



Observing Tucson And  
The Greater Arizona Community

# OBSERVER

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WEEKLY OBSERVER

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## Supreme Court Rejects G/L Marriage Case

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The US Supreme Court Monday, November 29, declined to hear a challenge to the Massachusetts court ruling that opened the door to same-sex marriage, 365Gay.com reported.

The decision effectively sidesteps the Gay marriage issue. The justices, as is the tradition of the court, did not give a reason for declining to hear the case.

The court had been asked by conservative groups to overturn the year-old decision by the Massachusetts Supreme Court legalizing Gay marriage.

The Florida-based Liberty Counsel said in its brief to the court that the US Constitution should "protect the citizens of Massachusetts from their own state supreme court's usurpation of power."

The suit was filed on behalf of Robert Largess, the vice president of the Catholic Action League, and 11 state lawmakers.

In a brief filed by the city of Boston in opposition to Liberty Counsel attorney Merita Hopkins argued that Liberty Counsel had not shown they suffered an injury and could not bring a challenge to the Supreme Court.

Massachusetts Attorney General Tom Reilly told justices that voters can overrule the Supreme Court by adopting a constitutional amendment.

## Majority Of Canadians Now Support G.L Marriage

TORONTO - As the number of Canadian provinces that allow same-sex couples to wed grows a new poll shows that for the first time a majority of Canadians support Gay marriage, 365Gay.com reported.

The Pollara survey, taken for Rogers Media, shows that if a direct vote by all Canadians were held regarding same-sex marriage, 52% would allow Gay couples to officially marry and to register their marriage with their province like other couples. Four-in-ten (41%) would vote no to such a proposition, while seven percent are undecided.

The highest level of support for same-sex marriage is found among residents of Quebec (61%), followed by those in British Columbia (56%) and Ontario (50%). All three provinces allow Gay marriage.

People in Atlantic Canada are divided equally ( yes 45% vs. no 45%). Only one of the 3 Maritime provinces, Nova Scotia allows Gay marriage.

The Prairies are the only region of the country where a higher proportion of residents would vote no to a proposition to allow same-sex marriage (50% vs. yes 42%). Saskatchewan and Manitoba allow

It was the second setback for Liberty Counsel which had earlier asked to court to block the the state from beginning Gay marriages. In May the group asked the court to intervene and block clerks from issuing marriage licenses to Gay couples in Massachusetts.

Liberty Counsel is involved in a number of challenges in other states to laws granting rights to same-sex couples.

After the Supreme Court decided in May not to become involved in the Gay marriage issue some 3,000 same-sex couples have wed in Massachusetts.

Lambda Legal said it was not surprised by today's decision not to take up the case.

"This was a weak and misguided legal effort from right-wing anti-Gay groups that never really stood much chance of being heard at the Supreme Court," David Buckel, Lambda Legal Marriage Project Director said.

The decision does not end the Gay marriage issue for the high court.

Legal challenges to bans on same-sex marriage are underway in a number of states and it is considered likely that the Supreme Court will ultimately wrap the case together.

same-sex marriage, but Alberta has vowed to fight any attempt to force it permit Gays to wed.

Age appears to be a factor in support for allowing same-sex marriage. A majority of younger (66%) and middle-aged (53%) Canadians would vote to allow same-sex marriage, while only one-third (35%) of older Canadians would share this position.

Women are more likely than men to say they would vote to allow same-sex marriage (56% vs. 47% respectively).

Support for allowing same-sex couples to marry increases with educational achievement. In fact, while a majority of Canadian with post-secondary education would vote yes (university degree 61%; community college 52%), an opposite pattern is found among those with only a high school education or less ( no 52% vs. yes 43%).

Pollara is one of Canada's largest polling companies. Rogers media owns MacLeans Magazine and other publications plus radio and television stations across the country in addition to being the Canada's largest cable and cellular phone company.

## Matthew Shepard's Parents Accuse ABC Of 'Selective Editing'

NEW YORK - The parents of Matthew Shepard have accused ABC news of sacrificing "years of professional journalistic ethics and values for a stab at revisionist history ... and ratings."

Judy and Dennis Shepard say that the 20/20 documentary on the Murder of Matthew Shepard was purposely distorted and twisted the facts.

The program, which aired Friday night, November 26, featured prison interviews with the two men sentenced to two life terms each for the killing. Aaron McKinney and Russell Henderson pleaded guilty in 1998 in a plea bargain to avoid the death penalty, claiming at the time that they killed Shepard because he was Gay.

The pair now say they were addicted to methamphetamines and targeted the college student because they thought he had money they could use to buy drugs. Both men denied to 20/20 that the killing was a hate crime.

"[We] were dismayed and saddened by the tabloid nature of the show, its lack of serious reporting of facts in evidence, and the amateurish nature of asking leading questions to the people who were interviewed," said Judy Shepard in a statement.

"I, too, was asked by 20/20 for an interview and agreed to do so to ensure that all of the facts were correctly stated. My only stipulation was that our legal advisor Sean Maloney, Matthew Shepard Foundation Board member and former senior White House staffer, had to be included in the interview to share his legal knowledge and expertise regarding Matthew's murder.

"He was quite eloquent in stating the facts pertaining to Matt's case, his knowledge of hate crimes in general, and in debunking 20/20's attempt to rewrite history. Sean was deleted from the interview entirely.

"The editing by 20/20 of my interview seems to leave out all of my relevant comments regarding the potential bias of the show and my deliberate restating of the facts of the case clearly ended up on the cutting room floor.

"My remarks were reduced to a few very personal maternal comments taken out of context to make it appear as if I agreed with 20/20's theories. That couldn't be farther from the truth."

Judy Shepard also accuses the program of "subjective editing" in an interview with Dave O'Malley, a Captain with the City of Laramie police force at the time, and the lead investigator in the case working in tandem with Rob DeBree, the lead investigator for the Albany County Sheriff's Department, to bring the case to trial and to provide the evidence necessary

to convict both Russell Henderson and Aaron McKinney.

Shepard said in her statement that O'Malley gave ABC a detailed account of the case, describing the elements of hate and Gay bias that were found during the investigation.

"Dave's comments were severely edited," Shepard's statement said. "Perhaps they were left out because he did not give Ms. Vargas the answer(s) she needed to maintain her 'new' theory concerning the murder. One of the most glaring omissions in the piece was the transcript of Aaron McKinney's in-custody interview which took place a few days after the murder. This occurred before any 'line of defense' had been established by legal counsel for the two defendants. Had that document been included, it would have shown an un-rehearsed and unemotional anti-Gay account of the events before, during, and after leaving Matt tied to the fence."

## Court Rules Schools Can Bar Military Recruiters

NEW YORK - An appeals court on Monday, November 29, barred the Defense Department from withholding funds from colleges and universities that deny access to military recruiters, Advocate.com reported.

The third U.S. circuit court of appeals said a federal law known as the Solomon Amendment infringes on the free speech rights of schools that have limited on-campus recruiting in response to the military's ban on Gays. Ruling in a lawsuit brought by students and professors at New Jersey law schools, a three-judge court panel said that the threat of a withdrawal of federal funds amounted to compelling the schools to take part in speech they didn't agree with.

"The Solomon Amendment requires law schools to express a message that is incompatible with their educational objectives, and no compelling governmental interest has been shown to deny this freedom," the court wrote.

By a 2-1 vote the panel overturned an earlier decision by a federal judge that the people challenging the law were unlikely to prevail at trial. Similar suits have been filed around the country, but Monday's ruling represented the first time a court had enjoined the government from enforcing the law.

# UPDATE

## Desert Voices Holiday Concert December 4-5

TUCSON - The Top Ten Reasons to go to the Desert Voices Winter Concert:

10. You get to wear your sparkly holiday clothes, and see Desert Voices' new sparkly costumes!

9. You get to shop at Antigone's or Desert Pride while you pick up your tickets!

8. You can munch on home made cookies while learning about other cultures and their traditions, and how they relate to our GLBTS lives!

7. You can get some more of your shopping done for the holidays right at the show! Buy discounted tickets for the Desert Voices April show and silent auction, 'Our True Colors'!

6. The ASL interpreters from Pima Community College are very theatrical and fun to watch!

5. Hear us sing about peace, hope, joy...and fruitcake! You'll be supporting live GLBT arts in Tucson.

4. The show will give you some great laughs with numbers from Alegria, the women's barbershop quartet, singing a parody of "Silver Bells", or our famous Diva, Lou Ann Darras, working the 'Doll Aria'.

3. Win a knitted winter hat, a rum cake, a spa package, symphony tickets or a pear and cranberry "Christmas pie" in the raffle!

2. Get to hear two new Namoli Brennet songs, "Sugarplum Dreams", and "Angels in the Snow".

1. There will be some Sexy Santas, slinking across the stage and Xena will be making an appearance!

Desert Voices presents their Winter concert, "Naughty....Or Nice?", on Saturday, December 4, 7:30 p.m. at The Muse Community Arts Center, 516 N. 5th Avenue, with a second performance on Sunday, December 5, 2 p.m. This Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Supportive Others (GLBTS) Chorus, will both celebrate and skewer a wide variety 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!

To hear this amazing group in concert, tickets may be purchased from Antigone Books, 411 N 4th Avenue, Desert Pride, 611 N. 4th Avenue, or by calling 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](http://www.desertvoices.org).

## 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](http://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, [website@tucsonobserver.com](mailto:website@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.

## GLBT Grief & Loss Support Group

### Formed

TUCSON - When faced with difficult situations, many of us often deny the needed expression of grief. Even though the pain of grief can be healing, we sometimes avoid the grief process or grieve alone.

In an effort to provide a safe space to facilitate the grief process, Wingspan is pleased to announce the formation of a monthly 'Loss and Life Transitions' support group. This facilitated peer-support group is a safe place to acknowledge the process of grieving for GLBT and allied people.

Please join Briget Nicholson as she facilitates this Loss and Life Transitions group each month on the first Tuesday, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the Wingspan Annex, 739 N 4th Ave — 2 doors down from Epic Cafe. The non-therapeutic group is free and open to everyone. For more information on the group, please contact Briget directly at (520) 622-7664.

## RGMC 'Tidings Of Joy' Concert Dec. 11-12

TUCSON - Reveille Gay Men's Chorus (RGMC) is a singing ensemble of Gay and Gay-supportive men who:

Present excellent choral performances. Honor diversity and individual worth. Celebrate the unique qualities of Gay culture. Nurture a caring chorus family. Join Reveille at their "Tidings of Joy" holiday concert, December 11-12.

Tickets are available at Antigone Books & Desert Pride on 4th Ave. For more information, please visit: [http://www.reveillegmc.com/reveille\\_schedule.htm](http://www.reveillegmc.com/reveille_schedule.htm).

## Gertrude Stein Salon Chanukah Extravaganza Dec. 11

TUCSON - All Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Jews and their partners, friends and families are warmly welcome to this Chanukah, Saturday, December 11, 8:00 p.m., 1422 N. Painted Hills Road. Children are particularly encouraged to attend.

Please bring a wrapped white elephant gift: something you have already or buy for \$10 or less. Chanukah foods are also welcome but not required: latkes, jelly donuts, wine, or any other foods that are kosher dairy (anything but meat). Please also feel free to bring a menorah and candles to light.

For more information, call (520) 405-4841 with questions; RSVP if possible, or E-mail - [mhtrauner@yahoo.com](mailto:mhtrauner@yahoo.com), but come regardless.

## Developer Wants To Raze AIDS Memorial In Montreal

MONTREAL - A real estate developer has applied to the city to buy the park that houses the AIDS Memorial. The developer wants to demolish the memorial and build a restaurant, 365Gay.com reported.

Parc L'espoir lies in the heart of Montreal's Gay village. Fifteen years ago the lot was vacant land, and Gay activists set up an impromptu memorial to those who had died of HIV/AIDS in the city.

After years of lobbying the city reluctantly declared the lot a park.

Now, the memorial is in danger of coming down. But, not without a fight.

The city has proposed moving the park to a nearby site behind the Beaudry metro station, but Gay community leaders say that would be like moving a cemetery.

"It seems that the decision has already been taken," Michael Hendricks told the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Calling it a desecration Hendricks and other Gay leaders say they'll fight to save the park.

"Just like a [cemetery]," Helene Jolicoeur said. "You just don't take a [cemetery] to somewhere else, just to please someone that wants to make more money."

"We've received a letter from the city saying that everyone's agreed — well, we never agreed and the community hasn't



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Contact Jess Pabón at 628-7223 or [jpabon@saaf.org](mailto:jpabon@saaf.org)



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Informing the Community

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# Local High School To Present 'The Laramie Project' Dec. 2-3 & Dec. 9-10

TUCSON - Despite a little-known state law restraining teachers from discussing homosexuality in a positive light, young people are finding ways to open their own dialogue regarding people's beliefs, reported Jennifer Sterba of the Arizona Daily Star.

Opponents of the law say the increasing number of students seeking places for discussion demonstrates a need for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender teens to talk in an environment where they feel safe. But proponents of the law say teachers have no business discussing what they say is not a positive lifestyle according to many religions.

Regardless, the young people most affected by the law are afraid to speak out on the record for fear of reprisal against themselves or their families. So they're starting or attending already-existing Gay Straight Alliance groups, high school organizations aimed at educating youths on Gay rights and discrimination.

Rincon/University High School senior Tarreyn Van Slyke, 17, will perform in her school's production of the documentary-style play "The Laramie Project."

Some of her friends have promised to come see her on opening night Thursday. Others are a little leery.

"Some are going, 'I don't know if I want to spend my night crying,'" Van Slyke said.

"Others think this is something that needs to be shown, so we can talk about it," she said.

The play examines the aftermath of the murder of Matthew Shepard, a Gay college student in Laramie, Wyo. After what was deemed a hate crime and the subsequent conviction of two men also in their early 20s, the town was forced to reflect on its small, rural population of

roughly 26,000 - and the belief that something so horrible couldn't happen in this corner of small-town America.

"When people ask me why I'm doing this play, I feel like putting a different word in," said drama teacher Maryann Green. "What would our community be saying if the word was 'Jew,' 'black' or 'Muslim'?"

Green said her class isn't trying to change anybody's mind. But she and her students say they want to see discussion take place on the many themes central to the play: hate, homosexuality, civil disobedience, the death penalty.

"I've known a lot of kids who are shocked to hear the story," Green said. "They didn't know something like this could happen in this day and age."

But it does.

A 20-year-old University of Arizona student was stabbed in the back in February 2000 as he stood outside a cafe that caters to Gays and Lesbians. A 24-year-old Gay man was found beaten near East Fifth Street and North Hoff Avenue in June 2002. He died at University Medical Center.

A 37-year-old man suffered a broken arm when he was lured out of a Gay bar and jumped by several men in September 2003. A 24-year-old man was beaten after leaving a Gay bar on North Fourth Avenue in January of this year. All four were investigated as hate crimes by Tucson Police Department, according to Star archives.

Further clouding the issue of discussing discrimination or hate crimes against Gays is the state law that precludes teachers from discussing homosexuality in a positive light. A report released last summer by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight

Education Network gave Arizona a failing label for the law, which the network says stigmatizes people who are Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or Transgender, sometimes referred to as "GLBT."

The law stipulates that no district shall include in its course of study instruction that promotes a homosexual lifestyle, portrays homosexuality as a positive alternative lifestyle, or suggests that some methods of homosexual sex are safe.

State Rep. Linda Gray, R-Phoenix, disagrees with the network report's conclusion.

"Nobody should be discriminated against," Gray said. "I would be opposed to anybody who bullies or puts down another student who is Gay. But it's not a positive lifestyle. To portray it as something very positive would be against what this Legislature in the past has kept on the books. . . . It's based on a belief from every religion."

Part of the law is medically inaccurate, said Alan Storm, assistant superintendent for the Sunnyside Unified School District. Storm is the founder of the Tucson Chapter of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network and has supported students forming Gay Straight Alliances in Sunnyside schools.

"We've actually gone and testified several times before hearing committees in Phoenix," Storm said. "All we've suggested is they strike that paragraph and put in that students shall be given medically accurate information."

"The right wing does not want that paragraph out of there," he said.

Gray said teachers should not be discussing any forms of birth control - for heterosexual or homosexual students.

"I hope all teachers are promoting abstinence sex education and not promoting that high school students be engaged in sexual activities, whether it's between a girl and a boy or a girl and a girl," she said.

Storm argued that misinformation can lead youths to not use condoms - putting them at risk for sexually transmitted diseases.

J.C. Olson is the youth program coordinator for Wingspan, a local GLBT advocacy group.

"We feel strongly that young people need comprehensive education to make healthy decisions," she said. "Without that information, young people don't have the tools to assess the risks before deciding whether to engage in sexual activity and how to make themselves safer if they do."

There's also an emotional impact on young people, Olson said.

"If you're a young person trying to figure out you're OK and someone tells you that you can't talk about it, that builds up shame," she said. "You're struggling, and you're already feeling isolated."

"Young people are the ones in the end who are going to have to make decisions," Olson said. "They're going to need enough confidence and information to feel like they're making active decisions. That's what the system misses out on when they put restrictions on what people can talk about."

While they say they've never heard of Arizona's law on classroom discussion of homosexuality, many students - GLBT or heterosexual - are creating their own safe havens for information and/or discussion through Gay Straight

Continued on Page Twelve

**TUCSON'S HOTTEST GAY NIGHT CLUB**

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## Gay Algerian Faces Death If Deported, Group Says

LONDON - A Gay Algerian refugee at risk of deportation from Britain back to his home country could be murdered by Islamic fundamentalists, he said Thursday, November 25, 365Gay.com reported.

"I fled Algeria because the Islamists beat me and threatened to kill me," he said.

"Being deported back to Algeria would be a nightmare. It is a very dangerous place for Lesbians and Gay men. People like me get killed. I could not cope with always looking over my shoulder, fearful of being murdered because of my sexuality," he added.

Fearing retribution he has taken the pseudonym Ramzi Isalam.

Gay rights group OutRage is backing Isalam's claim for refuge in the UK.

It released a letter sent to Home Secretary, David Blunkett urging that refugee status be granted.

"The Algerian state is notoriously repressive towards its homosexual citizens," the letter said. "The arrest and torture of Gays, by the police and the armed forces, is commonplace. The victims have no legal redress.

"This persecution is compounded by the rise of an armed fundamentalist movement, backed Islamist vigilantes. They pose a particularly grave threat to the security of Gay and Bisexual Algerians, who are routinely targeted for beatings, torture, disappearances and often extrajudicial execution.

Two of Ramzi Isalam's Gay friends were murdered by the Islamic fundamentalists of the Group Islamique Arme in 1994 and 1996, Outrage said.

He grew up in a district that was a stronghold of the GIA, where Gay people live in fear of beatings, torture and murder, and witnessed the stoning of two Gay men in the street in 2001.

In 2002, he was found having sex with a man and was reported to the GIA who sent members to his house. Isalam was beaten and threatened with death, Outrage said.

In February 2003 he fled to Britain and claimed asylum. Later that year, his application was refused by the Immigration Appeals Tribunal.

He is now making a renewed application for asylum on the grounds that he fears persecution, and possible murder, if he returns to Algeria.

"The armed insurrection and terrorist campaign by Islamic fundamentalists poses an extreme danger to every Lesbian and Gay Algerian," said Outrage spokesperson Brett Lock.

"Homosexual prisoners are routinely beaten and raped with impunity, both by other prisoners and by prison guards," he added.

## Gay T-Shirt Bans Head To Court

WEBB CITY - Cases involving T-Shirts with Gay messages are heading to court in two states, 365Gay.com reported.

In Webb City, Missouri, the American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit in federal court today against a high school that twice punished a student for wearing t-shirts bearing Gay pride messages and banned him from wearing the shirts to school again.

Attorneys for 16-year-old Brad Mathewson also asked for a court order to stop the school from further censoring his speech.

"Because I'm Gay, my school is trying to take away my Constitutional right as an American to express myself, Mathewson said.

"The school lets other students wear anti-Gay t-shirts, and I understand that they have a right to do that. I just want the same right," he said. "I think tolerating each other's differences is a key part in teaching students how to become good citizens."

Mathewson was disciplined twice in October by Webb City High School officials for wearing t-shirts supporting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender people, and was later suspended after school officials refused to meet with his mother without the Mathewsons' attorney present.

Although Mathewson had worn one of the shirts to school at least six times before without incident, Principal Stephen P. Gollhofer now claims he was concerned the t-shirts might offend other students. Students with opposing beliefs on the same issues are allowed to express their views, as anti-Gay t-shirts and bumperstickers are common in the hallways at Webb City High School, the ACLU said.

Meanwhile, in Poway, California attorneys for a local student who sued his school district after being suspended for wearing an anti-Gay shirt to school said Tuesday that they are asking a federal appeals court to impose an injunction that a lower court denied.

Tyler Chase Harper, 16, filed the suit against the Poway School District in June, accusing it of violating his civil rights.

Harper wore the T-shirt on The National Day of Silence in April. When he refused to remove the T-shirt he was suspended and subsequently filed the lawsuit.

The T-shirt was hand-lettered with the words "I Will Not Accept What God Has Condemned" on the front and on the back it read "Homosexuality is Shameful" and "Romans 1:27," a reference to a Bible passage.

The school district had tried to have the suit dismissed on the grounds school administrators were trying to diffuse a potentially dangerous situation.



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# PLAY SAFE

On October 12, 1998, a University of Wyoming Student, Matthew Shepard a 21 year-old student, died after being savagely beaten to death because he was Gay.

Matthew had been lured from a campus bar shortly after midnight on October 7, by two men who told him they were Gay. He was driven to a remote area near the Sherman Hills neighborhood east of Laramie, tied to a split-rail fence, tortured, beaten and pistol-whipped by his attackers, while he begged for his life; he was then left for dead in near freezing temperatures. A cyclist who found him on Snowy Mountain View Road at 6:22 p.m., some 18 hours after the attack, at first mistook him for a scarecrow. He was unconscious and suffering from hypothermia. His face was caked with blood, except where it had been partially washed clean by tears.

Matthew died at 12:53 a.m., at Poudre Valley Hospital in Fort Collins, Colorado, with his family at his bedside. Hospital officials said Matthew had a fracture from behind his head to just in front of his right ear and a massive brain stem injury which affected his vital signs, including his heart beat, body temperature and other involuntary functions. There were also approximately a dozen small lacerations around his head, face and neck. He was so badly injured in the attack that doctors were unable to operate. He never regained consciousness after being found, and remained on full life support.

While Matthew lay dying in hospital, just a few miles away, a group of students from Colorado State University (CSU) thought it would be funny to ride atop a homecoming float that featured a scarecrow figure designed to resemble Matthew's battered body. The figure was wearing a sign that said "I'm Gay." An

# COMMENTARY . . .

## ABC: The Anti-GLBT Broadcasting Corporation

obscene message was painted across the back of the scarecrow's shirt. The students didn't mean to be insensitive. It was supposed to be a joke. They were just ordinary, average guys, having a bit of fun.

On November 26, 2004, the ABC news-magazine 20/20, with their "investigation" by co-host Elizabeth Vargas, (shown at 9:00 p.m. on KGUN 9, the Tucson ABC affiliate) of the "facts versus the myth" of the Shepard murder took it further with their hatchet job since journalistic standards were trumped for sensationalism and ratings.

There are several important sources and pieces of information that the 20/20 piece ignores in its quest to undermine the notion that anti-Gay bias contributed to the 1998 murder of Matthew Shepard by Aaron McKinney and Russell Henderson.

There is no discussion of the details of Aaron McKinney's confession to the police, where anti-Gay bias is central to his characterization of the events of Oct. 6, 1998. Nor is there any mention of Rob DeBree, the investigator who took that statement and was one of the key witnesses as to the investigation and the confession at McKinney's trial. No mention of the plea bargain that spared McKinney's life, nor any mention of Judy and Dennis Shepard's role in

that. And no mention of the provision of that plea bargain where McKinney and his attorneys agreed not to speak to the press about this case. No mention of the more than 200 interviews over two years conducted by Moisés Kaufman and the Tectonic Theater Project for The Laramie Project — nor the fact that some of the accounts offered 20/20 conflict with those offered Kaufman.

Doesn't 20/20's decisions to turn a blind eye to the facts of this case, to not include interviews with those who can substantiate them, and to evade any discussion of the ethical issues involved in circumventing one of the key provisions of McKinney's plea bargain raise some serious doubts as to the credibility of this piece?

20/20's piece relies heavily on the perceived credibility of Aaron McKinney, who is now claiming to have lied about the role anti-Gay bias played in his decision to target and kill Shepard. Yet it also encourages audiences to view as untruthful McKinney's claims that he did not know Shepard prior to the crime and that he did not have sexual relations with other men.

So how can 20/20 rely so heavily on a source whose statements need to be seen by the audience as truthful in some situations and untruthful in others?

Kristen Price, who now claims she made up the story about McKinney's homophobic rage against Shepard, not only shared her story with 20/20 back in 1998, but

she also testified about it in October 1999 at McKinney's trial.

Assuming Price can be taken seriously when she says she lied back in 1998 and 1999, did she commit perjury in McKinney's murder trial? Why does 20/20 not explore this? And why does 20/20 put forward as fact the statements of someone who's admitted to deceiving and lying to them in the past?

20/20's case rests on interviews with witnesses like:

Doc O' Connor, who, according to interviews conducted for The Laramie Project and for Vanity Fair, met Shepard only four days before his murder (casting serious doubt on his claim, reported by 20/20 reporter Elizabeth Vargas, that "Matthew was a friend close enough to share some of his secrets, like Matthew's worries about HIV") — and who was viewed as so lacking in credibility that neither the prosecution nor the defense called him as a witness at McKinney's murder trial;

Tina LaBrie, who knew Shepard for only a short time and whose characterizations of Shepard have been questioned by others who knew him;

"Jean", an anonymous bartender 20/20 does not identify by last name, who claims to have seen Shepard and McKinney together;

Ryan "Bopp", a former drug-using associate of McKinney's who claims to have given McKinney a .357 Magnum (the same kind of gun used in

Shepard's murder) in exchange for

**Continued on Page Seven**

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**POLITICS 2004**  
by Mark R. Kerr

**'The Real Reason Is?'**

Despite the hype, histrionics, hysteria and misinformation from the 1993 Hawaii same-sex marriage court case ruling that resulted in state and federal legislation dealing with such unions and coining the term "Defense of Marriage," and the acronym (DOMA), all pertaining to something that didn't exist in the country at that time, the struggle for equality for committed, same-sex relationships continued, with advances made in the battle with the radical-right:

Most Fortune 500 companies, as well as other firms offer domestic partner benefits to the same-sex spouses and families of their employees;

Many governmental entities, including the City of Tucson in 1997, Pima County government in 1997-98 (after a protracted court battle), recognizes that some of their employees are in committed relationships, some even raising children, with their same-sex domestic partner and have extended medical and dental benefits to these families;

Other governmental entities, including the City of Tucson in 2003, have set up domestic partner registries for people in committed, same-sex and opposite sex relationships, granting the rights and benefits the respective entity can offer;

Cities, such as San Francisco and New York to name two, have ordinances mandating firms that wish to do business with the city must offer domestic partner benefits to the same-sex spouses of their employees; and,

Thanks to legal action by the Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) in Vermont (coining the new political term "civil union") in 1993 and Massachusetts in 2003, two states that have equal protection clauses in their state constitutions and no DOMA's on the books, committed, same-sex relationships are recognized by state government with all the legal rights and benefits.

With these advances in business, success in the court room, and the advancement in the respective governmental entity, this battle over civil rights won't be won "in a day," but over a long, period of time.

Despite these advances, in Arizona, as well as nineteen other states,

battles over the recognition of same-sex relationships by governmental entities, not the perception the radical right will try to push, "Gays and Lesbian marrying in your church" has begun and the losses at the polls, in the 11 states on November 2, and Missouri and Louisiana (the court case not withstanding) earlier in 2004, should serve as a significant wakeup call for the community and movement, forcing the realization that the necessary groundwork for such massive social change at the state and local level has not been done and must start now, through volunteering and donations to organizations to fight these proposals, drafted by legislators who would rather deal with imaginary mores than deal with the real problems facing them.

That is the real reason for all these proposals, money and votes and thanks to the radical right and their media minions, they will continue to push this "snake oil" on the ever gullible public but the community join the fight against their culture war by volunteering, speaking up, out and donating funds to organizations in the effort to thwart those who would make us a collective body of second-class citizens. For more information about such organizations, go online to [www.thetaskforce.org](http://www.thetaskforce.org), the Web site for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force which lists organizations working for LGBT equality in each state and sign up, donate and speak out while we still have a voice.

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The Time For Change Has Come .....

## COMMENTARY... CONTINUED FROM PAGE FIVE

Continued from Page Five  
drugs.

Elaine Baker, who claims to have spent an evening in the back of O'Connor's limo with McKinney and Shepard several weeks before his murder—contradicting O'Connor's statements to Vanity Fair and to the Tectonic Theater Project that he first met Matthew only four days before his death).

20/20's case also centers on the newly reinvented stories of a convicted murderer and a source who claims to have lied to 20/20 in the past and, if true, has potentially committed perjury as well.

Taken separately and together, how can a set of witnesses this unreliable be used as the foundation for any credible news story?

20/20 does not put forward a single piece of solid evidence to back its assertion that drug use was the primary factor in Matthew Shepard's murder. Their entire case is based on speculation; sensational repetition of unsubstantiated claims; interviews with people like Aaron McKinney and Kristen Price, whose credibility is extremely suspect; and contextually questionable soundbites from the prosecutor in the case.

Why would 20/20 so aggressively—and sensationally—attempt to rewrite the factual record of this case without a single piece of incontrovertible evidence to support their claims?

20/20's promotion of the show focuses on whether Shepard knew McKinney and Henderson prior to his murder.

In the final moments of the third segment, Vargas says, "There are a lot of facts the mythology surrounding this case got wrong. If you think Matthew Shepard never met his killer before that night, you may have to think again." Yet 20/20 presents no credible evidence that they did, only the accounts of three sources—Ryan Bopp, Elaine Baker and "Jean"—whose credibility is extremely questionable.

Why, with nothing but speculation or contradictory information by unreliable sources to support it, does 20/20 make this sensationalistic angle one of the tentpoles of its report and its publicity strategy?

20/20 depicts Matthew Shepard as a drug user, troubled, depressed, suicidal, etc., based only on accounts from unreliable sources.

Why would 20/20 feel it necessary to characterize the life of Matthew Shepard in this way when the depiction has no connection to the show's attempt to advance a new motive for Shepard's murderers?

It is well known that Harper's magazine published an in-depth (and GLAAD Media Award-winning) cover story on Shepard's murder back in 1999 that considered how methamphetamine abuse may have intersected with the homophobia and other factors that contributed to Shepard's murder. McKinney's alleged use of methamphetamines was also raised as part of his defense strategy—an angle that was reported on extensively in the media.

Why does 20/20 suggest that the possible influence of drugs/methamphetamines on this case has not been

previously explored by the media? And why does it not acknowledge these previous examinations.

Elizabeth Vargas interviewed Judy Shepard ostensibly to get her reactions to the claims made by those Vargas had interviewed for 20/20. Yet Judy's soundbites make it appear as though she did not have any problem with 20/20's claims. Also, Judy Shepard's interview was conducted on the condition that 20/20 simultaneously interview Sean Maloney, Judy's attorney and longtime adviser. Maloney was also critical of 20/20's premise and its decision to enable McKinney to violate his plea bargain agreement, but none of Maloney's comments—made on the record to 20/20—are broadcast.

At the end of the piece, Vargas attempts to suggest that Judy Shepard even agrees with the premise of 20/20's piece by setting up (in voice-over) a soundbite from Judy by saying, "Even Matthew's mother says her son's life and death have been mythologized." Yet Judy's quote only focuses on her perception that her son was an ordinary young man.

20/20's premise is that Matthew Shepard's murder is more complicated than it seems. But their piece drives the viewer in the opposite direction, attempting to sell audiences on a simplistic notion that if McKinney and Henderson were under the influence of drugs, then anti-Gay bias could have played no role whatsoever in their decision to target, beat and murder Shepard.

Ironically, and most hurtfully, the piece is designed to imply that hatred of Gays is created by Gays trying to seek attention for themselves. Thus the "God Hates Fags" protestors at Shepard's funeral were drawn by the media attention created by Shepard's friends. And the most notable thing about the funeral is how Shepard's friends, dressed as angels with giant wings, tried to block out the signs and angry speech of the protestors. Then they cut to a shot of Shepard's father, reading a statement at the funeral; the harsh voices of the anti-Gay group can be heard in the background.

So here's the calculus of Gays and hate, according to Vargas: Gays wrongly allege that Shepard's death was a hate crime; anti-Gay protestors come to Laramie; Gays try to block them out and fail.

This is all offered up in the spirit of "facts" but was another hate crime committed against Shepard, something the GLBT community should not let go unanswered not just for Matthew but for Philip Walsted, Mark Fontes, Richard Heakin and all victims of hate crimes.

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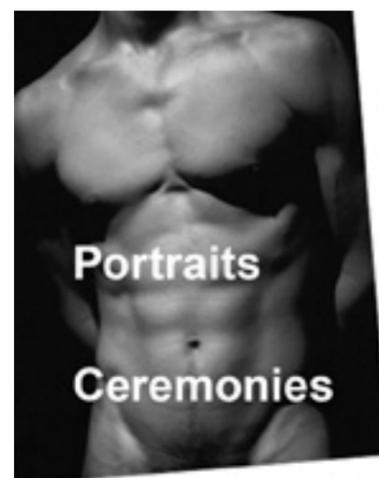
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**UPDATE**

**Around The Gay World. . . . .**

**U.N. Report: Global HIV Spread Widens**

UNITED NATIONS - The number of people infected with the AIDS virus worldwide has reached a new all-time high of nearly 40 million, and the infection rate is also the highest ever, according to an annual report on AIDS released Tuesday, November 23, by the United Nations and the World Health Organization, the PlanetOut Network reported.

The researchers said the statistics indicate a "massive effort" is needed to widen the battle against the disease.

The report estimated that, by the end of 2003, 39.4 million people had contracted HIV (news - web sites), the virus that causes AIDS, and 4.9 million people will have been infected in 2004, the most of any single year.

AIDS-related deaths will reach an estimated 3.1 million this year, researchers reported, the highest death toll in the 23-year history of the disease.

The report said the most dramatic increases were occurring in Asia and Eastern Europe, with infection rates spreading fastest among women.

In the United States, where the disease has historically hit hardest among Gay and Bisexual men, men who have sex with men continue to represent the largest proportion of new infections, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Other high-risk groups in the U.S. include youth and people of color, particularly African Americans, who make up only 13 percent of the population but account for more than half of new infections.

Paul Feldman, the director of public affairs for the National Association of People with AIDS, criticized the government's AIDS prevention efforts under the Bush administration.

"The CDC's implementation of new programming priorities moves money away from providing prevention services to those most at risk, including and especially young men who have sex with men," he told the PlanetOut Network.

Of the government's prevention focus on those who are already infected with HIV, Feldman added, "It's bad to defund or under-fund existing programs providing much-needed services to those most at risk."

The Bush administration has pledged to spend \$15 billion over five years to fight AIDS worldwide.

Feldman said the administration's global AIDS prevention plan focuses on sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean, and therefore also falls short, particularly in light of this latest global AIDS report

"This report hammers home that AIDS is a problem all over the world, particularly in Asia and Eastern Europe," he said. "And I think it shows the limitations of President Bush (news - web sites)'s emergency plan for AIDS relief."

The international report was released in advance of World AIDS Day, which is commemorated each year on Dec. 1.

**Gay Powerlifter Wins Silver In World Finals**

LONDON - A Gay athlete has taken the silver medal at the World Powerlifting Finals, boosting him to the no. 2 in the sport's world ranking, Gay.com Uk reported.

Chris Morgan was competing in the finals for the first time, and was representing England. His lift meant he pushed the current world champion and the U.K.'s top powerlifter out of the medals.

This makes him one of the most successful Gay athletes competing at an international level today.

Morgan admitted Tuesday, November 23, that the final was the "biggest test of my career so far, competing amongst some of the strongest men in the world."

He lifted 237.5 kilo at squat, 112.5 kilo at bench and 242.5 kilo at deadlift. The total was 592.5 kilo (1,306 pounds).

The medals follow a year of success for Morgan, who became the first British out Gay man to compete in an "elite" sport for more than a generation at the British Weight Lifters' Association (BWL) British Championship Final in June.

Despite walking away without a medal then, he says his success has seen him beat personal bests again and again.

Talking to Gay.com U.K. earlier this year, Morgan said that despite initial fears he had not encountered too much homophobia in his sport. "I'm in a very down-to-earth, working-class sport — without a doubt I'm training with some of the hardest men in the country — and simply no. I haven't," he said.

"I suppose I earned my stripes long ago, but I do always try and remember that I'm probably the first Gay man they've ever seen to move that weight. I've got to remember that this is a first for them," he said. "And probably a little bit mind-altering because I don't fit the usual Gay stereotype."

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## Gay Cops Accuse LAPD Of Continued Bias

LOS ANGELES - Despite a 1993 pledge to end discrimination Gay officers say the Los Angeles Police Department has done little to fulfill that promise, 365Gay.com reported.

The Los Angeles Times, in an in depth examination of the force in the ten years since Sgt. Mitch Grobeson won a court settlement requiring the city to provide Gay and Lesbian officers a discrimination-free workplace, reports that the "department can be a hostile, even frightening place".

"Most Gay officers are still in the closet," Sgt. Mitch Grobeson, 45, who is now retired from the force, told the Times.

"Those who are openly Gay are working in an environment filled with fear."

The paper spoke with 16 Gay officers, five who have retired.

They told the Times that being openly Gay slows promotions, makes discipline more likely and jeopardizes careers. Openly Gay officers, they said, are not welcome in the vice, juvenile, metro, SWAT, organized crime or anti-terrorism units.

The Gay officers cited specific incidents of discrimination, including slurs, harassment and rejection for better assignments.

Some officers said only a few

colleagues, including immediate supervisors, knew they were Gay. "Most requested anonymity, fearing more discrimination, including retaliation, if they complained publicly," the Times reports.

One officer who would let the Times report his name was Alan Weiner.

Weiner, 45, a training officer in the Van Nuys Division, was accused of making inappropriate remarks about sodomy and searching crotches for guns. At an administrative disciplinary Board of Rights hearing, Weiner was found not guilty. But by then he had been transferred, demoted and had his pay cut. He was charged again, this time with failing to follow directions. He was acquitted a second time, but his rank and pay were not restored until after he went to court.

Another officer who would speak on the record was Sgt. Robert Duncan, 42, a Medal of Valor winner at headquarters. His sexuality was revealed by an ex-lover who accused him of harassment. Duncan was put under surveillance, then accused of unexplained absences. He was relieved of duty. Ultimately, a Board of Rights found that his only transgression had been leaving work early one afternoon and getting a full day's pay. He was suspended for five days, then told his former job no longer existed.

## Gay Man Elected Mayor In Matthew Shepard's Home Town

CASPER - City councilman Guy Padgett will become Casper's first openly Gay mayor and its first mayor under 30 years old, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

Padgett, 27, was informally voted in as mayor for next year by the city council Tuesday, November 23.

"I look forward to representing my community and city council in the year to come," Padgett said after his fellow city council members unanimously chose him.

No other council member expressed a desire to be the city's next mayor before the informal vote was held.

Casper's mayor is largely a ceremonial position. The mayor is the spokesman for the council, runs council meetings and, along with the vice mayor, sets the agenda for the meetings.

Padgett will formally take up his new leadership position at the first council meeting of 2005, which is scheduled for Jan. 4.

Padgett said he was deeply affected by the murder of Shepard. Two had gone to high school together. When Padgett moved back to Casper from Yale University, Shepard was part of his circle. "We weren't that close," said Padgett. "But it felt very personal when he died. It hit me very hard."

Shepard was beaten and tied to

a fence on a country road near Laramie, Wyoming where he attended University. He died several days later in hospital. Two men are in prison for the killing.

Padgett said he was relieved to get the whole mayoral election over with, even though he did not receive any negative feedback from the community due to his sexuality or his age in the past few weeks.

"I think people have been very kind and very supportive and I appreciate that," he said.

Padgett added that he has not been approached by any Gay groups to be some kind of a spokesman for them, nor has he been contacted by any special interest media about becoming Casper's mayor.

Despite being a man who will set two big mayoral firsts in Casper, Padgett said he does not see himself as a trailblazer.

"I think I am just trying to serve my community in the best way I know how," he said.



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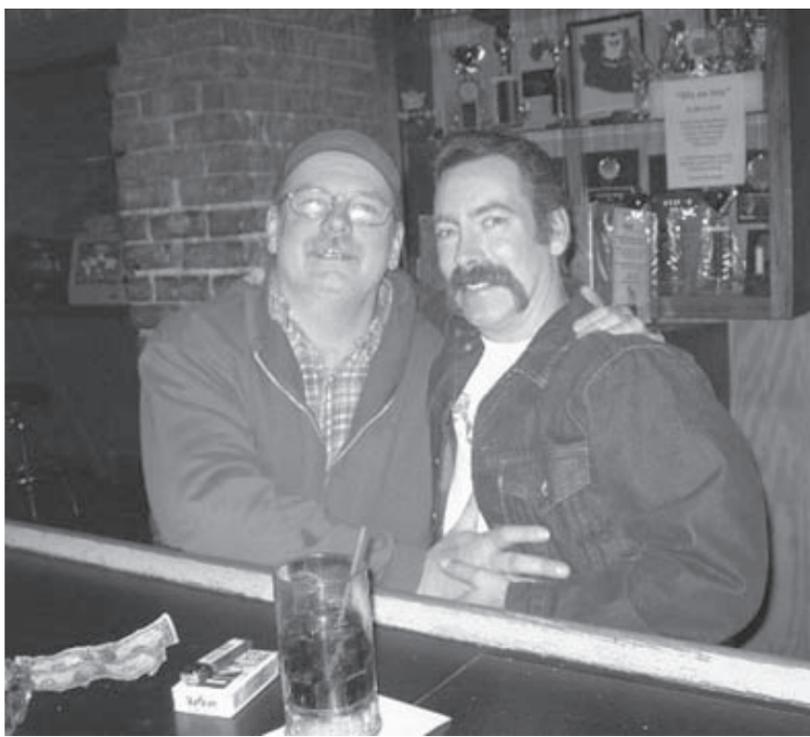
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# Washington State Supreme Court Told G/L Marriage Equals Equality

SEATTLE - Same-sex couples must be allowed to marry in Washington State, according to a brief filed at the state Supreme Court, reported 365Gay.com.

The brief, by Lambda Legal and the Northwest Women's Law Center, asks the state's high court to uphold a ruling earlier this year that said the state's prohibition on same-sex couples marrying is a violation of the Washington Constitution.

The case involved eight same-sex couples who were denied marriage licenses in King County

"Our clients pay all the same taxes as their neighbors and coworkers, and they deserve all the same legal protections. As long as Gay couples cannot marry, they are not being treated equally under the law," said Jennifer C. Pizer, Senior Counsel in Lambda Legal's Western Regional Office and one of the lead attorneys in the case at the state Supreme Court.

"We believe that the Washington Supreme Court will look closely at the important issues this case raises and come to the same conclusion the lower court reached."

The historic ruling on August 4 by King County Superior Court Judge William Downing said that the state Constitution guarantees basic rights to Lesbian and Gay people — and that those rights are violated by a state law prohibiting same-sex couples from marrying.

The ruling said the state Constitution requires same-sex couples to have equal access to marriage. One month later, a court in Thurston County ruled similarly.

Both decisions were expedited to the Washington State Supreme Court, which will hear arguments in both cases on March 8.

In August's ruling, Judge Downing called the eight couples represented by Lambda Legal and the Northwest Women's Law Center "law-abiding, taxpaying model citizens," and said, "There is no worthwhile institution that they would dishonor, much less destroy."

In the ruling, Downing also said, "The characteristics embodied by these plaintiffs are ones that our society and the institution of marriage need more of, not less. Let the plaintiffs stand as inspirations for all those citizens, homosexual and heterosexual, who may follow their path."

## Equality Forum Names 40 Heros

PHILADELPHIA - The Equality Forum has announced its list of 40 Gay and Lesbian Americans who have contributed to the community in a commendable way, gfn.com reported.

Known as the 40 Heros, the group will be honored during next year's anniversary celebration of Gay and Lesbian civil rights.

"The 40th Anniversary Celebration of the GLBT civil rights movement on Sunday, May 1st at Independence National Historical Park will honor 40 Heroes. These 40 Heroes have made a defining difference in our civil rights movement," stated Sally Susman, National Co-Chair, 40th Anniversary Celebration. "The organized movement began in Philadelphia on July 4, 1965, in front of Independence Hall with 40 demonstrators from NY, DC and Philadelphia. That demonstration lit a fire that became the global GLBT civil rights movement we know today." "The 40 Heroes are the activists, role models and

leaders, who shaped the movement over the past 40 years," said Jonathan Capehart, Co-Chair, 40th Anniversary Celebration. "We will have a 40 Heroes Pavilion to meet and take pictures with our founders."

The 40th Anniversary Celebration also includes entertainers, speakers, collaborative programs at major institutions on Independence Mall (Independence Hall to National Constitution Center), continuous screenings of "Gay Pioneers," a large street festival, 40 Equality Forum rainbow flags on Independence Mall and a concert.

"This is an impressive list from Bayard Rustin to Barney Frank, MTV to Melissa Etheridge, Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin to Kevin Bourassa and Joe Varnell to Larry Kramer," stated Malcolm Lazin, Executive Director, Equality Forum. "In honoring these Heroes we acknowledge the paths they have paved for our equality."

"We invited over 80 organizations and leaders to nominate the Heroes. We are grateful to the national leaders and organizations for the 40 Heroes nominations and to Bruce Steele, Editor-in-Chief, The Advocate and Heather Finlay, Editor-in-Chief, Girlfriends Magazine, who served as Co-Chairs, 40 Heroes Selection Committee," stated Joe Farrell, Chair, Board of Directors, Equality Forum.

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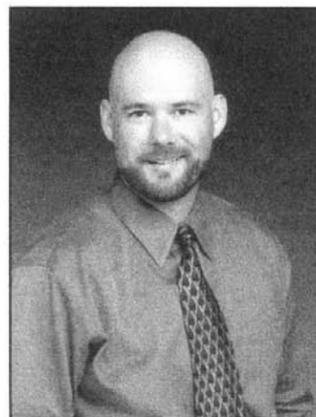
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## Lawyer Guilty In Gay Immigration Scam

GREENSBORO - An immigration lawyer has pleaded guilty to conspiring to defraud the government by submitting false claims on her clients' behalf, including arranging a sham marriage and claiming that another was Gay and would be persecuted in his native country, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

Manlin Chee, 52, of Greensboro, was scheduled to be sentenced March 1. She was indicted in June on 19 counts that included harboring an illegal alien in addition to the conspiracy charges. The government later added nine more counts. Four other people, including one of Chee's daughters, were also indicted.

Chee's plea to seven charges came days before her trial was scheduled to begin November 22. Prosecutors said they would not oppose a motion to drop the remaining charges when Chee is sentenced.

She is charged with harboring a Colombian woman who had been deported for a drug conviction.

It's unclear what kind of sentence she faces. It could change drastically based on an upcoming U.S. Supreme Court decision that may impact federal sentencing guidelines.

Chee is a Singapore native and naturalized American who received national recognition for her free legal services to the poor. She also drew attention for her criticism of post-Sept. 11 security measures such as the Patriot Act.

At one point, she had a huge immigration practice, with offices in Greensboro, Charlotte and Wilmington, but has since relinquished her law license to the N.C. State Bar, citing mental illness.

Much of the government's case against Chee stemmed from the work of two men working as undercover FBI informants. One approached Chee in the spring of 2003 wanting lawful immigration status any way possible. She helped arrange a sham marriage between him and Cassandra Poteat of Greensboro, who got \$7,000 in the deal. An alien who marries a citizen can obtain citizenship.

For the second informant, Chee said he falsely claimed he needed political asylum from his homeland of Egypt because he was Gay and would be killed or persecuted if he returned.

To prove it, she enlisted the help of Henry Center Jr. of Greensboro, who signed a false affidavit in exchange for \$1,500. The affidavit indicated that Center had a sexual relationship with the man.

Meetings relating to both schemes were recorded by authorities, some with both audio and video. One of Chee's daughters, 27-year-old Chernian Forgay, worked as a paralegal for her mother and helped in preparing false paperwork for the schemes.

Before her mother's case, Forgay pleaded guilty to three counts including conspiracy to defraud the United States and presenting false immigration documents. She is scheduled to be sentenced the same day as her mother.

Center, Poteat and Adelaide Laryea, a Greensboro woman whom Chee used to help find a sham bride, all pleaded guilty to charges connected with the scheme in September. They are scheduled to be sentenced next month.

## High School Continued from Page One

Alliances or other student-organized groups. Sixteen such groups are now active in Tucson-area high schools.

"These kids are there because they're trying to change attitudes of discrimination on campus," Storm said. "Their mission statements talk about education of GLBT issues and changing discrimination. There are Gay kids in there. There are straight kids in there. And nobody asks who's what."

Teenagers at two high school groups and Wingspan declined to speak on the record about the need for open dialogue on homosexuality in school. Reasons given included fear of reprisal against themselves or family members, and not having revealed their sexual orientation to their families or friends.

"The Gay Straight Alliances are filling an important need for students who want spaces where they can talk about things," Olson said. "The strength and number of those groups have been in part a result of young people needing a safe space."

Olson said the number of Gay Straight Alliances is increasing. Three meetings this year inviting the alliances to Wingspan have yielded representatives from at least nine schools, she said.

By not allowing that same open dialogue in the classroom, Olson said, adults are promoting the idea that it's all right to discriminate, harass or even perpetuate violence against people.

That attitude is what Rincon/University drama students want their audience to contemplate during their performance.

"We're not promoting homosexuality," Van Slyke said. The play advocates "life, acceptance and not killing people."

Fellow thespian Daniel Raw, 17, said, "Not talking about it is not going to end it."

The drama students said they hope audience members come with an open mind and leave with questions about what they believe and why.

"It's a style of theater we haven't done before," Green said. "This is a documentary style. The realism of the play might be hard for some students."

Drama student Sara Button, 17, agreed.

"A lot of people come to a show to be fully entertained," she said. "This show is tough to watch."

But it's very relevant in today's society, she said.

"Hate is a very pertinent theme, always," Button said. "In doing this play - the hopeful message it gives is a small mark that we can make."

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## NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

by Lee Thorn

### Normal Human Cruelty

The November elections included anti-Gay marriage propositions in several states, all passing by wide margins.

I wasn't surprised by that. What surprised me was seeing a Gay activist on TV saying that the explanation of all this anti-Gay voting was that straights didn't understand the crushing economic impact of what they were doing.

I wish someone would explain to me what is hard to understand about forcing Gay couples to pay twice as much for their health insurance as straight couples do. At current rates, doubling the bill for Gay couples often results in their paying more for health insurance than they pay for food. I fail to see how that could be hard to understand either.

For someone who calls himself a Gay activist to explain these outrageous anti-Gay votes in terms of some gigantic economic misunderstanding strikes me as criminally disingenuous. It's a little like saying that the boy who's poking a penned-up dog with a sharp stick doesn't understand that he's hurting the dog.

The boy understands it all right. He also understands that he can get away with it. The dog can't get back at him so he's free to indulge his normal human cruelty. He can take his time. Stick that dog good.

Straight people who are financially crushing Gay couples by voting for anti-Gay marriage laws are in much the same position as the boy with the sharp stick. There's nothing wrong with their capacity for understanding. Like the boy, they know they can indulge their normal human cruelty without suffering any negative consequences.

It's the person who believes himself to be a Gay activist whose understanding is deficient. What he needs to understand is that, unless real Gay activists come along and find ways to cause negative consequences to attach to dumping on Gay couples, straight voters will continue to dump on us.

Fortunately for anyone who wants to do something besides happy talk interviews on CNN, the principles needed for developing effective tactics for social change have already been worked out. They are available in Saul Alinsky's "Rules For Radicals" under the chapter titled "Tactics." No, this isn't anything new. It's been around since the early '70s.

The beautiful thing about Alinsky's tactics for forcing social change is that they don't involve physically hurting anyone or breaking any laws. What they do generally involve is causing economic disruption.

Alinsky published his book well before the internet revolution. My surmise is that the net has multiplied the possibilities for legal and non-violent economic disruption a million fold.

I should perhaps say in passing, for those who slept through American History class, that Saul Alinsky and his mentor, John L. Lewis, were two of the most successful radicals of the 20th century. Alinsky's targets were generally corporations and government bureaucracies. The appropriate targets for furthering Gay civil rights will probably be cities, counties and even states.

Besides telling ourselves that we're being dumped on because of a misunderstanding, two major obstacles to moving forward along Alinsky lines are that it would require tremendous amounts of tedious organizing and that it would also require an enormous amount of thought.

As Alinsky frequently says, the most effective tactics are those that are "outside the experience" of the opposition. That means some very creative people have to work hard to keep coming up with new ideas. I'm taking about hard work, some of it fun, some of it boring, all of it very demanding.

I guess it also takes the rocket fuel of anger or its equivalent. Frankly, when watching CNN, my primary news source, I don't see much Gay anger. I see idiots talking about misunderstanding and hoping that with a couple more sitcoms stuffed with characters doing those ridiculous Gay stereotypes we'll be looking up at blue sky instead of brown you know what.

[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]

### Report: Election Took Mental Toll On GLBT Americans

AMHERST - Experts at a think tank released a report Wednesday, November 17, to help LGBT people who may still be dealing with stress brought on by the anti-Gay politics that led up to the Nov. 2 election, the PlanetOut Network reported.

Following the passage of anti-Gay marriage initiatives in 11 states, the Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies (IGLSS) published "Surviving and Thriving in the Midst of Anti-Gay Politics."

"Putting the civil rights of one group to a vote takes an enormous psychological toll on members of that group, as well as on communities and on families," said Dr. Glenda Russell, a psychologist and the author of the report. "I've heard many stories about fear, sadness and a sense of loss from people all over the country."

Russell said anti-Gay stereotypes and hostility were the dominant themes of some of the campaigns, and they harmed many LGBT people.

The report outlined strategies to help people work through those feelings. It said LGBT people should analyze the homophobia present in the campaign, take action to resist anti-Gay efforts and draw on the support of heterosexual allies.

Steven Fisher, communications director for the Human Rights Campaign, agreed that it's important for LGBT people to reach out to their straight friends and family.

"It's not simply a fight for LGBT Americans," he told the PlanetOut Network. "It's a fight about fairness and equality, and we need to draw more non-LGBT friends into the fight."

Fisher said LGBT people should not despair, noting that "surge after setback" is a defining characteristic of the LGBT community, meaning that being dealt severe blows often stirs people to action.

The strategies outlined in the IGLSS report could help people get through the tough political times, according to Russell, who also leads workshops on strategies for surviving anti-Gay politics.

"Although you can't shut out the negative messages about Gay people that blanket a community during a campaign, we can respond to them in constructive ways," she said.

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## Judge Grants Co-Parent Rights To IVF Mom's Partner

INDIANAPOLIS - In a landmark decision the Indiana Court of Appeals has ruled that Lesbian partners who agree to conceive a child through artificial insemination are both the legal parents of any children born to them, 365Gay.com reported.

In a unanimous ruling, the court said that "no (legitimate) reason exists to provide the children born to Lesbian parents through the use of reproductive technology with less security and protection than that given to children born to heterosexual parents through artificial insemination."

The court also chided state lawmakers for being slow to deal with advances in reproductive technology.

"We encourage the Indiana legislature to help us address this current social reality by enacting laws to protect children who . . . find themselves born into unconventional familial settings," Judge Ezra H. Friedlander wrote in the ruling for the court.

"Until the legislature enters this arena, however, we are left to fashion the common law to define, declare, and protect the rights of these children."

The court's decision overturns a ruling by a Monroe Circuit Court judge who found that a Bloomington woman had no legal standing with the girl born to her former partner because she was not a biological parent.

The case involved Dawn King who sought co-parenting status to the daughter born to her former partner, Stephanie Benham.

The Monroe court ruled that because King was not a biological parent she had no parental rights.

The child is now 5 years old. Even though Benham and King are no longer in a relationship King wanted visitation rights.

The Court of Appeals ruling only covers those children born to Lesbian couples through in vitro fertilization, and does not apply to children who are adopted. Nor does the ruling address the challenge to Indiana's ban on same-sex marriage, which is pending before the Court of Appeals.

Nevertheless, in an interview with the Indianapolis Star, Fran Quigley, executive director of the Indiana Civil Liberties Union, called the ruling "an important first step" in providing legal protection to parents and children of nontraditional families.

Micah Clark, a spokesperson for the American Family Association of Indiana which opposes same-sex marriage criticized the ruling.

"The problem is, the cork is out of the bottle. How do you get it back in?" Clark told the Star. "Once you go beyond a man and a woman, there is no stopping point. The court is creating a new family that the legislature never intended to exist."

## Court Says Toy Giant Must Pay Transgender's Legal Fees

ALBANY - New York's top court ruled that Toys "R" Us must pay the legal fees for three Transgenders who won a "moral victory" in their discrimination lawsuit against the retail giant, Advocate.com reported.

The three customers charged they were verbally harassed and threatened with baseball bats at a Brooklyn store during two shopping excursions there in December 2000. A jury in June 2002 found the plaintiffs were harassed but awarded them only \$1 each in damages. Donna McGrath, Tanya Jinks, and Tara Lopez had each sought \$300,000 in damages.

Later that year, lawyers for the three were awarded \$193,551 by a federal court judge. The Wayne, N.J.-based retail toy giant appealed. A federal appeals court asked New York's court of appeals, the state's top tribunal, to determine if New York law permitted fees in cases where only nominal damages had been awarded. In a 5-2 ruling Tuesday, the court said the fees were justified because the case served "a significant public purpose" by clarifying the rights of Transgender people to be protected from discrimination.

The U.S. Supreme Court has held that absent the "significant public purpose" standard being met, legal fees are not justified in cases where only nominal damages are awarded. The exact amount of legal fees to be awarded is still subject to federal court review. Writing for the majority, Judge Victoria Graffeo said "given the uncertain state of the law at the time this action was commenced...many [New York] City residents might have been unaware at the time of verdict that discrimination against transsexuals was prohibited."

But Judge Susan Read, writing the state court's minority opinion, noted that a court ruling six years earlier had established that transsexuals were protected under New York City's antidiscrimination law. "The present litigation cannot be viewed as groundbreaking when the pioneering legal precedent has already been this firmly established," she wrote.

In the wake of the jury's 2002 verdict, lawyer Thomas Shanahan said the decision that the Toys "R" Us employees violated city civil rights codes was "a moral victory for the transsexual community." But one of Shanahan's clients, McGrath, said she was disappointed with jurors' decision to award each plaintiff only \$1. "They don't understand us," McGrath said at the time. "They can't walk in our shoes." Shanahan said Tuesday he had "mixed emotions" about the state court ruling. "It makes me really happy, individually," he said.

But Shanahan predicted fewer such cases would be brought as a result of the court ruling because lawyers couldn't be sure of getting paid. Shanahan said he had hoped the state appeals court would reject the federal "significant public purpose" standard as the grounds for payment of attorneys' fees in such cases. There was no immediate comment Tuesday from Toys "R" Us lawyer Nicholas Goodman.

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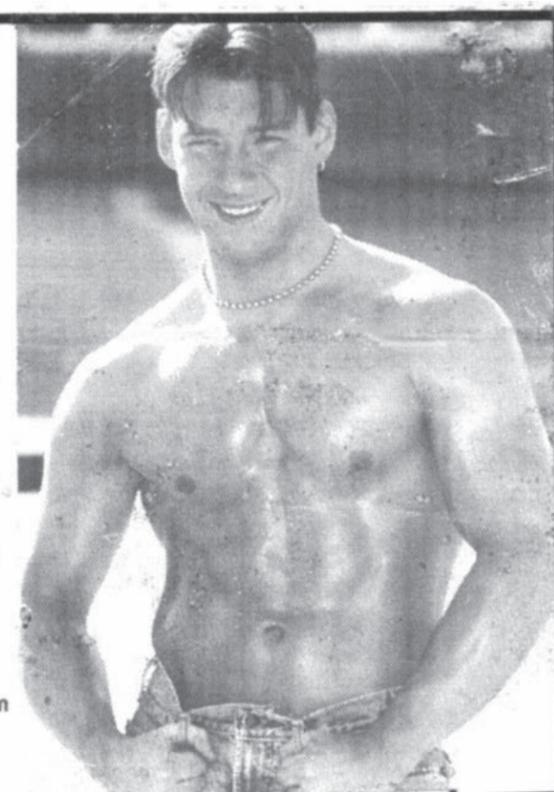
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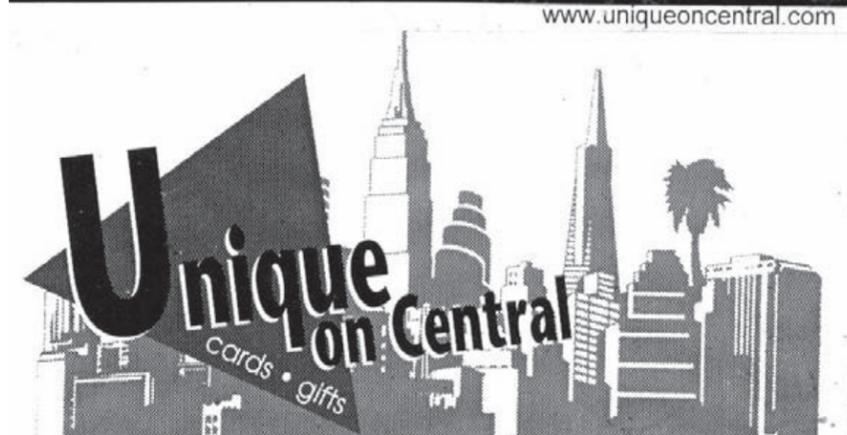
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# HOROSCOPES

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This little piggy went to market, this little piggy stayed home and this little piggy said, "all these plants in Sagittarius this December will pack my month with more Outrageous fun than I think I can handle." Wee wee wee!

**ARIES (MAR. 21 - APR. 20)**  
Ever the intrepid explorer, proud Rams set off on new adventure as we embark into December. Wilde planets in Sagittarius spark your imagination and will not let you rest - nor should you. Anything you decide to do is infused with exotic and exciting stimuli. What (and who) is waiting for you around the corner? Don't rest until you have tasted every dish. Pack the pepto, just in case.

**TAURUS (APR. 21 - MAY 21)**  
There is someone who intrigues you; Someone mysterious and sexy. Queer Bulls won't know what hit them as planets in Sag tempt them with all sorts of sensual delicacies. There is a chance that you will overdo and wind up on New Years Eve cocooning in your safe haven. Then again, if you go with the planetary flow now, you cocoon with someone very special that night.

**GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)**  
Your gift, as you enter December, is your close relationship to a certain someone. Have you been all that you should be in a partnership? Transformations are possible, new liaisons can be forged and a complete upheaval of "business as usual" occurs. Lucky planets in Sag give you a rare opportunity to inject some fresh fun into an otherwise stale situation. How fresh can you be?

**CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)**  
Just when you thought that you could escape from the day to day, five planets in Sagittarius pull you back into the office. Oh well. Hang a bit of mistletoe in your cubicle and hop on the xerox machine. Office party like there is no tomorrow. And while you burn the midnight oil, take a gander at the office pool. There may be someone you want to goose.

**LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)**  
I shudder to think about what extreme mischief proud Lions can get into now. There are five planets in Sag ready to let you out of your cage and lead you astray. Anything creative, artistic and just plain fun will take you to new levels, new stratospheres and new galaxies. Hold on tight, comrade! Indulge yourself with some long yearned for tasty treats. Anyone we know?

**VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)**  
Prepare. December may be the time that you get your domestic situation in order. If you have sat on long term plans to renovate or redecorate, this will be the time to implement them. Five planets in Sagittarius give you vision, hope and a bit of luck. Who knows what pink palace you will construct? Add a bit of Christmas frosting and have a celebratory party for New Years.

**LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)**  
You ache to express yourself this December but carefully weigh your words before you blurt them out and embarrass yourself. There are five planets in brutally frank and honest Sagittarius and you may be less diplomatic than usual. Gay Libras suddenly find themselves on the front page and in the center of controversy. Just imagine where you can find yourself in January....!

**SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)**  
Money can be made ... and lost ... this December as reckless planets in Sagittarius tempt you to have fun, fun, fun and forget about tomorrow. Proud Scorps are more plutocrat than democrat now and are ready to splurge their surplus on a vague promise and a prayer. Will it be worth it all? If not, you may just find that you have a bright future in Washington these days anyway.

**SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)**  
This will be the month to make your big move in whatever area of life you choose. What area will you choose? Chalk up your wide range of opportunities to too many rowdy planets in your own sign. They encourage you to take big risks that, much to even your own surprise, offer ample payoff and better personal positioning. Spread your holiday gifts around, Gay Archer.

**CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)**  
Fate taps you on the shoulder and asks for directions. Don't send this poor soul on a detour. Use December and the Sag energy for the higher orders of life; spiritual and cosmic goals and charitable efforts. While it may be fashionable to be greedy and self serving these days, pink Caps are in a win-win situation. Doing good results in receiving good and that is very good.

**AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)**  
Aqueerians are on the top of everyone's wish list this December, jolted in popularity by Sag planets. Are you going to be naughty or nice? Prepare for an avalanche of invitations and look for ways to expand your social circle into a globe. You have places to see and people to meet and some of them impact your life for years to come. Prepare to be a bit impactful yourself.

**PISCES (FEB. 20 - MAR. 20)**  
Don't rest on your laurels as we move into December. Guppies are given a rare push to the top of the corporate heap. This happy oomph is sponsored by Sagittarius who knows no bounds, has great optimism and confidence and offers limitless energy. Lucky thing. Grab for the gold ring as you show the powerful few what raw talent looks like. Hurry - raw goes bad after a few days.

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> Non-denominational	☪ Wednesday Dinner	5:30 PM
> Open & Welcoming	☪ Wednesday Bible Study	6:30 PM

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Gay Men's Health Project is a collaborative effort of Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF), Pima County Health Dept. and Wingspan.

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Dear Dr. X,

My partner of five years recently was diagnosed with Human Papilloma Virus. But I was under the impression that only women acquired it; is this and new strain? And am I at risk of contracting HPV?

Sincerely,  
Pappy

Dear Pappy,  
Sorry to burst your bubble, but Human Papilloma Virus is a virus that doesn't care if you male or female. It is so easy to transmit; it can be spread through sexual contact but also nonsexual contact. Many people have a type of the virus and may never know they have it, while others symptoms are anal warts that form in clusters around the anus or cervix. They usually itch and can cause painful irritation.

For men warts can also appear on the penis, scrotum, pubic region, inner thighs, and buttocks. And left untreated can lead to anal cancer. If you get any symptoms you should contact you doctor and ask for an anoscopy (this is a slightly uncomfortable procedure to check that there are no internal warts).

There is currently a study being conducted for men thru the University of Arizona. They're searching for men between 18-44 years old. The study consists of various methods of testing with a 5-visit commitment. They will even compensate

for the time and effort. Give them a call: 318-7178 or 318-7070.

Dr. X

Dear Dr. X,

What is the difference between an orgy and group sex?

Sincerely,  
Groupie

Dear Groupie,  
Both activities are very similar but both have very different ground rules. Group sex tends to be smaller in numbers (6 or less) and there is an unspoken stigma of what is expected during the event. Usually group sex will break off in pairs whereas an orgy is a festival of men. "Anything Goes" is the motto for this and numbers have a wide range. Nowadays, there seems to be various types of orgy behavior i.e. barebacking parties. With that being said, remember that you are your own person, making your own chooses. Be careful with participating in these events and play safe.

Dr. X

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

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## NON-BAR CALENDAR

### Groups / Clubs / Organizations /

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Jack for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Jack at 887-3736.  
#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.

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 11:30 a.m. Join Karol for a morning of Miniature Golf at Funtasticks. For reservations and directions, please call Karol at 744-9017.  
#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 1:00 p.m. Karol hosts a Lunch Out at Red Lobster. For reservations and directions, please call Karol at 744-9017.

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4

Tickets are now available for Desert Voices' Winter Concert, "Naughty...Or Nice?", at 7:30 p.m. at the Muse Community Arts Center, 516 N. 5th Ave. with a second performance on Sunday, Dec. 5 at 2:00 p.m.

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

#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. Join us for our monthly Potluck and Social Gathering where we invite you to have dinner and get to know the nice guys of MSN. It's a nice, safe setting in which to meet new men and greet old friends. No reservations are required, but if you need directions, please call Robert at 400-1376.

#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 6

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

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Karol hosts Trivia Night. If you don't know how to play, we'll teach you; it's an easy game to pick up. For more information, please call Karol at 744-9017.

#### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7

#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, DECEMBER 8

#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Jack for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Jack at 887-3736.  
#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.

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. Join Les for a seasonal favorite; A White Trash Christmas. Menu will include a Spam dish, a Tuna Casserole and other white trash favorites. This year's movie is "Drowning Mona" starring the inimitable Bette Midler. Please bring a White Trash gift for the gift exchange (nothing over \$10.00, please). Reservations required and are limited to the first 10 people who call in. Contact Les at 690-9565 for reservations and further information.

## BAR CALENDAR

### Of Upcoming Events

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

HOWL AT THE MOON - 1<sup>st</sup> Year Anniversary Celebration with \$1.00 Well, Domestic Longnecks, and pints. Free couples dance lessons with Amanda from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., then DJ Jake plays country 8:30 to close.

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2

HOWL AT THE MOON - 1<sup>ST</sup> Year Anniversary continues with \$1.00 Mexican beer and Margaritas. Karaoke with Debbie from 8:00 p.m. until midnight.

IBT'S - Monster Party Ball 10:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m. Costume Contest at Midnight. Come dressed as your best Club Kid attire. \$100 first prize, \$50 Second place. (Must be registered in Costume Party by 10:30 pm.m) Drink specials. Party with the bartenders in their underwear and Dance to DJ Mike Lopez.

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3

HOWL AT THE MOON - 1<sup>st</sup> Year Anniversary continues with special drink prices and promotions. Line dance lessons at 7:30 p.m. followed with Pat playing the best in country music til midnight and favorite dance tunes from midnight to 2:00 a.m. Kitchen open 10:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m.

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4

HOWL AT THE MOON - 1<sup>st</sup> Year Anniversary Celebration continues with special drink prices and promotions. \$3.00 cheeseburger and fries all day. Join Libby for country music til midnight and favorite dance tunes from midnight to 2:00 a.m. Kitchen open 10:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m.

YARD DOG - 10:00 a.m. it's Bucky'S Omelette Bar. Come by for some great food.

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

WOODY'S - Drag Bingo - 8:00 p.m. Great prizes and great fun with Janee Starr and Veronica Halliwell.

YARD DOG SALOON - Join Ray, Merlin and John and celebrate their new partnership. 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. hors d'oeuvres; 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Dinner; Appearing live on the patio the band "Ice-9" will perform at 8:00 p.m. RSVP for dinner at 624-3858.

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

WOODY'S - Boys Gone Wild Party begins at 8:00 p.m. until closing. Drink specials for participants.

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9

VENTURE-N - Join the celebration of Venture-N's 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Heavy Hors d'oeuvres - Lucky 13 drink specials and DJ Jerry D. Hairy Chest contest at 11:00 p.m. Winner takes all. This is the final night of the Art Show and Sale.

## 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. 9  
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. 9pm .

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 (4<sup>th</sup> 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

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. Beer 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.saaaf.org>. VOLUNTEERS WELCOME.

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

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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.



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

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

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

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

**DESERT VOICES,** Tucson's Gay & Lesbian Chorus. Want to join? E-mail: [www.desertvoices.org](http://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, contact TEAM ARIZONA at their website: [teamarizona.org](http://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](http://www.tucsonpride.com)

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

**TUCSON INTERFAITH HIV/AIDS NETWORK (TIHAN),** a coalition of faith communities committed to a compassionate response to HIV/AIDS, provides HIV education in congregational settings, volunteer 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](mailto: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; Dezert Girlz MTF Support meets 2nd Mondays at 7pm; Dezert 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](http://AAPSP.org) or e-mail: [AAPSP@aol.com](mailto: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](http://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 Magpie'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/](http://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](http://www.desertdominion.org)) For those who are kinky or just curious. No fee, contributions are appreciated, but not required.

## HOUSING/FOR RENT

**GREAT HOME FOR RENT.** 3 bed, 2 bath brick home with family room in nice neighborhood near Speedway/Wilmot. \$975/month includes utilities. Call owner/agent at 820-2289 1062

## SERVICES

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**FULL BODY SWEDISH MASSAGE FOR MEN.** Best rates in Tucson! Speedway and Swan area. IN and OUT calls. 7 days. , 548-6314 1066

**SACRED HEALING TOUCH.** Be smoothed, touched and nurtured by strong, yet gentle hands. In & Out, Days & Evenings, sometimes at a moment's notice. Call Glen, CMT 907-2551 for the touch you so richly deserve. Experienced, intuitive, athletic and kind. 1065

**KNEADING TENSE SORE MUSCLES** in relaxed central location. Nurturing, stress relief body rub. Affordable. 326-8226 1062..

**ENJOY A NICE TOUCH.** Attractive man offers a sensuous, relaxing massage. 10am - 8p.m. 745-0231 1060...

**COMPUTERS EXTRAORDINAIRE:** Your old system giving you trouble? Upgrade it for a reasonable price, or allow us to tailor make a system just for you. For home or business, we come to you with friendly, quality installation, instruction and service. Call Carl today @ 977-2572 and get a free quote! 1064

**BASIC THAI, DEEP TISSUE OR RELAXING MASSAGE** by a trained, caring male. . Often at a moments notice. First Time Discount! (520) 730-7966. 1076

**TENSE? STRESSED OUT?** Relax for an hour with a full body rub by Frank. Private studio, off-street parking. 548-7019 days, evenings. 1061

**HAVE A SATISFYING TANTRIC MASSAGE.** Enjoy the quality of 22 years professional experience. Strong but gentle hands to soothe your spirit. Call Marc-881-4582 by appt. 1062

**ALTERATIONS AND REPAIRS** Let me keep your clothes fitting properly and in good repair. Experienced -- Economical -- Prompt. Merle Hudson, (520)888-7264 in Tucson. 1064

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611 N. Fourth Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85705 (Across from IBT's, Next to Magpies. Come See Us!) (520)388-9829

## Washington Post Drws Fire For Publishing Anti-G/L Ad

WASHINGTON, D.C. - An anti-G/L advertising insert inside some editions of The Washington Post Sunday, November 21, has sparked a widespread outcry from GLBT rights activists, Advocate.com reported.

According to an online report by Editor and Publisher magazine, Post ombudsman Michel Getlermore said he had received more than 1,000 e-mails and phone calls, most of them opposing the 16-page supplement as offensive. The ad espouses a strong argument against the fight for same-sex marriage rights. "They were overwhelmingly negative about the Post distributing this thing," Getler told E&P, noting that many of the responses were from outside the Post circulation area, indicating a formal campaign against the publication may have begun. "People were upset, and they let the paper know."

The advertorial did not run in the metro edition of the Post, according to Getler, but could be found in about 200,000 zoned copies. It was labeled "BothSides Magazine" and appeared to be a creation of Grace Christian Church, with support from a number of Virginia-area churches. Formatted like a magazine, the publication included articles that argued against comparing same-sex marriage rights to civil rights and criticized same-sex couples as parents. "In the homosexual marriage movement, they have moved beyond asking for tolerance and are demanding a national endorsement," one column states. In another Q&A section, the publication says, "Q. What is wrong with letting homosexuals marry? A. Everything. Marriage is defined by the God of nature, and a wise society will protect marriage as it has always been understood."

Although the publication was clearly marked as advertising on several pages and carried a note on the second page stating that it "is not a product of The

## Congress Told Porn Addiction Is Similar To Drug Addiction

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Comparing pornography to heroin, a panel of antiporn advocates is calling on Congress to finance studies on "porn addiction" and launch a public-health campaign about its dangers, Advocate.com reported.

Internet pornography is corrupting children and hooking adults into an addiction that threatens their jobs and families, the panel told a hearing organized Thursday by Sen. Sam Brownback, chairman of the Commerce Subcommittee on Science. Mary Anne Layden, codirector of a sexual trauma program at the University of Pennsylvania, said pornography's effect on the brain mirrors addiction to heroin or crack cocaine. She told of one patient, a business executive, who arrived at his office at 9 a.m. each day, logged on to Internet porn sites, and didn't log off until 5 p.m. Layden called for billboards and bus ads warning people to avoid pornography, strip clubs, and prostitutes.

Brownback, a Republican from Kansas and an outspoken Christian conservative who has championed efforts to curb indecency on television and the Internet, said the public is beginning to realize "they don't just have to take it." But he acknowledged the First Amendment right to free speech has limited congressional efforts. In June the Supreme Court blocked a law designed to shield Web-surfing children from pornography, ruling that requiring adults to register or use access codes before viewing objectionable material would infringe on their rights.

Brownback said scientific data is needed to help his cause. Weaver acknowledged that research "directly

Washington Post," newspaper officials said it drew an angry reaction from many readers. "It is not something everyone agreed with," publisher Boisfeuillet Jones Jr. told E&P, adding that advertisers had a right to pay for placement of their viewpoint. "I'm not going to say I agree with it, but it is a case where we went through the vetting process. We will not allow something hateful to go in the paper. Gay marriage is a public issue and matter of public debate, and we believed its point of view has a right to be expressed."

Gay rights activist John Aravosis took issue with the paper's claim that the ad was not hateful, especially since some of the people featured in the advertorial were authors of so-called studies arguing that Gays are inferior people who die young, among other claims. "Not a hateful message?" Aravosis asked. "How do you feel about the studies showing blacks to be physically inferior to white people? Ads for skin creams that can make black people white, making civil rights legislation unnecessary since black people who choose not to use the cream have 'chosen' to be black? Any views on Hitler's scientific theories on Jews? What an absolute crock to suggest that the problem with that pamphlet is that it simply 'talks' about Gay marriage. The problem with that pamphlet is that it promotes Nazi-esque quack science claiming Gays are somehow inferior physically to straight people and therefore don't deserve civil rights. For the Post to suggest otherwise is intentionally intellectually dishonest. They know damn well what our complaint is about."

Some of the e-mails Getler received echoed Aravosis's sentiment. "The fact that the Post ran an advertisement whose clear purpose was to drive a wedge between two minority groups [blacks and Gays] and which gave a voice to people who practice quack science and sell it as gospel is simply disgusting," one said.

assessing the impact of pornography addiction on families and communities is rather limited." But he pointed to studies that show prolonged use of pornography leads to "sexual callousness, the erosion of family values, and diminished sexual satisfaction."

## Texas Court Upholds Lesbian Partner Adoption

GALVESTON - A Texas appeals court has upheld a Galveston Lesbian's adoption of her former partner's biological daughter, 365Gay.com reported.

The birth mother, Julie Anne Hobbs, has appealed a district judge's ruling last month that Hobbs' ex-partner, Janet Kathleen Van Stavern had equal parenting rights.

Hobbs had become pregnant through artificial insemination. The man who donated the semen voluntarily terminated his parental rights and Van Stavern legally adopted the girl when she was a 3-years old.

Hobbs and Van Stavern's eight-year relationship ended in March and Hobbs went to court to have the adoption overturned arguing that Texas law does not permit co-parenting by same-sex couples.

Van Stavern has continued to provide \$400 a month in child support since her split from Hobbs.

Attorneys for Hobbs, told The Galveston County Daily News that the ruling cited problems with the form of the appeal, not its merits, and that they would consider appealing the decision to the Texas Supreme Court.

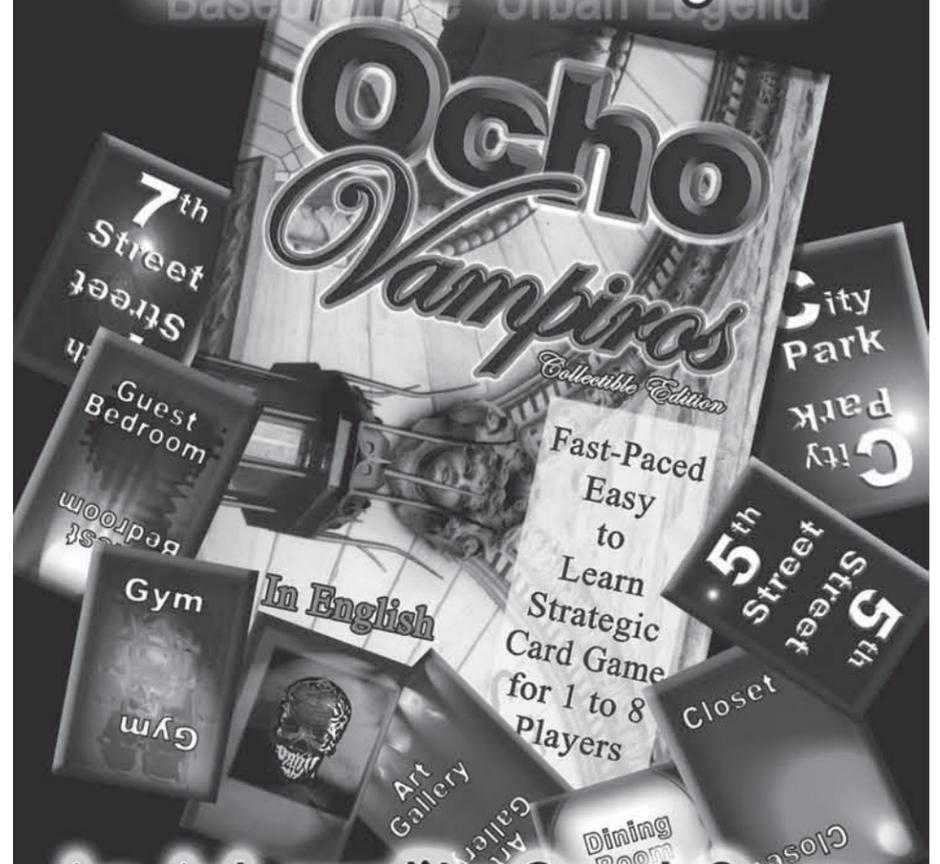
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