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Gay Footage Will Stay In Lincoln Memorial Video

WASHINGTON - Footage of Gay rights demonstrations will not be removed from a Lincoln Memorial videotape, according to spokespeople from the National Park Service and the Human Rights Campaign. Earlier reports said the images would be removed, reported the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

Footage of Gay rights demonstrations will not be removed from a videotape shown at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., according to spokespeople from the National Park Service and the Human Rights Campaign. Earlier reports in various news outlets said the Gay images would be removed.

In a press release, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), a government-watchdog group, said that because of pressure from conservative groups, the National Park Service agreed to remove from the tape all scenes depicting Gay and abortion rights rallies. "The Park Service leadership now caters exclusively to conservative Christian fundamentalist groups," PEER executive director Jeff Ruch said in the release.

But today that story has changed. "We have been assured that they are redoing the tape, but are not stripping out scenes of Gay and Lesbian events at the Lincoln Memorial, because to do so would be historically inaccurate," said Winne Stachelberg, political director at the Human Rights Campaign, a national Gay rights group. Stachelberg told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network that National Park Service Chief of Public Affairs, David Barna, made those reassurances to her this morning.

"It certainly sounds as if the park service is getting pressure from right-wing extremists groups to drop images of the Gay community and add other images," Stachelberg added.

As part of its update, the National Park Service plans to add scenes including rallies by the Promise Keepers, a fundamentalist Christian men's group, and by pro-life groups to the video.

To do so, however, may not be historically accurate after all. Those rallies did not occur at the Lincoln Memorial or even on the nearby Mall, said Bill Line, a spokesperson for the National Park Service.

Line told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network that the pressure to replace Gay and pro-choice

images with Christian and pro-life scenes comes from conservative Kansas Republican congressman Todd Tiahrt.

In a letter to the National Park Service last February, Tiahrt objected to the portions of the video that depict Gays and a National Abortion Rights League rally, Line said. Tiahrt is "in discussion" with the park service about adding the new scenes, Line said.

The 8-minute video, on public display since 1995, depicts images of a wide variety of events that took place at the Memorial, including black civil rights marches and anti-war demonstrations. The footage of Gay rights lasts about 13 seconds, and the pro-choice footage lasts about 16 seconds, Line said.

Congressman Tiahrt's spokesperson was unavailable for comment, having left on a holiday vacation.

The changing video footage is part of a "very disturbing" series of events in which conservative Christians are influencing National Park service policy, said Ruch.

The National Park Service has been fighting a lengthy legal battle to continue to display an 8-foot cross in California's Mohave National Preserve, and has reinstalled plaques with Biblical verses along the rim of the Grand Canyon.

They have also endorsed the sale at Park Service bookstores of a creationist text, "The Grand Canyon: A Different View," which argues that, despite geological evidence to the contrary, the canyon was "created" several thousand years ago.

"The pattern is to accommodate Christian fundamentalist demands to display religious objects or remove historical objects they find offensive," Ruch said.

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Challenge To Cincinnati's Hate Crimes Law Dismissed

CINCINNATI - Gay rights activists in Cincinnati hailed a judge's decision on Monday, December 22, to dismiss a challenge to the city's newly expanded hate-crimes law.

Filed by three men last April, including an anti-Gay activist and a state lawmaker, the lawsuit sought to overturn the law passed by Cincinnati officials in February. It amended an existing law—which already covered offenses motivated by a person's race, color, religion, or national origin—to include crimes motivated by sexual orientation, age, disability, and gender. According to The Cincinnati Post, opponents said the expanded ordinance violated Issue 3, the city's ban on enacting or enforcing any measure that gives "minority or preferential status, quota preference, or other preferential treatment" to people asserting Gay, Lesbian, or Bisexual status. Issue 3, a charter amendment, was approved by voters in 1993.

In his ruling, Hamilton County common pleas judge Norbert A. Nadel didn't address Issue 3. Rather, Nadel stated that the suit was deficient on other legal points. Specifically, Nadel ruled that plaintiffs didn't allege that they were

subject to enforcement of the law or that it had been enforced against anyone. Also, the court doesn't have the jurisdiction to issue advisory opinions, and the lawsuit doesn't establish the plaintiffs' standing to establish the court's jurisdiction over the matter, the judge said. "This decision seems to leave plaintiffs without a remedy to litigate this matter on the merits," Nadel's ruling states. "However, in the opinion of this court, the law of Ohio at this time dictates this result."

City council member John Cranley, who cosponsored the law, hailed the judge's ruling. "This is a great victory for this city and for creating an atmosphere of tolerance," Cranley told the Post. "For me, this is about standing up for the dignity of all human life." The council voted 7-2 to expand the hate-crimes law, with the group's two Republican members opposed. Cranley and councilman David Crowley, who introduced the proposal, said they were prompted by the New Year's Eve shooting death of Gregory Beauchamp. Beauchamp, 21, was killed on West Liberty Street while walking with three friends to a dance club. The shooter reportedly yelled antigay slurs at the group. A grassroots group, Citizens to Restore Fairness, is mounting a petition drive in an attempt to repeal Issue 3 next year.

Michigan Governor Bans Anti-Gay Bias

LANSING, MI - Gov. Jennifer Granholm has issued an order banning discrimination against Gays in state employment, a move critics condemned as a first step toward legalizing Gay marriage, reported the Associated Press.

The order issued Tuesday, December 23, covers the executive branch, which has about 55,000 employees—about 95 percent of all state workers.

"The employment practices of state government should promote public confidence in the fairness and integrity of government and should reflect a commitment to equal employment opportunities," Granholm spokeswoman Liz Boyd said in a news release.

Gary Glenn, president of the American Family Association of Michigan, told the Detroit Free Press the move "is simply the first step in a stepping stone strategy for legalizing homosexual marriage."

The order bans discrimination based on sexual orientation. Michigan is

the 10th state to adopt such a Gay rights policy, according to the Triangle Foundation, a Gay rights advocacy group.

Federal law prohibits discrimination based on race, age, religion and gender, but it does not cover sexual orientation.

"We are overjoyed by Governor Granholm's executive directive," foundation Executive Director Jeffrey Montgomery said in a statement. "The opportunities and protections this will afford Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual people are direct reflections of the governor's vision of an inclusive and fair Michigan and a state that appreciates and values all of its citizens."

The foundation said it hopes the order will move the Michigan Legislature to amend state civil rights law to extend protection to Gay people.

Granholm called for extending civil rights law protection to Gays when she ran for governor in 2002. She also called for recognition of civil unions for same-sex couples.

UPDATE

Positions Open At Wingspan

TUCSON - Wingspan is now accepting résumés for three staff positions with the Youth Program:

The Education Specialist is a full-time (40 hours per week), exempt employee housed at the Eon "Lounge" Youth Center and works flexible hours, including evenings and weekends. Qualifications: Experience providing awareness trainings to a variety of audiences, including social service providers; Spanish-speaking preferred; Knowledge and experience working with people of other races and ethnicities (particularly Hispanic and African-American); Experience working with youth; and, Knowledge of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender issues. Salary of \$22,000 plus health benefits.

To Apply: Send cover letter, résumé, and three references to Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. Tucson, AZ 85705 or fax (520) 624-0364 or email, see Website for E-mail. No phone calls, please.

The Youth Outreach Specialist staffs the Eon "Lounge" youth drop-in center during evenings and weekends and is responsible for outreach, education, and advocacy for youth, especially surrounding issues of homelessness. This position is 30 hours/week, including evenings and weekends, \$9/hour.

Qualifications: Knowledge about Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender communities and relevant issues; Experience working with youth; Good interpersonal skills and ability to relate to youth; Availability on evenings and weekends; Ability to pass fingerprint clearance; Reliable transportation; Must be 18 or older; Experience with homeless issues; Knowledge of local services for homeless people; Public speaking skills or experience; and, Bilingual English/Spanish Ability to provide culturally competent services to people of color.

To Apply: Send cover letter, résumé, and three references to Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. Tucson, AZ 85705 or fax (520) 624-0364 or email, see Website for E-

mail. No phone calls, please.

Youth Empowerment Summer, a new collaboration between Wingspan, Border Action Network and Tucson Community Food Bank, is seeking a part-time project coordinator, 15-20 hours weekly, \$12/hour.

This position is funded from January to August 2004. Modeled after the Freedom Schools of the Civil Rights Movement, Youth Empowerment Summer is a six-week school to train young organizers and activists. Young people, age 13-18, will attend classes to learn movement building skills and intern with a collaborating organization to get hands-on experience fighting for justice.

Qualifications: Experience working with youth of color and LGBTQ youth; Volunteer management and/or supervisory experience; Detail-oriented; Basic computer literacy; Candidate must have own car and be willing to travel throughout Pima County; Excellent written and oral communication skills; Self-motivated; Demonstrated commitment to social justice; Bilingual Spanish/English; Event planning; Experience teaching or training youth; Ability to budget time and resources; Fund raising experience; and, Experience in community organizing and/or political campaigns.

Send a cover letter and résumé via email (as a Word attachment) to JC Olson at jco@wingspan.org.

Wingspan is an equal opportunity employer. AA/EEOE

Arizona Heat Update

TUCSON - Arizona Heat Coach Stacy Iveson was named in the Arizona Daily Star's top 100 of sports for 2003.

Iveson was in on the survey at number 20. "Stacy Iveson Former UA softball All-American took over a listing Pima College softball program two years ago and has turned it into an NJCAA title contender, producing a 60-11 record in her second year," wrote the Star.

On February 1, season tickets will go on sale for the Arizona Heat's inaugural season in National Pro Fastpitch, the only professional women's fastpitch softball league in the U.S. Major League Baseball is the official development Partner of NPF.

For more information about the Arizona Heat, call (520) 296-9595 or go online to: profastpitch.com.

Fiesta De Los Osos January 16-19

TUCSON - Bears gather to celebrate once again in Tucson. The weekend of January 16-19 will be the eighth annual "La Fiesta de Los Osos," a party and gathering for those who are bears or are friends of bears.

Los Osos has become one of the premiere events for the Bear community. This year's theme is Mardi Gras. Activities include day trips to nearby attractions, and a Saturday afternoon cookout. Tucson's Bears of the Old Pueblo are the sponsors of the event.

For more information, go online to bolop.com.

Eric Himan At Wingspan Jan. 19

TUCSON - Openly Gay singer, songwriter Eric Himan will be performing at Wingspan, January 19, 7 to 9 p.m., as part of his West Coast tour to raise awareness for LGBT Youth Centers.

Himan is celebrating the release of his third CD, "All for Show," and is looking forward to his first performance in the Old Pueblo.

This show is free for LGBT Youth and a suggested \$5 donation for those over 22. For more information, call (520) 624-1779.

Sing Out & Come Out For Auditions

TUCSON - Using a working title of 'Songs to Come Out To' (sub-titled 'Songs To Which You Came Out' for the English Majors in the crowd), Desert Voices is busily planning for their spring show to be held April 3, at The Muse Community Arts Center, 516 N. 5th Avenue.

During last year's reorganization, one of the new approaches adopted for the group was the collaborative creation of shows. Rather than the director choosing all of the music, or deciding themes and titles for upcoming shows, all Desert Voices members share this task. New director, Chris Tackett, is enthusiastic about the process.

"The sharing of our common experiences is part of what makes us a family," stated Tackett. "We bring these shared experiences together to form the skeleton of a show, then we add songs that evoke the same feelings and emotions we have shared. It's a very meaningful process for the group.

The chorus will begin rehearsals for the show in January of 2004 and is actively seeking new members to join them. There are no requirements for auditioning or singing with the group. Reading music is not required, though Music Committee chair, Lou Ann Darras did note that 'all music is performed 'off book', requiring memorization of words and music'. The group supplies rehearsal CD's to members

Best Wishes
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New Jersey Domestic Partnership Act Advances

TRENTON - New Jersey is poised to become the second state to recognize homosexual couples as legal entities, as a measure supported by the governor nears passage in the Legislature, reported gfn.com.

The Domestic Partnership Act, A-3743, passed the Assembly Dec. 15 and now heads for the Senate, which must act before the Jan. 13 close of the legislative session. The Senate Judiciary Committee last week recommended passage of an identical bill. Because of its fiscal impact, the bill must be considered by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee. Gov. James McGreevey has said he would sign it.

Though it specifically does not confer the status of marriage, the act makes clear that its intent is to afford same-sex partners protections and benefits comparable to those enjoyed by married couples.

"Currently, a significant number of New Jersey residents live in families in which the heads of households are unmarried," the bill's statement reads. "Despite their interdependence and mutual commitment, these families do not have access to the protections and benefits offered by the law to married couples; nor do they bear legal obligations to each other, no matter how interdependent their relationship. This bill seeks to redress this oversight and provide certain benefits to, and enforce certain obligations within, these families."

The act provides that two people of the same sex who are 18 years of age or

older may jointly execute and file an Affidavit of Domestic Partnership with their local registrar, along with a fee to be set later, if:

Both share a common residence in this state, or share the same place to live in another jurisdiction when at least one of them is a member of a state-administered retirement system;

Both are otherwise jointly responsible for each other's common welfare, as demonstrated by joint financial arrangements or joint ownership of real or personal property, to be demonstrated by at least one of the following: a joint deed, mortgage agreement or lease; a joint bank account; designation of one of the persons as a primary beneficiary in the other person's will; designation of one of the persons as a primary beneficiary in the other person's life insurance policy or retirement plan; or joint ownership of a motor vehicle;

Both agree to be jointly responsible for each other's basic living expenses during the domestic partnership;

Neither is in a marriage recognized by New Jersey law or a member of another domestic partnership;

Neither is related to the other by blood or affinity up to and including the fourth degree of consanguinity;

Both are of the same sex and therefore unable to enter into a marriage with each other that is recognized by New Jersey law.

Both have chosen to share each other's lives in a committed relationship of mutual caring; and

Neither person has been a partner in a domestic partnership that was terminated less than 180 days before the filing (unless the earlier partner is dead).

Dissolution of a domestic partnership would be much the same as a divorce. For an uncontested dissolution, a couple would have to be separated for at least 18 months.

A heterosexual couple over the age of 62 could also file an Affidavit of Domestic Partnership and be given the same rights. This allows elderly people to live together unmarried for the purpose of avoiding the marriage tax penalty and other financial implications. Critics warn that this provision could lead to legal challenges, since no similar provision is made for heterosexual couples under age 62.

The bill was approved by the Assembly in a party line vote, 41-28, the minimum needed for passage. There were nine abstentions. Republican opponents objected largely on two grounds, some claiming the bill comes too close to recognizing same-sex marriage and others saying governments and businesses could be hurt because of potential increases in pension and health benefit costs.

Supporters of Gay marriage, on the other hand, say the law does not go far enough. "In our view, any legislation that does not recognize [same-sex] marriage

creates two classes of people. That carries a message of unworthiness that can be used to justify discrimination," says David Buckel, a senior counsel at the Lambda Legal Foundation in New York, who is the lead attorney for seven same-sex couples suing the state over denial of marriage licenses.

While Lambda supports the bill, Buckel says that there is still an implicit denial of constitutional equal protection guarantees. "It does not provide the same orderly structure" as marriage, he says, adding that he will appeal last month's dismissal of the suit by Mercer County Superior Court Judge Linda Feinberg.

John DeBartolo, the chairman of the New Jersey State Bar Association's Family Law Section, warns that the legislation also contains other potential pitfalls, particularly in a situation in which a same-sex couple decides to break up.

While the same evidentiary procedures would apply, language in the bill was changed that could result in one party being harmed, he says. As originally written, the bill stated: "The termination shall follow the same procedures, and the parties shall be subject to the same substantive rights and obligations, as are involved in an action for divorce pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:34-1 et seq."

But in the version passed Dec. 15 by the Assembly, that sentence was eliminated and the following paragraph added: "In all such proceedings, the court shall in no event be required to effect an

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Giant Pension Fund Targets Fortune 500 Companies on Gay/Lesbian Policies

NEW YORK - The New York City Employees Retirement System, one of the biggest pension funds in the country has begun targeting Fortune 500 companies to adopt policies that specifically bar discrimination based on sexual orientation. The fund manages \$78.6 billion in holdings reported 365Gay.com.

York City Finance Commissioner Martha E. Stark, who is Chair of the Boards of Trustees of NYCERS and the Teachers' Retirement System. "It's good policy and good business. We call on these companies to prohibit discrimination and once and for all resolve doubts about their commitment to equal employment opportunity."

New York City Comptroller William C. Thompson, Jr. on behalf of the fund this week began filing shareholder proposals to force the issue onto the agenda of the annual shareholder meetings of ten companies that the NYC pension fund invests in.

Thompson additionally renewed his call for ExxonMobil to amend its non-discrimination policy to prohibit such discrimination and filed notice that the fund will seek to have a discrimination motion on the agenda at the next shareholder meeting.

CSX Corporation of Jacksonville, Florida, the first one notified that the fund was going to publicly push for Gay rights at the company's next annual meeting immediately announced it was amending its policy to bar discrimination based on sexual orientation.

NYCERS currently holds 11.9 million shares worth approximately \$446 million in the company.

The other companies being targeted are Lear Corporation of Southfield, Michigan; AES Corporation of Arlington, Virginia; Smurfit Stone Container of Chicago, Illinois; the Altell Corporation of Hazelwood, North Carolina; Centerpoint Energy of Houston, Texas; Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company of Akron, Ohio; HCA Inc. (Health Care Company) of Nashville, Tennessee; Waste Management, Inc. of Houston, Texas; and the Southern Company of Atlanta, Georgia.

This is the fourth time that NYCERS has submitted the resolution with ExxonMobil. Last year, 27.3 percent of ExxonMobil shares were voted in support of the resolution, which calls for ExxonMobil to adopt a policy stating: "Employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation diminishes employee morale and productivity...Our company would benefit by a consistent, corporate-wide policy to enhance efforts to prevent discrimination, resolve complaints internally, and ensure a respectful and supportive atmosphere for all employees."

"It is important that we send a message to companies that once we file shareholder proposals, we're not going to go away until they do the right thing," Thompson said. "We will not give up until all of these companies amend their policies to provide equal treatment for all."

New York's pension funds have a long history of activism on behalf of social causes, including Gay rights. Under Thompson and his predecessors, the funds were part of a decade-long battle to get CBRL Group Inc., the parent company of the Cracker Barrel restaurant chain, to bar discrimination based on sexual orientation. CBRL, which reportedly fired at least 11 Gay workers in the 1990s, agreed to change its policy in November 2002 after a resolution garnered 58 percent of the vote.

"This is a wake up to call to corporate America," said Alan Van Capelle, Executive Director at the Empire State Pride Agenda, the state's biggest LGBT civil rights organization.

Last year, Thompson's office backed shareholder resolutions related to sexual orientation at a dozen Fortune 500 companies. At one of them, J.C. Penney Co., the resolution won 93 percent of the vote after the company announced that it supported the proposal.

"We expect the companies in which we invest City pension funds to hire and promote employees based on their qualifications and performance," said New

New Jersey Domestic Partnership Act Advances

Continued from Page Three

equitable distribution of property, either real or personal, which was legally and beneficially acquired by both domestic partners or either domestic partner during the domestic partnership."

generally apply the standard of what is in the best interests of the child. "This takes a totally different approach than the [Vermont] civil union bill," DeBartolo says.

"My concern is that you will have same-sex couples who have the same problems as married people but that one party is going to be left in an inequitable situation," says DeBartolo, a partner at Red Bank, N.J.'s Atkinson & DeBartolo.

Buckel, too, says that language is worrisome. "Same-sex relationships are not immune to the problems of heterosexual households," he says. "That is one of the hundreds of inequities that are not being addressed."

For example, he says, the bill does not offer protection to a partner in a same-sex partnership who, for any of a number of reasons, chooses to become a stay-at-home partner. If the couple breaks up, the legislation offers no provisions for alimony or support.

During the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing, Sen. Robert Martin, R-Morris, voiced similar concerns.

The issue of child custody and support may also arise in the situation of the breakup of a same-sex couple, he says, but notes that New Jersey courts now

"We could have gone further," he said before voting to recommend passage. The bill, he complained, did not properly address property rights or child custody and support issues.

"I question the manageability of [breakups] by the Family Part," Martin

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Brandon Teena 10 Years Later

FALLS CITY - While most of the world prepares to celebrate New Year's Eve this week, Transgendered Americans are pausing to remember Brandon Teena on the tenth anniversary of his murder, reported 365Gay.com.

The December 31, 1993 killing of the good-looking 21 year old galvanized Falls City, Brandon's hometown, and for the first time put a national spotlight on the plight of the Transgendered. It was the inspiration for the award-winning 1999 film, "Boys Don't Cry" and led to the first civil rights laws for trans citizens.

Teena was a female to male pre-op transsexual and had been living as a male for several years. In December, 1993 he went to County Sheriff Charles Laux and reported he had been raped by two men, John Lotter and Marvin Nissen, after they discovered he had been born female and still had female organs. Teen had been dating a female friend of Lotter's at the time.

Laux refused to investigate. A week later Teena was murdered by the pair who also killed two people who witnessed the killing.

Lotter and Nissen were eventually charged, tried, and sentenced, but not before the nation became gripped by the brutality of the case and the indifference of authorities.

An appeal by Lotter was rejected by the Nebraska Court of Appeal earlier this year.

But, in his death, Teena gave birth to Transgender militancy. Trans men and women across the country began to organize, forming lobby groups to not only educate the public but to press for civil rights.

Today, 65 municipalities and states have hate crime laws that specifically include Transgendered people, according to the Transgender Law Policy Institute. California became the fourth state to adopt such a law earlier this year.

"How many times do you get to see a giant sea change like this in people's perceptions? But you look at Congress, corporate America, and cities and states ... and you see this enormous change in how people are looking at gender as a civil rights issue," said Riki Wilchins, executive director of the Washington-based Gender Public Advocacy Coalition.

Yet, despite the advances, violence against the Transgendered continues. Last year, 17 year old Gwen Araujo was murdered in California by three men who discovered she had been born male. A year ago, Nizah Morris a TG performer was murdered in Philadelphia. In the past 12 memorial that tracks bias killing of Transgendered people around the world, recorded 17 deaths in the United States.

Majority Supports Same-Sex Marriage Ban, New Poll Shows

NEW YORK - A majority of Americans support an amendment to the Constitution that would bar same-sex marriage, according to a poll released Monday, December 22.

The poll by the New York Times and CBS News showed 55 percent of the country's population backing plans to introduce the amendment, which would limit marriage to "one woman and one man."

Forty percent of those polled oppose the idea of an amendment, which would need backing by the majority of both houses of Congress to take effect.

Surprisingly, the results do not depend on political affiliation - more liberal democrats favor the amendment - but more on how marriage is viewed, whether as a religious sacrament or an emotional bond.

On Tuesday, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation released a statement calling the New York Times analysis of the poll results "unbalanced and sensationalistic."

"The headline 'Strong Support Is Found for Ban on Gay Marriage' blatantly mischaracterizes the polling data it purports to report," said GLAAD's News Media Director, Cathy Renna, in the statement. "Fifty-five-percent support for the anti-Gay marriage amendment in this context is neither 'strong' nor indicative of the level of support necessary to pass it."

"The oversimplification of the Times poll betrayed a lack of knowledge and sophistication by the authors, the editors and the pollsters about the issues at the heart of the marriage discussion," she continued.

According to GLAAD's Web site, the New York Times on Dec. 24 issued a

tepid correction to the story, stating only that "an editing error" in the Wednesday, Dec. 17 edition was responsible for quoting President Bush "incompletely" with regard to his vague position on the Federal Marriage Amendment - and then stating parenthetically that "The quotation was also incomplete in a front-page article on Sunday about a New York Times/CBS News poll showing widespread support for an amendment to ban same-sex marriage."

This correction was noteworthy in that the Times yet again mischaracterized as "widespread support" the 55% approval number for the proposed anti-Gay amendment. The correction also did not address any of the other journalistic problems with the Dec. 21 story and failed to take note of the fact that the authors' subsequent assertions about Bush's position were based fundamentally on the aforementioned "editing error."

New Jersey

Continued from Page Four said. "That being said, it's time to move this along."

The chief sponsor of the legislation, Assemblywoman Loretta Weinberg, D-Bergen, agreed that the bill could have done more but defended it nevertheless.

"Yes, a lot of things are not addressed that I would like to have seen addressed," says Weinberg. "I probably would have preferred that the bill address some of the inequities that have been brought up."

But there are, she says, political realities that have to be recognized. The bill that passed the Assembly on Dec. 15, Weinberg says, is the product of intense negotiations. Ultimately, she says, the end product is a compromise bill that gained enough votes for passage. "Our ultimate goal was to recognize that these relationships exist and should be legally recognized," says Weinberg.

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In 2003, on the national level Gays and Lesbians could rejoice when in one of the rare, recent moments, the U.S. Supreme Court did the right thing and ruled that laws on the books to discriminate against a group of people were unconstitutional, and from all places, a case that came from Texas, home of Dubya, in Lawrence v. Texas, striking down sodomy laws that were on the books.

In Canada, the court decisions pertaining to same-sex marriage rights, as well as pension benefits inched the cause even further, and later in the year, in an historic decision, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled that gay and lesbian couples can no longer be excluded from obtaining civil marriages in Massachusetts. The 4-3 ruling in Goodridge v. Department of Public Health, filed by New England's Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, is the first of its kind in this country by a final appellate court.

An outcry of course ensued over the decision:

Pope John Paul blathered on about the sanctity of marriage and that it should be between a man and a woman, while his church's abuses and coverups over pedophile priests continued during the year.

Dubya and his Republican minions were sounding their alarm, calling for constitutional amendment to discriminate against a segment of society and raising millions of dollars for the upcoming campaign to bash Gays and Lesbians for political profit and votes, a sure fire campaign strategy for Karl Rove.

Meanwhile in all that is holy, Gene Robinson became an Episcopal Bishop and showed his true faith unlike many of those who wear the Episcopal cloth, worship at the Episcopal altar. Indeed, praise the Lord and pass the prejudice!

In the Grand Canyon State, thanks to a budget crisis, smartly dealt with by Arizona's new Democratic Governor, Janet Napolitano, Arizonans didn't have the usual litany of anti-Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) legislation, wastes of tax payer monies and time to deal with to the relief of many.

Tom Simplot made history in the state capital by becoming the first openly Gay man to be elected to the Phoenix City Council. In a very-close election, Simplot won the Council seat and will serve for four years.

In Tucson, politically it was another year, same result, no change for the cast of characters that makes up the Old Pueblo's Mayor and Council.

Tucson's Commission on GLBT Issues shined again when they drafted and persuaded the Mayor and Council to enact a domestic partners registry, making the city the first in Arizona to have one, as well as one of the first in the nation to have a registry with responsibilities. If a relationship is terminated, the two parties must go down to the City Clerk's office and file a notice of termination. More than eighty couples filed with the new registry during the first two days of its existence.

So 2003 is about to be "put into the can" and the third year of the twenty-first

century will be upon us and GLBT Arizonans need to be aware, the political target will be on our backs. ...

On Sunday, January 25, 3 to 6 p.m., a political forum, sponsored by the Arizona Human Rights Fund, Wingspan and The Observer will take place at the Muse, 516 N. Fifth Avenue. With Arizona's Presidential Primary just a little more than a week away from that date, the national campaigns will be present to answer questions, as well as other elected officials from the state, county and local levels. ...

Monday, January 5, midnight is the deadline to be registered for the February 3 Arizona Presidential Primary. A voter registration table is set up every Sunday afternoon at Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle, so if you haven't registered and you wish to cast a vote, you need to do so. If you wish to vote in the Democratic Presidential Primary, you will need to be a registered Democrat since it will be a "closed" primary. For more information, call the Pima County Democratic Party, (520) 326-3716, the Pima County Recorder, (520) 740-4350, or go online to: sosaz.com and register there.

Yankee's Prevail In Gay-Bashing Lawsuit

ALBANY - New York State's highest court on Monday, December 22, ended a case in which a New York Yankees clubhouse worker had accused the team and some of its players of gay bashing and playing cruel practical jokes.

The appeals court declined to hear an appeal by Paul Priore, who sued the Yankees in state supreme court in the Bronx in 1998 for \$50 million. Priore contended that after he began working for the team as an assistant equipment manager in 1996, several players made antigay remarks and played cruel pranks on him because of his sexual orientation. He also claimed he was fired in August 1997 because he is HIV-positive.

Priore made \$30 a day as a clubhouse worker, according to court papers. His suit named the Yankees, relief pitchers Mariano Rivera and Jeff Nelson, and former reliever Bob Wickman as defendants. Wickman is now with the Cleveland Indians. In May the state supreme court's appellate division unanimously reversed a lower court ruling that let most of Priore's claims survive for trial.

The court on Monday gave no reason for deciding not to hear Priore's appeal. The Yankees had said Priore was fired largely because they believed he stole players' worn T-shirts, baseballs, and broken bats that were to be thrown away. The appellate division had ruled there was no evidence that team officials knew that Priore had the AIDS virus. Even the team dentist who had treated Priore didn't know he was HIV-positive, and Priore never complained to management about any harassment, the court stated. State law doesn't hold employers liable for bias by employees who act without the knowledge or consent of the employer.

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A Christmas Column

This piece is being written a few days before Christmas and it will probably run a few days after it, but the Christmas spirit is hard and fast upon me and I trust and hope that the same spirit will linger with the reader until at least the dawn of the new year.

Not to be a contrarian -- HO HO HO -- but I enjoy Christmas more as an adult than I ever did as a child.

Coming from a big family with a small paycheck, I always felt sorry for my dad at Christmas. He worked his heart out just to keep up with the bills when it wasn't Christmas. How unfair it seemed to saddle him with a bunch of extra holiday expenses.

Stretched for time and energy as much as he was for money, he'd only get around to putting the tree up on Christmas Eve and wouldn't get around to taking it down until the middle of January.

Mom would always put on a great Christmas dinner. That was her department and she always delivered abundantly. I never wondered about that as I child. I guess I thought that all mothers had the power to produce an enormous feast at will.

We kids got gifts that were on the modest side, so much so that we were tempted to exaggerate a bit when our school chums asked how we'd made out.

And that brings me to one of the things that make Christmas so special -- gifts that are so glorious that they come as real surprises. Given that you're in a good mood already, and given that you're prepared to be pleased, all of a sudden you get the gift that just knocks your undeserving socks off.

The song says that Santa sees you when you're waking and when you sleep, and that he knows if you've been good or bad. Fortunately for the mental health of children everywhere, they pretty much know that that's BS. It would be just too creepy to contemplate a Santa who had you under constant surveillance. And, after a few Christmases, you realize that if he actually knew if you'd been good or bad you wouldn't have been getting all the stuff you've been getting.

Kids expect to be surprised. They expect to get stuff they know damn well they don't deserve. What does deserve have to do with anything? I want it! I want it!

The delightful and unaccountable abundance of the Christmas spirit reminds me of a remark that the Chinese poet Li Po made about life in general: "Each day we find, and take, and spill, or spend, or lose, a sunflower splendor of which none knows the source."

So here we are at Christmas and I've just heard that great classic song about grandma being run over by a reindeer and I'm feeling all loving and generous. What to do?

Everyone in my small circle of family and friends has more material stuff than one could use up in eleven lifetimes. Moreover, unlike children most of them are fairly bored with stuff, or at any rate bored with stuff that's less than a big boat or a small plane. I haven't given any of them a Christmas present in years.

But that leaves me with the virtually unlimited field of folks who are not family or friends, many of whom could really use a Christmas present.

For the last several years I've been giving a twenty-dollar bill to a street beggar at Christmas. I don't recommend that anyone else do this unless you're sure you can do it safely. Lots of beggars are drunk and/or mentally ill and walking up to them to give them a twenty might result in your being assaulted. The beggar's associates seeing him get a twenty could result in his being assaulted. You've got to know what you're doing or have help from someone who does.

Over the years I've evolved a method of making my gift safely and with some degree of spontaneity. It helps to know a little about the streets.

In stark contrast to jolly Old Saint Nicholas, I look for someone who appears to have been naughty all year, and I hope that he'll spend at least part of my money on further naughtiness. The best part of giving is still that old familiar Yuletide surprise. Their eyes light up just exactly like the eyes of kids on Christmas morning.

Happy Holidays everybody!

[Thorn welcomes comments, suggestions for future columns, and tips on local skulduggery that ought to be exposed. Write to Box 85571, Tucson, AZ 35754.]

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READER'S COMMENTARY

Dean For America by Amella Craig Cramer

Former Vermont Governor, Dr. Howard Dean is my candidate of choice in the Democratic primary because he is our best hope to beat Bush, because he is right on the issues, and because he is running supported by those of us who share his beliefs, not by special interests.

Dean has been a long-time supporter of the GLBT community. He signed the Vermont legislation establishing civil unions in that state - the first in this country to provide all the legal rights and benefits of civil marriage to same-sex couples. Dean supports full equality for the GLBT community. This is why so many GLBT community leaders have endorsed him. One strong supporter, Dave Huff, is sponsoring a voter-registration and vote-by-mail table at Woody's this Sunday (through January 4) from 4 to 9 p.m. Others are hosting house parties to Bring in the New Year with Dean on December 30th. (Anyone who would like to attend can get more information on the website at www.DeanForAmerica.com.)

Dean is the candidate best qualified and most likely to provide full health care to all Americans and to ensure the best possible care for people with HIV/AIDS. Not only is he a medical doctor, but he also put into law a program that provided medical care to virtually all residents of his state. He is committed to doing the same for the entire country.

Dean made sure public education in his state was first rate. And he is committed to doing the same for the entire country.

Dean not only provided full health coverage and good public education to all the residents of his state, but he did so while balancing his state's budget. He is committed to doing the same for the entire country. He is the only candidate with the demonstrated fiscal discipline to do so.

Dean is not relying upon the party "machine" nor upon special interests. His is a people-powered campaign of hundreds of thousands of like-minded Americans who are sick and tired of the Bush administration's policies and the Democrats who have gone along with them. Each of us is giving a little bit of money and a lot of our time to get him elected. We have lots of college students and young people involved in this campaign. We are getting out the vote and running the campaign via the internet. Dean is the only candidate to harness folks who were previously disenchanted with the entire electoral process and to get them involved and excited about removing Bush from office and electing a candidate for us.

Dean is the only candidate who came out against the war in Iraq before the invasion and who has consistently opposed American occupation there. At the same time, Dean is a big supporter of our troops. He has challenged Bush's refusal to provide adequate pay and benefits to members of the armed forces.

Dean will bring America back into the world community from which Bush has separated us. He will respect the rule of international law and will repudiate the so-called "Bush Doctrine" of preemptive,

unilateral attack based upon mere unsubstantiated suspicion of potential aggression or fantasies of weapons of mass destruction.

Dean will re-instate the environmental protections that Bush has taken away. He will take seriously the preservation of our national resources.

Most importantly, Dean can beat Bush. He is not part of the Democratic old-boys network in the Senate that respectfully separates itself only slightly from the Bush Republicans. He is as angry as we are at the Democratic Senators and Congressmen who have gone along with Bush. And his anger is constructively channeled into passion for progress.

In the last presidential election, only 50% of the registered voters participated. That same 50% will surely participate again this election. Dean, like the other leading Democratic candidates, can win more than half of their votes, just as Al Gore did last time. But, more importantly, Dean can fire up and bring to the polls another 10 or 20% of the registered voters who sat out the last presidential election and who do not like the way Bush is ruining this country. He is the only Democratic candidate appealing to these voters. We need Howard Dean to beat Bush.

Please join me in voting for Dean this February in the Arizona Democratic Primary. Let's take our country back!

Church To Issue G/L Marriage Licenses

PORTSMOUTH, NH - The pastors at a New Hampshire Unitarian church said Monday they plan to sign marriage licenses to gay and Lesbian couples they wed, just as those signed for straight couples, and mail them to City Hall for approval, reports the Portsmouth Herald.

Following a practice accepted in the Unitarian Universalist faith, the State Street congregation has performed marriage ceremonies for same-sex couples for more than 15 years, even though the unions are not recognized by law.

"We want to encourage a change in the laws as expeditiously as possible," the Rev. Will Saunders told the

The move departs from a rebellious approach taken by other Unitarian Universalist ministries around the country. Parishes as far as California and as close as Exeter, N.H., have refused to marry straight couples until same-sex marriages are recognized by law.

Saunders said that protest, while admirable, is not the best way to effect change. A marriage strike, he said, has the potential to "anger heterosexuals who just want to marry."

"We're not interested in angering people. We're interested in change, and we want to get heterosexual couples on board too."

The parish will hold a forum Jan. 6 to discuss the decision. While the forum is meant for members of the congregation, Saunders said those outside the parish "will not be turned away."

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Let's quickly close and lock the door on 2003 and cross the threshold into 2004. Whew! Our new year will prove to be full of surprises as Uranus moves into intuitive Pisces after five years in Aquarius and Jupiter and Pluto posit in other mutable signs. These planets will not let you rest on your laurels so stand up and be counted. Will you be a number one or number two?

ARIES

MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

What do you think the planets have in store for you in 2004? Let's just see, Gay Ram. Focus on your mental and spiritual health as Uranus, Pluto and Jupiter all plant their orbits in mutable signs. Life may drive you crazy with distractions. Find an excuse to relax and recharge in one long meditation to find your point of balance. But watch where you point that thing, buster.

TAURUS

APRIL 21 - MAY 21

Friends are a grand source of surprises throughout 2004. Be prepared for a variety of high powered social events that become more heated as the year progresses. Queer Bulls become the one to know and gain private entry to all the well known hot spots. Intimate relationships can tip you horns over hooves and transform you for better or worse. How bad can that be, lovebull?

GEMINI

MAY 22 - JUNE 21

Pink Twins are unleashed in the corporate arena with a vengeance thanks to explosive Uranus. 2004 can be the year that you hoist your flag on the corporate masthead. But there will be more to life than your career, comrade. Pluto and Jupiter demand that you give due respect to partners and family. It is lonely at the top without someone on the bottom to prop you up.

CANCER

JUNE 22 - JULY 23

Undercurrents have a way of channeling your small craft in the right direction throughout 2004. Pink Crabs float over the small rocks and through rapids on their expansive ideas and hard work thanks to Uranus, Pluto and Jupiter connecting in mutable signs. Gain greater personal insight through travel and higher learning. Where will life lead you? It depends on where you want to go.

LEO

JULY 24 - AUGUST 23

Uranus glides into Pisces and proud Lions get into all sorts of wild mischief. 2004 will be your year to explore the Outer limits of your sexuality. Anything and anyone can happen! Don't be surprised if you wind up re-evaluating and tossing out long held tenets and philosophies. There may be some experimental cubs who take things to extremes. Nipple clamps anyone?

VIRGO

AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23

2004 brings more than the usual share of relationship ups and downs. Queer Virgins may find new and exciting elements to a particular partnership or may just decide to drop the entire affair and run amok through a barrage of lovers. Uranus, Pluto and Jupiter have you weighing and balancing the concept of you, me and we. Will you fall head over heels? We can only hope!

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23

Explosive surprises kaboom in the most mundane and boring areas of your life throughout 2004. This is simply Uranus teaching you the advantage of being flexible and open to change. At the same time Jupiter and Pluto pry open your Pandora's Box of secrets and unleash all the sordid details. Is it true what they say about you, Gay Libra? Anything would be an improvement.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22

Party perfect proud Scorps can burn their candle at both ends throughout 2004 thanks to sparky Uranus. You are the epicenter of any social event but may have a tendency to go overboard. Jupiter delivers an adoring crowd and Pluto has you spending to the hilt. By the time 2004 limps to an end, you may be a mere shell of a scorpion. Avoid nutcrackers, unless that is your thing.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22

Independent Gay Archers usually struggle with ties that bind and gravitate to the fresh breeze of freedom. Uranus riles you in 2004 to implement change before these ropes strangle you. Even now you are beginning to tire of the same old routine in your career and yearn for a new look and proud new you. Ready or not, change is afoot comrade. Get ready to gallop or at least trot.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20

Ever the diplomatic politician, pink Caps find 2004 as a time to unfurl banners, release manifestoes and storm barricades for reform. There is something empowering about your communication especially when Jupiter broadcasts it globally and Pluto bulldozes the old landscape to reveal buried opportunities. Can you find the gem in the trash? Hmmm, maybe you're into trash.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19

A fool and their money are soon parted, at least when Uranus makes mincemeat out of your carefully constructed finances through 2004. Aquarians splurge on expensive, delicate trifles but your heart becomes a bull in a china shop when you rampage through several fragile intimacies. Keep your eye on the bottom line and be sure that the price matches the quality.

PISCES

FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20

Uranus moves into your own sign and puts pizzazz in anything new you do. So just do it, Guppier! 2004 will be the year of change in your relationships and progress in your career. Hard work pays off, but only just so far. You also need nerve and pluck. You can no longer sit by and let others grab the credit and the glory. Stop being a pin cushion for every backstabber.

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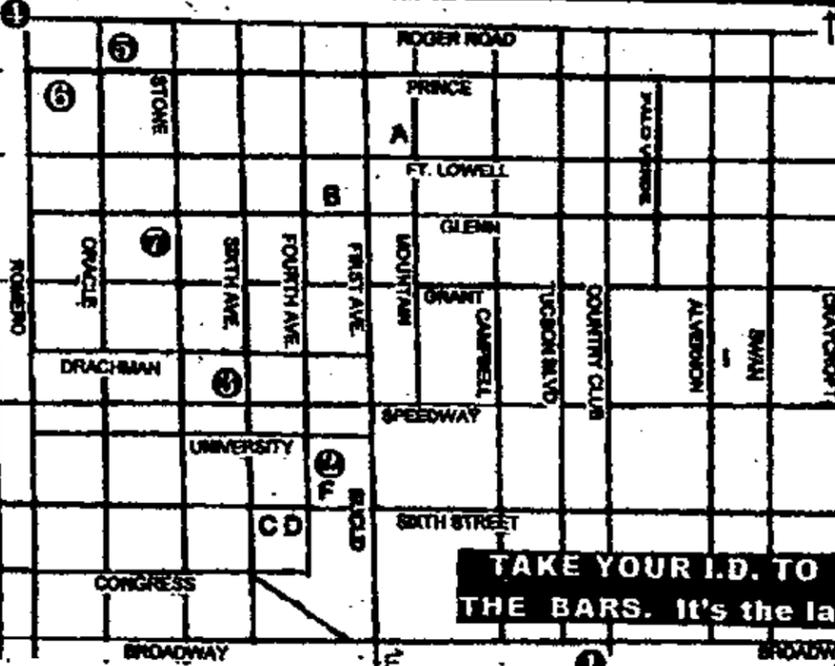
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YOU HAVE QUESTIONS?
Ask Dr. X
DR. X HAS ANSWERS



Dear Dr X

What is hepatitis? Am I at risk for it? Is there a cure?

Hepatitis is a virus that affects the liver. There are many types of hepatitis which are differentiated with letters Hep A, Hep B, Hep C ...etc. Health officials primarily focus on Hep A, B, & C. Almost all types of Hepatitis are transmitted from sexual contact or with bodily fluids. Rimming is a high-risk activity for Hep A due to fecal material. Hep B is currently on the rise, and is transmitted through body fluids, especially semen. Hep C is primarily a blood-based virus, which can be contracted from tattoos and piercing if the equipment is not sterile or new.

The strange thing with Hepatitis is a lot of people who are infected with it do not have any symptoms. Other people show flu like symptoms such as nausea, joint pain, and loss of appetite. People with many sex partners, men who have sex with men (MSM), and people who inject drugs are at high risk for Hepatitis. There are vaccines for Hep A & B. Hep A shots consist of one shot with a booster 6 months later. Hep B vaccines are also available and are given as 3 shots over a 7-month period.

There is no current vaccine for Hep C. Both shots are available right now at Theresa Lee Clinic. Call (520) 624-8272 for details. Theresa Lee Clinic also offers full STD screenings including Hepatitis

tests and anonymous HIV testing. Make a day of it and go get your Hep shots, get an HIV test, find out what's causing that penile drip and get some lunch. Get your shots and keep healthy.

Dear Dr. X,

Recently, one of my friends found out that he has testicular cancer. It really shocked and scared me. We are both in our late twenties, and I thought that it only happens to older men. I am really scared now that I might get it, and was wondering what I should do? Can I prevent this from happening to me?

Signed, Touchy Subject

Dear Touchy Subject,

I'm really sorry to hear about your friend. Unfortunately testicular cancer is a young mans disease. White men between the ages of 14-35 are at the most risk for the disease. If it's caught soon enough there is a 90% recovery rate. There are many factors for contracting testicular cancer such as family history, or an undescended testicle. As far as prevention from testicular cancer you need to check your testicles for any lumps or soreness at least once a month. You can also add a little spice to your relationship by having your partner check your testicles for you and vice versa. I had a female friend who noticed a lump in her boyfriend testicles and alerted him to his cancer. If you do find something or suspect something is wrong get yourself to your doctor and have it checked out.

Boy Scouts Appeal To Supreme Court

WASHINGTON - The Boy Scouts of America on Wednesday, December 24, asked the U.S. Supreme Court to review the exclusion of Boy Scout councils from a Connecticut state employee charitable fund-raising campaign.

The state of Connecticut excluded the Boy Scouts from the charity because of the organization's policy barring openly Gay members, and earlier this year the 2nd U.S. circuit court of appeals upheld the decision, 365Gay.com reported.

While recognizing that the BSA exclusionary policy was "constitutionally protected" under the Supreme Court's previous ruling in *Boy Scouts of America v. Dale*, the circuit court upheld the Connecticut decision on the grounds that the state did not "require" the Boy Scouts to change its views but merely required the Boy Scouts to "pay a price" for "exercising its First Amendment rights."

The case seeks to define whether the government can exclude an otherwise eligible organization from participating in a government program because of membership policies.

There are 150 charitable campaigns run by states, public universities, and local governments nationwide, and more than 140,000 charities, including the Boy Scouts, participate.

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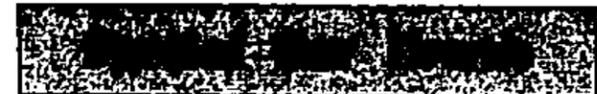
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**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31
NEW YEAR'S EVE**

HOWL AT THE MOON - New Years Eve Party. \$5.00 includes entry, beverage (no more than two spintous ingredients), champagne toast, light buffet, party favors, country music and dancing. Make plans now. Music starts at 8:00 p.m.

IBT's - Annual New Year's Eve Gala and Balloon Drop. 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Lite Buffet. 8:00 p.m. Special DivaLicious Show starring Bunny FuFu, Janee Starr, Teri Akki and Veronica Halliwell. 9:30 p.m. DJ Van Da Belle - Party favors, Balloon Drop and Complimentary Champagne at Midnight.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Ring in the New Year at the newly renovated Bar which tonight features a live band: The Davis Brothers from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and then a Dinner Show from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. featuring Heather Boa, Alotta Whoremans and Unique with a surprise guest. Dinner includes Roast Beef with mashed potatoes and gravy, or Lumpia and sauce, Empanada with meat. Dessert. Two for One dinner special only \$5.00 with drink specials all night. Champagne at Midnight. Reservations are suggested.

VENTURE-N - "A Night In Times Square" New Year's Eve Party with Balloon Drop at Midnight and specials and more, 9:00 p.m. to close.

WOODY'S - Spend New Year's Eve with your friends. Enjoy the comfort of dinner in the tent. Dinner includes either a Pork Tenderloin or Fish Dinner \$7.50 served from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. Live DJ 8:00 p.m. until 12:30 p.m. Party favors and complimentary champagne at Midnight. No cover.

YARD DOG SALOON - New Year's Eve "Cinderella Ball" - 10:00 p.m. Contest! Best Cinderella \$100 Prize and Best Prince \$100 prize.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 1 -
NEW YEAR'S DAY**

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open today only at 3:00 p.m.

VENTURE-N - New Year's Day Eye-Openers. Open at 6:00 a.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3

IBT's - 8:00 P.M. The all new "Fu-Fu Revue" hosted by Bunny FuFu and starring Chantelle Douglas, Janee Starr, Teri Akki.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

IBT's - Party Lineup begins at 11:00 a.m. with Troy's Recovery Bar. 4:30 p.m. Karaoke on the Patio with Jim D. 5:30 p.m. Bar-B-Que / Beer Bust for Tihan, 8:00 pm. Sissy Bingo with Aja Simone and Lucinda Holliday and then Video Dance With Johnny DJ.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

IBT's - 9:00 p.m. the DivaLicious Show starring Bunny FuFu, Tabitha Lovall, Lady Ashley and Rebecca.

Non-Bar Calendar

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join the men of MSN for an evening out at Rainbow Planet. This is a chance to have a cup of coffee and chat with the men of MSN.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join the men of MSN for a fun alcohol-free evening of board and card games. We'll toast in the New Year with cider. For reservations and directions, please call Les or Jerry at 690-9565.

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 8:30 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, JANUARY 5

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join us for a Dinner Out at a Tucson favorite: El Corral. For reservations, please call Richard at 579-7291.

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join the men of MSN for an evening out at Rainbow Planet. This is a chance to have a cup of coffee and chat with the men of MSN.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Michael hosts Bridge Night. If you don't know how to play, they'll teach you and it's a very relaxed atmosphere. For reservations and directions, please call Michael at 326-3555.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. The Triangle Tribe/Circle of Men is a support group that helps you deal with yourself and your relationships with others. For directions and reservations, please call Tom at 591-2828.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Marty for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Marty at 722-8531.

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 11:30 a.m. Join Karol for a morning of miniature golf at Funstastics. For reservations and directions, please call Karol at 744-9017.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 1:00 p.m. Karol hosts a Lunch Out at On The Border. This Mexican restaurant offers old favorites and new twists. For reservations and directions, please call Karol at 744-9017.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Karol for Hearts Night. This viciously fun game is easy to learn if you've never played before. For reservations and directions, please call Karol at 744-9017.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

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

Tucson Prime Timers, Breakfast - 9:00 a.m. The Egg Connection 3114 E. Ft. Lowell Rd.

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 12

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join the men of MSN for an evening out at Rainbow Planet. This is a chance to have a cup of coffee and chat with the men of MSN.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Karol hosts Bridge Night. If you don't know how to play, they'll teach you and it's a very relaxed atmosphere. For reservations and directions, please call Karol at 744-9017.

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.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 10:30 am. Smirnoff Sunday - \$2 Smirnoff drinks (Bloody Mary, Screwdriver, Greyhound, Sea Breeze, etc.) Watch the NFL on 15 screens. Music from the 50's, 60's, 70's, & 80's from 8-close.

IBT's - Open Noon \$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 - Open Noon.
VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio open 3pm. \$1.75 Bloody Marys or Screws til 3pm Patio Beer Bust 3-7. Burger BBQ 5-7. Selection of burger meats to choose from. \$2 proceeds go to Pol Watch (helping HIV/AIDS clients with their veterinary bills).

WOODY'S - Open 11am. Sunday Brunch 11:30 - 2:30. Eggs and meat du jour plus BMs, Mims or Screws \$5. \$1.50 Bloody Marys, screwdrivers, Mimosas, Happy Hour 11am-8pm \$2 well or domestic beer Patio Bar open 5-close. Pick-up Beach Volleyball games 5-7. \$2.50 sirloin burger w/salad 5-9pm. Karaoke with Michael D. 8pm.

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 8pm to close.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3pm. Happy Hour 3-7, \$2 well, domestic pints & longnecks. Special drink prices on draft beer all night. Monday Night Football - \$2 grilled jumbo dog w/ chips, \$1.50 chili.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-7pm. Theme Dance Nite with Johnny DJ. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open Noon.
VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 6pm. Free pool til 4pm. Draft Special 12-4pm. \$2.75 Skyy Martinis 4-8. Monday Nite Football. Free Hot Dogs.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic beer til 7pm. Karaoke w/Michael D. 8-1
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 toumey 7:30pm. \$3 entry, bar matches pot Country music 9pm to close. \$2 bottled Bud products 8 to close.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3pm. Happy Hour 3-7, \$2 well, domestic pints & longnecks. \$2 margarita on rocks all night. Pucker Shot special during UA games. Music from the 50's thru the 80's.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-7pm. Bare Chest Nite- Bare it and get happy hour prices from 9 to close. Progressive/Rebo '80s dance with DJ Q. 9 to close

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open Noon.
VENTURE-N - Open 6am. Patio 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Draft Special 12-4.
WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic til 7pm. Bartender Calls drink specials.
YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Tequila until 7pm. Kennel open at 5pm.

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Open 2pm. Happy Hour 2-4-1 domestic beer and well from 2-7pm. Hip Hop or Danca w/DJ Shorty or Senna 9pm - close. \$1.25 pitchers of Bud/Bud Light or \$1 Tequila shots 8-1.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3pm. Happy Hour 3-7, \$2 well, domestic pints & longnecks. \$2 Smirnoff Ice, hard lemonades, other bottled malt beverages all night. Free pool all night.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hours Noon-7pm, 9pm "DivaLicious" 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
VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Draft Special 12-4pm. \$2.75 Cuervo Margaritas 4-8pm
WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic beer til 7pm. Free Hot Dog Buffet 5-11pm. Underwear - fetish - leather nite w/Gary and Chris along with GAHP. \$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 BUSINESS - Open 2pm. Happy Hour 2-7pm with 2-4-1 domestic beer and well. Karaoke 9-close, \$2 Kamikaze's and \$1 Hot Sex.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3pm. Happy Hour 3-7, \$2 well, domestic pints & longnecks. \$2 Mexican beers all night. Music 80's, 90's. 2k+.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hours Noon-7pm, HI NRG video dancing with Johnny DJ 9-1 All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open noon.
VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio open 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Draft Special 12-4pm. Pool Toumey 7pm. \$3 entry (Pot Matched) Special prices for players.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic beer til 7pm. 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 BUSINESS - 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.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3pm. Happy Hour 3-7, \$2 well, domestic pints & longnecks. Beginner country dance lessons 7:30-8:30. Country/Pop/Rock mix 8:30 to close.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hours Noon-7pm. Live Jazz on the patio with the Susan 6-8pm. Patio Bar 5-11pm. GoGo Boys and Dance Party with DJ T.C. Wildman 9 to 1. All drink specials not available during

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open Noon.
VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio open 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Draft Special 1-4pm. DJ 9pm to close.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic beer til 7pm. Martini Party - Well Martini's \$2.00 4-8pm. Call Martini's \$3 from 4-8pm. Complimentary Shrimp Cocktail 4-8pm. 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 BUSINESS - 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.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 10:30 am. Pool Tournament 3pm (sign-up begins at 2). \$3 entry fee (pot matched). Current & Classic Country from 8:30 to close.

IBT's - 10am-5pm \$4 Martinis and Daquiris. Happy Hours Noon-7pm. Dance Party 9-1 w/DJ-Q. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open noon.
VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio Bar open 3pm. Patio Beer Bust 3-7pm. DJ 9-1.

WOODY'S - Open 11am \$2 well or domestic beer. Til 7pm. Patio Bar opens 5pm. 5-8pm Steak or Mahi Mahi 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

Arts & Entertainment

DECEMBER 31 - JANUARY 1-2-3

The "Laughing Stock Comedy Company" is coming to town on the above dates. The group will be performing an evening of improvisational comedy at Zuzi's Little Theatre (the Historic Y), 738 N. 5th Avenue at 7:30 p.m. each evening. Tickets for all shows is \$12 including New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. For tickets and information call 520-749-3800. Check out their website at www.laughing.com

JANUARY 3 THRU FEBRUARY 8

Live Theatre Workshop presents one of the most romantic comedies of the century "Same Time, Next Year" by Bernard Slade. This timeless comedy follows and affair between two people who meet in 1951 at a California seaside inn. After one evening of passion, these otherwise happily married individuals are compelled to meet once every year. Over a twenty five year span, their liaisons reflect the changing manners, morals and attitudes of our society. However, their transitions are never in sync, making for hilarious contrasts and conflicts. Shows playing at Live Theatre Workshop, 5317 E. Speedway every Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Sundays at 3:00 p.m. only. Tickets are \$14 general admission and \$12 discount. Call 327-42442 for more information.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8

What better way to begin the new year than enjoy the musical talents of three favorite singing groups from the past - The Drifters, The Platters and The Coasters. They'll all be performing at Desert Diamond Casino. Tickets \$15-\$25 in advance. \$20-\$30 day of the show. Tickets go on sale Dec. 13 at 10:00 a.m.

JANUARY 8-9-11

The Tucson Symphony's Fifth concert in the Classic series begins with George Hanson, Music Director and Conductor and th dynamic guest pianist, Garick Ohlsson. 8:00 p.m. at the TCC Music Hall.

JANUARY 16 - 17 - 18

The Tucson Symphony Pop Series presents Peter Nero guest conductor and piano with "Pops Two: Ellington & Sinatra" at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, at the TCC Music Hall. Two-time Grammy Award-winning pianist, Peter Nero and the TSO perform his favorites of Sinatra and Ellington, such as "My Way", "I've Got You Under My Skin", "I'll Never Smile Again" and many more. Two wonderful hours of reminiscing and swooning! Tickets \$19-\$41.

NOTICES

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

TGNArizona: The central source for news and information for, by and about the TS, TG, and Gender-varient communities of Arizona. Website URL: <http://www.jgnetarizona.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

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

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

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.

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

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SPORTS TEAMS and updates on Gay Games 2002, contact 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 MENS MASSAGE GROUP meets the 3rd Sunday of each month. It is a good way to meet other men of all ages, safely, and with the art of nurturing touch. There is a fee. You must sign up in advance to participate. Call Marc at 881-4582 for more information or sign up.

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

TUCSON PRIDE, INC. (Formerly Tucson Lesbian and Gay Alliance - TLGA) meets on the second Tuesday at 845 S. Craycroft Road at 6pm. Tucson Pride events: Pride Week, Gay West and OUTTOBERFEST. 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.

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 Care Teams to support HIV+ persons, a referral network of HIV-sensitive clergy, and interfaith services of healing and hope. For more information call 299-6647.

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

GRACE GROUP - CATHOLIC GAY/LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP meets every 2nd and 4th Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the Madonna Hall at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, 1436 N. Campbell across from University Hospital. For more info. Call Anabeli at 325-0892

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

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

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

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.saaaf.org>. VOLUNTEERS WELCOME.

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP. Involving discussion, support and activities. Designed to support each other. Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 8pm. Alternate Saturdays the group meets for social activities. For info call Dorian Easty, 882-7223 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 375-8660 or write P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740-6264. All replies confidential.

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE .25 PER WORD \$5.00 MINIMUM



CLASSIFIEDS



CLASSIFIED ADS MUST BE MAILED, NO PHONE ADS

NOTICES

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.

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.

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

SOURCES UNLIMITED, a Lesbian & Gay referral service. Businesses 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 85632.

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

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO - a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info. Call the Bears Hotline (520)790-3775 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 of visit our website at www.bolop.com All are welcome to our general meetings/pollucks on the 2nd Friday of every month, 7pm at Sentinel Bldg. On the City of Tucson Resource Campus, 310 N. Commerce Park Loop on Bonita St. between St. Marys and Congress.

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

LESBIAN AND GAY AL-ANON - Affected by someone's drinking? Meeting every Tuesday 8:45 to 9:45 p.m. at Lambda Center, 2940 E. Thomas, Phoenix. Ellic 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 749-3247.

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 579-9627 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.

MENS SOCIAL NETWORK: Social organization for men of all ages. Building an extended Gay family in Tucson. Monthly social postluck gatherings the first Saturday of each month and almost weekly social activities. Call Jerry at 690-9365 for information and a newsletter. Check the Non-Bar Calendar in the Observer.

NOTICES

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

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. Desert Girls (MTF) Meets 2nd Monday at 7pm. Desert Doyz meets 3rd Tuesday at 7pm. of every month. All meetings take place at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. Call 624-1779 for more info. SAGAE-mail@aol.com <http://members.aol.com/sagae-mail>

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

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

DESERT DOMINION, 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. 743-4800.

TUCSON CATHOLIC GAY & LESBIAN FAMILY MINISTRY. Currently meeting the 4th Monday of every month at St 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.tgasoftball.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.lutucson.org write: LC, 7014 E. Golf Links Road, PMB 212, Tucson, AZ 85730.

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

PERSONALS

LOOKING FOR A WORKOUT PARTNER. In shape man looking for same to meet 2 or 3 times a week. Can offer accommodations - massage. Call 745-0231. 1017

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ROOMS BY THE MONTH FOR MEN! 4br/2ba, Hugo Deluxe House, Country Club/Fort Lowell. Laundry, Carport, Fireplace, Pool/Spa. Private. Must see! Rooms from \$275/mo. Share Kitchen/Living. Utilities Included. 327-3135 1015

ROOMMATES

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HOME TO SHARE, FOOTHILLS. Rustic setting. Walking distance to National Forest. Great hiking area. Approximately 15 min. to UofA. \$425/mo. 297-3127 1015

FOR SALE

PORN CLEARANCE - ALL MALE VIDEOS, DVD'S - \$5.00. Magazines 2/\$5.00. Wide selection, good condition. Call 327-3135 anytime. Bear/bondage, Latino... & More! 1015

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Let me keep your clothes fitting properly and in good repair. Experienced - Economical - Prompt. Merle Hudson, (520)888-7264 in Tucson. 1015

Auditions

Continued from Page Two
to assist with learning and memorization of music. The audition process is painless and non-threatening. "The so-called 'audition' is more like a voice check," adds Tackett. "I need to hear the singer's voice in order to know in which section to place them."

Auditions will be held on Monday, January 5, 12 and 19, 2004, starting at 6:30 p.m., at Water of Life MCC, at 3269 N. Mountain Ave, North of Ft. Lowell. For January 5th auditions, interested singers should call the Desert Voices Office at 791-9662 to schedule an audition, or on the 12 or 19, just stop by to audition, and see what the fun is all about. And be sure to go to the Desert Voices website at desertvoices.org for all kinds of information about the chorus.

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Doctor Who Helped Gay-Rights Movement Dies

LOS ANGELES - The psychiatrist who helped in the historic battle to remove homosexuality from a major list of mental disorders died on Tuesday, December 23. Dr. Judd Marmor was 93.

Dr. Marmor's death came a day after the 30th anniversary of the American Psychiatric Association's December 15 vote to remove homosexuality from its list of disorders, a decision that was a landmark moment for Gay and Lesbian rights.

Dr. Marmor first gained prominence as an analyst to Hollywood celebrities. When he began treating homosexual patients who wanted to change their sexual orientation, he believed psychoanalysis could help.

But interacting with closeted Gay men who had successful careers led Dr. Marmor to conclude that "psychoanalysts didn't know enough Gay people outside the treatment community who were happy with their lives, who were satisfied and well adjusted," as he told historian Eric Marcus in the book "Making History: The Struggle for Gay and Lesbian Equal Rights, 1945-1990."

Dr. Marmor quipped: "If we made our judgments about the mental health of heterosexuals only from the patients we saw

in our office, we'd have to assume that all heterosexuals were mentally disturbed."

Marmor's observations reached millions through his friendship with Abigail Van Buren and her daughter, Jeanne Phillips, who both worked on the "Dear Abby" column.

"If Mom had a question about homosexuality or other behavior, she would ask him," Van Buren's daughter Jeanne Phillips told the Los Angeles Times. "You could call Judd up, and he would answer your questions very sweetly and very thoroughly."

Ronni Sanlo, director of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Center at the University of California at Los Angeles, told the Los Angeles Times that for the LGBT community, Dr. Marmor will be remembered as "one of the foreparents of the movement."

Gay Journalist Refused Amnesty

TASHKENT - A Gay journalist imprisoned in Uzbekistan on what international human rights groups call "trumped up charges" has been declared ineligible for a wide-ranging amnesty declared by President Islam Karimov this month, 365Gay.com reported.

Ruslan Sharipov, a harsh critic of the Uzbek regime, was sentenced in September to four years in prison on charges of having homosexual sex -- illegal in Uzbekistan under laws dating back to Soviet times -- and of having sex with minors.

Mikhail Gurevich, the head of the Uzbek prison system said Sharipov could not be pardoned because his crime was "grave."

Since his imprisonment Sharipov has claimed to have been tortured into making a false confession.

Human rights activist Surat Ikramov said the decision not to grant Sharipov a pardon was "unacceptable" and that the amnesty should apply because an appeals court had cleared Sharipov of the most serious of the three charges on which he was convicted.

The US had also pushed for Sharipov to be pardoned. The Bush administration has dramatically increased its involvement with Uzbekistan after deploying troops in Uzbekistan to back up military operations in neighboring Afghanistan.

The former Soviet republic has long been criticized by human rights organizations for its poor human rights record, including putting more than 6,000 political prisoners in jails where dozens of people have reportedly died of torture over the past half-decade.

handling of the case. The report from that investigation, according to last week's affidavit, is "a self-serving document created to cover up the failures of the Houston Police Department."

On March 29, 1998, Kajs, 28, was shot eight times in front of the restaurant where he worked as a waiter. The perpetrator, Ilhan Yilmaz, 32, then shot and killed himself.

Kajs had sought help from Houston police at least six times in the months prior to the shooting, reporting that Yilmaz had assaulted him, was stalking him and had threatened to kill him. Eleven hours before he was killed, Kajs filed his last report at a storefront police substation. Although Yilmaz had followed Kajs into the station, no arrest was made.

Kajs' mother, Gloria Swidriski, filed suit against the police department, alleging that officers failed to follow domestic violence protocol and offer the assistance that could have prevented the killing because her son was a Gay man.

Swidriski's suit triggered an internal investigation, which, according to George Kirkham, a criminal justice professor at Florida State University, was a "sham" designed to protect the department. Kirkham said that almost every time Kajs sought help from the police, they failed to respond appropriately, including not writing reports to document the various incidents.

"This case makes it evident how biases against same-sex or queer relationships make law enforcement ineffective in protecting queer survivors of domestic violence," said Shawna Virago, Director of Domestic Violence Services at Community United Against Violence (CUAV) a San Francisco-based anti-violence project that tracks incidents of same-sex battering nationwide.

"In this country, same-sex relationships are not held to be as sacred or as legitimate as heterosexual relationships," Virago told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network, "and this case demonstrates that in its horrifying reality."

Since Kajs' murder, numerous changes have been made in the Houston police department's approach to same-sex battering, according to a report in the Houston Voice. Officers have been provided with information about shelters and counseling services they can pass on to victims of abuse, including Lesbians and Gay men, at the time of an incident, and they have received sensitivity training and information about hate crimes.

But that may not be sufficient, Virago says. "Would a queer survivor of domestic violence feel any more safe in asking for law enforcement's assistance in 2003 than they would have in 1998?" she asks. "I think the answer, especially if this alleged cover-up is true, is no."

Swidriski's lawsuit is scheduled to go to trial in February.

Police Blasted For Failure To Prevent Gay Shooting

HOUSTON - A criminal justice expert said in an affidavit filed last week that the Houston, Texas, police department has attempted a cover-up in its failure to protect a Gay man who was killed by his ex-partner, the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network reported.

After Marc Daniel Kajs was shot to death in 1998, the Houston police launched an internal investigation into their

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