass drinks. Top scores on NTN game wins special prizes. Free Pool 8 to close. Volleyball Court is Open. See bartender.

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

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

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

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 10.30am-1am. Happy Hour 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
AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Open at 2pm. Pool Tournament 6:30pm $3 entry. Bar matches pot. $2 pitchers for pool players. DJ Hill 9pm-close. Drink & Shot Specials all night.

IBT's - 10am-5pm $4 Martinis and Daquaris.10am-8pm $2 domestic beer and well. Dance Party 9-1 w/DJ-Q. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open noon-1am.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 4-9pm. $1.75 well or domestics. Patio Bar opens 5pm. 5-9pm Filet Mignon or Swordfish BBQ with all the trimmings $5.

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

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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, 1438 N. Campbell across from University Hospital. For more info. Call Anabeli at 325-0892

SMART (Self Management And Recovery Training) a free non-12-step self-help alternative for people working to overcome addictive and other emotional problems meets in Tucson Monday thru Thursdays at different locations. For more information about SMART, contact Jennifer at 838-3975.

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

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

THEATER / DINNER / ETC! Non-Smoking Lesbian Network meets every 3rd Saturday night of each month. If you'd like to meet women 35+ (flexible) and socialize in a smoke-free environment 888-8010 before 10:00 p.m. The group dines out and attends shows or movies. Now in their 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 299-6647.

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

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

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

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

TUCSON PRIDE, INC. (Formerly Tucson Lesbian and Gay Alliance - TLGA) meets on the second Tuesday at 645 S. Craycroft Road at 6pm. Tucson Pride events: Pride Week, Gay West and OUTobeRFEST. Inquiries about support groups and individual needs should be directed to Wingspan and other local agencies listed here. For more information call 622-3200 or visit the TPI website at www.tucsonpride.com

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

AIDS HOTLINE - 326-AIDS. Hours M-F, 9:00 am to 10:00 pm. Information, counseling, HIV-related services, Tucson.

GAY OR BI-SEXUAL MEN in relationships with women. Need friends you can talk to? Weekly support group meets Wednesdays 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Licensed psychologist facilitator. Call 745-6977 in Tucson for more information. Strictly confidential.

WINGSPAN - Tucson's Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Community Center, 300 E. 6th St., offers support groups / info line / social events / library / meeting space. Volunteer Opportunities. Board meetings every 2nd Thursday (open to all), 6:00 p.m. Information 624-1779.

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

NOTICES

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

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)534-6219 (Phoenix)

GLSEN - Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network meets first Thursday of every month at 4:30pm at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th Street. 743-4600.

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

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

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

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

RAINBOW SUPPORT GROUP: LGBT and supportive friends meet for open discussions in a loving, supportive atmosphere. Support meetings are the 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:00 pm at St. Francis in the Foothills Church, Swan and River Road, Room 42. The 3rd Thursdays of the month, the group will meet at 7:30pm at Rainbow Planet Coffeehouse (606 North 4th Ave.) as a social outing. For more information call the church at 299-9063 and ask for a contact person.

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

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

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

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

ATTENTION ALL NUDISTS - Tucson Tanners is a nudist group open to all – Nude activities scheduled both indoor and outdoors. Not "Gay Only", but Gays are welcome and invited to join. For further information send SASE to: Tucson Tanners, P.O. Box 84-G, Cortaro, AZ 85652.

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

ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS: Confidential individual, 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. 622-4626.

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

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

LESBIAN AND GAY AL-ANON - Affected by someone's drinking? Meeting every Tuesday 6:45 to 9:45 p.m. at Lambda Center, 2940 E. Thomas, Phoenix. Ellie 581-8850 or Ronn 968-2384.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GLBT Buddhist meditation group meets Sundays from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. at the Wingspan annex space, 739 N. 4th Ave. Please be willing to sit for two twenty minute sessions in silence. All are welcome.

THE MAN TO MAN SOCIAL/EROTIC EDUCATION CLUB is the tantric men's group that offers passionate friendships, fun activities, and sex education. Marc - 881-4582

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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

by Lee Thorn

Laughing Thuggery Away

It didn' t start with Mike Tyson biting off a chunk of his opponent's ear in a boxing ring. We Americans have always tolerated thugs in professional sports just as we tolerate bullies in high school sports. In 1912 future Hall of Famer Ty Cobb ran into the stands and assaulted a heckler in a wheelchair!

We may now be in the process of refining our historic tolerance of thuggery and moving it into new spheres. I'm thinking of a TV special on Tyson in which his friends purportedly speak out in his defense, and I'm also thinking of the media reaction to a baseball player's recent assault on a woman dressed up as a sausage.

I haven't seen and I won't see the Tyson special. I'm sure his friends are many, loyal, articulate, charming and persuasive, but I'll pass. It's the very idea of a Tyson special that interests me, the idea of using someone who says things like, "I wish I would have raped her." Of course the network gives frequent warnings that viewer discretion is strongly advised. Wink, wink. What we have here are network executives who are not the least ashamed of turning total moral depravity into an entertainment that appeals to and titillates an audience that's only marginally depraved.

Is there a historic progression here or is it just my imagination? It seems like one thing to let Ty Cobb continue to play baseball even after he assaulted a disabled fan and quite another thing to turn decadence into specials with viewer-discretion warnings.

As for the baseball player who hit a woman with a bat and knocked her down, the woman being dressed as a sausage and running past the dugout as a part of the programmed entertainment, the media in general decided to treat the incident as a joke.

Nobody asked, "What kind of person would even have it occur to him to hit a woman with a baseball bat in any circumstances?" If someone had asked the unpleasant answer would have been fairly obvious -- a vicious thug.

Nobody to my knowledge has publicly asked the player/thug the first question that any parent would immediately have asked a ten-year-old who'd pulled a similar stunt: "What in the world was going through your mind when you did that?"

Before anybody starts jumping up and down and screaming, "Nobody got hurt," let me just suggest that if a thug knocks a person who's running in a top-heavy costume down by hitting her with a baseball bat, the fact that she doesn't get seriously hurt is hardly to his credit.

And nobody in the media seems to be interested in taking a hard look at this player/thug's background. If he'll hit a woman with a bat when millions of people are watching, what does he do for laughs when no one is watching? Is there a history of violence here that the fans should know about?

After the woman is down and possibly hurt, does her assailant come to his senses and rush out to help her? No, he doesn't. He makes no move in that direction. Perhaps he feels that as a major league baseball player he's much too grand to worry about someone so far beneath him on the pay scale of ballpark entertainers. Or perhaps he thought if he kept a low profile he'd somehow escape detection. Pretty scummy either way.

Someone did have the decency to immediately stop and help the woman. That somebody was not a ballplayer. It was another entertainer dressed as a sausage. Someone with some class.

A day or two later a famous baseball broadcaster named Joe Garagiola said something laudatory, while doing commentary on a game, about the fact that the stricken woman wasn't planning to sue the thug/player. Joe opined that people sue each other too much these days, and I had to laugh out loud.

I've always liked old Joe. He usually keeps it pretty real. But if Joe had a daughter and some thug knocked her down with a baseball bat, the guy would definitely not be worried about being sued. He'd be much too worried about finding the nearest recruiting office for the French Foreign Legion.

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

Canadian Provinces

Continued from Page One

by the current federal definition of law." If the provinces began to issue marriage licenses prematurely, she said, "they would not be legal documents" in the absence of a federal law.

Although other legal experts suggested that the provinces could indeed blaze trails in advance of the official federal bill, there seems no reason to jump the gun under the circumstances. The entire country, with the notable exception of the province of Alberta, seems perfectly prepared to follow the lead of the Canadian Parliament.

In the conservative Alberta, officials have pledged to defy any attempt to change the definition of marriage, a position that may be more political than practical. When the Canadian Supreme Court issues its review opinion this fall, it is expected to make clear that all provinces are obliged under the national Constitution to respect the federal definition of marriage.

National Survey

Continued from Page Eight

audience, persuading more companies to tailor advertising messages to Gay and Gay-friendly audiences - a technique shown to increase brand loyalty," added Butler. "Opportunities for product placements also should not be overlooked. This is a simple, yet effective way to connect with a diverse audience including both Gay and non-Gay consumers. Bravo's new show 'Queer Eye for the Straight Guy' featured products from GMC and Wilsons Leather, for instance."

"With nearly 20% of Gay and Lesbian consumers reading community-based Gay and Lesbian regional newspapers regularly, these publications should not be overlooked as a resource for media planners," said Butler. "They offer marketers a cost-effective solution to guiding these sought after consumers directly to a product or service."

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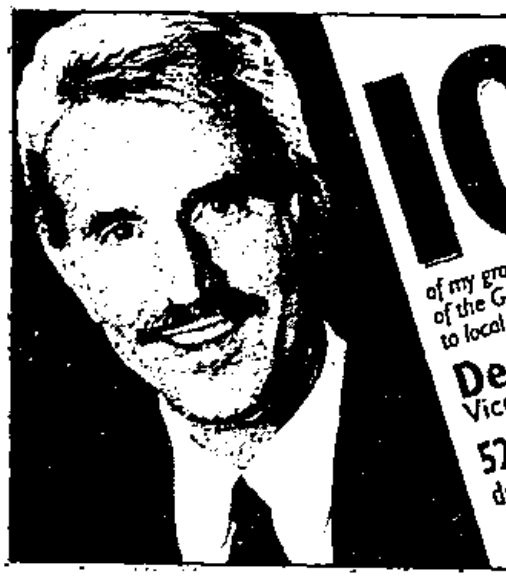
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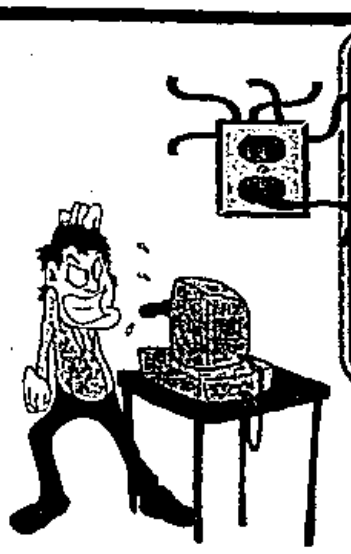
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