

Gymnast With HIV Settles With Cirque

WASHINGTON -- Cirque du Soleil has agreed to pay \$600,000 to Matthew Cusick, the gymnast fired by the company last year for having HIV. The complaint settlement, announced Thursday, April 22, by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, is the largest of its kind in U.S. history, reported the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

"When I was fired from Cirque du Soleil, it was the worst day of my life," Cusick said. "Today is nearly the exact opposite, because I stood up for what I knew was right and changed one of the world's most popular entertainment companies."

Cusick, 32, was fired by Cirque just days before he was to start performing as an acrobat in one of the company's popular Las Vegas shows, "Mystere." Cusick was told that because he is HIV-positive, he posed a hazard to other performers and audience members, even though he had been cleared to perform by Cirque's own doctors.

With the help of Lambda Legal, a New York-based civil rights organization, last summer Cusick filed a federal employment discrimination complaint against the company. A host of celebrities, athletes and AIDS experts rallied behind Cusick, and Lambda organized nationwide protests of Cirque shows.

"It just doesn't cut it anymore for employers to say they didn't know or don't

understand HIV," said Hayley Gorenberg, director of Lambda Legal's AIDS Project. "It's not acceptable, legally or otherwise, for employers to operate on fear rather than the facts."

In addition to the sizable financial settlement, Cirque must also institute a company-wide education program focusing specifically on HIV and other disabilities. According to its Web site, the company has 2,700 employees worldwide.

In February, Cirque changed its hiring policies to prohibit discrimination against people with HIV, essentially opening up any position in the company, including acrobats, to qualified people regardless of their HIV status.

"I'm pleased that they're changing their ways and incorporating these guidelines," Gorenberg said, calling Cusick's case a "warning signal" to other employers.

"I'm happy this is over and I can finally put it behind me now and move on," Cusick told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network. "I hope this kind of discrimination doesn't happen to anyone else, but if it does the employers will have to pay the price."

Cusick has opted not to return to Cirque as a performer, despite an invitation by the company to do so. "Although it is my decision not to be at Cirque now, I wish that this whole thing hadn't happened," he said.

Michigan Health Bill May Harm GLBT Patients

LANSING - Michigan's state Senate is poised to vote on a package of bills that could allow doctors and nurses to deny treatment or medication to GLBT patients on moral grounds, reported the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

The Michigan House overwhelmingly voted for House bills 5006, 5276, 5277 and 5278. The bills give health care providers and insurers the right to refuse to take part in treatments they find objectionable on moral, ethical or religious reasons, except in medical emergencies.

Conservative lawmakers said they wanted to protect those who did not want to offer the abortion pill RU-486. Another concern was protecting those who did not want to deal with future treatments involving stem-cell research.

Michigan Legislature's only openly Gay lawmaker, Rep. Chris Kolb, D-Ann Arbor, voted against the legislation, noting "a health provider could refuse health care

to an individual based upon a patient's actual or perceived sexual orientation."

"This legislation would allow individual health care providers' interests to trump patient care," Kolb said in a statement to the Michigan House. "I oppose this legislation and worry that its passage into law would hinder access to health care services, especially in rural areas."

Sean Kosofsky, the policy director for the Triangle Foundation, a local GLBT rights organization, told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network the state Senate could take up the matter on Tuesday, April 27.

"I think the House knows this is completely unconstitutional. This year the House is up for re-election and they are trying to force a lot of controversial issues," Kosofsky explained.

"I don't think they thought through

'Becoming A Player' Workshop May 1

TUCSON - Legislators and veteran campaigners will come together on May 1st, to train members of the LGBT communities in Tucson in how to play in the field of electoral politics. The Arizona Human Rights Foundation is joining the Clean Elections Institute to present "Becoming a Player: Electoral Politics for Arizona's LGBT Communities."

Representative Phil Lopes, Representative Linda Lopez, and Clean Elections Institute Executive Director Barbara Lubin are among the headliners for the Tucson workshop. Organizers of the non-partisan event hope to create a new crop of skilled campaign workers and candidates for the 2004 election cycle.

"Our mission is to encourage greater participation in the political process," said Barbara Lubin, executive director of the Clean Elections Institute. "Becoming a Player will teach members of the LGBT community how they can use the Clean Elections system to have a greater impact on electoral politics, either as campaign workers or candidates."

"If you're not involved, your voice won't be heard. It's as simple as that," said Greg Polzin, executive director of the Arizona Human Rights Fund. "We're thrilled that Clean Elections has removed the money barrier to participation in electoral politics," Polzin continued. "Now we've got to teach our members the

practical skills they need in order to participate in and run successful campaigns."

Becoming a Player will take participants through the basics of Arizona government as well as the legal and practical components of managing campaigns and campaign finances. Seasoned campaigners will share tales from the trenches, including what can go wrong in poorly managed campaigns and what are the elements of well-run campaigns.

Participants will be asked to put their training to use. "These are not 'drive-by' trainings," said Polzin. Lubin added, "We hope that each participant will become active in the current election cycle, and we intend to support them as they put their new skills to work."

The workshop is free and open to self-identified LGBT members only. It is scheduled for Saturday, May 1, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. "We hope these will be the first of many similar workshops we'll take to communities across the state," said Lubin. Anyone interested in registering for either workshop should contact Kristen Felan at (520)245-9009.

Becoming a Player workshops are made possible by a grant from the Gill Foundation of Colorado, whose mission is to secure equal opportunity for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Judge Turns Down Queer Eye Student Politician

WILSON - A North Carolina court Tuesday, April 27, rejected a motion to force Hunt High School to allow a student to put up campaign posters for class president that used comparisons to the popular Queer Eye For The Straight Guy, reported 365Gay.com.

Jared Gamwell, a 17 year old student at Hunt, discovered that the school's principal had removed posters that said "Queer Eye for Hunt High" and another reading "Gay Guys Know Everything!"

The school refused to explain why the posters were removed and Gamwell contacted the American Civil Liberties Union. In a letter to the ACLU, the lawyer for Hunt High said that the school was justified in removing the posters because the campaign for the student government is school sponsored speech and they have the right to censor it.

The letter also said that the posters had no relevance to the teen's qualifications to run for office and that the language was disruptive.

Today the ACLU went to court seeking an injunction forcing the posters back up. The court denied the motion without explanation.

Superior Court Judge Dwight Cranford issued the decision late this afternoon after 40 minutes of arguments by both sides.

"We may have lost in the courtroom today, but it's clear that Jared Gamwell is a winner," said Leslie Cooper, a staff attorney with the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project.

"He wants to be a teacher someday, and he's already doing an amazing job of teaching other students about pride, honesty, and how to stand up for their rights in the face of prejudice."

But, the publicity over the incident may actually help Gamwell.

"First my principal took down my

UPDATE

Jell-O Wrestling May 2

TUCSON - Tickets are now on sale for the 17th Annual Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza, a fund raiser for the programs and services of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF).

This year's event will be held Sunday, May 2, at Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle, 4 to 7 p.m. Admission tickets are on sale for \$4 each at Woody's, IBT's, Desert Pride and SAAF. Advance tickets are on sale through April 30 only; tickets may be on sale at the door for \$4 each, as space permits.

The annual Jell-O wrestling fund raiser is a lively, unique event, featuring wrestling, a live auction, a raffle, food, spirits and fun for a great cause. For more information, call SAAF (520) 628-7223.

Arizona Heat Update

TUCSON - The National Pro Fast (NPF) Pitch franchise, the Arizona Heat, is gearing up for their inaugural season with their training camp opening May 17, and their first game taking place June 5, against the New York/New Jersey Juggernaut at Hi Corbett Field.

There are six teams taking part in the first season of NPF: the Arizona Heat, New York/New Jersey Juggernaut, Akron Racers, Texas Thunder, Sacramento Sunbirds and the New England Riptide.

Former UA player and assistant coach Stacy Iveson, the coach at Pima Community College, will manage the Heat. Former UA players Leah Braatz, Nancy Evans, Amy Hillenbrand, Alison McCutcheon and Lisha Ribellia, have signed, as have former ASU players Erica Beach and Tamara Ivie.

The Heat also held a tryout camp the weekend of April 24-25, looking to fill the final roster spots. The team will carry 16 players for a 60-game schedule. For more information and for season tickets, call (520) 296-9595 or go online to tucsonsoftball.com.

MCC Yard Sale May 1

TUCSON - Water of Life Metropolitan Community Church will hold a Yard Sale at their Church from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., Saturday, May 1. The church is located at 3269 N. Mountain, just North of Ft. Lowell. All are welcome and encouraged to participate in this fund raising effort for MCC.



SAGA Update

TUCSON - After a lengthy and impassioned debate, the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Arizona recently adopted a resolution that adds sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and geography to its diversity policy.

The Bar's Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) originally presented the proposed policy changes to the Board in December and again in February. At these meetings, several members expressed concerns about including the classification of gender identity and expression, terms that generally relate to transgender and gender-variant people. The vote was tabled until the April meeting so that further information could be provided to the Board. The SOGI committee invited C. Michael Woodward, Executive Director of the Southern Arizona Gender Alliance (SAGA), and Tucson attorney Sarah J. Showard, a member of the SOGI committee, to provide a presentation and materials explaining the basic concepts of gender identity and expression. ...

SAGA recently received a grant from the Gill Foundation, a \$260 million-endowed organization committed to securing equal opportunity for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. The grant will support SAGA's newly developed Alexander John Goodrum Mental Health Advocacy Project (The Goodrum Project) which was developed in response to the 2002 death of gender rights activist Alexander John Goodrum, who hanged himself while under suicide watch in a Tucson mental health facility.

"We are very pleased to receive this grant from the Gill Foundation. The grant comes at an important time for SAGA as we prepare to launch this vitally important program," said SAGA Executive Director C. Michael Woodward. "The Goodrum Project program fills a void that has long been present in the mental health system. We see this grant as an indication that we are on the right track in our commitment to providing innovative and necessary services to our community." He added, "On a personal level, I am especially happy to honor the memory of my friend Alexander in such a significant way."



IN MEMORIAM



RODGER G. SWEET
10/14/54 - 4/24/04

Rodger passed away last Saturday at St. Mary's Hospital caused by complications from a stroke.

He was born in Monticello, Illinois where he graduated from high school. He was preceded in death by his father, John William Sweet, Sr. He is survived by his mother Martha Jane Sweet, an older sister Martha May Sweet and a younger brother, John W. Sweet Jr. He is also survived by aunts, uncles, nephews and nieces.

Rodger lived in Florida for a time before moving to Tucson in 1979. He tended bar at Rita's, Magnum's, Club Europa, and for the last twelve years he worked at IBT's and Woody's.

He was preceded in death by his very close friend and companion, Lynda Poss. They are now reunited.

Those who had the privilege of Rodger's friendship, share in the loss of his kindness, compassion, selflessness and humor. We will especially miss his Corned Beef and Cabbage on St. Patrick's Day. Rodger was admired and loved by many.

According to Rodger's wishes. All proceeds from his estate are to be distributed to the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation.

There will be a celebration of Rodger's life on Wednesday, May 12th from 5:00 to 8:00 p. on the patio at IBT's.

Desert Voices Yard Sale May 1

TUCSON - Yard Sale Junkies, Please Note!! Desert Voices (DV), Tucson's GLBTS chorus, is holding a yard sale this Saturday, May 1, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 4412 E. Holmes (nearest cross streets are 5th and Columbus). Bargain hunters are welcome!

If you have items to donate, you can call the Desert Voices office at (520)791-9662 to arrange a time to drop them off. (The chorus will not be providing pickup of items for this sale.)

From computer parts to tart pans, there are lots of interesting items from a variety of sources. Everything is priced to sell (and raise some funds), so please don't miss this sale. Receipts are available for donors. DV appreciate the support of the community and look forward to seeing you at the sale!

Want to help support people living with HIV/AIDS?

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Orientations are held once a month at the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, 375 S. Euclid Ave.

For more information, call Ethan or Mike at 628-7223.

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COMMENTARY . . .

Why We Marched

By Matt Foreman

We - along with thousands of other Lesbian, Gay Bisexual and Transgender people were at the March for Women's Lives this Sunday, April 26. Why? For the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, there are four overlapping reasons for our enthusiastic and unqualified participation.

First, the obvious: we march because like everyone else, LGBT people need, deserve, and demand the fundamental right to control our bodies without the interference of government. This is the bedrock upon which our movement exists. Our individual and family needs are inextricably linked with all other Americans - we love and have sex; women in our community get pregnant, need the assistance of fertility clinics to do so, or choose or need to end a pregnancy; both men and women in our community choose to - or choose not to - have children. This is not ideological rhetoric: according to the 2000 U.S. Census, 34% of female same-sex households and 22% of male same-sex households are raising children.

Second, we march because the constitutional right of Gay people to have private, consensual sex is inextricably linked to preserving *Roe v. Wade*. If *Roe* falls, so does the Supreme Court's recent *Lawrence v. Texas*, decision, which struck down consensual sodomy laws. The long line of Supreme Court rulings upholding and extending reproductive freedom - *Griswold*, *Eisenstad*, *Roe*, and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* - all based on the

concept of privacy and personal liberty - are the legal foundation upon which *Lawrence* is based. Plain and simple: without these decisions we would not have *Lawrence*; conversely, if *Roe* is overturned, there goes *Lawrence*.

Third, we march because the enemies of reproductive freedom are the same enemies of equal rights for LGBT people. We must stand together against them or we will lose. Every major organization or denomination seeking to limit reproductive freedom and overturn *Roe* seeks to deny LGBT people equal rights with equal vengeance. For decades, their two primary targets - and fundraising vehicles - have been choice and Gay rights. Just as the forces of intolerance marshaled their resources to pass into law the so-called "late term abortion" ban, they are fixing their sights to amend the U.S. Constitution to write in discrimination against LGBT people.

Finally, we march because our own government's unprecedented assault on reproductive freedom is not only obviously linked to "Gay marriage" but also hits our community particularly hard. For example, the Bush administration is lavishly funding unscientifically-based abstinence-only-until-marriage programs while pushing the anti-marriage constitutional amendment - in effect saying that LGBT people should never have sex. "Abstinence only" programs also negatively impact family planning and undermine HIV/AIDS prevention. The current administration has effectively imposed an

anti-LGBT gag rule by denying funding to research proposals containing the words "Gay," "Lesbian," "Transgender," or even "men who have sex with men" while enforcing the "gag-rule" which prevents the distribution of a myriad of reproductive and sexual health services around the world. Similarly, his multi-million dollar "marriage promotion" plan and "every child deserves a mother and a father" mantra are both homophobic and connected to a partisan right wing attack on reproductive freedom. Future Supreme Court nominees? The Supreme Court Justice the President "really respects" is Antonin Scalia, the court's most virulently anti-Gay and anti-choice justice.

Is reproductive freedom a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender issue? Of course - it always has been - and now, it is more clear than ever before.

[Matt Foreman, is the Executive Director, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. More than 1.2-million people participated in the March for Women's Lives.]

Creators of Gay-Themed 'Falsettoland' Have A New Show And Fundraiser For TIHAN

by Kevin Johnson

TUCSON - Last year's production of the Gay-themed musical 'Falsettoland' played to sold-out houses, and was even reprised in October. This years show from Arizona Onstage Productions is the Stephen Sondheim musical 'Assassins' - playing May 12-23 for 8 performances only. Opening night, May 13th, is a Gala Opening Fund Raiser for T.I.H.A.N. - Tucson Interfaith HIV AIDS Network. The evening includes priority tickets to the

show as well as champagne, desserts, and a party with the cast after the show.

"Last year's opening night fundraiser for T.I.H.A.N. was a huge hit", says Arizona Onstage Productions Artistic Director Kevin Johnson. "We went through over fifty bottles of champagne, the audience loved the show, and we raised \$1560 for T.I.H.A.N. This year, we are in a theatre twice the size (with great lighting, sound, and air conditioning!) - so we hope to double that amount."

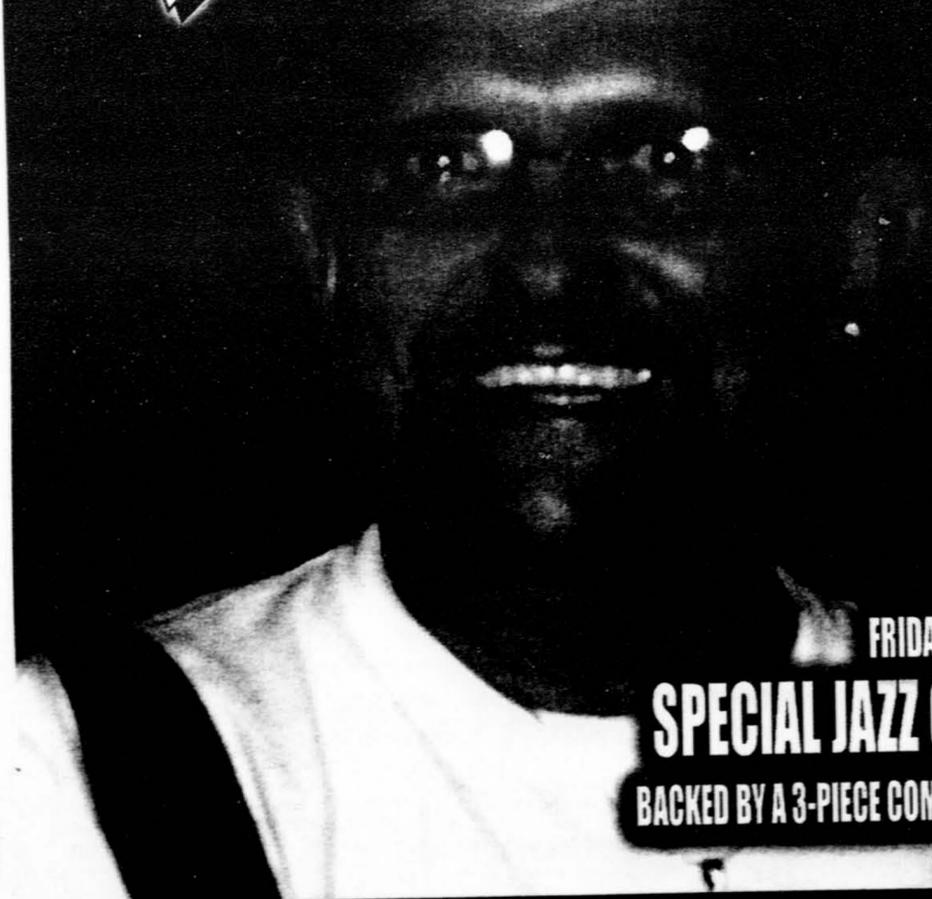
'Assassins' has a cast of 21, and features 4 Actor's Equity performers from New York City. The cast also features Tucson favorite Liz McMahon - known for her Award Winning portrayals of Patsy Cline and Sophie Tucker. There will be a live pit orchestra to accompany this musical that is also currently running on Broadway to rave reviews.

'Assassins' lays bare the lives of nine individuals who assassinated, or tried to assassinate, the President of the United States, in a 100 minute historical staging that explores the dark side of the American Experience. from John Wilkes Booth to Lee Harvey Oswald, composer Stephen Sondheim (Sweeney Todd, Into The Woods, A Little Night Music) and John Weidman bend the rules of time and space, taking us on a wild journey in which 'Assassins' and would-be 'Assassins' from different historical periods meet, interact, and become famous.

The New York Times calls 'Assassins' "A Brilliant, frightening hilarious masterpiece" of musical theatre. Tickets for the T.I.H.A.N. fundraiser performance can be ordered by calling T.I.H.A.N. at 299-6647. Tickets for other performances may be purchased online at www.arizonaonstage.org



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Persecution of Gays Detailed In Exhibit

TUCSON - An exhibit from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum is visiting Tucson for the first time, having opened Sunday, April 25, at the Jewish Community Center, the Arizona Daily Star reported.

"Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933 to 1945" appears unremarkable, a series of 7-foot high murals of photographs and text.

However, the exhibit exerted an unmistakable impact on people Sunday, measured not by how things looked, but by how they sounded: For two hours in the afternoon, the loudest sound in the exhibit space was the whoosh of refrigerated air blowing through cooling ducts, punctuated by an occasional cough or scuffle of shoes.

The rest was a commanding silence.

"I think it is excellent," Maria Diaz said after viewing the exhibit, which is on display Sundays through Fridays until May 16. "I think anytime that there are persecutions or oppressions, it is important to start educating a community."

The exhibit has been touring the United States since 2002. The idea of bringing the exhibit to Tucson came from Wingspan.

About 20 other community organizations, from faith-based and arts groups to the University of Arizona, are helping with the exhibit or related events.

The exhibit tells its story through words, and through artifacts of the time: schematics of a prison cell; newspaper clippings and cartoons; government paperwork used to arrest and imprison Gay men; and 96 photos of Gay prisoners at the Auschwitz concentration camp, eight dozen studies in desolation, fright and grief.

The exhibit documents how Germany changed from the 1920s and early 1930s, when Berlin was home to an estimated 350,000 Gays and Lesbians, 30 journals devoted to Gay and Lesbian literature and culture, and a vigorous social debate about Gay rights.

By the end of World War II, more than 100,000 Gay men had been arrested, an estimated 50,000 imprisoned, and between 5,000 and 15,000 sentenced to concentration camps.

The exhibit points out that the Nazis destroyed much of the culture and rights that Gays and Lesbians had enjoyed by rewriting a single German law regarding homosexuality.

Tucsonan Mike Smith called the exhibit "very informative" and a rare case when a national museum brings something to town.

"I'm really happy that this exhibit has come to Tucson," Smith said. "I think it's great."

Some visitors drew parallels with current political events, including President Bush's proposal for a federal constitutional amendment to ban Gay marriage.

"We don't seem to have learned - it appears we have to learn over and over and over again within our lifetimes," Art Woodland said. "We are complacent, as the Germans were complacent."

Cathy Busha, Wingspan director

of programs, said the exhibit shows that a historic change like the Holocaust doesn't start overnight, but as a progressive erosion of freedoms.

"This exhibit does a great job of showing that these things are still happening," Busha said. "They're subtle, but we need to be vigilant and keep learning."

Viewing hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fridays; and by appointment through May 16, at the Tucson Jewish Community Center, 3800 E. River Road. The exhibit will be closed Saturdays and is free and open to the public. For a schedule, go online to wingspan.org.

..... PULSE UPDATE

By Jerry Diaz

Pulse was on hand at the annual Mano a Mano event held this Saturday in Tucson. We helped with the Wingspan

table and talked to some of the local youth about the program and what our goals are. We had a great conversation with several local programs that also serve the community. The anti-huffing program in Pima County is doing their best to reduce the number of cases in hospitals of youth using inhalants. Their work is hard and they are trying to do all they can to make sure that this growing problem is handled correctly.

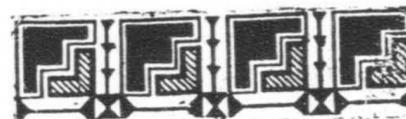
Pulse holds its First forum since its early inception on Thursday, April 29. The forum will be held at Wingspan, 300 E 6th St at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served and an open dialog will consist of panel members and audience who will get to voice their opinions regarding party situations. We hope you can attend what looks to be a rousing time of opinions and ideas.

The upcoming forums held by Pulse will include topics that cover the party scene, as well as the drug culture surrounding it. Tucson, along with Pima County has a growing population, and with it comes the ability to have larger and larger celebrations. Larger cities such as New York and Los Angeles are now known for their circuit parties and the culture that surrounds them.

One of the films we will be showing clips from covers that very scene quite well. It is the documentary called "When Boys Fly". The film covers a group of men who all travel to one of Florida's biggest circuit parties, "The White Party". This film takes an accurate look at what the culture involves, as well as the behaviors seen in any party environment.

Look for the Pulse gang out this weekend at your local nightclubs. Next weeks update will have dates of our upcoming parties and events, as well as a weekly addition with information about one of the drugs that are being used in the party population these days. We look forward to helping the community in any facet as well as educate and entertain along the way.

If you have any questions regarding Pulse, or would like to speak to one of the members regarding party drugs, please call Jerry Diaz, (520) 624-1779. We respect confidentiality and will work within your schedule. Have a great week!



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Yard Dog Saloon's version of the
Academy Awards

POLITICS 2004

by Mark R. Kerr

'Hate And Hope'

Dear Gracie:

Ribbons, schmittions and medals, as if draft-dodging Dicky Cheney would know, since he didn't serve as did most of Dubya's administration, with the exception of Colin Powell, who as the Joint Chiefs Chair, wanted the Defense Department budget cut during Bush the Elder's term! For more information Gracie, go to americanprogress.org, which has the full details but digressing!

It's just so great to be a Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) taxpaying, working, voting citizen of the United States these days since the Republicans are going full-bore across the continental divide for fun, political profit and most importantly, votes in this election year since the economy is in the crapper and things aren't going too well in the 51st state, Iraq.

In the nation's capital Gracie, Senate Republicans (a.k.a. "Elephantine Breeders"), many of whom have been divorced, are gearing up more hearings on the value of heterosexual marriage, with these waste of taxpayer monies getting titles, "Healthy Marriage: What Is It and Why Should We Promote It?", chaired by Republican Alabama Senator Jeff Sessions, "The Benefits of Healthy Marriage", chaired by none-other than Republican Pennsylvania Senator Rick "Homo-Bestiality" Santorum, and "What Social Science Can Tell Us About Marriage, Divorce, and Children," with the host of this fiasco to be determined.

Rumors are flying Gracie over the names of those called to testify, some of the notables include: Newt Gingrich, who asked his wife for a divorce in the hospital after her surgery for cancer; Neil Bush, Dubya's brother and adulterer; Republican conservative columnist George Will, who left his wife and mentally challenged child for a much younger woman; former President Ronald Reagan; Britney Spears, Jennifer Lopez and Liza Minelli and David Gest!

Meanwhile across these United States Gracie:

Five states, Oklahoma, Kentucky, Georgia, Missouri and Utah are placing same-sex marriage, civil union and domestic partnership bans in their constitutions or laws, despite that most have some sort of law on the books, on the November general election ballots thanks to the GOP!

In Ohio, the home of the most repressive same-sex relationship laws, thanks to the Republican dominated legislature and Republican Governor Robert Taft, are considering a ballot measure because "the new law doesn't go far enough" according to the proponents!

The Republican dominated Virginia Legislature Gracie has overrode the veto of the Governor, Democrat Mark Warner, approving a sweeping ban on same-sex partners which outlaws any "partnership contract or other arrangements that purport to provide the benefits of marriage." Virginia isn't a place for lovers, civil unions or domestic partnerships just Republicans Gracie!

only just part of it Gracie, in Michigan, the Republican dominated state House of Representatives passed the Conscientious Objector Policy Act, plus three other bills that if approved and signed into law, would exempt a health insurer or facility from providing or covering a health care procedure that violated ethical, moral or religious principles in their bylaws or mission statement, meaning GLBT citizens could be denied treatment of any kind or prescription drugs! These four bills go to the Michigan Senate Gracie, which is also controlled by the Republicans so can we guess how this will end up?

Heaven forbid a Republican should have a thought, take New Mexico Gracie, which the New Mexico Republican Central Committee voted to censure the Sandoval County Clerk, Victoria Dunlap, who issued marriage licenses to 66 same-sex couples because she feared a lawsuit, reported 365Gay.com.

"Other than assassination, all we can do is censure her," said Richard Gibbons, the committee chairman in the story. There was one Republican Gracie, who actually showed nerve and voted against the measure.

"I'm afraid this will be played as a Gay issue and not a good government issue," Barry Blitzer told the committee before he voted, according to the story. Duh!

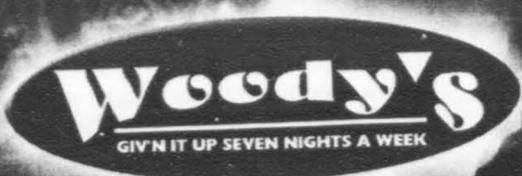
With so much hate there is hope Gracie, with wonderful organizations like MoveOn, (moveonpac.org), and America Coming Together, (americacomingtogether.com), naming two of the many, are registering voters and motivating people to work to oust Dubya and his minions. People should visit these and other such sites and give donations, of either money or their time.

In the battleground state of Arizona, the Arizona Stonewall Democrats, (azstonewalldems.org) will be taking part in the "Boston Tea Party" Thursday, May 20, 6 to 8 p.m., cost \$25, 824 W. Edgemont (one block South of Thomas) in Phoenix, celebrating the first same-sex marriage being performed in Massachusetts. All four of Arizona's openly GLBT state legislators will be present celebrating this momentous event. This party Gracie, will be one of 30 simultaneous fund raising events going on across the country and will be hosted by Chrissy Gephardt, the openly Lesbian daughter of former presidential candidate, U.S. Representative Dick Gephardt, and now working for national Stonewall group. To RSVP or for more information, call (602) 454-8688.

Amanda Simpson, the intelligent, bright and articulate member of the City of Tucson Commission on GLBT Issues has thrown her hat into the political ring Gracie, running for the Arizona House of Representatives from Legislative District 26. Simpson will be taking the Republican state House incumbents, Pete Hershberger and Steve Huffman, both of whom voted for HCM 2004, the "postcard" putting the state on record supporting the proposed Federal Marriage Act. Taking on two incumbents will be an arduous task but Amanda is a person who has tackled many things in her lifetime and has succeeded.

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The New Gay Playground?? Try New Jersey!!

ASHBURY PARK - Never mind South Beach, Fire Island, or Provincetown. Census statistics and cultural trends are pointing to a surprising new Gay mecca on the East Coast: Asbury Park, N.J.?

investment--much of it by Gay business people and homeowners--is starting to take hold. People eager to see Asbury Park's Gay community grow have taken out advertisements in newspapers in New York, Philadelphia, and elsewhere, advertising it as a Gay-friendly destination.

With its seaside setting, shabby-chic real estate, and liberal local government, the city most often associated with corrupt New Jersey politics and rocker Bruce Springsteen is now the place to summer, to party, to invest--especially if you're Gay. Rainbow flags fly from restored Victorians. There's a Gay bowling night at Asbury Lanes, chat rooms where Gays and Lesbians can exchange tips on redecorating, a Gay pride weekend and "Road Trip," and an annual program sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian Homeowners Association that tries to show off Asbury Park (pop. 16,930) to potential residents and entrepreneurs.

"The resurgence of the residential market is largely due to Gay couples who have moved here and renovated these absolutely gorgeous old homes that had fallen by the wayside or been chopped up into multifamily units," city manager Terence J. Reidy said. "Whether it's participating as residents or opening businesses, there's a whole economic engine they are part of in Asbury Park."

Hall, a producer for VH1, and his partner bought a two-bedroom fixer-upper for \$82,000 four years ago. They renovated it and sold it for more than twice as much. Now they're in another home and working on it.

"There's something inherently ironic about a city so down on its luck being brought back by people who get what it means to be down on your luck," said Dane Hall, 40, a television producer who's part of a new influx of Gay homeowners here. "All it needed was to be looked at with a different set of eyes."

The number of newcomers is difficult to pinpoint. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, a little more than 3% of the city's households had "unmarried partners" living in them, although that could cover heterosexual couples as well.

Asbury Park couldn't be a more unlikely place for such a movement. Named after a Methodist bishop and developed in the 19th century by a visitor to the religious camp meetings at neighboring Ocean Grove, it was originally intended to be a temperance resort. Instead it became a playground for the masses, offering sun and sand, amusement rides, and fortune-telling booths along the boardwalk.

Longtime resident Barbara Vandenberg, a 53-year-old Lesbian who works as a florist, says the influx has been noticeable over the last three years: "Many of the new people are urban city dwellers who enjoy the character of it, who aren't troubled by some of the flaws that Asbury has and can look past them."

Those glory days are long past. The blighted, conspicuously barren oceanfront, left in disarray by a developer who went bankrupt, stands in stark contrast to other shore towns where the ocean and beach fuel a bustling summer economy.

After all, she acknowledges, Asbury Park has its seedy side. Running a florist shop on Bangs Avenue with her longtime partner, she isn't far removed from it. On one recent morning, she spotted a used condom on the sidewalk as she walked to work. "Suburbanites tend to be 'Oh, my God, there's a condom on the sidewalk!' I'm here long enough that I can just kick it out of the way and be glad someone's using protection."

An ambitious \$1.2 billion development plan at remaking the waterfront, together with a slew of new

What Gay Workers Want

LOS ANGELES - What do you want from a boss? A national survey of workers has found few differences between the aspirations of Gay workers and their straight counterparts. Number one on their list was respect, reports 365Gay.com.

creative thinking, but among straight workers that figure was only slightly more than 10 percent.

When asked to rank the top characteristics that they value most in a supervisor, equal percentages of 59% of Gay and 58% of non-Gay workers ranked "treats all employees with respect" at the top of the list.

The study also showed that both Gay and straight workers feel comfortable about speaking up for causes that are important to them by encouraging their employer to donate funds or in-kind support.

But, number two for LGBT workers was the "ethics" of supervisors, while the second most important trait in a boss for straight workers was the ability to "balance work and home/family life".

"While we understand that GLB and heterosexual adults have many inherent differences, it is interesting to note from the findings that both groups, in general, appear to similarly value many of the same qualities in their work life," said Jake Stafford of Witeck-Combs Communications.

The survey was conducted by Harris Interactive and Witeck-Combs Communications to coincide with Reaching Out MBA, an annual conference for Gay MBA students, which began this week in Los Angeles. The conference, which attracts over 400 LGBT people, promotes the education, visibility, and networking capabilities of GLBT business leaders in the United States and around the globe.

"As the American workplace grows ever more diverse, insights on both what is unique and what is universal in people will be helpful for managers and recruiters who want to increase productivity and job satisfaction for individuals under their management."

Nearly 20 percent of Gay workers said they value supervisors who encourage

The survey of 2,204 adults, of whom approximately six percent self-identified as Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual was conducted online between February 16 and 20.

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Araujo Trial: What Did They Know, When Did They Know It

HAYWARD - The trial of three men accused of killing Gwen Araujo has been told the men began having suspicions the 17 year old may not be biologically female weeks before the murder, reported 365Gay.com.

The questions began after two of the men who had sex with her began comparing notes about their experiences. As Michael Magidson and Jose Merel's questions grew so did their anger.

On the stand Monday, April 19, was Jaron Nabors who has already pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter in exchange for testimony against his three friends.

Magidson, 23, Merel, 24, and a third man, Jason Cazares, also 24, are charged with killing the Transgendered teen after finding out she was biologically male.

Araujo was murdered in October 2002. She was beaten, battered with a shovel and then strangled to death. Her body was found in a shallow grave several days later.

Nabors told the court that Magidson and Merel thought they had been deceived and began listing clues, such as

Araujo's scratchy voice and the way she kept her throat covered.

Nabors said Merel seemed particularly angry that Araujo could be male, asking, "Do you want to be Gay?"

But despite the talk, Nabors said he still believed Araujo to be female.

"I would say in hindsight it was more of a denial thing," he testified.

The testimony is key to the prosecution's case that the planning for Araujo's murder began long fore the night she was murdered.

The defense lawyers have said their clients are guilty of a "classic manslaughter" after they discovered the night of the killing Araujo had been born male.

"It brought shame and humiliation, shock and revulsion," said attorney Michael Thorman, who is representing Magidson, in his opening arguments. (story) The defense play has raised the anger of Transgender advocacy groups because it implies that some of the blame of Araujo's death fall on her own shoulders.

Duke Pushes YMCA To Recognize G/L Couples

DURHAM - Duke University is joining an effort to persuade the YMCA to give family membership rates to same-sex couples and has threatened to end its relationship with the agency if it doesn't change its policy.

Duke officials said in a letter that if the organization does not extend family membership benefits to same-sex couples, they will end their relationship with the YMCA of the Triangle. Duke human resources official Mindy Kornberg said the university, Durham, N.C.'s largest employer, has an agreement with the YMCA through September 30. That agreement gives Duke employees and their dependents discounted memberships in exchange for Duke's promotion of the health and fitness agency. More than 200 Duke employees and family members, including Gay families, have enrolled under this agreement, the letter said.

Before entering the agreement, Duke officials spoke with Nicole Methling, the YMCA's director of community connections, and were told that "Duke's same-sex spousal equivalents would be accepted as dependents for the purpose of membership rates and benefits," the letter said. The letter is addressed to Judy Bright, executive vice president of the YMCA, and it gives the agency until April 9 to respond. If the YMCA refuses to treat same-sex couples as they do heterosexual married

couples, Duke officials will consider the agreement broken and will stop promoting the agency, the letter said. "We had an agreement," said John Burness, Duke's senior vice president for public affairs and government relations. "If they don't meet the agreement, then we don't have a relationship."

Durham city officials have already asked the YMCA to offer same-sex couples the same membership rates that married couples receive. The city gives the YMCA \$70,000 a year to provide youth and senior citizen services. City councilwoman Diane Catotti has suggested that the city cut its ties with the agency if leaders refuse to change the policy. YMCA spokeswoman Dorothy Brown did not return a call or respond to e-mail. YMCA leaders told a Durham city council committee that they plan to maintain their policy. YMCA of the Triangle CEO Doug McMillan said the agency relies on the state's criteria of a family as including a married couple. The national YMCA includes several more flexible definitions in its guidelines for local chapters. At the meeting YMCA officials told city leaders that Gays and Lesbians are welcome but subject to a different pricing structure. Currently the YMCA's \$89-per-month family membership rate is available only to married couples, with or without children. The rate for single adults is \$62 per month.



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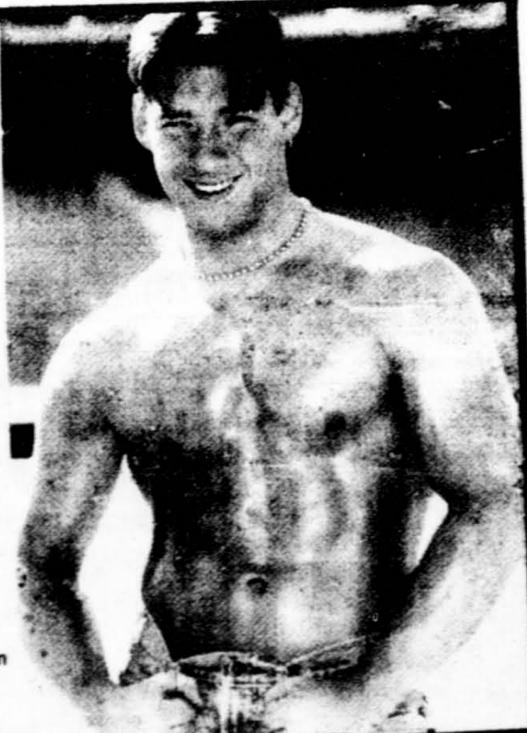
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LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23
Somewhere in this world, there are Gay Libras going out partying, getting lost along the way and meeting up with all sorts of suspicious, dangerously fun types. Is this your lucky day or a day that will eventually dredge up all sorts of agita? Keep a watchful eye on retro Venus and Neptune as they continue to ply you with alcohol. Will you meet a micky (or minny) fin?

ARIES

MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

Wise Gay Rams are veritable founts of knowledge and generously toss their various pearls of wisdom to any swine with a fleeting interest. So much for the glorious feeling of Venus and Neptune retrograde. Ultimately no one will listen to your naive and plaintive yearnings. Good thing too, compadre; by next week you change your tune. Perhaps to something with a klezmer beat?

TAURUS

APRIL 21 - MAY 21

Queer Bulls are known to greatly enjoy the finer things in life when they can afford them and even when they can't. Retro Venus and Neptune now tempt you with promises of luxury and sensuality. If you find that your current wants exceed your budget, consider temporarily deferring your materialistic desires. You will not get your money's worth. Maybe that is good?

GEMINI

MAY 22 - JUNE 21

Oh you charmer you. Pink Twins turn it on and expect the world to fall at their feet while they bask in the adoration. Folks gravitate to you from all corners of the world, or so it seems. You feel attractive, cheerful and full of zest. Who can possibly resist? Retro Venus and Neptune make you think that you are quite a hot, steamy number. Be sure that it is not "number 2".

CANCER

JUNE 22 - JULY 23

Grab your heart and hold on tight; it will have a tendency to fill with helium and float away into dangerous zones. Romantic pink Crabs are in love with love now and will not notice how high they are flying. You are attracted to all levels of denizen. Before you float up and bump your head on a pointy crag, keep your expectations realistic. Okay, keep them low... as before.

LEO

JULY 24 - AUGUST 23

If you feel pulled in two directions it may be because retro Venus and Neptune are yanking your chains. Proud Lions feel compelled to make final decisions on a range of personal issues. But there is really no rush to decide. In fact decisions made now may be the wrong ones in the long term. If friends and partners both want a piece of you, just lie back and just enjoy it.

VIRGO

AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23

If you believe that old yarn that hard work pays off, then there is only you to blame. Retro Venus and Neptune suggest that if you quietly apply yourself you will move up in the organization. Well I say "bull", queer Virgin. I say that politics and careful maneuvering will get you ahead, not punching longer and longer hours on the clock. Happy hour begins at 5 p.m. See you there.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22

You are sending out sexy vibes wherever you walk this week. The scent seems to capture the attention of more than a few potential admirers. But at the end of the day, there is something pulling you home. Will you be followed? Retro Venus and Neptune suggest that you are ready for some changes in your domestic life. But don't take in any strays... just yet.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22

How perfect are you as a mate? Well the trail of dirty laundry that you disperse like breadcrumbs around the house would suggest that you need a bit of handling. Partners and would-be partners are telling you to shape up but the combo of retro Venus and Neptune can blind you to your filthy habits. Gay Archers have potential. What they really need is a good bath.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20

Pink Caps look in the mirror and they see a champion of the underclass, a fighter for the rights of the powerless and a helpmate to the exploited. Yeah right. Retro Venus and Neptune create a foggy view of things around the office. The fact is, comrade, that you occupy a rarified position and can't really impact change. Stoke the embers next week when you really catch fire.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19

Who is that wilde spirit? It must be Aqueerius, dressed to the nines and looking rather... er... interesting. This week brings you unbridled fun, (unless you request otherwise...) romance and excessive, outrageous behavior. Venus and Neptune retrograde and encourage you to change your physical appearance in the hope of attracting a new crowd of party hounds. Woof woof.

PISCES

FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20

You can usually rely on your intuition to get you through the sticky spots in life. The road is especially foggy now, especially in your home life. You have certain expectations and needs that require action immediately. As both Venus and Neptune retrograde, Guppies should rely on their good common sense rather than on their sixth sense. Oh now they really are in trouble!

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tucsonobserver.com
It's More Than You Think.....

Trans Cop Wins \$90,000 Discrimination Case

HARDWICK - Hardwick, Vermont selectmen have agreed to end a discrimination suit brought by a town police officer who claimed discrimination as a transsexual, reported 365Gay.com.

Anthony Barreto-Neto, an experienced and skilled police officer, began working at the Hardwick Municipal Police Department in April 2002.

Shortly after he began his employment, town officials doing an internet search on him found a website that described him as "transsexual."

Barreto-Neto had undergone female to male transition while he served with Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. As a member of that force he received numerous accolades for his work. In 2002 he applied for the job in Hardwick

When his birth sex was discovered town employees began to circulate the information. From that point on Barreto-Neto says he was subjected to a continuous pattern of harassment and inferior work conditions that became so severe he had to leave his job.

Last year he was fired and filed a discrimination complaint.

Vermont's Attorney General's office conducted an inquiry and then issued a legal opinion saying it appeared Barreto-Neto had a firm case. The opinion cited testimony of a former police chief, Gregory Rambo, that a town official directed him to make Barreto-Neto so

uncomfortable that he would leave the force.

Announcing the settlement in a prepared statement Friday, the town does not admit there was discrimination and it strongly asserts it does not condone discrimination of any kind.

"The town has a comprehensive anti-discrimination policy and employees who violate that policy will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action," the town officials said. "We would hope that town residents agree with us that discrimination should not be tolerated and that kindness, understanding and diversity are assets that serve to build and maintain a strong community."

Under the agreement, worked out with Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders who represented Barreto-Neto, the town will pay him \$40,000 in full settlement of the employment discrimination claim and \$50,000 in full settlement of all current and future workers' compensation benefits.

The town also agreed to adopt a formal policy of nondiscrimination against Transgender persons and train its employees on Transgender issues.

"As a career police officer, I'm deeply committed to law enforcement and just want to be able to do my job," Barreto-Neto said.

"I filed this case because I knew that Transgender people like myself face

discrimination in many aspects of our lives due to irrational fears and prejudices of others. I hope this decision means that employers create a better understanding of Transgender people in their workplaces."

According to Jennifer Levi, an expert on Transgender legal issues at Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, the 'clincher' in resolving the case was the report from the Attorney General.

"The Attorney General clearly found that Transgender persons are

protected under Vermont's prohibitions against sex or sexual orientation discrimination," she said.

"This is a ground-breaking decision for Transgender people who have historically been excluded from many civil rights protections and continue to experience pervasive discrimination. The Attorney General should be commended for determining that all Vermonters must be judged on their merits rather than stereotypes."

Holland May Close Anti-Gay Mosque

AMSTERDAM - Pressure is mounting from members of the Netherlands' Parliament to close a mosque in Amsterdam which promotes killing Gays and the mutilation and beating of women, reported 365Gay.com.

The El Tawheed mosque is the most conservative in the city, preaching an extreme form of Islam.

The attacks on Gays and women are contained in two books sold by the mosque. The mosque is under investigation by the public prosecutor. A majority of MPs form all parties say if the prosecutor finds the mosque guilty of promoting hate it should be closed.

The Amsterdam City Council is leading the push to close the facility.

The Dutch Parliament will hold an emergency debate about the El Tawheed mosque this week.

One MP, Geert Wilders, said if the

prosecutor does get a conviction, Justice Minister Piet Hein Donner should step in. If Donner refuses, Wilders will submit a motion demanding a government investigation.

The book, "The Way of the Muslim", by Sheik Aboe Baker Djaber El Djezeiri asserts that Gay people should be thrown from the roof and stoned. It also advocates the right of a husband to beat his wife if she is disobedient.

Earlier this month the mosque was at the center of a storm over another book advocating violence.

That book, "Fatwas of Muslim Women", says that women who lie deserve 100 blows and that the husband's duty of care for his wife is negated if she refuses him sex or leaves the home without his permission. One of its most controversial aspects is the call for Muslim girls to be circumcised.

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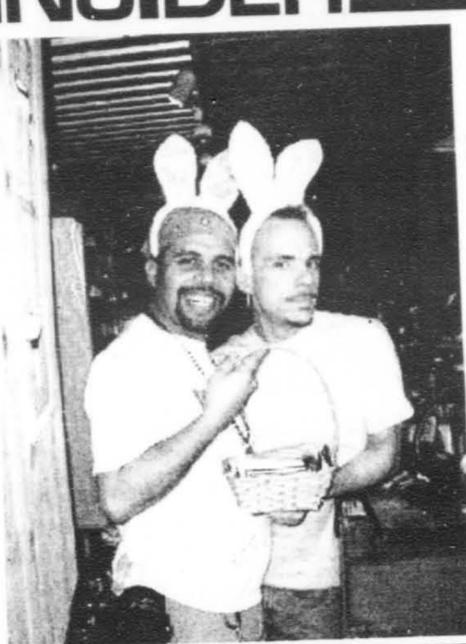
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INSIDER



NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

by Lee Thorn

Now At TMA

The current main show at the Tucson Museum of Art is called "Contemporary Art and Latin America." It runs from March 26 to July 4.

I like to remind everybody that Sunday afternoon offers free admission, that the amazingly well stocked gift shop is open, and that downtown Tucson is so deserted on Sunday that you can park on the street the museum in on. It's fun to just stand in front of the place and look in every direction without seeing a living soul or a moving vehicle.

This Latin America-show has an overall liberating effect that arises in part from the unusual media the artists are using. For those of us conditioned to think in terms of a few set ways to make art, running into a bunch of artists who are inventing new media is mind expanding.

Take Betsabee Romero's "Pre-Columbian Archeology (Aztec), 2002." I've seen folks make lots of stuff from tires, from sandals to fences to flower pots, but this is the first time I've seen a tire made into a print-making device. The artist here has carved skulls, serpents and weaving symbols into a tire, inked the thing up and made a tire print. Both the tire itself and the tire print on paper are here to see.

Unfortunately, the medium in this case is much more original than the message. The print is of traditional Aztec design and would not be of great interest if you didn't know how it was created.

Vik Muniz's "James Brown" is in a medium he calls "cibachrome." A card next to the work explains that the process involves photographing drawings made of an unstable material. We may have a photo of droplets of chocolate sauce that resemble the dots in a grainy news photo, but it looks like James Brown and even suggests the singers frenetic energy.

Jose Bedia's "La Cubana" is a black bus that claims to be oil on canvas but looks a lot more like chalk on black felt. Here again we have an unusual focus on media, this time a challenge to the notion of what an art work in a given medium should look like.

Julio Galan's "I Love You" is primarily a straightforward formal portrait painting in oil on canvas, but it has a cloth necktie pinned onto it protruding as much as three inches from the surface. Why is that, Julio? You obviously have the skill to have rendered the necktie in paint. Why are you playing around with the medium?

The whole show asks the question, "Hey, boys and girls, why don't we play around with our media?" Artists who see the exhibit should find the question provocative and perhaps even inspirational.

Regina Silveriras "Masterpiece in Absentia" is a painting of the shadow of an absent mobile. The wall's relationships to the absent mobile and the absent light source are such that the shape of the mobile is extremely elongated in the shadow. There is no frame around the painting. It is done directly on the museum wall just as if it were an actual shadow.

One could say that this is simply a painting on a museum wall. One could also say that it's an example of the trompe l'oeil genre. But in the context of all these other works that are so medium-conscious, one is almost tempted to think of shadow as a medium. Okay, perhaps that's a little fanciful.

Luis Molina-Pantin's "immobilia" is a series of photos of stage sets from a Venezuelan TV soap opera. I couldn't have made that up.

Question: With photos of stage sets, who's the primary artist, the set designer or the photographer?

These sets are very professionally done in that they let you know exactly where you're supposed to be with a minimum of stuff. That means the designer isn't wasting the producers money. The photos are very straightforward illustrations of the sets, almost like a designer might commission to showcase his work. The combined effect of the minimalist but realistic sets and the straight ahead photos is one of elegance. Once we appreciate this, that there is an effect and it's probably an intended effect, we realize that the photos didn't have to be simple illustrations. The artist could have come at the sets in any number of ways. Artistic choices were made and, again, they seem to reflect a heightened awareness of the media involved, both that of photography and that of set design.

In addition to the main show, the museum is always reshuffling selections from its permanent collection. I saw some dazzling permanent pieces I hadn't seen before, par for a Sunday at TMA.

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



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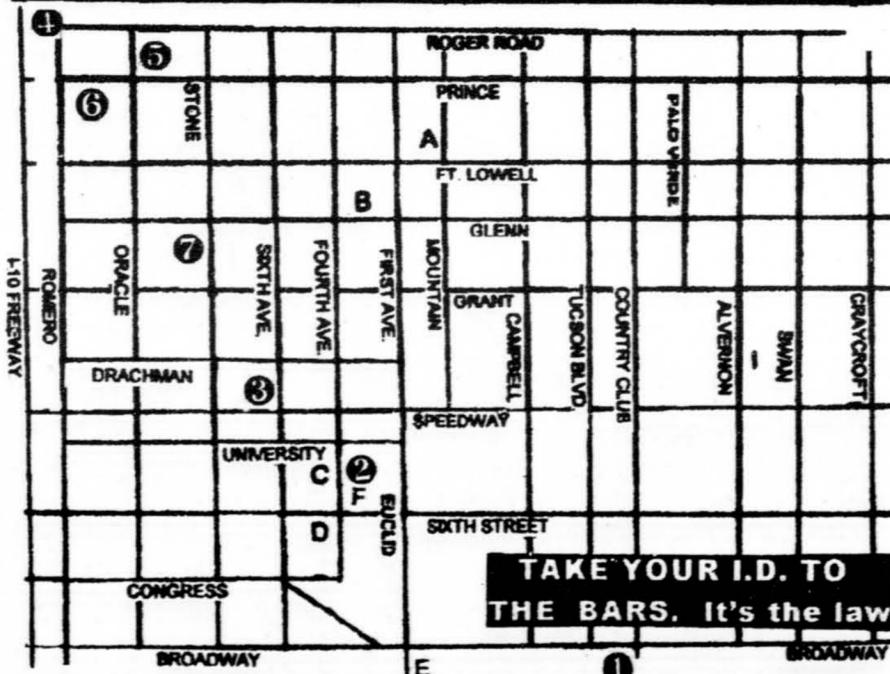
"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

You can be GLBT and a Christian.

John 3:16

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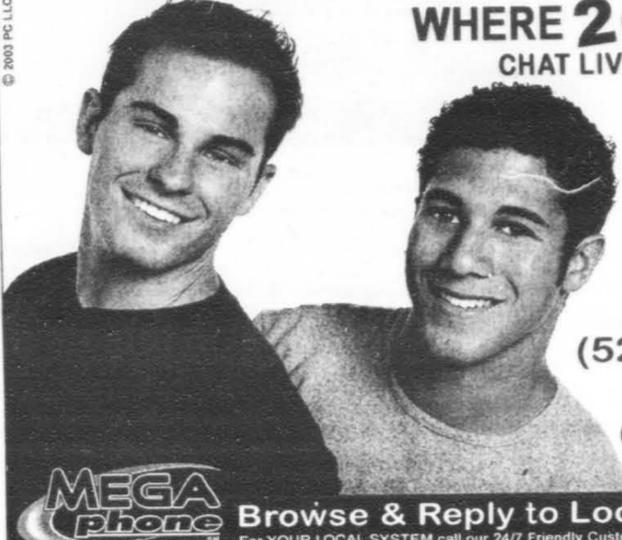
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LGBT Support Group Starting May 5

TUCSON - After a bit of a hiatus, a free educational support group for LGBT victim/survivors of violence will be starting up again through Wingspan on May 5.

This will be a "mixed" group for Lesbians, Gay men, Bisexual folks and trans-identified folks who have experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, hate crimes or other violence. The group will be co-facilitated by Lori B. Girshick and Michael Mandel. Lori is Coordinator of the Wingspan Anti-Violence Project and author of the book *Woman-to-Woman Sexual Violence: Does She Call it Rape?*

Girshick has worked in domestic and sexual violence for 14 years. Michael is Community Educator at the Southern Arizona Center Against Sexual Assault and former LGBT Outreach Coordinator at the Center for Crime Victim and Sexual Assault Services in Ithaca, N.Y., where he

Out & Equal Is Going On The Road

TUCSON - We're "Building Bridges in Tucson" and want your participation, May 8, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Westin La Paloma, 3800 E. Sunrise Drive.

Out & Equal is offering an all-day training aimed to increase participants' awareness of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender issues in the workplace. Out & Equal wants to give participants tools to create more inclusive environments with fair and equitable benefits and policies. The

training targets human resource and diversity professionals, managers, supervisors, organizational and community leaders, LGBT identified individuals and allies.

Student cost for this event is \$30; the regular cost is \$75. For more information, visit their Web site at outandequal.org.

Michigan Health Bill
Continued from Page One

this enough to realize it would piss off every minority in the book," Kosofsky added, claiming the "conscientious objector" bill could allow doctors of certain religious backgrounds to discriminate against those whose faith runs counter to their own.

One of the bill's sponsors, Rep. Randy Richardville, R-Monroe, told the Detroit Free Press that he would be willing to amend the bills to protect Gays and Lesbians.

"We are not trying in any way, shape or form to push our moral, ethical or religious beliefs on anyone else," he told Friday's edition of the paper.

"I have no problem with adding a little more language so that people who are different than I am don't feel we are threatening or trying to hurt them in any way," he said.

Judge Turns Down
Continued from Page One

posters without explaining why, and now this judge has ruled against me, also without explaining why, so of course I'm disappointed," said Gamwell.

"But the support I got from other students at my school today about this was amazing. People cheered for me in the halls and students who have never spoken to me came up to tell me how great they think it is that I'm fighting this."

Tutu Prefers Word Other Than "Marriage"

VANCOUVER - Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu of South Africa said Tuesday that he supports equal rights for GLBT people, but he would prefer that same-sex unions adopt a name other than "marriage" for sanctioning their relationships, reported the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

Tutu, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate and one of the most esteemed spiritual leaders in the world, made the remarks in at an honorary degree ceremony.

As reported by the Canadian Press, the Anglican cleric was asked about his thoughts on same-sex marriage, and he said he "would prefer we didn't call it marriage."

"It just causes a lot of hassles," he continued. "If you say you are blessing a union, I would prefer that. You just raise unnecessary hassles."

The marriage issue has been a big topic both in Canada, which is poised to legalize same-sex marriages nationwide, and in the Anglican Communion, which has nearly fractured since a U.S. openly Gay priest became an Episcopal bishop last year.

As general secretary of the South African Council of Churches from 1978 to 1985, Tutu became a leader in the crusade for justice and racial integration that ultimately helped topple South Africa's apartheid system. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984.

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Special Bar Events

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

IBT'S - 9:00 p.m. it's the "Diva-Licious Show" hosted by Lucinda Holliday and starring Bunny FuFu, Veronica Halliwell and Stella Virgin.

FRIDAY, APRIL 30

IBT'S - A Special Jazz show on the patio with Susan Artemis and her quartet featuring Hurricane Carla Brownlee on the saxophone from 6:00 to 9:00 pm.

SATURDAY, MAY 1

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - The Crystal Cabaret Show tonight hosted by Miss NCC 2004 Crystal Abrams and starring Miss Gay Arizona America Bunny FuFu, Tucson's Queen of Comedy Lucinda Holliday and Heather Boa. There's a special steak dinner offered with baked potato and salad for two for only \$10.99. Show starts at 8:45 p.m. sharp! No cover.

YARD DOG SALOON - Dog Bowl Production's Little Theater Company presents its first Annual Academy of Pooches Awards tonight beginning at 8:00 p.m. Come find out who will win one of several trophies for the Little Theater's two productions last year. It promises to be a lot of fun. It's the Yard Dog's version of the Academy Awards.

SUNDAY, MAY 2

IBT'S - 11:00 A.M. Troy's Recovery Bar. 4:30 p.m. Karaoke on the Patio with Michael D. 5:30 p.m. Special Beer Bust and Bar-B-Que for SAAF. 9:00 pm. Post Jell-O Party with guest DJ Dave Bruhns from Phoenix.

WOODY'S - The bar will open at 1:00 p.m. this Sunday. Admittance by ticket only until 7:00 p.m. There will be no brunch. The 17th Annual Reno Gannon Jello Wrestling fundraiser for the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation will take place from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Limited tickets available at SAAF, IBT's and Woody's.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5

HOWL AT THE MOON - Celebrate Cinco De Mayo here with dance lessons from Amanda. Beginning 2-step, dance form and help with leading and following from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Free Mexican Buffet from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. \$2.00 Mexican Beers all evening.

IBT'S - 9:00 p.m. The "DivaLicious Show" hosted by Lucinda Holliday. Cinco De Mayo Party with \$2.50 Cuervo Margaritas. There will be a celebration of life for IBT's long-time employee and friend Roger Sweet from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. on the Patio. Bring pictures and memories.

WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY, MAY 5 - 9

VENTURE-N - Cinco De Mayo time again. Party - Party with Corona and Cactus Juice specials all five days. On the 5th, Margarita Special from 4:00 to 8:00 pm. Then at 5:00 p.m. there's a Taco Bar by Charles. Celebrate Charles' Birthday. Friday May 7 it's Botanas from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

Non-Bar Calendar

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. The 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. The Canasta Club meets to play this fun card game. If you don't know how to play, we'll teach you. For directions and reservations, please call Richard at 579-7291.

Tucson Prime Timers Lunch - 12:30 p.m. El Minuto II, 8 N. Kolb (NE corner of Kolb and Broadway)

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 30

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Karol for Game Night. Card games, board games, and any game you'd like to bring along are available for playing. For reservations and directions, please call Karol at 744-9017.

SATURDAY, MAY 1

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

SUNDAY, MAY 2

17th Annual Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. At Woody's. This Fundraiser for the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) has tickets on sale now for \$4.00 each thru April 30th and are available at Woody's, IBT's, Desert Pride and the SAAF office. Tickets also may be on sale at the door for \$4 each as space permits. The fundraiser is a lively, unique event, featuring wrestling matches, a live auction, a raffle and food and spirits. For more information call Amy at 628-7223 or events@saaf.org.

MONDAY, MAY 3

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5

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

THURSDAY, MAY 6

Tucson Prime Timers Dinner - 5:30 p.m. Golden Corral, 715 E. Wetmore (1st & Wetmore). Remodeled & enlarged room. \$8.49 but For Seniors, 7.99 Steaks are offered.

SATURDAY, MAY 8

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

MONDAY, MAY 10

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12

Tucson Prime Timers Breakfast - 9:00 a.m. Egg Connection, 3114 E. Ft. Lowell @ Country Club.

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

SATURDAY, MAY 15

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

SATURDAY, MAY 15

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

MONDAY, MAY 17

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19

Tucson Prime Timers Lunch - Noon, Hidden Valley Inn, 4825 N. Sabino Canyon Rd.

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

SATURDAY, MAY 22

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

Monday, may 24

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26

Tucson Prime Timers Lunch - 1:00 p.m. Guadalajara Grill, 1730 N. Prince Rd. (so. Side near Campbell)

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

SATURDAY, MAY 29

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

MONDAY, MAY 31

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

Arts & Entertainment

NOW PLAYING THRU MAY 2

Live Theatre Workshop presents one of Neil Simon's most beloved plays, "Barefoot In The Park". Show times are Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday matinee at 3:00 p.m. Tickets range from \$14 - \$12. For reservations call 3327-4242. The theater is located at 5317 E. Speedway Blvd.

NOW PLAYING THRU MAY 8

Gallery Four Ten's Spring Show features the art of Jonathan Bell, Bob Bergier, Joseph Birdsong, Michael Mahaffey, Thomas Rossi, Darin Schoeny and Richard Zelans. Artist reception Saturday, April 10 from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. Gallery hours are from noon to 5:00 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday or by appointment. 410 E. Ft. Lowell. 520-740-1047

NOW PLAYING THRU MAY 16

The traveling exhibit from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum: Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933-1945 on display at the Jewish Community Center at 3800 E. River Road.

SUNDAY, MAY 9

Josh Groban on his "Closer Tour" will be appearing at the Casino Del Sol's Amphitheater at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are now on sale. At the box office or through TicketMaster. You won't want to miss hearing the fantastic voice of young Josh.

MONDAY, MAY 24

The Eagles, live in concert with their 'Farewell 1' tour at the Tucson Convention Center 8:00 p.m. Tickets are now on sale and will be sold out surely. Tickets are available at TicketMaster or the TCC Box Office 520-321-1000.

MAY 26 - JUNE 6

Winner of the most Tony Awards in Broadway history - "The Producers" is coming to Tucson and tickets are now on sale. So get in line early and get yours to this sensational Mel Brooks musical that stars Bob Amaral and Andy Taylor in the leading roles. For ticket information call 621-3341.

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Daily Bar Calendar

Sunday

SUNDAY
HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 10:30 am. Kitchen open 11am-8pm. Smirnoff Sunday-\$2 Smirnoff drinks (Bloody Mary, Screwdriver, Greyhound, Sea Breeze, etc.). Country music and dancing from 7-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 1pm. Free Pool all day. Pool Tournament with Chad 5-7pm. Surf & Turf w/baked potato & salad \$6.90
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 Pet 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, Mirms 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. 9pm

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

Monday

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3pm. Happy Hour 3-8, \$2 well, domestic pints & longnecks. Kitchen open 3-8pm. Special from 7 to close \$2 well run, 50¢ off call rums. Rockin' to Oldies Night
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 1pm. Free Pool all day. \$3 small pitchers. Pajama Party w/Sabrina in Lingerie
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. 9-1
YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Scotch until 7pm. Kennel open 5pm.

Tuesday

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3pm. Happy Hour 3-8, \$2 well, domestic pints & longnecks. Kitchen open 3-8pm. \$2 well tequilas. 50¢ off call tequilas. Karaoke 8-11:30pm with Calabaza Cabeza Karaoke.
IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-7pm. Bare Chest Nite- Bare it and get happy hour prices from 9 to close. Progressive/Retro '80s dance with DJ Q. 9 to close

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 1pm. In House Karaoke.
VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Draft Special 12-4.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic til 7pm. Bartender Calls it drink specials.
YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Tequila until 7pm. Kennel open at 5pm.

Wednesday

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3pm. Happy Hour 3-8, \$2 well, domestic pints & longnecks. Kitchen open 3-8pm. Special prices on draft beers from 7-close. Free pool all night. Country music & Dancing 7-close
IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hours Noon-7pm, 9pm "Diva-Licious" show w/Lucinda Holliday and guests. HiNRG Dancing with DJ-Q. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 1pm. Karaoke w/Kimberly 8pm-Midnight. Shrimp Fry \$5.99
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 GMHP. \$1 off any drink or bottled beer. (Excludes draft & schnapps) for all in leather or underwear.

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

Thursday

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3pm. Happy Hour 3-8, \$2 well, domestic pints & longnecks. Kitchen open 3-8pm. \$2 Mexican beers all night. Chef's Special Tacos. Free Salsa lessons with Teresa 7:30-8:30pm. Dance & Salsa music from 8:30 to closing.

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 1pm. Latino Night.
VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio open 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Draft Special 12-4pm. Pool Tourney 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

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3pm. Happy Hour 3-8 \$2 well, domestic pints & longnecks. Kitchen open 3-8pm. Beginner country dance lessons 7:30-8:30. Current and Classic Country from 8:30 to close. Reverse Happy Hour 11:30 - close with 50¢ off all drinks.

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

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open Noon. Fish Fry \$5.99 all you can eat. Shrimp Fry \$5.99. R&B/Hip Hop/Super Disco 8:30 - close with Shorty.

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 Martinis \$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

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 10:30 am. Kitchen open 11am-8pm. Pool Tournament 3pm (sign-up begins at 2). \$3 entry fee (pot matched). Current & Classic Country from 8:30 to close. DJ calls shot specials. Reverse Happy Hour 11:30-close with 50¢ off all drinks.

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

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 1pm. Steak Dinner with Fries and Salad \$5.99 5-8 p.m. Super Disco Dance Music 8:30 p.m. to close.
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 3ar opens 5pm. 5-9pm 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

NOTICES

P.F.L.A.G. - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays - is a support group available to anyone who has a son, daughter or friend who is Gay. Call 575-8660 or write P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740-6264. All replies confidential.

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

YOUNG AND GAY?

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

The TUCSON Chapter of PRIME TIMERS WORLDWIDE invites Gay or Bisexual men and their admirers to join and share Prime Timers fellowship. We welcome mature men (and admirers) who wish to become involved with planned and future Prime Timers (TPT) activities. Meetings luncheons and dinners are held monthly. For dates, times and information call 887-3743, leave name and phone number. Tucsonpt@primetimersww.org

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 (GPGCC) P.O. BOX 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2097. E-mail: webmaster@gpgcc.org or call (602)225-8444.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE .25 PER WORD \$5.00 MINIMUM



CLASSIFIEDS



CLASSIFIED ADS MUST BE MAILED, NO PHONE ADS

NOTICES

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

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

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

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

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

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 SS Peter & Paul Church, Madonna Hall 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Fr. Fiedler in attendance every meeting and willing to speak one on one. Reaching out to Parents and Families. For more info call Doc or Barbara 293-6624.

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

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

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

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

NOTICES

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.

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

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

LIKE TO READ? The Guys Book Club (TGBC) invites new members to join them. The group meets once a month, on the 3rd Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at Magpie's Pizza on 4th Avenue to discuss the Gay-themed book read by members the previous month.

THE MANTO 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.

HALLELUJAH RECOVERY DRUG & ALCOHOL 12-STEP. Every Thursday 5:30-6:30pm at Cornerstone Fellowship, 2902 N. Geronimo. 622-4626.

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

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

LGBT SUPPORT GROUP FOR VICTIM/SURVIVORS OF Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Hate Crimes, Bias Acts, Harassment. Call Lori at Wingspan, 624-1779, ext. 20. Services are free.

NEW TUCSON SOBRIETY SUPPORT GROUP. Secular Organizations for Sobriety - Sundays 8:00 - 9:30 p.m. at 739 N. 4th Avenue. Contacts Rick R 520-792-2604 or Gary S. 520-323-1969. More information at www.secularhumanism.org/sos/ This group is an alternative to 12-step programs.



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'98 MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS LS. Loaded, excellent condition. 61k. No sales tax. Below Blue Book. 888-7264. 1032

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G/L Marriage Ban Goes To Voters In Fifth State

OKLAHOMA CITY - Oklahoma becomes the fifth state to put a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage on the ballot this year, after the state House voted 92-4 Thursday, April 22, to approve the measure, which GLBT activists condemned, reported the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

If the proposed amendment passes, marriages of same-sex couples conducted in other states would not be recognized in Oklahoma, and knowingly issuing a marriage license to Gay couples would be a misdemeanor.

"This is a proud day for the people of Oklahoma," said Senate Republican leader James Williamson, the author of the proposal.

The Oklahoma Senate had already passed the bill last week, also with an overwhelming majority, despite an Oklahoma law on the books that already prohibits Lesbians and Gays from marrying. It is now the responsibility of the secretary of state to put the initiative on the general election ballot.

Opponents of the bill called it a political maneuver to draw more conservative voters to the polls in November.

"I don't see the reason to do this, other than for political reasons," said Rep. Judy McIntyre of Tulsa, one of four House Democrats who voted against the bill.

"I don't feel it's a representation of fair-minded Oklahomans," said Rodney

Johnson, the co-chair of Oklahoma Freedom and Equality Coalition. "While polls show most Oklahomans may be hung up on the word 'marriage,' polls also show 59 percent of Oklahomans do feel that same-sex couples should have the same rights as married couples."

The proposed amendment would also outlaw civil unions and domestic partnerships for same-sex couples.

Johnson told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network that banning domestic partnerships would put Oklahoma at a competitive disadvantage, because most Fortune 500 companies offer domestic partner benefits. He also warned of a "brain drain," after hearing from college administrators that the proposed law would repel some of "the best and brightest" students.

The move by Oklahoma lawmakers also angered prominent GLBT leaders nationwide.

"Oklahoma legislators are trying to use the state Constitution as a weapon against thousands of its citizens," said Human Rights Campaign President Cheryl Jacques. "According to the Census, more than 5,700 same-sex couples and their families live in Oklahoma. The Constitution should protect them just as it protects their neighbors."

Oklahoma follows Kentucky, Georgia, Mississippi and Utah in asking voters to decide in November on anti-Gay marriage amendments to their state constitutions.

Senators To Introduce Drug Reimportation Bill

WASHINGTON - A bipartisan group of senators on Wednesday, April 21, announced a plan to introduce a bill that would allow the reimportation of prescription medicines from other Western nations where the drugs are cheaper.

The bill is backed by Democratic senators Edward Kennedy (Mass.), Tom Daschle (S.D.), Byron Dorgan (N.D.), and Debbie Stabenow (Mich.), as well as Republicans John McCain (Ariz.) and Olympia Snowe (Maine). CongressDaily reports that the bill would allow U.S. consumers and formal organizations like state medical programs to buy prescription medications from Canada, the European Union, and other countries with modern drug regulatory practices. The bill also reportedly includes the levying of fees on foreign drug companies shipping medications to the United States to cover Food and Drug Administration inspections of the medications. Dorgan says he expects the bill to reach the Senate floor for a vote this year.

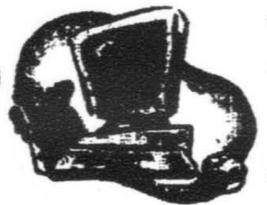
U.S. consumers are frequently turning to foreign pharmacies and drug distributors, particularly those in Canada, to purchase medications that are sold at a fraction of the price charged in the United States due to price controls in the foreign countries. Some anti-HIV medications and cancer treatments sell in Canada for half the price or less that is charged in the United States. The recent decision by pharmaceutical company Abbott Laboratories to boost the price of its HIV protease inhibitor Norvir by 400% in the United States now makes the drug as much as 10 times more expensive for U.S. consumers than those in other Western nations with drug price caps.

The Bush administration and the pharmaceutical industry oppose drug reimportation, even from other developed nations. They claim they oppose the practice because drugs shipped back into the United States cannot be guaranteed to be safe or effective.

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