



GOP Bides Its Time On Federal Anti-G/L Amendment

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Opponents of same-sex marriage concede victory will not be swift in their attempt to amend the U.S. Constitution, even after prevailing in all 11 states where the issue was on the ballot last month, the Associated Press reported on 365Gay.com.

While the Nov. 2 election also increased the ranks of amendment supporters in both houses of Congress, the gains were relatively small.

"We're going to have to see additional court cases come down" supporting Gay marriage before congressional sentiment shifts dramatically, predicted Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, who supports the amendment that failed in both houses of Congress this year.

Critics of Gay marriage have long warned of such court rulings. Cornyn and others who support changing the Constitution to ban Gay marriage say several cases have the potential to produce a sharp shift in congressional sentiment toward their viewpoint. They point to suits in Florida, California, Nebraska and elsewhere.

But Matt Coles of the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project said that's unlikely - and not entirely by accident.

Many of the cases making their way through the courts were filed by individuals not affiliated with leading Gay rights organizations, he said, and were not framed to make a targeted challenge to a 1996 law known as the Defense of Marriage Act.

Frontline groups have held off, he said. "People think that neither the country nor the courts are ready for it and probably we'll lose. Nobody likes to take cases and lose."

The 1996 law defines marriage as the union of a man and a woman. It also says no state is required to recognize same-sex marriages sanctioned by any another state.

Purely by the numbers, prospects for passage of an amendment in Congress "have definitely improved" following the election, said Tom McClusky of the

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Gays Stranded, Others Among Dead & Missing Following Tidal Wave

BANGKOK - Phuket, the most well known and popular Gay beach destination in Southeast Asia lies in ruins in the wake of the most powerful tsunami to strike the region in decades, 365Gay.com reported.

Tidal waves on Sunday, December 26, some measuring up to 20 feet in height and moving at more than 500 mph, swept over much of coastal Southeast Asia following a powerful earthquake centered off the coast of Indonesia's Sumatra island. The quake was measured at 9.0. The tsunamis which followed struck Sri Lanka, India and Thailand.

The death toll stands at more than 20-thousand but thousands more are reported missing and the death toll is expected to rise.

Among the lucky was celebrity interior designer Nate Berkus from Chicago.

Berkus, a regular on The Oprah Winfrey Show, was on Sri Lanka's eastern coast handing out backpacks to needy children.

"There was absolutely no warning," he told CNN.

Berkus said he and a friend were sleeping in a beachfront cottage at Arugam Bay Sunday, December 26, when he heard a loud noise and the roof was ripped off.

The two were swept into the sea along with debris, animals and other people. They managed to grab onto a telephone pole, but lost their grips when a second large wave hit. Berkus told CNN that he climbed onto the roof of a home but his friend was swept away and is among the missing.

In Thailand, Phuket is under martial law as authorities attempt to recover bodies and restore services to the island.

The beaches at Phuket, popular with Gay tourists from Australia, North America and Europe, were filled with people. This was the height of the tourist season. Many people were in the water when the giant waves struck without warning.

"People were running from the beach as fast as they could. The beach is devastated ... There were a lot of people on the beach, [and they were] swept away by the wave," Phuket Gazette reporter Woody Leonard said.

Monday morning, December 27, dozens of bodies still clad in swimming

trunks lined beaches. Nearly 100 people are confirmed dead on Phuket but that number is expected to rise dramatically.

Buildings along the beach were toppled and swept into the sea and the damage extended well inland.

Officials were rushing to evacuate people from the island Tuesday as aftershocks from the earthquake were felt throughout the region.

Tourism to Phuket has been cancelled. Anyone holding reservations is advised to contact their travel agency.

Arnold's 'Left' Remarks Lost In Translation

BERLIN - A German reporter who interviewed California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger says the governor did not say the Republican Party should "move a little further left" as his newspaper reported, the Associated Press reports on 365Gay.com.

What Schwarzenegger said in the interview with Sueddeutsche Zeitung was that the Republicans reach "all the way from the right to the center" and "I'd like the Republican Party to cross that center line," according to a transcript released by the governor's office.

But reporter Marc Hujer said Schwarzenegger never talked explicitly about a need for the party to edge toward the left, even though the remark appeared as part of the interview in the Munich paper last Saturday, December 25.

Hujer, who interviewed Schwarzenegger in English, said he added that wording to interpret Schwarzenegger's remarks for readers.

"He did not use the word 'left,'" Hujer said by telephone Thursday from Washington. "This is really unfortunate. I was trying to translate into German political terms."

A spokesman for Schwarzenegger's office said Friday the governor would have no comment.

The remark Schwarzenegger never made caused a buzz in California, where Sacramento Bee columnist Dan Walters cited it as an example of how an inaccuracy can snowball politically.

Fox News picked up on Schwarzenegger's remarks, and conservative groups attacked him for allegedly

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UPDATE

Volunteers Needed To Watch Higdon Trial

TUCSON - In June, 2002, Philip Walsted, a young Gay man, was murdered in the 4th Avenue area. David Higdon was arrested and charged with his murder in what has been labeled a hate crime.

More than two years later, the case is finally coming to trial. The trial begins January 11, 2005 and is expected to run two weeks. Volunteers are needed to sit in court to show support for surviving family members and watch the proceedings.

If you are interested and available to participate in the courtwatch, please attend a training on January 5 from 6 - 7 p.m. on courtroom protocol. You will also learn some background on the case. Please RSVP your interest to lori@wingspan.org or call (520) 624-1779, ext. 20.

Desert Voices Seeking New Voices

TUCSON - Are you busy working on your New Year's resolutions? If any of them include meeting new people, having more fun and working to advance positive social change, especially for the GLBT community, you might want to consider singing with Desert Voices!

Desert Voices, Tucson's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and straight/supportive (GLBTS) others chorus, will be holding open rehearsals on the first three Mondays in the new year, January 3, 10 and 17, 2005, at Water of Life MCC, 3269 N. Mountain Ave, just north of Ft. Lowell, beginning at 6:30 p.m. each evening. If you love to sing, if you get a thrill from performing on stage, and if you want to make a difference in the world, come to an open rehearsal and see what Desert Voices is all about.

A voice check will be conducted between 6:30 and 7 p.m. on the evenings mentioned. Their Spring show is titled "Our True Colors" and will be presented on April 16, 2005 at The Muse Community Arts center, 516 N. 5th Avenue in Tucson. The show will focus on the colorful diversity of the GLBTS community.

Please call the Desert Voices office at (520) 791-9662, or email to info@desertvoices.org to sign up for a voice check during these open rehearsals. For more information about the chorus,

check out their website at www.desertvoices.org. Rehearsals for the April show start immediately on the January 3, so the earlier you audition, the faster you'll get in the 'sing' of things! Be a voice! Come out and sing!

Reveille's New Holiday CD Still Available

TUCSON - The Tucson GLBT community has some hit makers on their hands. The just released CD, "A Christmas Collection" by Tucson's own Reveille Gay Men's Chorus is a certified smash!

The CD, in a wintry blue and white snowflake designed cover, is a collection of traditional and religious Christmas music such as "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child", "Hodie! Alleluia!", "Rise Up Shepard" and "Still, Still, Still". In addition, there are a few new arrangements of some holiday favorites, "We Three Kings", "Do You See What I See", "Night of Silence/Silent Night", and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas". The songs, hand picked by Reveille's Artistic Director, Linus Lerner, takes the listener on a holiday journey leading us from the whimsical to the sublime. Demand for copies has been so great since last weekend that an additional two cases had to be shipped over night to meet the demand.

Copies of "A Christmas Collection" can be found at Antigone's Bookstore and Desert Pride Bookstore on 4th Avenue. The CD can also be ordered on Reveille's website: www.ReveilleGMC.com or purchased from any Reveille member.



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IN MEMORIAM



Darryl Chapple
Dec. 3, 1966 - Dec. 26, 2004

Tucson socialite Darryl Chapple is no longer with us. After so many years of making grand entrances, Darryl decided to make his final exit on Sunday, Dec. 26 at 3:25 a.m.

Darryl lived a whirlwind life for 38 wonderful years. There were ups and downs, but through it all, you could always count on Darryl to be there with a sharp tongue and amazing wit. He could make any situation all about him. As soon as he walked in the door, you immediately knew that the party had begun.

Darryl was a great listener and loved to involve himself with as many different people as he could. He could be the center of any conversation and make a whole room full of people laugh until their stomachs hurt. His ability to make everyone feel good about themselves will be remembered for many years.

Darryl is survived by his mother, Joyce; one sister, Teri and two brothers, Steve and Jabaar. He is also survived by many friends from all over the country.

There will be no funeral services, but there will be a gathering of friends and family to celebrate Darryl's life. For information about the gathering, please call 520-661-6149 and listen to the message.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to SAAF for the Gay Men's Health Project. Please call Gary at 628-7223 extension 232.

Daniel Wayne Brice
Sept. 14, 1976 - Dec. 19, 2004

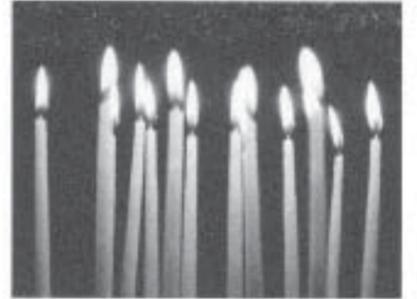
Daniel Wayne Brice age 28, was born in Tempe, AZ. He was a good friend, brother and beloved son. His parents, Jim and Leona Brice live in Scottsdale and his sister, Lori Moran lives in Payson, AZ with her husband Brian and their children Brandon and Hannah. A Daniel also leaves behind two brothers, Roy and Skyler of Scottsdale.

Daniel had been a student at the University of Arizona in Tucson following his graduation from Saguaro High School in 1994.

Daniel was reborn through faith in Christ at nine years of age. He had memorized many Bible verses that served as comfort in hard times. Our great hope is to be reunited with him in Heaven.

Services for Daniel were held on December 22 at Messingers Mortuary in Scottsdale. [Published in The Arizona Republic on 12/23/04].

Best Wishes
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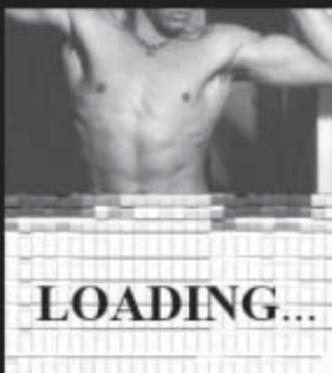
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ASU Campus Club Seeks Right To Exclude Gays

TEMPE - A legal confrontation is playing out here as a student organization seeks official recognition and money from a state-run university even though the students plan to exclude non-Christians and Gays, the Chicago Tribune reported.

A group of Christian students at Arizona State University's law school formed a chapter of the Christian Legal Society, a national organization that unites Christian lawyers and law students for fellowship, mutual legal support, meetings and Bible readings.

After the university refused to recognize the group, the society's national headquarters in Washington, D.C., drafted a lawsuit challenging the university over its anti-discrimination policies, a move that echoes similar and sometimes successful efforts across the country.

In the lawsuit, the society argues that the members at Arizona State have a constitutionally protected right to organize and receive university recognition under the 1st and 14th Amendments.

Members of the Christian Legal Society must sign a statement of faith, a document that essentially is the Apostles' Creed. In the declaration, members attest to their faith in God and also say the Bible is the "inspired word of God."

Based on their interpretation of biblical passages on homosexuality, members draw the groundwork to exclude practicing homosexuals from membership. In the federal lawsuit, lawyers from the Christian Legal Society spell out their position.

The society at "ASU interprets its statement of faith to require that officers adhere to orthodox Christian beliefs, including the Bible's prohibition of sexual contact between persons of the same sex," the suit says.

"A person who engages in homosexual conduct or adheres to the viewpoint that homosexual conduct is not sinful would not be permitted to become a member or serve as an officer" of the group at Arizona State, the suit adds.

It goes on to say that a person who has engaged in homosexual acts but has "repented" or people who may have homosexual inclinations but do not act on those inclinations would be eligible for membership.

M. Casey Mattox, litigation counsel for the Christian Legal Society in Washington, said the group asked Arizona State to exempt the chapter from having to comply with university policies that required non-discrimination against people on the basis of race, religion or sexual orientation.

Nancy Tribbensee, a staff attorney for the university, said Arizona State will not comply with the society's request. "We are aggressively defending" the non-discrimination policy, she said.

Tribbensee said the university was drafting its response to the society's complaint, which is due to be filed by Friday, December 31.

While Tribbensee said the school has no intention of settling with the group, the Christian Legal Society has been successful in previous attempts to get universities to grant exemptions.

In a recent case at Ohio State University, officials ultimately allowed a chapter to form and be recognized and allowed the group to refuse membership to non-Christians and homosexuals.

"It ended up in our changing our policy," said Amy Murray, assistant director of media relations at Ohio State.

Murray said the university, after reviewing the society's complaint, revised its non-discrimination policy to allow religious groups to establish their own policies regarding discrimination.

Some legal experts say the constitutional argument used by society lawyers is fairly solid and that the Ohio State officials probably concluded they would lose.

Richard Myers, a professor at the Ave Maria School of Law, a Roman Catholic institution in Ann Arbor, Mich., likened the society's legal argument to those used by the Boy Scouts of America. He referred to a 2000 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that the organization had the right to exclude homosexuals from being scoutmasters.

"It is kind of standard for these kinds of exceptions," he said. "If they [universities] apply it only to religious groups, they have a slam-dunk case. This group [CLS] provides a different perspective and should be allowed to do so."

But other lawyers say that giving public money to a group that discriminates is illegal and morally wrong.

"They are forcing taxpayers to underwrite discrimination," said David Tseng, a Washington attorney who has specialized in non-discrimination law. "The endorsement of discrimination is appalling," he said.

Tseng, formerly executive director of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, said the use of public money was the crucial factor and that tax money should be spent to advance the public good.

The members of the Christian Legal Society "have the right to meet and to organize, but the example we are setting for students is that bigotry is acceptable," he said. "They are using the mantle of religion to mask a very blunt objective, that is to deny equality."

Arnold's 'Left' Remarks

Continued from Page One
saying the Republicans should move to the left and embrace Gay marriage and abortion rights, Walters reported.

The interview never mentioned Gay marriage or abortion rights. Schwarzenegger did suggest that the Republican Party reach out to centrist voters, according to the transcript.

"I think that right now the Republican Party is all the way from the right to the center, and the Democratic Party is all the way from the left to the center," he said.

"And I'd like the Republican Party to cross that center line. Keep it to the right, where it is. But I mean, cross over that center line a little bit, because they would take immediately away 5 percent from the Democrats and you're home free for good."

Huger, who is his paper's Washington correspondent, said the word "left" would probably not have touched off a storm in Germany because politics there is less polarized than in the United States.

"In America, right and left are political attack terms," he said.



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GOP Bides Its Time On Federal Anti-G/L Amendment

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Family Research Council. "But by enough? That's going to be wait and see."

declined to be identified by name because the proceedings were closed to the press.

Leaders on both sides of the issue say supporters of the amendment gained four votes in the Senate on Nov. 2, and a small, undetermined number in the House. Based on votes in 2004, amendment opponents still have more than enough strength to prevail in a second showdown.

McClusky, director of government affairs for the Family Research Council, said his organization wants more than rhetorical support from the administration.

"We're hoping for a vote early on in 2005 and we're hoping that the president will make the phone calls again," he said. "It's going to be another one of those things of wait and see whether this is going to be something he did for the 2004 elections or this is something he truly believes in."

The measure drew 48 Senate votes on a procedural roll call, far below the two-thirds majority needed for passage. The vote in the House was 227-186, 49 less than the required two-thirds. Passage by Congress would send the issue to state legislatures for ratification. Three-fourths of them also would have to approve it.

Bush urged Congress to act last February, when San Francisco officials were performing thousands of same-sex marriages and after the Massachusetts Supreme Court legalized them in that state.

It's not clear how aggressively the White House or Republican leaders in Congress intend to push the issue, with the election over and priorities such as Social Security and tax overhaul competing for attention.

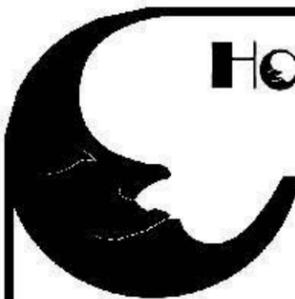
The president endorsed an amendment that would ban same sex marriage, while letting states decide whether to sanction relationships such as civil unions or domestic partnerships.

White House political adviser Karl Rove said after the election that President Bush intends to continue seeking a constitutional amendment that says marriage must consist of a man and a woman.

While the amendment headed toward defeat in Congress, Bush's decision to speak out elevated the issue during the campaign, and conservative groups successfully passed state constitutional changes in all 11 of the states where they tried.

At the same time, GOP congressional aides who attended a series of closed-door meetings recently said Rove did not mention the amendment when he outlined the administration's key legislative goals for the year ahead. Nor did the issue figure prominently in strategy sessions held by GOP congressional leaders, added these officials, who

However small the shift in votes in Congress, Cornyn said the Nov. 2 results demonstrate that "the American people want to preserve traditional marriage."



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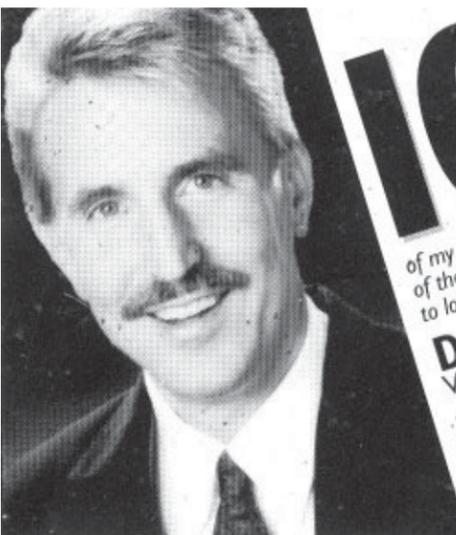
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Arguments Presented In Calif. Marriage Suits

SAN FRANCISCO - California's marriage laws do not trample on the civil rights of Gay men and Lesbians because the purpose of marriage is to promote procreation, traditional marriage advocates argued as a widely anticipated case seeking to overturn the state's ban on same-sex unions went to court, the Associated Press reported on the PlanetOut Network.

Arguing on behalf of a conservative group that opposes marriage rights for same-sex couples, attorney Glen Lavy of the Alliance Defense Fund said it was in the state's interest to promote families that include both a mother and a father as the ideal environment for raising children.

"The proponents are asking the court to destroy the cornerstone of a large building without considering the ramifications," Lavy told Judge Richard Kramer on Wednesday. "If your honor finds the marriage laws must be available for same-sex couples, you will be likely creating a constitutional right to incestuous and group marriage."

Kramer is hearing arguments in a pair of lawsuits brought by the city of San Francisco and attorneys for 12 same-sex couples attempting to make California the only state other than Massachusetts where Gays and Lesbians can legally marry. The trial, which is limited to the issue of whether the California Constitution prohibits excluding Gays from marriage, was scheduled to continue Thursday.

Kramer closely questioned Lavy's assertion that the meaning of marriage and parenthood has a strictly biological basis.

"Doesn't the constitution talk about raising and having children? Raising and having? Does it matter where kids come from?" Kramer asked.

Lavy responded that it was the state's concern to see that children were born into stable families since "it doesn't require fact-finding to know that, in general, opposite-sex couples of childbearing age will procreate."

"Will they be deterred from procreating if the people in the condo next door are a same-sex married couple?" the judge asked.

As the trial got underway Wednesday, a lawyer for the 12 same-sex couples told a packed courtroom that California can no longer claim to have a legitimate reason for denying Gays and Lesbians the right to marry given that such unions already are allowed in several places and the state is poised to give same-sex couples nearly all the legal benefits of marriage.

Shannon Minter of the National Center for Lesbian Rights said such progress has created a situation where assigning Gays anything less than full marital status creates a separate and unequal system that doesn't pass constitutional muster.

"The assertion that marriage is inherently heterosexual can no longer be maintained now that there are a number of jurisdictions that allow same-sex couples to marry," Minter said, rattling off Massachusetts, Canada, Belgium and South Africa as among the places Gay marriage is legal.

Minter said that the state's domestic-partner registry already sets the legal foundation for same-sex marriage. The registry was established five years ago but will expand Jan. 1 with a new law that gives same-sex couples nearly all the rights as married spouses.

It is discriminatory for the state to exclude Gays from marriage if it recognizes they have those rights, Minter said.

Representing the state, Senior

Assistant Attorney General Louis Mauro acknowledged that California is "a leader in affording rights" to same-sex couples. But he maintained that the actions already taken are sufficient to ward off a constitutional challenge and that the state has a defensible reason for upholding the existing definition of marriage as part of an important tradition.

"State law says there is a fundamental right to marry. We concede that. State law also says marriage is a contract between a man and a woman," Mauro said. "Therefore, marriage is a fundamental right when it's between a man and a woman."

In court, a city attorney criticized "the so-called tradition argument" as insufficient justification for maintaining the status quo since the meaning of marriage has evolved over time. As examples, Deputy City Attorney Therese Stewart highlighted the days when interracial couples were prohibited to marry, or wives were considered a husband's property.

"The changes that have been made to marriage have not been detrimental to the institution," she said. "Rather, they have kept the institution vital and relevant to today's society." Kramer, who has indicated he would rule sometime after mid-January, pointed to the common ground.

"It looks like both sides are arguing that the institution of marriage is something special," Kramer mused in court. "One side is saying it can't be denied to some people. The other side is saying it's special and can't be changed."

The trial is the first stop in what is expected to be a yearlong odyssey that could end in the state's highest court.

Pope Continues Attack On G/L Marriage

VATICAN CITY - Pope John Paul on Saturday, December 25, condemned same-sex marriage as an attack on the fabric of society and called on Catholics to combat what he said is an aggressive attempt to legally undermine the family. "Attacks on marriage and the family, from an ideological and legal aspect, are becoming stronger and more radical every day," the 84-year old pontiff said in the unusually strong statement. "Who destroys this fundamental fabric causes a profound injury to society and provokes often irreparable damage."

The Catholic Church teaches that marriage between a man and a woman is sacred and that homosexuality is a sin. That stance has been under pressure among some of its core constituencies, including the United States and Spain, where the socialist government in October approved a controversial draft law to legalize Gay unions.

The pope also condemned abortion, artificial procreation, and an equal status for cohabiting couples as undermining the marital state. "These things that are presented as civilized progress or scientific conquests, in many cases, are in fact a defeat for the dignity of human life and for society," his statement read.

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Alcohol May Expose Mouth To HIV

LOS ANGELES - Contact with alcohol makes cells in the mouth more susceptible to HIV during oral sex, a recent study has found, the PlanetOut Network reported.

A team of researchers from UCLA announced their finding in the Dec. 1, 2004, Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

The group took cells that lined the mouths of HIV-negative people and exposed them to 4 percent ethanol alcohol — about the same amount in beer — for 10 minutes.

They then added a strain of HIV that had been modified with green protein so researchers could trace it more easily.

The exposed cells were three to six times more likely to become infected.

Alcohol consumption has been linked to increased HIV infection in earlier research, the UCLA team remarked in its report. But those studies zeroed in on the link between alcohol and high-risk sexual practices.

Deborah Jack, chief executive of the National Aids Trust, told the BBC that the study was preliminary, but welcome.

“Much more work needs to be done to prove a biological link between alcohol and HIV transmission,” said Jack.

“However,” she went on to say, “the influence of alcohol on the decision whether or not to have unprotected sex has already been established, and particularly at this time of year we urge people to enjoy the festive season safely.”

Man Receives Life Sentence In Gay Bar-Owner's Death

BINGHAMTON - A 21-year-old New York man was sentenced on Tuesday, December 28, to 25 years to life in prison for killing a Binghamton bar owner, Advocate.com reported.

Richard Lawrence pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the April strangulation death of 45-year-old Douglas Guiles at the Gay bar he owned, Prism. Prosecutors said Lawrence intended to rob Guiles after the bar closed and that there was no evidence of a hate crime.

Broome County judge Martin Smith said he will recommend to the state's parole board that Lawrence never leave prison. “You killed one of the nice people in Broome County,” he said. “You have the rest of your life to remember this.” The bar is reopening as Merlin's, the name of Guiles's dog, on January 15.



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POLITICS 2004

by Mark R. Kerr

'You Have To Hand It To The'

Due to a glitch in the production aspect of The Observer, those words were omitted from this reporter's column from last week (Observer #1066) but the mainstream media was at yet again with their muted "response" and "coverage" when it was announced that the proposed Federal Marriage Amendment (FMA) won't be seeing the "political sunlight" in the foreseeable future.

Gee, right after the general election on November 2, wasn't it those pundits on the corporate broadcasting conglomerates blathering on about how the election was about "moral values" and how the queers were smeared at the ballot box?! Despite the mainstream media's muted response, up to 15 states, thanks to the Republicans (GOP) and their new chair, Kenny Mehlman, will be considering a version of the FMA to get the radical right to the ballot box in 2006.

Arizona will be one of the states considering such a measure, thanks again to the GOP, despite the state Defense of Marriage Act - that has been upheld by the courts, and the fact no same-sex marriages or civil unions have been recognized by a governmental entity, because the Republicans will pull out all the stops to defeat the current Democratic Governor, Janet Napolitano - end of story.

So with that, as previously reported, efforts to oppose a proposed amendment to the Arizona Constitution are in the works, since several meetings with individuals, human rights groups, and other supportive organizations, according to former state Representative Steve May of Phoenix, the incoming co-Chair of the Arizona Human Rights Fund. For Southern Arizona, efforts have started to build an opposition coalition to defeat this upcoming discriminatory measure.

According to Kent Burbank, the Executive Director of Wingspan, the "Families for Fairness Coalition" is the preliminary name for the proposed group, envisioning "that the coalition will work to educate and mobilize the LGBT community while building alliances with other progressive organizations and our straight allies in the community." Its purpose, Burbank said, was "to make sure that we have a active, coordinated campaign in Southern Arizona to respond quickly and effectively to these attacks."

This group, Burbank said, believes that a statewide effort is crucial to defeat this proposed amendment. "We believe that it is absolutely critical that we have a coordinated state-wide effort, but that still allows for regional difference in approach and strategies. Thus, the Families for Fairness Coalition will work extremely closely with the state group in Phoenix. A couple Tucson members have already participated in the early meetings that were held in Phoenix earlier in December. We will likely have representatives from our Southern Arizona coalition who will serve as liaisons to the statewide organization, thus assuring consistent communication and dialogue. That said, we also anticipate that Southern Arizona, given the more progressive political climate, will likely carry out our community organizing in slightly different ways and utilizing slightly different strategies than our counterparts in other regions of the state. As long as these strategies are clearly communicated and do not actively conflict with one another, we anticipate there should be ample room for different approaches," he said.

Getting the coalition established and formed, with subcommittees dealing with the various aspects of the issue and the campaign is one of the short term goals, Burbank continued. Two events, he said, are being planned to achieve this - a community forum on Tuesday, January 22, at Wingspan, 300 East Sixth Street, and a public rally on Sunday, February 13, 1 to 3 p.m., at Presidio Park.

So how do community members get involved with the coalition? If people are interested in becoming active members of the coalition and are willing to roll up their sleeves and work, Burbank said, they should contact him at Wingspan, kent@wingspan.org, (520) 624-1779, and they get information when upcoming meetings of the coalition will be taking place. He added that community members should keep an eye out for upcoming events by reading the Observer, subscribing to Wingspan's Weekly E-News, (E-mail to volunteer@wingspan.org), or regularly checking the Wingspan website, www.wingspan.org, which will have announcements of the upcoming events as well as the regular coalition meetings.

France Makes Homophobic Speech A Crime

PARIS - The French Senate Wednesday, December 22, gave final approval to legislation making it a criminal offense to speak or publish homophobia, 365Gay.com reported.

The bill adds sexuality to an existing law banning hate speech against other minorities.

Under the legislation, anyone who provokes hatred or violence on the basis of sex or sexual orientation could be fined up to \$60,000 and be subject to one year in jail.

The bill was fought by the Roman Catholic church which claimed it could be used against priests who speak out against homosexuality or to censor the Bible.

Despite the concerns of the Church, the legislation had little difficulty in the conservative dominated Senate.

The bill which had been pushed by President Jacques Chirac gives France the toughest hate-crime law in the European Union.

French Gay rights group Inter-LGBT hailed the vote as a decisive step to combat growing homophobia.

The government drafted the law after a young Gay man was brutally attacked. After he was beaten his assailants poured gasoline on him and set him on fire leaving him severely burned.

The bill was passed in France's lower house earlier this month. But, even with the backing of Chirac the legislation faced a barrage of criticism including some of the worst anti-Gay remarks ever heard in the chamber - much of it coming from members of Chirac's own party.



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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

by Lee Thorn

We've Already Lost

How do you know when you've lost a war? And why aren't American journalists asking that very question?

I'll go ahead and throw in my definition of losing a war, throw it into the void left by our ever timorous news analysts. You know you've lost a war, or at least you should know it, when you can neither change nor maintain the status quo.

Applying this definition to Iraq, the insurgency is by all accounts getting stronger. There's no evidence that we can do anything to weaken it. There's not even a concrete plan on the table to weaken it. The American public is eventually going to tire of losing its sons and daughters to the ongoing slaughter and demand that we bring them home. Since we can't change the status quo and we can't indefinitely sustain it politically, we've already lost the war although we have no intention of stopping the fighting and dying.

War is often described as the continuation of diplomacy by non-diplomatic means. In other words, when you can't get your way by just talking, you start fighting. The concept holds true for both playgrounds and the great battlefields of world history. If you start fighting when you can't get your way by talking, what do you do when you can't get your way by fighting either?

This sad state of affairs gets described in a variety of phrases. I think Henry Kissinger called it "peace with honor or some such. I call it "losing a war.

The political implication of losing a war is that you don't get what you want no matter how long you keep on fighting. In Iraq we wanted to get rid of Saddam and his weapons of mass destruction without causing chaos in the region. We got Saddam out of power and we're hoping he doesn't regain it. We found no WMD. We caused chaos.

The problem is that, no matter how long we stay, we don't know how to make the chaos go away. Some observers say, in rather wistful tones, that the coming elections in January might diminish chaos. If anyone needs reminding, changing regimes in South Vietnam never had any effect on that war.

Some analysts say that our job will be done when we train enough locals to maintain stability. How can you train people to do what you obviously don't know how to do yourself? How do you maintain stability when you can't achieve it in the first place?

In Vietnam the generals and politicians kept claiming that we were gaining ground militarily. Things were getting more secure. There was that infamous "light at the end of the tunnel". Then, just as the opposition was supposed to be petering out, the Tet Offensive blew the stuffing out of all our official lies.

One amazing contrast between then and now is that nobody is even bothering to claim that things are getting better in Iraq. The officials come right out and say things are getting worse. And they don't say how they plan to reverse the trend. The 'plan' seems to be to keep doing what we're doing and hope to get different results.

I'm dumbfounded by the implicit faith that things in Iraq will get better in the absence of any available mechanism for making them better. Nobody's given me any reason to believe that the insurgents will take any notice of the elections. We admit that they're getting stronger but we suppose that, after the ejections, they'll say something like, "How jolly, elections! We can all go home now and live in peace."

One might challenge my definition of losing a war by pointing to Israel and saying, "They don't seem to be improving the status quo, but they're not admitting defeat." The difference is that Israel can sustain the status quo indefinitely. They have the resources and the political will to fight a war of attrition forever. The reason is that they believe the alternative to fighting that war would be the loss of their nation.

If Americans believed that losing in Iraq would mean the literal end of the United States of America, we could sustain a war of attrition there indefinitely. We know that it doesn't mean that, so we won't.

Too many Americans are still thinking that the politicians must have a plausible plan. They don't say nuthin', but they must know sumthin'. They can't have gotten us into this mess without any inkling of how to get us out.

What the politicians are thinking is probably exactly what LBJ was thinking when he decided not to run for re-election. He was thinking that he wasn't going to admit to losing a war on his watch. For anyone who likes the definition I've offered here, he sure as hell did lose

it. For everyone else, I have to admit that he kept the dying going until he left office.

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

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Norgaard To Perform At Colors



TUCSON - Amber Norgaard will be performing at COLORS Food & Spirits New Years Eve from 7pm - 10pm (Dinner reservations required for New Years Eve only), Fri. Jan. 7th & Sat. Jan. 29th from 7pm -10pm and Feb.4th, 11th, 18th & 25th, all Fridays from 7pm - 10pm.

Amber grew up in Spencer, Iowa where she was exposed to music at an early age. It didn't take long for her to begin incorporating music into her life. When she was young, she learned to play the piano and saxophone. During her high school years, she sang and played music at various school functions. While in college, Amber lived in the Dominican Republic for a semester taking classes and volunteering as a student nurse. It was during this time that Amber first began to teach herself how to play guitar.

In 1996, Amber graduated from Creighton University with a Bachelor Degree in Nursing. After graduation she spent the summer volunteering with Creighton University's Institute for Latin American Concern in the Dominican Republic. She then continued to work for two years as a volunteer nurse in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. She spent her first year in Oregon and her second year in Alaska. During this time, songwriting became a means to process social injustice situations that she encountered through her work and daily life.

After finishing her second year of volunteerism, Amber decided to continue living in Bethel, Alaska working as a nurse. During her six years living there, she continued to foster her love for music and began to develop her skills as a singer/songwriter. She played for small local venues and eventually decided to pursue her music aspirations with more commitment and put her music on a CD.

2003 was a busy year for Amber. Her song "Breathe Into Me" placed as a semi-finalist in the 2003 Alaska Public Radio Network's Song of the Year contest. She also began recording her CD while working full-time and traveling part time playing music.

In the fall of 2003, Amber moved to Tucson, Arizona where she currently resides. Her CD will be released in July 2004, and she continues to spend her time playing music in Arizona and Alaska, and various places in between.

Amber's music is heartfelt with raw emotion which people of all ages can relate to and enjoy. Her songs are about human experiences and are written with well-developed, honest lyrics. From the driving beat of "Welcome to America" to the realistic insightfulness of "Soul in Motion", Amber's music melds contemporary folk and light rock into a style that is all her own.



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Star Pupil Forced Out Of Texas School Over Homosexuality

DALLAS - An 18-year-old honor student at Trinity Christian Academy in Texas was forced to leave the school after officials there discovered he is Gay and had created a Web site to provide support to other Gay teens, Advocate.com reported.

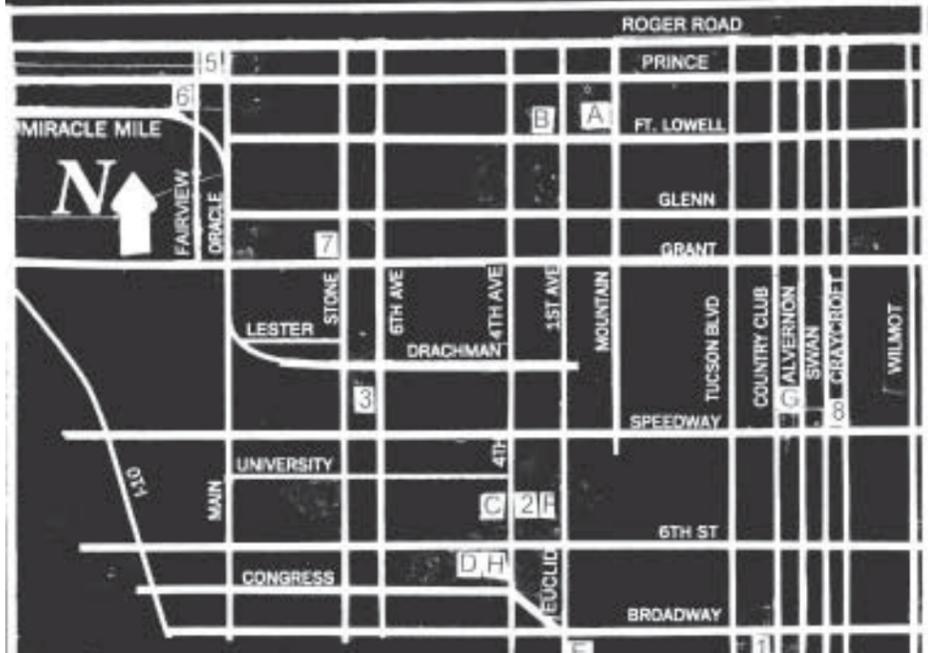
The student, who asked that his name be withdrawn after he granted an interview to The Dallas Morning News, said he was a varsity athlete and a winner of service and citizenship awards at the fundamentalist private school in Addison. He was active in the school theater, was a yearbook editor, and helped younger students with Bible study.

According to the feature in the Morning News, Trinity Christian was the student's second family, and by every indication he was one of the school's favorite sons. But when the school's top administrators learned that the student had created a Web site where teens chat about homosexuality, he said they gave him a choice: either leave quietly or face expulsion for "immoral behavior," which is prohibited by the school's code of conduct. In a matter of days, the student went from prized student to sinner outcast.

The student now attends high school in Plano, and students, teachers,

and administrators at Trinity Christian are left debating whether forcing his withdrawal was the "Christian" thing to do. The case also shines a light on the moral culture clash with which private fundamentalist schools are increasingly wrestling. "I feel completely violated," the student, who had attended Trinity Christian since kindergarten, told the Morning News. "The big lesson here for me is that you can't really trust anybody. That, and I should have kept my mouth shut."

Trinity Christian administrators would not talk specifically about the case. Headmaster David Delph issued a general statement about the school's discipline policy. "As a community of Christian families we also believe the Bible provides insight to help us discern God's desire for our conduct," the statement reads in part. "Therefore we demand high biblical standards of behavior from our students both academically and socially. Our families are asked to embrace these standards of conduct by signing a covenant with the school when students are admitted. Within this framework of biblical standards and academic rigor, an atmosphere of enhanced learning, character development, and love are allowed to flourish."



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I would like to take this opportunity to stop and reflect upon the previous year. As a little boy, I had always looked forward to the end of the year because this meant I was another year closer to moving out and being free. My family had always questioned why I didn't have a girlfriend and why I was not interested in getting married and having children. It was because I knew that I was a Gay man. When I eventually came out to my family, I was shunned. But in every dark cloud there is a silver lining. I realized that I could create my own family. The Gay community, and all of you, are my family.

Many good things happen around Tucson. The Pride on Parade is growing larger, and there are new events happening with HIV/STD prevention departments. But as I reflect, I grow disappointed with my new family. Members of our community have been arrested at Greasewood Park for public sex; members of our community have consistently engaged in risky sex behaviors; members of our community are increasing their drug/alcohol intake; and we still can't marry! This is horse *!@# Stop and look at the community that you are creating. Right before your very eyes, your civil rights are being eradicated and instead of standing up, screaming and fighting, you choose to find myriad of ways in which to kill yourselves. You give far too much ammunition to those who would vanquish us from this earth. You have far too much time on your hands to consume drugs and alcohol and engage in

risky sex with partners of unknown serostatus.

The questions that you need to ask yourself are: "Are my actions representing the Gay community? How does the GLBT youth respond: Are they to follow in the same footsteps? Am I being a positive role model for GLBT youth? Is my behavior affecting others with a negative effect? Am I being honest to myself or am I living a stereotype? Am I accountable for my actions? Am I living a life that I am proud of?"

Work for a better future for your community. Stand up and fight against those who would breed hate against you. You are not the first to face such a difficult task against the order of things. Many groups before you have stood at this threshold and much worse. And what did they do? They fought back against hate. As the next four years begin to unfold with a litany of litigation and legislation eliminating any and all protections against us, what will you do for your brother and your sister? What will you do for yourself? What will you do for the next generation? Will you close your eyes and quietly slip back into the closet? Or will you proudly scream out to the world that you will not be silenced and you will not be oppressed? Will you take your place among the rest of Americans or will you slither back under the rock that they have made for you?

The choice and consequence lies with you. You all are my family.

CBA Tucson's Only Gay & Lesbian Business Networking Organization
COMMUNITY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

- ▼ Largest G&L Business Group in AZ ▼ Monthly Breakfast Networking Meetings
- ▼ Evening Mixers and Business "Out & Abouts" ▼ Membership Directory Listing
- ▼ Web & Digital Directory: www.ns4b.com/cba ▼ Newsletter: *The CBA Reporter*

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Martina To Play Doubles, Mixed Doubles At Aussie Open

GOLD COAST - Martina Navratilova arrived in Australia on Tuesday, December 28, to begin her 30th season of professional tennis at 48, reported the Associated Press.

Navratilova, who delayed plans to retire after competing at her first Olympics this summer, will play doubles in 2005 with Daniela Hantuchova, a 21-year-old Slovakian.

Navratilova, winner of 58 Grand Slam titles, will compete in next week's Gold Coast hardcourt tournament and team with France's Nathalie Dechy, winner of the 2003 Gold Coast singles title.

"She said last year would be her last year, but she's still playing because she loves tennis and she feels like she has a chance of winning," Gold Coast tournament director Liz Smylie said.

Hantuchova is playing the Hopman Cup in Perth, but will join Navratilova for the Sydney International beginning Jan. 10 and the Australian Open beginning Jan. 17. Navratilova will play doubles and mixed doubles — with India's Leander Paes — at the Australian Open.

In 2003, Navratilova and Paes won the Australian Open and Wimbledon mixed doubles titles. It was Navratilova's 20th Wimbledon title, tying the record set by Billie Jean King. This year she won one title, with Lisa Raymond in Vienna, Austria.

NON-BAR CALENDAR

Groups / Clubs / Organizations /

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29

#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Merlin and Lee for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Lee and Merlin at 207-5336.

#2 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. The Circle of Men is a support group that helps you deal with yourself and your relationships with others. For directions and reservations, please call Tom at 591-2828.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Peter hosts Bridge Night. If you don't know how to play, they'll teach you and it's a very relaxed atmosphere. For reservations and directions, please call Peter at 615-8974.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 3

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8

Tucson Prime Timers Food and Drinks, Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Road 5:00 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 10

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 17

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 24

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29

Tucson Prime Timers Food & Drinks, Woody's, 3710 N, Oracle Rd.

MONDAY, JANUARY 31

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

BAR CALENDAR

Of Upcoming Events

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31 - NEW YEAR'S EVE

COLORS - Black and White Ball \$45 dinner package includes your choice of Prime Rib or Salmon Entree, 2 well cocktails or 2 domestic beer, party favors and champagne toast at midnight. Reservations for dinner required.. Show from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. presenting Amber Norgaard performing live!

HOWL AT THE MOON - Bring in the new year with a 'Howl' this year DJ playing a mix of country and dance 8:30 to 2:00 a.m. \$5.00 cover at the door includes your first drink (limit of two spirits), light snacks, party favors and champagne toast at midnight.

IBT'S - Party starts at 9:00 p.m. Dance all night with DJ Q. Party favors. Champagne at midnight.

VENTURE-N - Gala Silver and Gold Balloon Bust. DJ Jerry D. playing your favorites. Midnight Champagne toast and more.

WOODY'S - New Year's Eve Party. Music, live DJ, Steak or Seafood Dinner \$5.00 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. Party Favors and complimentary champagne at midnight. Balloon drop. No Cover.

YARD DOG - Come and enjoy a New Year's Eve dinner and celebration 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Ring in the New Year with the "Ice 9" Band from 9:30 p.m. until 2:00 a.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 2005 - NEW YEARS DAY!!!!

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 10:30 a.m. Chuckwagon Breakfast served until 1:30 p.m. Watch the bowl games here. \$#.00 cheeseburger & fries all day. Saturday night disco party from 8:30 p.m. until 2:00 a.m. Boogie away the first day of 2005. Drink discounts for disco drag!

IBT'S - 4:00 p.m. serving cornbread and black eye peas. 8:30 p.m. Showtime starring Ajia Simone, Bunny FuFu and Janee Starr.

VENTURE-N - Opens 6:00 a.m. Food and drink specials.

WOODY'S - Recovery Party - Open at 11:00 a.m. 5 to 9 p.m. Steak Dinner \$5.00. 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Live Jazz with Arthur.

YARD DOG SALOON - Serving Black Eye Peas and Cornbread to ring in the new year traditionally.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2

HOWL AT THE MOON - 7-10:30 p.m. the smooth sounds of vocalist Susie Rough. Jazz, country, easy listening - a little bit of everything.

IBT'S - Karaoke on the patio 4 to 7:30 p.m. Community Bar-B-Que 5-8:30 p.m. Veronica Halliwell Benefit Show for Miss Gay Tucson at 8:30. Dancing until closing after the show.

WOODY'S - 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Sunday Brunch with Leno. 8:00 P.M. Drag Bingo hosted by Janee Starr and Veronica Halliwell. 9:00 p.m. to close Karaoke with Michael.

DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

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

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

IBT'S - Open Noon \$1.75 Bloodys, Screws or Mimosas.. Sangria Party \$2.50 from 4-1 Benefit B-B-Q and Beer Bust for community organizations 5:30-8pm. Karaoke with Michael D. on the patio 4:30-7:30. 8:30 shows or special events or Hi energy dancing w/ DJ 'T.C. Wildman'. 9-close. All drink specials not available during special events.

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

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

YARD DOG - Open Sundays 10am - 1am. Bloody Marys or Screwdrivers \$1.75 from 10am - 3pm.

MONDAY

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

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

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

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 6pm. Free pool til 4pm. \$2.75 Skyy Martinis 4-8. Free Hot Dogs.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic beer til 7pm. Karaoke w/Michael D. 9-1

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Scotch until 7pm. Beer Bust 3-7pm.

TUESDAY

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

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

with Calabaza Cabeza Karaoke 8 - 11:30 pm

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

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. **WOODY'S** - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic til 7pm. Bartender Calls It drink specials..

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Tequila until 7pm Beer Bust 3-7pm.

WEDNESDAY

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

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

IBT'S - Open Noon. Happy Hours Noon-7pm, 9pm "Diva-Licious" show w/Lucinda Holliday and guests. HiNRG Dancing with DJ-Q. All drink specials not available during special events.

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Draft Special 12-4pm. \$2.75 Cuervo Margaritas 4-8pm

WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic beer til 7pm. Free Hot Dog Buffet 5-11pm. Underwear-fetish- leather nite w/Gary and Chris along with GMHP. \$1 off any drink or bottled beer.(Excludes draft & schnapps) for all in leather or underwear.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Vodka until 7pm Beer Bust 3-7pm.

THURSDAY

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

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

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

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

WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic beer til 7pm. Free Pool 8 to close. Volleyball Court is Open. See bartender.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Bourbon til 7pm. Beer Bust 3-7pm.

FRIDAY

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

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

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

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio open 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. DJ 9pm to close.

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

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Gin until 7pm. 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 country dance music 8:30 to 2

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.

DESERT PRIDE - Your store for Gay Pride and more!

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

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 WORLD-WIDE invites Gay or Bisexual men and their admirers to join and share Prime Timers fellowship. We welcome mature men (and admirers) who wish to become involved with planned and future Prime Timers (TPT) activities. Meetings luncheons and dinners are held monthly. For dates, times and information call 529-2269, leave name and phone number. Tucsonpt@primetimersww.org

TUCSON GAY INFORMATION AND REFERRAL. For Information on human service organizations, health and mental health services, financial and government assistance, emergency services such as food and shelter, education, etc. Call Information and Referral 881-1794 - 8 am - 5 pm Mon. - Fri.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**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 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THEATER / DINNER / ETC! Non-Smoking Lesbian Network meets every 3rd Saturday night of each month. If you'd like to meet women 35+ (flexible) and socialize in a smoke-free environment 888-8010 before 10:00 p.m. The group dines out and attends shows or movies. Now in their 16th year! (2nd in Tucson).

SOUTHERN ARIZONA GENDER ALLIANCE (SAGA). The Southwest's largest transgender and gender-variant advocacy organization. Speakers and panelists available. General meetings monthly on the 1st Mondays at 7pm; Dezerz Girlz MTF Support) meets 2nd Mondays at 7pm; Dezerz Boyz (FTM Support) meets 3rd Tuesdays at 7pm. Also serving partners, youth, intersex, service providers and allies. Call (520)867-0083 for more info.

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

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

DESERT DOMINION, whose focus is providing information and education for people interested in the BDSM lifestyle, meets monthly for group discussion and social events. Visit our web site <http://www.desertdominion.org> or call (520)792-6424

SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS. Starting this February, the Tucson Rape crisis Center will be providing free confidential group services for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender survivors of all manner of sexual assault. Interested persons please call Mirto Stone, MSW, at 327-1171 (if unavailable leave message with phone number).

AAPSP - ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY PROFESSIONALS: a confidential organization committed to providing support and networking for all Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual public safety professionals in Arizona. Membership open to Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters, Probation, Parole and Corrections Officers and civilians working within these agencies. Website: AAPSP.org or e-mail: AAPSP@aol.com or call Dave (520)745-9059 (Tucson) or Kim (602)534-6219 (Phoenix)

GLSEN - Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network meets first Thursday of every month at 4:30pm at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th Street. 743-4800.

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

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

TUCSON GREATER SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION. Interested? Call Kelly Quinn, (520)906-0669 and or Mona Garcia 256-8728.

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

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

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

"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 club meets once a month, on the 3rd Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at Maggie's Pizza on 4th Avenue to discuss the Gay-themed book read by members the previous month.

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

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

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

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

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

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COMMENTARY . . .**'An NPR Snow Job'**

National Public Radio (NPR), the last bastion of the so-called liberal media, former ground zero of liberal commentary on the airwaves, and target of conservative criticism and abuse, finally caved when the "moral values" voters, and perhaps Michael Powell, have invaded NPR's offices and censored a Christmas classic - David Sedaris reading from his Santaland Diaries, where Sedaris describes a month he spent as a Christmas elf for Macy's.

When Santaland Diaries was first aired 12 years ago, it was more than a little daring because of its description of a flirtation with Snowball, another male elf. It became one of the most requested tapes from NPR. Six months later, the New York Times had this to say about the Snowball business:

Before the broadcast . . . which told of a brief and disappointing flirtation with another elf named Snowball, the "Morning Edition" producers worried about Mr. Sedaris's discussing his homosexuality. "You very seldom hear a Gay man on the radio," Mr. Glass said. "I mean one who isn't talking about being a Gay man with AIDS or discussing Gays in the military. We got a lot of letters that said, 'Thanks for letting David Sedaris on the radio, not as a Gay person, but just as he is.'"

Well, what worried the NPR producers in 1992 has them scared in 2004. Snowball was cut from the rebroadcast.

Here's the offending passage:

"The overall cutest elf is a fellow from Queens named Snowball. Snowball tends to ham it up with the children, sometime literally tumbling down the path to Santa's house. I tend to frown on that sort of behavior but Snowball is hands down adorable — you want to put him in your pocket. Yesterday we worked together as Santa Elves and I became excited when he started saying things like, 'I'd follow you to Santa's house any day, Crumpet!'"

"It made me dizzy, this flirtation."

"By mid-afternoon I was running into walls. At the end of our shift we were in the bathroom, changing clothes, when suddenly we were surrounded by three Santas and five other elves — all of them were guys that Snowball was flirting with."

"Snowball just leads elves on, elves and Santas. He is playing a dangerous game."

NPR wants donations from the public to run their stations and programs as public radio but now a segment of that public, who have donated are now cut out, just like "Snowball." This should not be the case and when those letters requesting contributions are sent, let your NPR station now that the GLBT community won't accept this NPR "snow job" over censorship and the pink dollars won't be flowing NPR's way till they bring back "Snowball."

**Workers May Be Fired For Blowing Whistle On Dangerous AIDS Drugs**

WASHINGTON, D.C - Thousands of federal doctors and medical researchers who receive some of the highest salaries in government do not enjoy the same protections to blow the whistle on wrongdoing as other civil servants, a judge has ruled, the Associated Press reported on 365Gay.com.

Administrative Judge Raphael Ben-Ami of the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board ruled recently that Dr. Jonathan Fishbein, a National Institutes of Health specialist, could not seek the board's protection from firing under the Whistleblower Protection Act.

Fishbein was hired by NIH in 2003 to help improve AIDS research practices. He alleges he is being fired because he uncovered concerns about sloppy research practices that might endanger patient safety.

NIH said that he was being fired for poor performance and described a "disgruntled" employee who failed to make his two-year probation period.

Fishbein is a "Title 42" employee and is paid \$178,000 a year, slightly more than the \$175,700 that members of President Bush's Cabinet receive.

Title 42 of the federal code allows the government to pay research and medical experts as special consultants and give them salaries higher than the civil servant maximums. The law is designed to help the government compete against high-paying private industries.

NIH employs more than 3,959 Title 42 workers, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention employs 200 to 300, according to the Department of Health and Human Services.

Ben-Ami ruled Nov. 9 that Fishbein was not covered by the Whistleblower Protection Act because he is a Title 42 employee and has "no appeal rights" during his two-year probationary period.

"Title 42 appointments of special consultants are made without regard to the civil service laws," and therefore they are not permitted to appeal to the Merit Systems Protection Board under the whistle-blower law, he ruled. "The board lacks authority to consider the appellants' claims of discrimination or retaliation."

Fishbein's lawyers are appealing to the full board.

The whistle-blower law was passed more than a decade ago to strengthen federal workers' protections when they raise allegations of federal wrongdoing, giving them outlets such as the board and the U.S. Office of Special Counsel to seek legal protection.

The National Whistleblower Center, based in Washington, is urging Congress to fix what it called a "dangerous loophole."

"This is a major setback for drug safety," said Kris Kolesnik, the center's executive director. "Many of these employees, such as Dr. Fishbein, hold sensitive health- and safety-related positions. Without protections, these employees will not blow the whistle."

The Associated Press reported that Fishbein was among several NIH employees who raised concerns in 2002 about a study in Africa involving the AIDS drug nevirapine.

Documents showed that the way the research was conducted violated federal patient safety rules and suffered from record-keeping and patient monitoring problems. But the study's general conclusion that the drug could be used safely in single doses to protect babies from HIV was upheld.

Steve Kohn, Fishbein's attorney, said federal agencies including NIH have markedly increased their recruitment and hiring of employees under Title 42 in recent years, leaving an entire class of workers without whistle-blower protections.

New Years Eve Black & White Ball

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