



Activist Groups Vying For McGreevey's Services



Former Governor James McGreevey

TRENTON - From advocating for Gay rights to pushing for stem cell research, life beyond the governorship appears to be full of possibilities for James E. McGreevey, Advocate.com reported.

The soon-to-be former governor of New Jersey contemplates a future that begins with his resignation at midnight Monday, his options are seemingly wide open: Advocates are courting him to take up their causes, and he has already agreed to be a volunteer for a national education organization, said state senator Raymond Lesniak, a friend of McGreevey's. "After Thanksgiving, we're going to sit down and talk about what he's going to do with the rest of his life," Lesniak said Tuesday, a day after the governor gave a farewell speech. "There are no plans beyond that."

The Democratic governor announced his planned resignation August 12 during a now-famous speech in which he acknowledged being Gay and having had an affair, declaring, "My truth is that I am a Gay American." Senate president Richard J. Codey becomes acting governor at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, serving out the term until January 2006. He will quietly take the oath of office at his home in West Orange sometime Sunday, said his spokeswoman, Kelley Heck.

Some personal concerns are on McGreevey's upcoming short list: tending to his ill parents, helping his wife and daughter move into their new house in Springfield while he takes up residence in Rahway, and taking a little time off. "A lot of healing has to go on in that family," said Lesniak. "They want to use this to get closer as a family, not farther apart. There was a barrier before because of the governor's denial of his sexuality."

As a Georgetown-educated lawyer with a master's in education from Harvard, McGreevey has an enviable educational pedigree. But he also comes

from a modest background—his father was a Marine drill sergeant, and his mother a nurse—so whatever he winds up doing, "he has to earn a living," said Lesniak. "The governor has never thought much of his economic welfare and he's not a flashy guy, so it's not high on his priority list. But it has to be a consideration."

Gay rights groups would love to have him take up their cause. Stem cell research proponents are already knocking at his door. McGreevey was instrumental in establishing a stem cell research center in New Jersey.

Alan Van Capelle, executive director of the New York State Gay rights group Empire State Pride Agenda, said the nation's only openly Gay governor would be a welcome spokesman for Gay and Lesbian issues. McGreevey appeared at the group's fund-raiser after coming out. "I've spoken to the governor and told the governor, in the next several months, when he settles down, I think his is going to be a powerful voice for [Gay] issues," said Van Capelle.

Michael Adams, spokesman for the Gay civil rights group Lambda Legal, said McGreevey's tarnished 35-month tenure would not taint his star power within the Gay populace or among other special interest groups. "The reality is, we're a country that believes in rebirth and people moving beyond prior mistakes," Adams said. "Any community would look to 'What kind of contribution are you willing and able to make moving forward?' not 'What have you done previously?'"

In the three months since his bombshell announcement, the governor has tried to build a legacy—issuing executive orders prohibiting companies that do business with any state agency from making campaign contributions and establishing needle-exchange programs in three New Jersey cities with high rates of HIV infection. The governor has already decided to embrace educational issues after he leaves office and has accepted a nonpaying position advocating for education reforms on behalf of a national education group, said Lesniak. He declined to name the group.

All kinds of options remain for the onetime political star of the Democratic Party. "The question isn't whether people will want to work with Jim McGreevey, it's a question of where Jim McGreevey will want to put his gifts," said Van Capelle.

McGreevey resigned over a Gay affair with a man identified as Golan Cipel—an Israeli hired by the governor in 2002 to be the state's homeland security adviser despite having little experience. Cipel has steadfastly denied any involvement with McGreevey.

More Anti-G/L Ballot Measures On The Way

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Conservatives who were emboldened by winning ballot measures that ban same-sex marriage in 11 states have already begun new efforts to place similar amendments on the ballot in 2006, reported the PlanetOut Network.

This second wave has been concentrated so far in Idaho, Florida, Texas and Washington, D.C.

In Idaho, Dennis Mansfield, conservative activist and founder of the Idaho Family Forum, Republican state Sen. Jerry Sweet of Meridian and former GOP state Rep. Henry Kulczyk have launched an official campaign to get a similar measure through the state Legislature and onto the state's ballot in the 2006 election.

In Texas, state lawmakers introduced legislation to be considered next January that would write a ban on same-sex marriage into the state Constitution. Also, the Florida Baptist Convention issued a call for a state constitutional amendment defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

Last month, a Northeast District of Columbia resident, Lisa L. Greene, submitted a proposal with the D.C. Board of Elections & Ethics to ban same-sex marriage. If the agency approves her proposal next week, Greene has 180 days to obtain 19,000 signatures to place her measure on the next ballot.

The states that banned same-sex marriage in the last election include Mississippi, Montana and Oregon. The states that also called for a ban on civil unions include Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma and Utah.

"These amendments are placing

ABC News Story To Claim Shepherd Wasn't A Hate Victim

NEW YORK - ABC News is set to air an investigative piece, November 26, that looks into whether the brutal killing of college student Matthew Shepard was motivated primarily by a combination of crystal meth and robbery—not the fact that he was Gay, a network spokesman told Advocate.com.

The death of the 21-year-old Shepard—who was beaten, tied to a fence post, and left to die near Laramie, Wyo., in 1998—sparked outrage and activism by Gay rights groups across the country. The killers, Aaron McKinney and Russell A. Henderson, are serving consecutive, double life sentences.

In a written statement, Joan Garry,

added pressures on families that are already experiencing a great amount of stress," said Rea Carey, deputy executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "I'm getting calls in my office from people who are frightened their domestic partner's health insurance is going to be cut."

While Gay rights organizations such as Lambda Legal are mapping out a strategy to fight these amendments in court, Carey emphasized that activists were also looking ahead to 2006.

Speaking at the National Gay Rights Task Force's 17th annual "Creating Change" conference in St. Louis, Carey said, "There are more than 2,000 Gay rights activists here this weekend. The people who are going to face these issues next year are speaking to the people who just went through it. What we are hearing is the increasing need to build our infrastructure on a statewide level. We need to strengthen our community centers, or state offices, and build state organizations that can respond and fight back. In the last 20 years, we've focused on federal issues, but now it's time to refocus our priorities."

At the Human Rights Campaign office in Washington, D.C., spokesman Mark Shields echoes the need for new tactics. "The next election cycle is on our minds, absolutely," he said. "One lesson we learned is that we need to broaden our scope. We need to speak to communities of faith and rural communities in new ways. But keeping in mind those exit polls showing that 60 percent of Americans support either Gay marriage or civil unions, we understand that there is a disconnect between what people feel in their heart and what they say at the ballot box. So we plan to get more active in speaking to, reaching out to people who don't have a good or clear vision of who Gay people are."

executive director of GLAAD said: "As you may have heard, ABC News' 20/20 is planning to air an hour-long show on the murder of Matthew Shepard later this month. 20/20 issued a press release announcing the show. We read it, and it raised a number of serious red flags for us.

"20/20's press release headline reads 'Was the 1998 Murder of Matthew Shepard in Laramie, Wyoming Really an Anti-Gay Hate Crime? — Elizabeth Vargas Uncovers Surprising New Evidence.' The release also says, 'The exclusive ABC News investigation uncovers surprising revelations, including Laramie's underground world of methamphetamine use that may have contributed to

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UPDATE

Day Of Remembrance November 20

TUCSON - The Southern Arizona Gender Alliance (SAGA) will be sponsoring Tucson's observance of the National Transgender Day of Remembrance on Saturday, November 20, 6:30 p.m. at Catalina Park (N. 4th Avenue).

There will be a candlelight ceremony at the park followed by a march down Fourth Avenue and a reception at Wingspan.

The Day of Remembrance is an annual event commemorating the lives of Transgender people who were murdered because of their gender identities. The event is held in November to honor Rita Hester, whose murder in 1998 led to the "Remembering Our Dead" web project (<http://www.gender.org/remember>). Since then, the event has grown to encompass memorials in dozens of cities across the world.

Kate Clinton In Tucson Nov. 21

TUCSON - Kate Clinton will be performing Sunday, November 21, 2:00 p.m., at The Muse Community Arts Center, 516 N. 5th Ave., for a benefit for Wingspan.

Kate Clinton has been a prolific performer, writer, and activist in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community for more than 20 years. She has performed as a standup comic throughout the country, and recently released her 7th and latest comedy collection, titled "The Marrying Kind."

A sought-after commentator, she has appeared on many national talk shows, including Good Morning America, Nightline, The Rosie O'Donnell Show, and Entertainment Tonight. As an actor, Clinton starred in Eve Ensler's smash hit The Vagina Monologues and in The Rocky Horror Show on Broadway.

Online Observer: What Do You Think?

TUCSON (ON) - Recently, the online version of The Observer changed its look after eight years with the same format.

This revamp of tucsonobserver.com is still a work in progress, and the staff thanks those who have commented, positively and negatively, on the changes

completed so far. The staff though wants to hear from more online readers to make sure The Observer remains to its ideal - a community publication.

Likes, dislikes, comments and suggestions for more changes are needed and The Observer wants to hear from you. The Observer has set up an E-mail address, ebsite@tucsonobserver.com for online readers to E-mail in their thoughts. So as long as we have the First Amendment, for at least the next couple of weeks or so, please send in your E-mail, something that will be noted and appreciated.

Get Your Tickets Now For Desert Voices Naughty...Or Nice

TUCSON - Pronto Printing, Whitespace Design, Woody's and Coyote Moon Resort and Spa have all helped to present "Naughty....Or Nice?", Desert Voices' Winter concert. Desert Voices is Tucson's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Supportive Others (GLBTS) Chorus, which will give two performances of the concert in early December. The first performance is on Saturday, December 4, 7:30 p.m., with the second performance on Sunday, December 5, 2 p.m., at The Muse Community Arts Center, 516 N. 5th Avenue.

You can head over to Desert Pride, 611 N. 4th Avenue, or Antigone Books, 411 N. 4th Avenue, both in Tucson, and pick up your tickets for this playful, touching and lyrical view of winter celebrations from the ancient to the recently invented, with a healthy dose of songs about the man with the bag, a.k.a. Santa. Tickets are \$12 if purchased in advance and \$15 at the door. And if you can't get to Tucson to pick up tickets ahead of time, you can always call the Desert Voices office at (520) 791-9662. More information about the chorus, their activities and the upcoming show can also be found at www.desertvoices.org.

Director Chris Tackett, working together with accompanist and talented local singer/songwriter, Namoli Brennet, will premiere two new Brennet pieces at the show; "Sugarplum Dreams" and "Angels in the Snow". Tackett arranged the new pieces, written for the chorus, for guitar and hand bells. The results are nothing less than magical. Other selections will include "I Want Xena for Christmas", written by local diva, Lisa Otey, and a more traditional version of "The Holly and the

Ivy", with the solstice words restored. "Santa Baby" (with some tantalizing walk-on appearances by GLBTS Santa's) will also be included.

The chorus will also be holding a raffle at each show for some great items, including a freshly baked "Christmas Pie" from Pies By Gerry, Tickets to the Symphony and a Day Spa package from Coyote Moon Resort and Spa. (Items will vary at each performance). Enjoy an evening (or afternoon) of fun, live performance by local GLBTS singers and merry-makers. Call (520) 791-9662 today to get your tickets!

Festival For Life November 21

TUCSON - The Jérôme Beillard Festival for Life celebrates its 16th anniversary on Sunday, November 21, 4 to 7:00 p.m., at the Hilton Tucson El Conquistador Golf & Tennis Resort.

This fundraiser for the programs and services of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) includes a live and silent auction featuring an impressive selection of artwork, holiday items, home accessories, one-of-a-kind gifts, and more.

Festivities also include live music by Molehill Orkestrah, hors d'oeuvres, and a no-host bar. The evening will be hosted by Lupita Murillo and Allen Kath and this year's honorary chairs are Dr. Kevin Carmichael and Dr. Tejal Parikh.

See <http://www.saaaf.org> or call Michele at (520) 628-7223 for more information.

ABC News Story

Continued from page One
the crime and whether or not Shepard knew his killers.'

"This kind of sensationalistic publicity strategy raises significant concerns for us here at GLAAD — both around the content of what 20/20 plans to air on Nov. 26 and around how they plan to promote it.

"I wanted you to know that GLAAD quickly moved into action on this. I met yesterday via phone with the executive producer of 20/20 to express our concerns and to formally request that we be allowed to see the show in advance of its broadcast. And we are working in close collaboration on this with Judy Shepard and the Matthew Shepard Foundation.

"As much as reading this release strikes a very personal chord for me — as I know it does for many of you — it is very important that we judge this show based on the fairness and accuracy of its content. We will continue to keep you updated as this story unfolds."

Sirius/OutQ commentator Romaine Patterson, one of Shepard's close friends, told the New York Post, "Does it make Aaron McKinney and Russell A. Henderson any less guilty of the crime they committed? Absolutely not. You just don't kick someone in the crotch over and over again unless you have a real problem with their sexuality. To imply otherwise, in my opinion, is irresponsible, and I think it's irresponsible to be giving a voice to two very guilty men."

The interview with McKinney likely violates the plea agreement he signed at his sentencing, according to the newspaper. McKinney agreed never to talk to the media about the case as part of the agreement that spared him the death penalty. Henderson's lawyer, Tim Newcomb, did not return calls by the newspaper seeking comment.

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Observer on the World Wide Web :
<http://www.tucsonobserver.com>
E-Mail:
info@tucsonobserver.com

EDITOR/PUBLISHER:

Bob Ellis

ARTS & GRAPHICS:

Gary Clark

MANAGING EDITOR:

Mark Kerr

Special Events Photos:

Bill Morrow

Amanda Irvine

Horoscope:

Charlene Lichtenstein

Contributing Columnists

MARK R. KERR - LEE THORN
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Anti-Gay Vote Not As Influential As Thought Survey Shows

WASHINGTON, D.C. - This presidential election has been described by many as one in which morality mattered most to voters. But that perception may be driven at least partially by how pollsters asked voters about their priority issues, the Associated Press reported on 365Gay.com.

Whether voters named "moral values" their key issue partly depended on whether that subject was included in a list of choices provided by pollsters, according to a Pew Research Center analysis released Thursday, November 11.

When "moral values" was included in poll questions, it was named more often than any other issue. But when voters were just asked to name the issue most important in their vote for president — without being given a list of answers — moral values trailed the war in Iraq and the economy, according to the Pew survey.

"The advantage of the open-ended question is it tells you what's at the top of mind for voters — what they're thinking," said Cliff Zukin, a veteran pollster and professor of public policy at Rutgers University. "Much too much has been made of the moral values answer."

Many Christian conservatives have sought to portray the election as validation for their emphasis on morality and the reason for President Bush's re-election. While it's true voters who picked Bush were more apt to cite morality as the reason, political analyst Thomas Mann said it's too simplistic to say that issue determined the winner.

"It's a big mistake to say it's all a function of religious conservatives being motivated," said Mann, of the Brookings Institution. But, he added, "To say it wasn't a factor is just as foolish."

In exit polls conducted by Edison Media Research and Mitofsky International, "moral values" was one of seven items in a question that asked, "Which one issue mattered most in deciding how you

voted for president." The other issues were taxes, education, Iraq, terrorism, economy/jobs, and health care.

Twenty-two percent chose "moral values," followed by the economy (20 percent), terrorism (19 percent) and Iraq (15 percent), according to the polls, which surveyed more than 13,600 voters and were conducted for The Associated Press and the major television networks.

The Pew Research Center polled 1,209 voters who said they cast ballots in the 2004 presidential election. When those voters were given a list, "moral values" was the most popular choice at 27 percent, followed by Iraq at 22 percent and the economy at 21 percent.

But when they were asked an open-ended question about the top issue, Iraq and the economy moved past moral values. Iraq was picked by 27 percent, the economy by 14 percent and moral values tied with terrorism at 9 percent.

"Moral values was an element in the Bush formula, but probably not the driving one," said Lee Miringoff, president of the National Council of Public Polls.

The Pew poll found that voters' reasons for picking "moral values" varies. Just over four in 10 of those who picked "moral values" from the list mentioned social issues like Gay marriage and abortion, but others talked about qualities like religion, helping the poor, and candidates' honesty and strength of leadership.

"We did not see any indication that social conservative issues like abortion, Gay rights and stem cell research were anywhere near as important as the economy and Iraq," said Andrew Kohut, director of the Pew Research Center. "Moral values" is a phrase that's very attractive to people."

The Pew survey was taken Nov. 5-8 and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

Falwell Plans Army To Battle Gays

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Evangelist Jerry Falwell is organizing battle plans for what he calls an "evangelical revolution."

The televangelist Tuesday, November 9, said that the election shows that Americans want to return to "traditional values."

"We all, for the first time, began to realize the potential of religious conservatives, particularly evangelicals, when something over 30 million of them went to the polls," he said in announcing the new organization, 365Gay.com reported.

The Lynchburg, Virginia-based Falwell said the 'army' would be a "21st century resurrection of the Moral Majority," the organization he founded in 1979.

Called the Faith and Values Coalition, Falwell said that it would lobby for conservatives to fill openings on the Supreme Court and lower courts and would push for a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, and the election of another "George Bush-type" conservative in 2008.

The Massachusetts Supreme Court allowing Gay marriages "helped energize our people," Falwell told the Associated Press.

And when San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom began performing Gay marriages, it "really caught the attention of people of faith in this country, and what we have been saying could happen actually happened," he said.

"The timing could not have been better. That, along with the abortion issues and the terrorism issue, helped us

to get our people awakened."

While overseeing the coalition, Falwell said he would leave day-to-day operations of Liberty University and Thomas Road Baptist Church - both of which he founded - to his sons.

Mathew Staver, founder of the conservative law group Liberty Counsel in Orlando, Fla., will be the coalition's vice chairman.

Staver has been involved in a number of lawsuits across the country in support of "traditional" marriage. He sought to have the Massachusetts Gay marriage ruling struck down (story), tried to have same-sex marriages performed in New Paltz, New York declared illegal (story), attempted to have New York City's Harvey Milk high school shut down, is involved in the conservative battle against Gay marriage in California and sued to block the state's domestic partner law from taking effect.

Falwell is the subject of two complaints to the Federal Election Commission for allegedly violating campaign finance laws by endorsing President Bush and soliciting funds for a conservative political action committee on his ministries' Web site.

In September he announced plans to form another army, one made of conservative lawyers who would fight same-sex marriage in the courts.



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Study Examines Teens Of Gay & Lesbian Couples

CHARLOTTEVILLE - Teenagers of same-sex female parents are developing as well as the children of opposite-sex parents, and good quality family relationships are more important contributors to successful development than family type, according to a new study published in the November/December issue of the journal Child Development, 365Gay.com reported.

On measures of their psychosocial adjustment and school results, such as grades and test scores, both groups had similar outcomes, and their adjustment was not affected by the type of family — whether same sex or opposite sex parents.

The researchers matched participants by age, income levels, social situations and other factors — with the exception of family type — to ensure that the two groups were comparable.

The study also indicates that teenage offspring of same-sex couples have similar dating and romantic relationship behaviors as children of opposite-sex couples.

Because data for this study was drawn from those collected for a large national survey, researchers encountered important advantages. First, participating families came from various parts of the United States, instead of from a single geographical area, as in most previous research. Second, the sample included participants from different racial and socioeconomic groups, and was more diverse than samples in most previous studies. Finally, because the data were originally collected for other reasons, any possibility of bias has been minimized. These strengths add to confidence in the main findings that the quality of relationships within families are more important for adolescent development than whether parents have same-sex or opposite-sex partners.

"The best predictor of teens' adjustment is the quality of their relationship with parents," said Charlotte J. Patterson, co-author of the study and professor of psychology at the University of Virginia. "If parents are supportive and maintain close relationships with them, teenagers are more likely to be successful and happy at home and at school."

Patterson's co-authors are Jennifer Wainright, a doctoral student at the University of Virginia, and Stephen T. Russell, a professor of human development at the University of Arizona.

Patterson and her colleagues based their research on a sample of 12- to 18-year-old adolescents from 88 families. The sample was drawn from a large national survey of American adolescents, the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. Forty-four of the study participants were parented by same-sex female couples and 44 were parented by opposite-sex couples. The two groups were matched by demographic characteristics.

Michigan G/L Benefits Imperiled

LANSING - As Michigan state employees vote on tentative contracts a key provision of the pacts affecting same-sex couples could be null and void as a result of the election, 365Gay.com reported.

LGBT rights groups which opposed the amendment vow a court fight.

Voters approved a ballot measure banning Gay marriage and forbidding the state from recognizing same-sex unions. Prior to the vote LGBT civil rights organizations warned that the question failed to tell voters the proposed amendment would also wipe out partner benefits.

"The language of the amendment was so vague we are afraid it threatens those benefits, but we don't really know for sure," Chris Swope, executive director of Michigan Equality, told the Lansing State Journal. "You could argue either way whether domestic partner benefits are similar to marriage or not."

Arguing the question was misleading the Coalition for a Fair Michigan, a group formed to fight the initiative, went to court. The Michigan Court of Appeals ruled the issue could be put to voters anyway.

Fink said that he said he expects the courts to clarify how Proposal 2 affects domestic partner benefits before Oct. 1.

Nearly 38,000 state employees began holding ratification votes on tentative contracts, negotiated just days before the marriage issue went to voters.

Under the tentative contracts with five state unions the same-sex domestic partner benefits would begin Oct. 1, 2005.

But, David Fink, director of the Office of the State Employer, Wednesday said that the issue may be nullified.

"We are concerned that this benefit negotiated in response to union demands could violate the new constitutional amendment," Fink said.

The American Family Association of Michigan, and a leader in the campaign to have the amendment passed, said the state "can offer benefits to any employee or dependent it wishes to, but it cannot do so on the basis of recognizing a homosexual relationship as equal or similar to marriage."

The organization said that the amendment won't end existing domestic partner benefits negotiated by public employers, but would bar new ones once the amendment takes effect.

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COMMENTARY . . . by Joe Barrows

The Courage Of Serving

Twenty-five years ago, I was a kid in the Army placing electronic sensors along trails in Vietnam, south of Da Nang. I received a Bronze Star for the job I did, but for my family and me, my biggest accomplishment was to return home alive and physically unharmed.

It was scary. Not only was the job dangerous, but I was also serving in the Army knowing I was defying a policy that prohibited service by Gay soldiers. Rumor had it that those who were discovered to be Gay in Vietnam were not sent home immediately. Instead, they went to a military prison in Long Binh and were sent home at the end of their tour with a dishonorable discharge. Needless to say, I stayed in the closet.

It also happened that while I was in Vietnam, the Stonewall revolution was being launched back home.

As I spend Veterans Day reflecting on my time in the war, I can't help but think of today's current soldiers, continuing to serve under yet another discriminatory policy.

It's amazing how much progress the civilian world has made in the last 25 years. From workplace benefits to openly Gay members of Congress, we have seen huge results in our quest for equality.

It's shameful so little progress has been made in the armed forces. While new technologies make the tasks I performed in Vietnam look primitive, policies toward openly Gay soldiers remain relatively the same. Sure, under 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual soldiers can serve. But they're just as silenced as I was in Vietnam.

If you haven't served in war, it may be difficult to understand how horribly heavy a weight this silence carries with it. Not only are fellow soldiers your colleagues, but they're family - family thrown together in one of the most difficult and challenging times they'll ever face.

You talk each other about everything - from reminiscing about pranks you played on your high school buddy to worrying about how your loved one is hanging in their back home. Not being able to talk about that person you love most is incredibly difficult and it often becomes clear to other soldiers that you're holding something back. That does nothing for unit cohesion.

A December 2003 Gallup poll showed 79 percent of Americans believe openly Gay people should be allowed to serve in the military. The Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) estimates that 65,000 Gay and Lesbian soldiers are serving in the armed forces today, based on data from the 2000 Census, and that Gay men serve just as long and Lesbians serve longer than their straight counterparts. SLDN also estimates that approximately 10,000 service members have been discharged under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" since its passage in 1993. This policy doesn't just hurt GLB people, it hurts our national defense.

It's time for the military to shift its policies in the same way its brought its technologies to the 21st century. Groups like the Human Rights Campaign and SLDN, American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER) and Transgender American Veterans Association (TAVA) are working together to ensure that GLBT people can serve openly and honestly.

"Documenting Courage" is a project of HRC, SLDN and AVER that recognizes the contributions of GLBT veterans. I'm

proud to be a part of this project and encourage other GLBT veterans to contribute their stories to the project by visiting www.hrc.org/documentingcourage. You can also download the publication the groups released in May highlighting several stories and current discriminatory policy.

It is my hope on this Veterans Day that we recognize that GLBT Americans who are serving are risking their lives for the freedom of others while being denied their own. It is my hope that one day soon this wrong is righted and that the only courage we document is not the courage of serving silently, but simply serving.

[Joe Barrows is a member of the Human Rights Campaign board of directors.]

Fourth Avenue Safety

The city of Tucson, the merchants of Fourth Avenue and residents living nearby owe a debt of gratitude to Wingspan, the city's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community center.

Because of Wingspan's efforts to get more lighting, the Fourth Avenue area will become brighter at night. The city has awarded a \$54,000 Back to Basics grant to put more streetlights in the area.

The lights will go in east of Fourth Avenue along East Fourth Street, East Seventh Street and North Third Avenue. Additional lighting will go in along North Hoff Avenue and East Eighth Street.

New lighting was sought by Wingspan largely to prevent the kind of vicious attacks suffered by Gay men in the past couple of years. One of the men, 24-year-old Philip Walstead, died of his injuries after a June 2002 assault.

The grant came from Mayor Bob Walkup's office through his portion of the city's Back to Basics funds and was secured with the help of Councilman Fred Ronstadt. The grants are used around the city to maximize public and private efforts in revitalizing the city's older neighborhoods.

When the lights go up about six months from now, ongoing violence against Gays should drop, but so should overall crime. And safer streets can only benefit the Fourth Avenue merchants and the residents of the area.

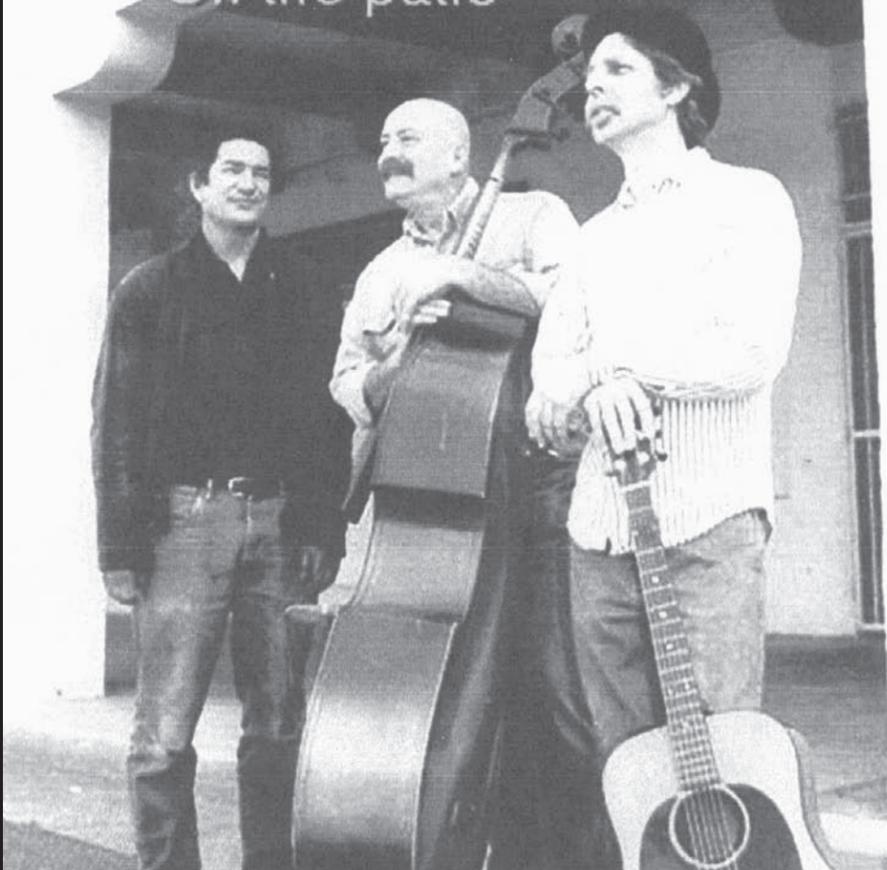
In fact, the lighting is a smart investment in the larger Downtown area. With Rio Nuevo, the city's Downtown revitalization effort, just now becoming visible, Fourth Avenue also becomes more visible.

Fourth Avenue's bars, restaurants and assorted other businesses are popular destinations not just for residents of the city; they are also a tourist attraction. As the site of street fairs in the spring and fall, the area draws hundreds of thousands of people. The bars and restaurants are favorites for students and the city's young people. In short, Fourth Avenue draws all sorts of people to its businesses and numerous outdoor public events.

Wingspan sought to protect Gay people socializing in the area. But this work is the sort of community effort that makes Tucson a more attractive, more livable city. It is commendable that in its efforts to protect Gays, Wingspan has made everyone who visits Fourth Avenue, and the nearby residents, safer.

[The above was an editorial from the November 15 edition of the Arizona Daily Star and one the staff of The Observer wholeheartedly concurs with.]

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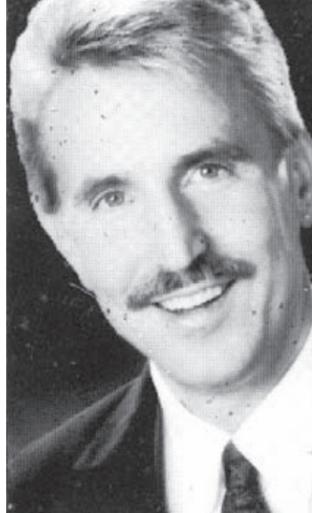
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POLITICS 2004
by Mark R. Kerr

'What Is The Real Reason Then?'

Flushed with electoral success in thirteen states in 2004, barring the recognition of same-sex marriages, civil unions and domestic partnerships, the radical right and their Republican cohorts in elected office don't want this "political gravy train" to stop anytime soon. As of press time, efforts have begun in four states, and the District of Columbia to have similar measures on their 2006 ballots for consideration, with more to possibly follow suit.

Legislation, as reported, has been or will be introduced in the Republican dominated legislatures of Florida, Texas and Idaho, as well as an initiative in the nation's capital, and to the surprise of no one, the fourth state that is following suit is the Grand Canyon State, Arizona.

When the 47th Arizona Legislature convenes, in January 2005, with 38 Republicans and 22 Democrats in the state House, 18 Republicans and 12 Democrats in the state Senate, according to articles, legislation will be introduced in both chambers, said state Senator Ken Bennett, R-Flagstaff, the Senate President in an interview, to put a proposed constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriages in Arizona on the November 2006 ballot.

Former state Senator and now incoming state Representative Mark Anderson, R-Mesa, said in an interview that he will introduce the legislation in the House, adding "marriage is the foundation of successful families and must be protected."

Even despite the breakdown of the legislators, a petition drive by conservative social activists, including the virulently homophobic Center for Arizona Policy, will also be launched to place an initiative on the ballot limiting marriage to one man and one woman. A total of 183,917 valid signatures would be needed to qualify a measure to the ballot, under Arizona law.

According to supporters of this proposal, the purpose would be to ensure that no "activist" judge in Arizona would ever issue a ruling in favor of same-sex marriage.

A 1993 Hawaii Supreme Court decision had set off the movement in many states, to prohibit the recognition of same-sex marriages regardless of where

they were formed.

In the Hawaii case, three same-gender couples filed suit against the state of Hawaii, citing an unconstitutional the state's marriage law prohibiting same gender couples from obtaining marriage licenses. The Hawaii Supreme Court ruled that the marriage law denies same-gender couples equal protection rights in violation of the Hawaii Constitution, and placed the burden on the state to show that the law against same-sex marriages was justified.

Arizona followed suit in the election year of 1996. Then House Speaker Jeff Groskost, R-Mesa, as reported in this publication and column, introduced a strike-everything amendment to SB 1038, amending the Arizona Revised Statutes dealing with marriage (A.R.S. 25-101), to add that "marriages between persons of the same sex is prohibited."

Groskost had stated that he would use this as a campaign issue, to protect traditional family values - one of many terms used during that presidential election year. Groskost's measure flew through both chambers - with legislative Democrats caving like a house of cards, and was signed into law by then Republican Governor Fife Symington, on May 5, 1996.

Seven years later, a lawsuit was filed July 7, 2003, by a Phoenix couple, Don Standhardt and Tod Keltner, and their lawyer, Michael Ryan, challenging Arizona's "Defense of Marriage Act" (DOMA).

An Arizona appellate court, unanimously upheld the constitutionality of the state's same-sex marriage ban on Wednesday, October 8, 2003. "Although many traditional views of homosexuality have been recast over time in our state and nation, the choice to marry a same-sex partner has not taken sufficient root to achieve constitutional protection as a fundamental right," wrote Judge Ann A. Scott Timmer for the three-judge panel.

Ryan filed an appeal with the Arizona Supreme Court and on Tuesday, May 26, 2004, declined to review their case.

Case closed, a precedent has been set, Arizona DOMA has been upheld by the so-called "activist" judiciary, so to those pushing a ballot referendum in the Arizona Legislature or to those conservative social activists, as an initiative, a question: "What is the real reason then?"

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Conservatives Plan New Assault On California G/L Partner Law

SAN FRANCISCO - A conservative Christian law group that lost a bid to overturn California's domestic partner law is preparing to appeal and has announced a recall effort aimed at throwing the judge who made the ruling off the bench, reported 365Gay.com.

The law, which is slated to go into effect January 1, 2005 was passed by the Legislature last year. It grants same-sex couples nearly identical legal rights and responsibilities as married spouses.

Lawyers for the Campaign for California Families sued to have the law declared illegal on the grounds it violates the spirit and intent of Proposition 22, a 2000 ballot initiative, that holds California will only recognize unions between a man and a woman.

In September Sacramento Superior Court Judge Loren E. McMaster ruled that there is nothing in the language of Proposition 22 that "restrict[s] the grant of rights and benefits to persons who have registered as domestic partners, even if those rights closely parallel the rights enjoyed by married couples."

Campaign for California Families says it will file an appeal this week.

"This is Gay marriage by another name," said Randy Thomasson, executive director of the organization.

Thomasson said that Judge McMaster's ruling was improper and the judge should be removed from office.

"This judge has not jealously guarded the vote of the people to protect marriage," said Thomasson, adding that preparations are underway for the recall. The same group was actively involved in the recall of Gov. Gray Davis who signed the domestic partner bill into law.

The attempt to remove McMaster from the bench drew an angry response from California Attorney General Bill Lockyer.

"Our courts are not bound by the dictates of focus groups, or the latest Zogby, Gallup or Field poll. They are not required to conform to the views of any special interest group. They are supposed to interpret the law and the Constitution, based on legal principles and precedent, and render rulings accordingly," Lockyer told 365Gay.com in a written statement.

"Our system of government can-

not function the way our nation's founders intended if the courts are reduced to being political weathervanes. When a group threatens to recall one judge because they disagree with a ruling, they threaten all judges. They threaten the independence of the judiciary. They should be opposed, and they should be defeated."

The recall bid also drew fire from the state's largest LGBT civil rights group.

"Because they didn't win, they are going after the character of this judge rather than the issues brought up in his ruling," said Steve Hansen, a spokesperson for Equality California.

When it goes into effect the law will provide registered domestic partners in California with most of the basic protections and responsibilities of marriage including: community property, mutual responsibility for debt, parenting rights and obligations such as custody and support, and the ability to claim a partner's body after death.

The law does not allow for joint tax filing and certain other protections under state law, and does not provide access to over 1,000 federal protections that married couples enjoy.

Transgender Asylum Case Tests U.S. Law

LOS ANGELES - A 42-year-old Transgender woman is fighting to remain in the United States where she has lived since 1979, claiming that she would be harassed, persecuted or worse upon returning to El Salvador, reported the PlanetOut Network.

According to the Los Angeles Times, Luis Reyes-Reyes escaped persecution in El Salvador, where as a 13-year-old, the youth was kidnapped by a gang of men, raped and beaten. At the age of 17, Reyes-Reyes sneaked across the border at Tijuana, and began a life of under-the-table jobs in Southern California. Reyes-Reyes has been living as a woman for at least 16 years, the Times reports, perhaps longer.

Citing court records, the Times said Reyes-Reyes was picked up on prostitution charges a dozen times starting in 1985. It was not clear how she avoided the immigration authorities for so long under those circumstances, but her luck ran out in 2002, when an immigration judge rejected her arguments for asylum and ordered her deported back to El Salvador.

Although people who have been persecuted on account of their sexual orientation or gender have at least the possibility of winning asylum in the United States, the judge here ruled that Reyes-Reyes had "failed to state that anyone in the [El Salvador] government or acting on behalf of the government tortured him."

Reyes-Reyes appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, stating as a matter of law that the immigration court applied the wrong standards to the case. Last month a three-judge panel agreed, noting that a candidate for asylum is not obliged to produce evidence of harassment at the hands of an actual government agent. It is enough that the government in question stands aside or implicitly encourages mistreatment of people on account of their identity. As the Times reports, El Salvador was included by Amnesty International in 2001 on a list of 40 countries known for "pervasive persecution" of Gays and Transgender people.

Reyes-Reyes is represented pro bono by the New York firm of Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen and Hamilton.

According to the court's order, the request for asylum must be reconsidered by an immigration board.

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UPDATE

'Tarnation' & 'Hedwig' At The Loft, Nov. 19 & 20

TUCSON - Jonathan Caouette's spell-binding debut film "Tarnation" re-imagines the whole idea of what a documentary can be.

Having filmed his life since he was eleven years old, Caouette has woven together a psychedelic, whirlwind of snapshots, super-8 home movies, answering machine messages, video diaries, early short films, snippets of '80's pop culture and dramatic re-enactments to create an epic portrait of an American family torn apart by dysfunction and reunited through the power of love.

"Tarnation," will be shown at the Loft, Friday, November 19, 7:00 p.m., ticket prices -Screening only: \$7.50 TFS members and students, \$10 General Admission, with Meet and Greet Additional \$5 Limited to 100. All events are at The Loft.

John Cameron Mitchell is the creator of the off-Broadway hit Hedwig and the Angry Inch, which he and composer-lyricist Stephen Trask have transformed into a funny, dramatic, and curiously poignant self-described "post-punk neo-glam musical" film, with extra songs and a new instrumental score.

Hedwig (played by Mitchell) was born as Hansel in East Berlin. In his twenties, Hansel agrees to undergo a sex change in order to marry a U.S. soldier (Maurice Dean Wint) and escape to America.

There's also a Hedwig Look-alike contest judged by John Cameron Mitchell with prizes for the winners.

"Hedwig" will be shown Saturday, November 20, 7:00 p.m. Ticket Prices - screening only: \$10 TFS members and students, \$15 General Admission. Tickets on Sale Now at The Loft Box Office or by calling (520) 795-0844. For additional information call (520) 322-

Killers Photographed Gay Man's Slaying

LONDON - As a gang beat, stomped and kicked a Gay London man into unconsciousness one member recorded the entire incident using a camera equipped cellular phone, reported 365Gay.com.

The revelation was made by London mayor Ken Livingstone during a public meeting Thursday night, November 11, when he was asked about the killing of David Morley.

Livingstone did not say whether the photographs had been sent to anyone during the attack or if they had since been downloaded onto a computer by the killers. The cell phone and pictures are now in police hands he said.

Morley was beaten in a London park on October 31. At least four other Gay men were beaten in the park on the same night by the same gang.

Police said that Morley's spleen was ruptured. He suffered fractured ribs and sustained more than 40 separate bruises. He died in hospital several hours later.

Five teenagers, including a 14-year-old girl, have been charged with his murder.

During a vigil for Morley, another Gay man was stabbed while riding on a London bus.

A picture of the attacker was captured by a surveillance camera. After police released copies of the picture to the media a 22 year old man was arrested.

Livingstone told the meeting that "broadly, London is a very tolerant city. There is much less racism, much less sexism than other great cities around the world. [But] when you go into our schools and colleges there is very little overt racism and sexism. There is completely open and rampant homophobia."

He said part of the reason for this was Section 28, which made it "illegal to have any discussion about homosexuality" in schools. The law has since been changed.

Livingstone said that he is working with LGBT rights group Stonewall to educate children about the Gay community to reduce "rampant homophobia" in schools.

Leaders In Eugene, Oregon Call For Calm

EUGENE - Fearing that the passage an amendment to the Oregon constitution banning same-sex marriage will result in discrimination and possibly violence against Gays and Lesbians the mayor elect and the out-going mayor of Eugene have issued an appeal for calm, 365Gay.com reported.

Jim Torrey and Kitty Piercy issued the joint statement calling for understanding and tolerance.

The letter reminds people that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation remains illegal in Eugene despite the ban on Gay marriage, and it says that everyone is entitled to their beliefs, but the mayors want to be sure everyone feels safe, and respected.

The public letter was the idea of Mayor Elect Kitty Piercy who then asked Mayor Torrey to join her in making the statement.

"I had had some calls from some folks who were feeling a little worried after the measure, needing to hear from their community that we really affirm them being here and being a part of us," Piercy tells KVAL television.

"We should try our best to let people know that we respect everyone in this community regardless of their position on this issue and that all people are respected in this city," Torrey said.

Oregon was one of 11 states Nov. 2 which passes constitutional amendment banning Gay marriage.

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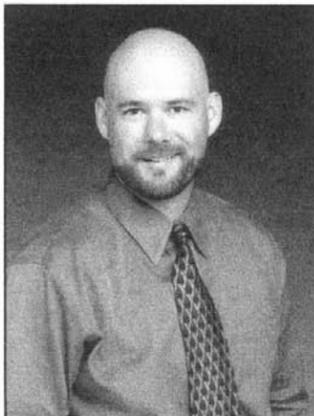
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Fundamentalist Protests Greet 'Kinsey' Moviegoers

NEW YORK - Indignant conservative groups are protesting the opening of the film Kinsey, denouncing it as "propaganda" seeking to glorify the Bisexual researcher they blame for inspiring the sexual revolution, the Associated Press reported on 365Gay.com.

"Alfred Kinsey is responsible in part for my generation being forced to deal face-to-face with the devastating consequences of sexually transmitted diseases, pornography and abortion," said Brandi Swindell, head of a college-oriented group called Generation Life that plans to picket theatres showing the film.

Kinsey, starring Liam Neeson as the pioneering professor, opened in limited release Friday, November 11 and wider in the following weeks.

Its writer-director, Bill Condon, has described the film as "a sort of litmus test for one's own ideas about sexuality."

"Kinsey was a very complex man, in some ways damaged beyond repair," Condon said. "I thought it was important to present it all, and let people form their own opinions."

Although the film portrays Kinsey as a flawed adulterer, conservative critics nonetheless contend it is too admiring. They argue that it omits unflattering details about Kinsey's interest child sexual behavior _ which they term pedophilia _ and exaggerates the accuracy of the findings in his groundbreaking sex-behavior studies of 1948 and 1953.

"Instead of being lionized, Kinsey's proper place is with Nazi doctor Josef Mengele or your average Hollywood horror flick mad scientist," said Robert Knight, director of Concerned Women of America's Culture & Family Institute.

Condon, in a telephone interview Wednesday, November 10, said Kinsey's research is open to legitimate criticism, but suggested that those denouncing his film were "confusing discussion with endorsement."

"Their real aim, by maligning him and destroying his reputation, is to pretend that the last 50 years didn't happen," Condon said. "Kinsey affected everybody's life, and I hope the film gets a little breathing room for people to see it and think about it for themselves."

Focus on the Family, an influential Christian ministry based in Colorado Springs, Colo., said in a review of the film that Kinsey mocks Christianity and condones immorality.

"To say that it is rank propaganda for the sexual revolution and the homosexual agenda would be beyond stating the obvious," wrote reviewer Tom Neven.

Focus on the Family and its allies blame Kinsey societal changes that many welcome but which they consider to be ill _ including clearing a path for candid, comprehensive sex education programs espoused by organizations like the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States.

A SIECUS spokeswoman, Adrienne Verrilli, said the sexual revolution of the 1960s would have happened even without Kinsey, as the birth control pill became widely available, Playboy magazine grew in popularity, and the feminist movement encouraged women to rethink their roles and relationships.

"There were a lot of smart, dedicated people trying to find out more about sexual behaviour," said Verrilli, though she noted that sexual research faces political opposition even today.

"We can't help people have healthy sexual lives if we don't know what they're doing," she said. "Asking people about their sexual behaviour doesn't make them have sex."

Swindell, interviewed by telephone from Boise, Idaho, said the planned Generation Life protests are intended to discourage people from seeing the film, at least until they do their own research on Kinsey's life and works.

She said protesters would be handing out anti-Kinsey pamphlets and carrying signs with slogans like "Criminal, Not Hero."

"If this was a true documentary, they would have included more negative information," Swindell said. "They're sugarcoating the issue, trying to make him look like a genius who all of humanity should be grateful for."

Robert Peters, president of the conservative watchdog group Morality in Media, saw an advance screening.

"Kinsey wasn't wrong about everything," Peters said. "No question there was an unhealthy shame about sex that prevented people from getting help. ... There were a lot of people who were suffering."

"A film could have been produced that would have shown that side of Kinsey but also shown the hell that he released," Peters added. "That's part of Kinsey's legacy, AIDS, abortion, the high divorce rate, pornography _ and there's not anything in the film to connect him with it."

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School Board Rejects Demand To Ban G/L Books

SOLON - A dispute over the use of Gay themed books in a Solon, Iowa middle school has ended with the school board refusing to remove them, 365Gay.com reported.

Seven parents last month demanded that the book teacher Sue Protheroe had put on a booklist be taken off and that Protheroe be ordered not to use Gay themed books in the future. (story) Only one of the parents had a child in the class.

The two books in question "Am I Blue?" and "In the Time I Get" are highly acclaimed and recommended by the publishers for children 14 or over. Protheroe teaches grade 8.

"Am I Blue?" features a Gay fairy godfather, who helps a boy overcome homophobia at school. The other short story, "In the Time I Get," is about a man who befriends a young man dying of AIDS.

The parents said the stories promote homosexuality. Protheroe said her intentions are to promote tolerance,

not teach about whether homosexuality is right or wrong.

The district's reconsideration committee reviewed the stories and heard parents' concerns. After two meetings, the committee agreed that the material is age appropriate and should stay in the curriculum.

"If your goal out there is to take your personal views and instill them in your children and also force them on all children, then the road to the state school board is open to you in Des Moines," board member Ben Pardini said.

Parent Greg Boyd has said he would appeal the board's decision to the state.

The school district already has policies for opting out of class sections for religious reasons. It also has adopted additional policies for teaching a controversial issue that will be included in the 2004-2005 student handbook.

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WHAT NOW?

By Jerry D.

Hello readers! This week's news regarding the resignation of several cabinet positions has the white house in a unique position. With everything going at a blinding speed regarding the war in Iraq, President Bush has a chance to take the sinking ship and head it to dry dock for some much needed repairs. Nothing though has as much ability to make history as the news regarding Iran halting its nuclear research.

Those of us who have been on only one side of the division this nation has faced lately know how Iran was viewed by the current administration. Iraq was almost too easy to claim, and after September 11th, the nation was willing to accept the fact that we "needed" to remove the regime that was in control there. The weapons that were never found, the risk against our safety that was never proven and the direction of our military to be a striking force put us all in a tight bind.

Now with Bush at the presidency though, the fear of Iran being the next on his list seemed almost guaranteed. The president was already playing cowboy and daring Iran to continue on a path of nuclear ability. He was standing there like a professional wrestler on television, telling Iran that they would be getting a smack down if they chose to not heed the warning. As soon as the election was decided, I was getting ready to form my own organization to prepare antiwar demonstrations here and abroad.

Here comes Iran though, after only hours of negotiating, claiming that they will halt their nuclear program in the matter that the United Nations have been asking for the last couple of years. The optimism grew quickly for the scaling back of President Bush's list of who is evil in the world. Could it be that our soldiers would not have to face danger in yet another mideast country.

My optimism faded though when Prime Minister Tony Blair visited

the White House last week. He came with a plan and a prayer that Bush would take a leading role in the recent passing of Palestinian leader Arafat.

The United States can pick up the ball and get peace in the Middle East, thus making a safer, more secure world for all of us. This is the very thing that Bush stated was the ultimate result for us invading Iraq in the first place. Bush must have forgotten about that part of his speech though, because Blair left back for England with an empty handshake and nothing more. The news of Iran doing what seemed like the will of the free world does not ease my mind for peace when it comes to the current administration. The news barely made the middle of my delivered paper, and online the biggest news sites seemed to treat it like it was the saving of the local dog from a well. Meanwhile, the Palestinian people are losing faith that the United States really wants them to have their own homeland, as the passing of Arafat seems to have been swept under the rug of world news.

Readers were warned by various publications, that the new Bush term would bring more war, less safety and even more hatred towards America than ever before. Its seems that Bush is right on track for that grim future. If he does nothing to bring peace to Israel and Palestine, he would be once again turning face on what he claimed in the past for his bidding. If Iran is still seen as a threat, even though they have no way of attacking no one even close to them, Bush would be taking us on a path that mirrors that of a certain European country in 1939.

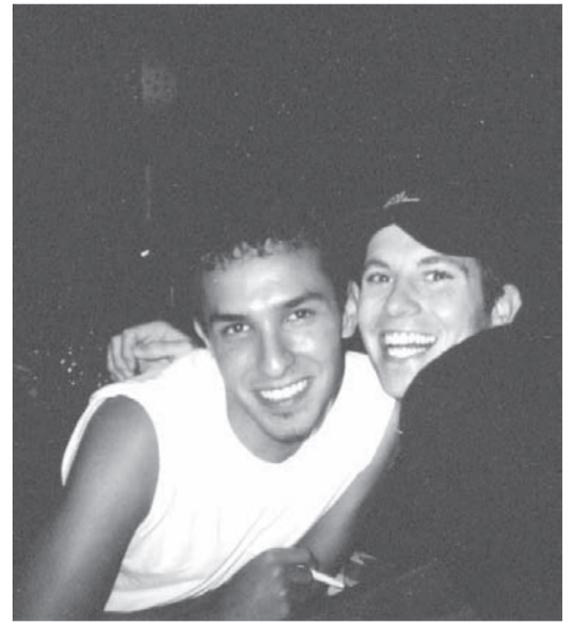
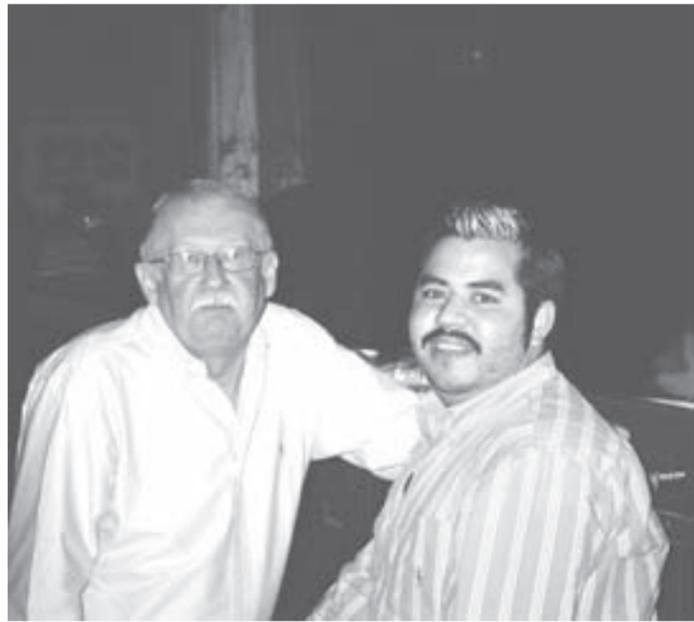
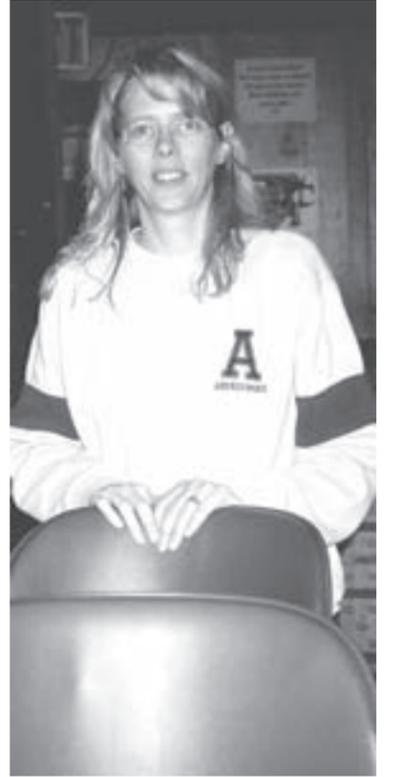
When cabinet members start leaping from their offices like they have been, it should be enough of a sign that things are not going right. When protests continue to occur world wide for America to stop playing global bully, we are not heeding the worlds calls. Bush is starting off on the wrong foot with the rest of the universe and it seems that after four more years of him, we are going to need a real divine intervention to clear up the mess that fearfully seems inevitable for us to come. Is it too early to start impeachment rumors yet? Have a great week!



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A Voice In The Wilderness

by Brad Spaulding

I'm back to writing again. I've had a few people tell me over the years that I'm pretty good at it and that I should write on a regular basis. "I'd like to," I always say with a hint of modesty, "but I really have nothing to write about."

Well, it was about 9am on November 3, 2004 when I learned that John Kerry had conceded the presidency to George Bush that I realized, "Gosh, I think I have something to write about."

I just feel this tremendous need to try to make sense of it all - not just where things went wrong, but everything surrounding it, too. You see, in my family, I'm considered the "black sheep" — not because I'm a homosexual, but because I'm a Liberal Democrat. It was simply unacceptable to them, and my family would almost always try to argue me down or goad me into changing parties. I'd, of course, always try to give back as good as I got, so I'd try bolster my positions by taping the weekly political shows off of PBS, and that's how I got hooked. I now watch "The MacLaughlin Group" as religiously as a born-again Christian watches "The 700 Club". I am officially a political junkie.

Sure, you can call me a freak if you like, but I know for a fact that I'm not the only one. How else do you explain the boffo box office performance of "Fahrenheit 9/11" - the first political documentary to earn over \$100 million domestically? For liberals like me, the movie was a milestone. It was how we found each other, and it gave us a point of focus - a lot like all those "Star Wars" geeks that you can't steer clear of Michael Moore helped bring our blood to a steady boil and got us full-on ready for a Battle Royale come November. Then we'd all watch the polls every day afterward and proceed to wail and gnash our teeth when our boy Kerry didn't crack the 50% mark. Nevertheless, we remained faithful, counting the days

until we could oust the tyrannical despot. As for myself, I hunkered down in my bunker one week before Election Day to watch the two DVDs that I felt would impact the outcome of the vote: "Fahrenheit" and "Margaret Cho: Revolution". I was ready.

The morning after Nov. 3 brought a hangover approximately the size of Ohio. I couldn't believe it, and once again I was not the only one. We were stunned and slack-jawed. In lots of previous elections, there was always some common ground between the two camps, but now the duality of "Us vs. Them" has never been clearer. The same three questions resound in my head over and over again: "What is wrong with this country? What don't they understand? What do I not comprehend about them?"

Only one movie comes to mind now when I go over the aftermath of the results: "Pink Floyd - The Wall". One scene in particular hits the nail on the head: just after our hero - a rock star named Pink - goes through a violent mental breakdown by trashing his rather plush hotel room, we then see him shakily yet carefully lining up his drugs, his empty beer cans, his busted guitar and the broken shards of the shattered TV screen along the floor. When I first saw this movie many years ago, I asked my friend, "What is he doing?" "He's getting his life back in order," he replied. It made perfect sense then, but now, dear friggin' Lord, it's the word made flesh. I feel somewhat akin to Pink now, and that's a little scary. So if you happen to see me out somewhere, tapping away at a computer keyboard trying to get one of these articles in on time, it might look a little like I'm delicately arranging beer cans in a hollowed-out television.

RECOMMENDED DVDs: "Fahrenheit 9/11", "Margaret Cho Revolution", "Pink Floyd - The Wall."

House Of Commons Okays Partner Bill

LONDON - The House of Commons voted to back the Civil Partnership bill on Tuesday night, November 9 while simultaneously rejecting a Conservative amendment viewed by many as a "wrecking tactic."

The vote means the United Kingdom is a major step closer to legally recognizing same-sex couples with many of the same rights afforded to married couples. The bill has yet to be approved by the House of Lords, Gay.com UK reported.

Members voted 381-74 against a Conservative-backed amendment that called for the rights and responsibilities offered to Lesbian and Gay couples to be extended to siblings, caregivers and other people in non-sexual relationships.

Tabled by Conservative backbenchers Edward Leigh, Christopher Chope and Gerald Howarth, the amendment claimed that the bill on offer would create injustices for such people, despite being designed to end discrimination against same-sex couples.

However, a majority of MPs, as well as major Gay rights groups, claimed the amendment was an attempt to derail the bill and a protest against the legal recognition of same-sex relationships.

It was tabled despite a similar add-on being defeated in the House of Lords earlier this year.

Minister for Equality and Women Jacqui Smith told the chamber that the amendment would create legal nonsense.

"Civil partnership has not been designed as a legal relationship for people who are related to each other," she said. "It is a new legal relationship for same-sex couples so that they can have the legal recognition that they cannot currently get."

The bill will now return to the House of Lords, where it is hoped that supporters will mobilize and ensure it is passed before the end of this parliamentary session.



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Let me ask you something...
Since when is bigotry a moral virtue?

Back in 1906, a leading American theologian published a best-selling book justifying discrimination against African Americans, saying they were creatures of uncontrollable "sensuality." Similar racist theories were spouted by politicians like the notorious "Pitchfork" Ben Tillman who toured the country under the banner, "Negro equality in politics means social equality, mongrelization, hellfire and damnation!" Belief in the innate immorality of black people, buttressed by selected scriptural references, formed the basis for slavery, segregation and lynchings.

Now come the homophobes, spouting the same hate-filled rhetoric about a different minority group. "Homosexuality is immoral, unscriptural and unhealthy," we are told. It is a "sin," like theft and drunkenness, according to Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott.

The Pitchfork Tillmans of today warn that the "homosexual lobby" wants to bring about the destruction of the American family. Just like their racist antecedents, they are trying to whip up hatred and intolerance in order to build public support for anti-gay laws.

Sure, they can try to hide behind morality, but we all know a bigot when we see one. Think about it

Ira Glasser
Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union
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New York, New York 10004
www.aclu.org

HOROSCOPES

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Jupiter and Venus make a match this week and trine dreamy Neptune. What a stroke of luck! However, with Jupiter's excessiveness and Neptune's fogginess, take care that this warm and fuzzy ride doesn't lead you on a wilde, slothful detour. Hmmm.... on second thought....

ARIES (MAR. 21 - APR. 20)
Partnerships and the subtle art of balance and sharing become more important to you as Jupiter and Venus trine Neptune. Proud Rams recognize that they cannot continue to go through life alone and either make it their business to bolster and strengthen current relationships or seek a suitable soulmate. You can strike a match with a certain bosom buddy. Do I smell fire?

TAURUS (APR. 21 - MAY 21)
While it may not sound especially exciting, Gay Bulls can make substantial headway in any job, detailed task or health regime as Jupiter and Venus trine Neptune. You accomplish the impossible with relatively little effort and experience lasting impact for any genuine push. Senior staff takes notice of you. Show them what you've got. Make your mark indelible, not water soluble.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
Jupiter and Venus trines Neptune and brings all rowdy pink Twins to the brink of excess in any festive Outlet. Tap your Gay muse or plan a plethora of parties. Sometimes it's refreshing to go off on a tangent and dive into the deep end. But you may also realize of the limits of your consumption. Remember, your 26th beer generally has no extra zip and is primarily water.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
Pink Crabs connect with family and build bridges to greater understanding when Venus and Jupiter trine Neptune. It is possible to bring two warring sides to the peace table now, but don't compromise your pride to reach an agreement. At best, this will be a time of healing and reconciliation. At worst, agree to disagree and exchange monthly phone calls.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)
Proud Lions are all mouth as Jupiter and Venus trine Neptune. Express yourself proud and queer with strangers as well as partners. You can charm just about anyone now. As long as you're scoring points, why not make a name for yourself in certain circles. It's amazing what a few choice words can do in the right letter or in a willing ear. Breathing heavily may help. too.

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)
There is something very profitable about the Jupiter and Venus trine with Neptune. Queer Virgins can buy and sell with the best of 'em when the bulls and bears seem to heed your every command. You feel in the pink with all that green. But there is a lesson to be learned from this as well, cousin; generosity is the key to happiness. Therefore, please make mine hard.... cash.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)
Jupiter and Venus play in your own sign and trine Neptune. Spread the charisma around and get your face Out in front. However, you may find that Jupiter's expansive influence also means that you risk expanding your...ahem... physical attributes as well as your social standing. You can haul it to the gym and muscle it up or advertise that there is just more of you to love.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)
If there's something stinking in your closet, relax and rejoice; Venus, Jupiter and Neptune pry the door open and clean it Out. What a refreshing blast of prideful air! Proud Scorps learn a few lessons about truth, honesty and the disadvantages of a closeted life. Make up for lost time; you've nothing to lose but your "straight" jacket and that qiana shirt from 1990.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)
The Jupiter, Venus and Neptune trine heats up your social scene and brings friends out of the woodwork. Celebrate your pride with hundreds of your nearest and queerest compadres at your favorite watering hole. If the planets push you to excess, remember to enlist a decorated soldier to escort you home after a night of rowdiness. Give me 25 push-ups, privates!!

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)
Gay Caps can affix their shark fins and navigate the corporate waters with the best of them when Venus and Jupiter trine Neptune. Just when you were ready to throw in the towel, you begin to see a little payoff for all your hard work. Since your career will go a little smoother, why not toss off the towel around lovers. This way, you'll have something to show for it.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)
Do you suddenly hanker to see the world? Pack your bags when Jupiter and Venus trine Neptune. Aqueerians can expect global adventures with exotic strangers. For those creative souls who allow their minds to wander as well, use this time to expand your knowledge with classes and lectures. Maybe you'll have to stay after school for a private lesson....

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MAR. 20)
Count your prideful blessings when lucky Jupiter and romantic Venus trine Neptune this week. Guppies can feast at the all-you-can-eat sexual open buffet so pack your spices and tie on your bib. Can it be possible to have too much of a good thing? Bite your tongue, cousin! Whatever your appetite demands, it can be satisfied. Avoid undercooked pork, though.

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Wingspan launches the Anti-Violence Project – a community initiative to assist lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender victims of discrimination, domestic violence, sexual assault and hate crimes.
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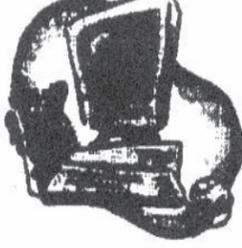


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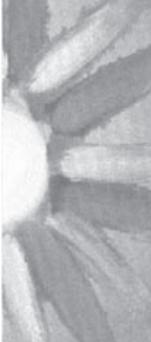
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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

by Lee Thorn

Exploring The Inexplicable

The recent presidential election repealed some very old political axioms and failed to supply any useful replacements.

The oldest was, "People vote their pocketbooks." If that had been the case, the incumbent would have gotten less than ten percent of the popular vote. The revised axiom would have to be something like, "People vote their pocketbooks except when they don't."

Another old axiom now ripe for the dustbin of history is, "A presidential election with an incumbent is a referendum on his first-term performance." This incumbent's first term has been a disaster by any rational standard. The middle class, more precisely what used to be the middle class, has been economically battered. The national debt is out of sight. International regard fo00 the U.S. has hit its all-time low.

And none of this had to happen! It certainly didn't happen because two buildings were brought down by two airplanes. As sad as that was, it killed fewer people than died in a single battle of the Civil War.

In their desperate search for an explanation of the election's outcome pundits have thrown out words including "likability" "conservative" and "values." They re all real stretches.

A smirking snickering swaggering moronic frat boy persona may be cute and funny to a mom or another frat boy, but when you see it on a middle-aged man with a serious job "likable" isn't the first word

that comes to mind.

I'm not an apologist for the conservative political philosophy but I've read enough about it to know that it does not embrace spending several unborn generations of Americans into debt or starting a war without a solid plan or sufficient forces to win it. By these standards the incumbent is about as conservative as a drunken sailor on 24-hour shore leave.

The pundits used to use "values" as a code word for anti-Gay bigotry. Now that they've given themselves permission to talk openly about anti-Gay bigotry, "values" has become a garbage category that includes everything and really means, in pundit talk, "all the vague stuff that we can't really specify."

Another desperation theory is that Americans are too ignorant of politics to really understand what's going on. But anyone who's ever balanced a checkbook understands that more going out than going in eventually spells trouble. And anyone born after Napoleon left Moscow knows that when you're taking more casualties than you're inflicting on your enemy and you're not gaining new real estate in the process, you are losing a war.

The pundits are working on four assumptions that are so basic that they might not even be aware of them. What if these assumptions are false?

1. Everything can be accurately explained.
2. Voters know the actual reasons for why they vote the way they do.
3. Voters tell pollsters the truth.
4. Pollsters are able to devise questions that can accurately frame the issues and truly explain voter behavior.

It might be wise for those of us who are interested in presidential politics to step back from this race and concede the possibility that we're in a situation, one not uncommon in even the physical sciences, where not one of our theories seems to fit the known facts very well. It might also be wise to concede the possibility that we're not going to come up with a decent new theory before the next presidential election.

So what can the Democrats do? If you can't figure out why you lost, and if you're not likely to ever have a worse record of incumbancy to run against, maybe the whole idea of running against as opponent is obsolete.

Maybe it's time, in the purely strategic interest of winning, to completely forget about the opposition and recreate yourself. Instead of taking a bunch of stands on issues that you hope will catch on in the North or the South or wherever, how about going back to the drawing board and trying to come up with a coherent political philosophy?

If taking isolated stands and trying not to offend anyone and taking isolated shots at your opponent have gotten you nowhere, perhaps inventing a bold new and grand design for the future is the way to go.

And I m not talking about FDR's New Deal. The "philosophy" behind that was simply to "stop the bleeding." I'm thinking of going deep, of asking what life itself is about, what the role of society should be in our lives, and what the role of government should be in society.

[Thorn welcomes comments. Suggestions for future columns, and tips on local skulduggery that ought to be exposed. Write to Box 85571, Tucson, AZ 85754. e-mail: Doid3@aol.com]

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NON-BAR CALENDAR

Groups / Clubs / Organizations /

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Terry for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Terry at 577-2396.

#2 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Willie hosts Bridge Night. If you don't know how to play, they'll teach you-and it's a very relaxed atmosphere. For reservations and directions, please call Willie at 297-8756.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 pm - Join Karol for a night of Poker. If you don't know how to play, but would like to learn, this is the place. For details and directions, call Karol at 744-9017

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Day of Remembrance - The Southern Arizona Gender Alliance (SAGA) will be sponsoring Tucson's observance of the National Transgender Day of Remembrance at 4:30 p.m. at Catalina Park, (North 4th Avenue). There will be a candlelight ceremony at the park followed by a march down Fourth Avenue and a reception at Wingspan.

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 8:30 a.m. Join Jack & Mike & Ed for a morning of Volleyball. This is played for fun, and you'll get to know some nice guys as you play. For details and directions, please call Jack/Mike at 881-5733 or Ed at 407-5733.

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

#1. Tucson Prime Timers, Lunch/Business Meeting - Noon, Home Town Buffet, 5101 N. Oracle Rd.
#2. Tucson Prime Timers, Food & Drinks - 5:00 p.m., Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Kate Clinton will be performing at the Muse Community Center, 516 N. 5th Ave. in a benefit for Wingspan. Clinton has been a prolific performer, writer, and activist in the LGBT Community for more than 20 years. She has performed as a standup comic throughout the country and recently released her 7th and latest comedy collection, titled "The Marrying Kind". Doors open at 1:00 p.m.. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. They are available at Antigone Books.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join us for the "putting out the Newsletter" Night. For reservations and directions, please call Arlan at 323-7414.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:30 p.m. Join us for the MSN Premiere of "Saved" (after Newsletter Night). For reservations and directions, please call Arlan at 323-7414.

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 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. Join the men of MSN for an evening out at Rainbow Planet Coffee House. This is a chance to have a cup of coffee and chat with the men of MSN. For more information, please contact Ray at 247-2716.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Richard and T. Jay for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Richard and T. Jay at 881-7919.

#2 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 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.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25

#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 1:00 p.m. Join your host, Lloyd, for MSN's Thanksgiving Potluck Celebration. MSN provides the turkey and ham, you bring a side dish to share. Please contact Lloyd for information and directions at 792-8537.

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

BAR CALENDAR

Of Upcoming Events

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

IBT'S - 9:00 p.m., The "DivaLicious Show" hosted by Bunny FuFu. Dance with DJ Q after the show until closing.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19

COLORS FOOD & SPIRITS - Grand Opening Weekend begins with Happy Hour all weekend. Live jazz featuring Arthur Migliazza will perform from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Then a very special show begins at 10:30 p.m. "An Evening With Pepper Mashay". Admission is \$15 at the door for the show, which includes your choice of one schnapps or pucker shot or one well cocktail. Hors d'Oeuvres will be served before the show. Pepper Mashay is an international singing diva who currently performs and speaks at Circuit Parties all over the world. She has a huge following and several hit recordings. Space is limited and you must be 21 to attend.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20

COLORS FOOD & SPIRITS - The Grand Opening celebration continues. Champagne Brunch served 11:00a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Happy Hour prices all weekend. At 9:30 p.m. its showtime hosted by Tabitha Lovall with special guests Lucinda Holliday and Janee Starr. No cover.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Line Dance Lessons with special guest instructor Geri from Cash Inn Country in Phoenix 7:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m.

IBT'S - The FuFu Revue 'Drag Survivor', hosted by Bunny FuFu. 8:30 p.m.

WOODY'S - Bears of the Old Pueblo Beer Bust today from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

YARD DOG SALOON - Prime Rib Dinner served at 7:00 p.m. Only \$8.00! One of the best deals and dinners in town!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21

COLORS FOOD & SPIRITS - Grand Opening weekend winds up today with Happy Hour Prices all day, Champagne Brunch from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Arthur Migliazza performing live jazz through dinner 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. No Cover.

IBT'S - It's Men Magazine's 20th Anniversary and the men are on tour across country to celebrate. 8:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m. Gift bags for the first 250 through the door! Door prizes throughout the night. Come out and help the boys celebrate!

WOODY'S - 'Drag Bingo' at 8:00 p.m. with Janee Starr and Veronica Halliwell.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25 - THANKSGIVING DAY - VENTURE-N - Thanksgiving Potluck. Spend the holidays with your friends. Chef Jim is cooking the Turkey. You bring a favorite side dish or a dessert. See the bartender to sign-up your dish.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

YARD DOG SALOON - Appearing live on the patio here, the band "Ice-9" will perform at 8:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9

VENTURE-N - Join the celebration of Venture-N's 13th anniversary. More later.

DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

COLORS - Fabulous Brunch 11am - 2pm with complimentary mimosa. Dinner 5-10pm..

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 10:30 am. Chuckwagon Breakfast 10:30 am - 1:30 pm, includes Bloody Mary or Mimosa. \$2 Smirnoff Sunday. DJ Jake playing country favorites 8:30 pm to 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.

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, Mims or Screws \$5. \$1.50 Bloody Marys, screwdrivers, Mimosas; Happy Hour 11am-8pm \$2 well or domestic beer Patio Bar open 5-close. Pick-up Beach Volleyball games 5-?. \$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 - 3pm.

MONDAY

COLORS - Open 11am for lunch; 5pm for dinner. Happy Hour 4-7pm. Domestic beer and well cocktails \$2.25

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. Monday Munchies 3 - 8 pm with reduced prices on appetizers. Pool Tournament 6:30 pm - \$3 entry fee, bar matches pot. Draught Beer Specials for players.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-7pm. All drink specials not available during special events.

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 6pm. Free pool til 4pm. \$2.75 Skyy Martinis 4-8. 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. Beer Bust 3-7pm.

TUESDAY

COLORS - Open 11am for lunch, 5pm dinner. Happy Hour 4-7pm. Domestic beers and well cocktails \$2.25. Karaoke 10:30pm to close w/Johnny DJ.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. Tequila Tuesday: \$2.00 well margaritas, 50¢ off call tequilas. Karaoke with Calabaza Cabeza Karaoke 8 - 11:30 pm

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 VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. 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. Beer Bust 3-7pm.

WEDNESDAY

COLORS - Open 11am for lunch; 5pm dinner. Happy Hour 4-7pm Domestic Beers or Well cocktails \$2.25.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. Free Pool all day. Draught Beer Specials all day. Beginning couples dance lessons with Amanda 7:30 - 8:30 pm. Country DJ Jake plays 8:30 - 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.

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. Beer Bust 3-7pm.

THURSDAY

COLORS - Open 11am for lunch, 5pm dinner. 4-7pm Happy Hour Domestic Beers or Well cocktails \$2.25. Karaoke 10:30 - close with Johnny DJ.

HOWL AT THE MOON -Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. \$2.00 Mexican Beers all day. Karaoke with David Z from 8 to midnight.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hours Noon-7pm, DJ 9-1 All drink specials not available during special events.

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio open 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Pool Tourney 7pm. \$3 entry. Special prices for players. Steak Nite (4th Thursday of each month). Bring your own or get it here \$5.

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. Beer Bust 3-7pm.

FRIDAY

COLORS - Open 11am for lunch. Dinner 5-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm domestic beers or well cocktails \$2.25.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. Line Dance Lessons 7:30 to 8:30 pm. .

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

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio open 6pm. Free Pool til 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. Beers Bust 3-7pm. Kennel open 9pm.

SATURDAY

COLORS - Open 11am for lunch; 5-10pm full dinner.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 10:30 am. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. \$3.00 Cheese Burger & Fries all day. Country DJ with the best in country dance music 8:30 to close

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.

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio Bar open 3pm. Patio Beer Bust 3-7pm. DJ 9-1.

WOODY'S - Open 11am \$2 well or domestic beer. Til 7pm. Patio Bar opens 5pm. 5-9pm 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. Beer Bust 3-7pm. Kennel Open 9pm.

NOTICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

YOUNG AND GAY?

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

The **TUCSON Chapter of PRIME TIMERS WORLDWIDE** invites Gay or Bisexual men and their admirers to join and share Prime Timers fellowship. We welcome mature men (and admirers) who wish to become involved with planned and future Prime Timers (TPT) activities. Meetings luncheons and dinners are held monthly. For dates, times and information call 529-2269, 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 (GPGLCC) P.O. BOX 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2097. E-mail: webmaster@gpglcc.org or call (602)225-8444.

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

GET NAKED with TNTucson MEN! We're a social and recreational club. Have you ever longed to camp, swim, hike or play with others who enjoy the same, dropping all the masks and pretensions? We're for you! TNTucsonMEN@nethere.com, P.O. Box 12176, Tucson 85792 or call 514-9894

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.

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.



CLASSIFIED ADS ARE 25¢ PER WORD, \$5.00 MINIMUM CLASSIFIED ADS WILL NOT BE TAKEN BY PHONE

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.

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 690-9565 for information and a newsletter. Check the Non-Bar Calendar in the Observer.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THEATER / DINNER / ETC! Non-Smoking Lesbian Network meets every 3rd Saturday night of each month. If you'd like to meet women 35+ (flexible) and socialize in a smoke-free environment 888-8010 before 10:00 p.m. The group dines out and attends shows or movies. Now in their 16th year! (2nd in Tucson). **SOUTHERN ARIZONA GENDER ALLIANCE (SAGA).** The Southwest's largest transgender and gender-variant advocacy organization. Speakers and panelists available. General meetings monthly on the 1st Mondays at 7pm; Dezerz Girlz MTF Support) meets 2nd Mondays at 7pm; Dezerz Boyz (FTM Support) meets 3rd Tuesdays at 7pm. Also serving partners, youth, intersex, service providers and allies. Call (520)867-0083 for more info.

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)906-0669 and or Mona Garcia 256-8728.

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

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

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

"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 Maggie's Pizza on 4th Avenue to discuss the Gay-themed book read by members the previous month.

THE MAN TO MAN Social/erotic education club is the tantric men's group that offers passionate friendships, fun activities and sex education. Marc 881-4582

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

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.

MEN'S KINK DISCUSSION GROUP (Open to all who identify as male and are 18 or older) meets 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at Desert Dominion, 3843 E. 37th Street, Tucson, AZ. (Map available at www.desertdominion.org) For those who are kinky or just curious. No fee, contributions are appreciated, but not required.

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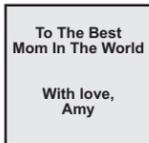
Has someone special – two or four-legged – left a lasting impression in your heart and life?

Do you have a friend to whom you would like to give a permanent gift?

The Humane Society of Southern Arizona offers several ways to make a lasting impression – a permanent legacy of a lifetime.

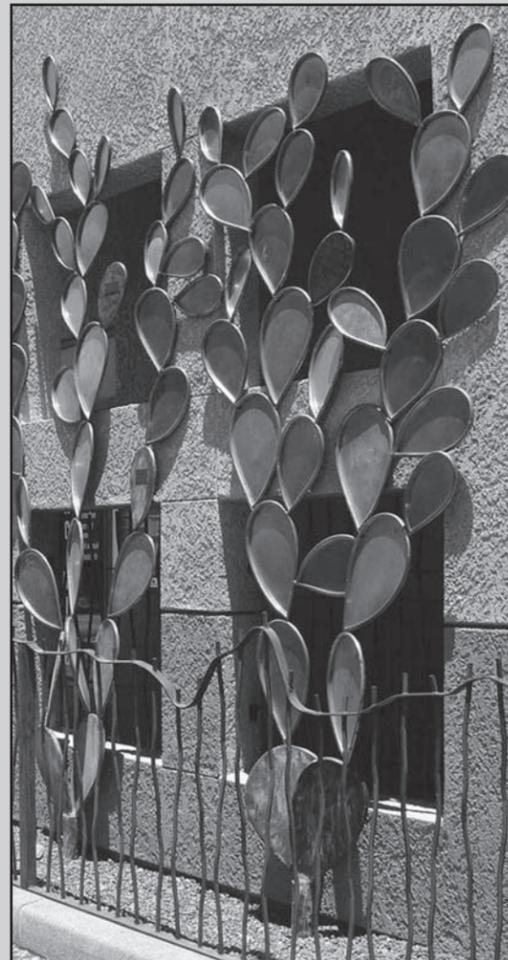
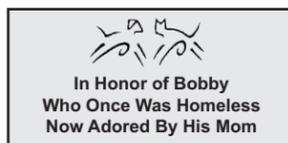
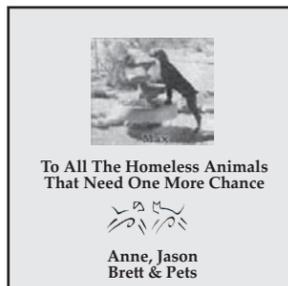


Honor and remember your loved ones with a beautiful 8" x 8" butter cream-toned ceramic tile, imprinted with charcoal lettering on the **WALK OF HOPE.**



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This dramatic sculpture offers three different sizes of pads. Each pad is hand-crafted of copper with a striking teal patina finish.

Donors may customize the pad of their choice with an engraved brass plate containing their personalized sentiment.

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WALK OF HOPE

Message length: 150 spaces maximum

8" x 8" Tile \$187.50

DEDICATION WALL

Message length: 150 spaces maximum

Option: Pawprint HSSA logo

Full Tile With Photo \$750.00

Full Tile Without Photo \$487.50

1/2 Tile (6" x 12") \$300.00

1/4 Tile (6" x 6") \$150.00

CACTUS OF COMPASSION

Message length: 75 spaces maximum

The approximate sizes of each pad are:

Small: 6 1/4" x 9 1/2" \$1,500.00

Medium: 7 1/2" x 13 1/2" \$2,625.00

Large: 10 1/2" x 17 1/4" \$3,750.00

Send this completed form with message to:

**HSSA, Attn: Membership,
3450 N. Kelvin Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85716.**

For more information, call 321-3704, ext. 120, 164, or 169, or visit us at www.humane-so-arizona.org.

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Amount: \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MC <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly installments			

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MESSAGE LAYOUT

Please Print Legibly, One Letter or Space Per Dash. 25 Spaces Per Line, 6 Lines Maximum.

