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Marriage Ban Bill Introduced; Petition Drive Announced

By Mark R. Kerr

PHOENIX (ON) - Legislation to place before voters in November 2006, a proposed state constitutional amendment defining marriage has been filed in the Arizona Legislature.

HCR 2027 is the proposed state constitutional amendment and if approved by voters, would define marriage as "a union between a man and a woman."

"I would like the voters to have it as an option," said Rep. Marian McClure, R-Tucson, the lead sponsor of HCR 2027, in a recent interview.

Also signed on as primary sponsors are state Representative Jonathan Paton, R-Tucson and state Senator Tim Bee, R-Tucson, for whom all representative Legislative District 30, encompassing the Eastern portion of Pima County, including Green Valley going to Sierra Vista. State Representatives Michelle Reagan, R-Scottsdale and Russell Jones, R-Yuma, have signed on as cosponsors.

A coalition of social conservatives opposing same-sex marriage will mount an initiative campaign to put a state constitutional amendment on Arizona's 2006 ballot instead of seeking legislative action as previ-

ously planned, leaders announced Thursday, January 13.

"Marriage, the foundation of our society, is too important to politicize," Center for Arizona Policy president Len Munsil said in a statement.

In the statement, Munsil continues, saying that recent media reports "marginalized" the issue as a political football that would be used by both Republicans and Democrats, he said.

Unlike McClure's proposed amendment, the social conservative coalition would prohibit civil unions, domestic partnerships, and the extension of medical and dental benefits to the same-sex domestic partners and their dependents of government employees.

A total of 183,917 valid signatures by July 2006 would be needed to be placed on the November, 2006 general election ballot.

So will Arizona voters face two competing initiatives on the November 2006 ballot?

As of press time, HCR 2027 had not been first read by the Arizona House Speaker and the coalition of social conservative groups had not taken out the initial paperwork from the Arizona Secretary of State's office to begin the process of gathering signatures for which they said they're in the organizing process at this time.

Military Fired More G/L Linguists Report Says

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A new report reveals that recent military discharges of Gay and Lesbian linguists were more widespread than previously reported, and a large number of those experts were trained in languages that are strategic in the U.S. war on terror, the PlanetOut Network reported.

According to newly released Pentagon records, at least 73 language specialists were discharged between 1998 and 2004 because of the military's "Don't ask, Don't tell" policy that prevents openly Gay individuals from serving. Of those, 20 were Arabic linguists, 16 were trained in Korean and six were Farsi speakers.

The figures were obtained by the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military and were reported first in the Jan. 24 issue of the New Republic.

Experts have identified a shortage of Arabic translators as a key flaw in the government's ability

to anticipate the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks or make breakthroughs in the larger war on terror.

Steve Ralls, spokesman for the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, said the "Don't ask, Don't tell" policy undermines military readiness and should be repealed.

"The military is placing homophobia well ahead of national security," he said. "It's rather appalling that in the weeks leading up to 9/11, messages were coming in, waiting to be translated ... and at the same time they were firing people who could've done that job."

Ian Finkenbinder, who served in Iraq during 2003 with the Army's Third Infantry Division, was an Arabic translator who was discharged upon his return from the war. This week his division will go back for a second tour in Iraq without him, the New Republic reported.

"There was definitely a feeling of, 'We could really use you,'" he said, recalling the time his commander started discharge proceedings. "I was an Arabic linguist, and those are pretty valuable over there."

Walsted Murder Trial; Update

TUCSON - With contradictory confessions, two people have claimed responsibility for the brutal beating death of a 24-year-old Gay man, Philip A. Walsted, in 2002, reported the Arizona Daily Star.

David A. Higdon, 22, is on trial in the murder, classified by police as a hate crime. He faces 25 years to life in prison if he's convicted of first-degree murder.

According to prosecutors, Higdon admitted in a letter and a conversation with a fellow inmate that he is a killer.

In opening statements Thursday, January 13, in Superior Court, prosecutor Teresa Godoy said there are three "simple truths" about Higdon: He beat Walsted to death; he stole items of value from Walsted; and he is a "skinhead."

And she described "an effort to conceal those truths so David Higdon can get away with murder," namely the confession of Kathleen Turner - referred to in court as Kathleen Farabaugh - who also claimed she killed Walsted.

In an emotion-laden tape that defense attorney Bobbi Berry played for jurors, Turner, described as a prostitute who used Higdon for protection, said she was extremely high on crack when she tried to proposition Walsted on June 12, 2002.

After repeated refusals, she said, she started getting very angry, and she "got up in his face." When Walsted shoved her against a pickup truck, she reached into the truck bed, picked up a baseball bat and started swinging.

The official version of events, based on previous interviews with Turner, Higdon's brother, an inmate at the jail and a letter Higdon wrote, is very different.

Police say Walsted was making his way through his West University neighborhood after a night shift at American Airlines, where he was a reservation specialist, when a man parked with his girlfriend in the area called to him.

He walked over to Higdon, and the pair chatted for a minute. Higdon pulled out a baseball bat and hit Walsted.

Walsted ran, but Higdon caught him a block away, hitting him repeatedly with the bat. Walsted was found around 4 a.m. by a passer-by and died a few hours later.

After talking to Turner, police went to Higdon's home with a search warrant and found some of Walsted's belongings, including his keys, driver's license and shoes, and newspaper clippings on the killing.

Godoy said Higdon confessed to killing Walsted in a letter written after the murder.

She quoted the letter as saying: "I

am a warm-blooded killer, no remorse, no regrets. I will kill for my beliefs."

She also relayed a recorded phone conversation from the Pima County jail between Higdon and a friend, Tom Anderson, which she said illustrates the plot to hide the truth.

Godoy said that when Higdon asked Anderson for news, Anderson responded: "I know the whole story. You're covering for people."

Higdon responded that he was.

Godoy said that in a later conversation with Anderson about Turner, Higdon said someone needed to take her to the "cooler."

Ten days later, Turner made her confession, saying Higdon was covering for her. She later gave contradicting interviews on whether she had been threatened to make her confession.

Turner has refused to testify at Higdon's trial, claiming Fifth Amendment protection against self-incrimination.

Godoy also said Higdon, in a sign-language conversation with another inmate at the jail, confessed that he had just planned on robbing Walsted until he noticed his victim was a homosexual.

She said Higdon expressed pleasure in the fact that Walsted looked like he had been hit by a truck and wrote that he had "bashed" him, using a derogatory term for Gay men.

But Berry, Higdon's attorney, said her client is not a skinhead, even though he faces a host of other charges stemming from several jail incidents, including allegations that he was part of a white supremacist plot to attack corrections officers.

"Folks, you go to jail, you are a racist. Your survival depends on it," the defense attorney said.

Berry said that the minute Higdon set foot in jail, he was besieged by skinhead recruiters who had heard he killed a Gay man.

"Do you think he's going to deny the murder?" she asked. "What becomes critical is your reputation."

Berry said she would call one of Higdon's family friends - a Gay, black man - to testify as to Higdon's character. And she pointed out that Anderson, Higdon's friend, is Hispanic.

"There is not one shred of evidence to suggest David hung out with skinheads, Aryans," before going to jail, she said.

Turner was listed as a defense witness, reported the Tucson Citizen, but before the trial began she invoked her Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination.

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UPDATE

Arizona's Anti-Gay Marriage Amendment Meeting January 25

TUCSON - On Tuesday, January 25, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Wingspan will host a community forum at their main office, 300 East Sixth St., to discuss implications of the anti-Gay marriage efforts nationally and in the Arizona State Legislature.

Topics will include Election 2004 anti-Gay propositions, Arizona Legislature update as well as implications for advocacy of civil rights for LGBT citizens in Arizona.

Panelists will include Cathy Busha, Director of Programs at Wingspan; Ron Bogard attorney and Arizona Human Rights Board member; Laura Penny, Wingspan Board and Arizona Women's Political Caucus VP; Kristen Felan, who spent two weeks in Oregon working against the recent anti-Gay initiative; and Nancy Polikoff, visiting professor at UA College of Law. The majority of the evening will be dedicated to community dialogue and audience questions and comments.

The forum is free and open to the public. No RSVP required. This is the first of a 2005 Wingspan series of community discussions to explore strategies for advancing LGBT civil rights in Arizona. Call (520) 624-1779 or visit the website <http://www.wingspan.org> for more information.

Marijuana Use Helps Some HIV Patients Adhere To Therapy

NEW YORK - A new study in the Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes shows that HIV patients who treat nausea with medical marijuana adhere better to their antiretroviral therapy than those who take other anti-nausea treatments or take none at all.

Researchers studied 168 HIV-positive adults—41 of whom used medical marijuana—to gauge adherence to anti-HIV drug regimens. Patients suffering from mild to severe nausea and who used medical marijuana were found to be far more likely to take their anti-HIV drugs as prescribed than similar HIV patients who did not smoke pot. However, the study also showed that marijuana use by HIV patients not experiencing nausea was linked with lower antiretroviral adherence.

The study is one of the first to show that marijuana use can help HIV-positive adults fight off the gastrointestinal side effects of anti-HIV medications and help them stick to regimens of the lifesaving drugs. "Adherence to medications is a challenge to any chronically ill patient and is critically important to HIV-infected individuals, as sustained high levels of adherence are required for long-term viral suppression," the researchers write.

Showtime Bids Farewell to QAF, Welcomes New Season Of The 'L' Word

NEW YORK - Out Showtime president Robert Greenblatt announced Wednesday, January 12, that the network was picking up a third season of The L Word but would bid farewell to Queer as Folk after the latter's fifth season, Advocate.com reported.

"We're saying it's going out with a bang," Greenblatt told Variety. "The executive producers feel like they've brought it to a certain place and told their stories. I'm sorry to see it go, but it also allows me to get new things on the air."

But while Showtime will premiere several new shows in the coming months—including Kirstie Alley in Fat Actress and Mary-Louise Parker in the sitcom Weeds, from out Saved! director Brian Dannelly—the network remains committed to its Lesbian-themed hit The L Word. In a statement, Greenblatt said, "The L Word has not only proven itself to be a signature show for Showtime but also one that has captured the imagination of a large mainstream audience with its bold, sexy storylines and talented cast." Season 2 of The L Word premieres on Showtime on Sunday, February 20; the final season of Queer as Folk is set to premiere by early summer.



Hate Crimes Forum January 27

TUCSON - The Wingspan Anti-Violence Project (WAVP) will hold a community forum to reflect on the outcome of the David Higdon trial and discuss responses to hate crimes in general.

On trial for the murder of Philip Walsted, a 24-year old Gay man murdered in the 4th Avenue area in June, 2002, Higdon has been incarcerated since his arrest. The murder has been labeled a hate crime. The trial process begins with jury selection on January 11, and is expected to last two weeks. "This trial has been a long time in coming," says Lori Girshick, Coordinator of the WAVP. "It has been difficult for Philip's family members as the case has taken many twists and turns. It finally looks like justice is within reach."

Confirmed panel members so far include Teresa Godoy, county prosecutor in the case, Detective Tim Rupel of the Tucson Police Department's Special Investigations Section who works closely on hate crimes in Tucson, Matt Heil, writer and reporter with Echo Magazine, who has extensively covered hate crimes and bias acts, and a survivor of a bias-motivated attack. Panelists will discuss this case in particular and what we can do as a community to respond to hate violence. The community forum will be held on January 27th from 6 - 8 p.m. at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th Street. It is free and open to the public.

The Wingspan Anti-Violence Project is part of a national coalition of LGBT anti-violence programs which pools statistics, information, and strategies to address hate violence. "We encourage LGBT community members to call the WAVP crisis line to report any bias acts and receive support, safety planning, and referrals. Staff is available during week-days from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. for walk-in hours and appointments. Wingspan is committed to advocating for individuals and working on local and state levels to respond to hate violence," continues Girshick.

'Ruthless: The Musical' January 13 - 30

TUCSON - Arizona Onstage Productions (Falsettoland, Assassins) presents the Off-Broadway musical comedy "Ruthless! The Musical," currently playing until January 30, at The Zuzi Little Theatre.

With music by Marvin Laird and book and lyrics by Joal Paley, "Ruthless! The Musical" is a high speed musical that The New York Daily News says is "A hilarious show business musical." "Ruthless! The Musical" has been awarded the Outer Circle Critic's Award for Best Off-Broadway musical.

The Zuzi Little Theatre is located at 738 North 5th Ave - near the corner of 5th and University in the Historic Y Building. Tickets are \$20 general admission and \$16 for students and 55 or older. Group rates are available.

To purchase tickets, call (520) 882-6574, or for more information call (520) 270-3332.

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

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ARTS & GRAPHICS:
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Commentary. . .Civil Rights. Community. Movement.

civil rights [n.] The rights belonging to an individual by virtue of citizenship, esp. the right to due process, equal protection of the law, and freedom from discrimination.

community [n.] A group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together within a larger society.

movement [n.] An organized effort to promote or attain an end; the act of moving.

The histories of America's civil rights movements - and their successes in securing equal protection of the law for those denied it - have always been shaped by the complex interweaving of legal victories, political progress and advances in public opinion.

So when we look at the state of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) civil rights today, we have every reason to be optimistic. Our movement is strong, it is determined, and it is gathering momentum every day.

It has been only 18 months since the Supreme Court struck down the last remaining state laws that branded us as criminals, little more than a year since Massachusetts' top court ruled that same-sex couples could not be denied full equality in marriage, and mere weeks since California enacted the nation's most expansive domestic partnership law.

All the while, public support for LGBT equality continues to grow. Gallup has reported that 89% of Americans support equal employment opportunity for Gays and Lesbians. Polls also show nearly two-thirds support the same opportunities for Transgender Americans. Nearly four in five - up from 57% just a decade ago - support openly Gay military service members; and amid the enactment of anti-Gay constitutional amendments in 11 states this past November, exit polls showed that 60% of

voters favor legal recognition for same-sex couples.

The speed with which our movement is advancing on all fronts is absolutely historic - and it hasn't happened by chance or by accident.

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community crosses all borders. We are born into families as diverse as our nation. We are of every race, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, class, educational background, ability and party affiliation. We live in cities, towns and neighborhoods across this country, in red states and in blue. We, literally, are everywhere.

Yet because that rich diversity often goes unseen, ignored or forgotten, we remain vulnerable to inaccurate stereotypes manufactured by a small but powerful group of anti-Gay extremists. Wrapping themselves in cloaks of "family" and "values," these groups are spending tens of millions of dollars to confuse, distort and subvert the public debate that continues to change hearts and minds about our right to equality as it opens America's eyes to the true family values that LGBT couples, parents and families are living and demonstrating every day.

This public debate serves another purpose as well: it reveals the unjust realities our community faces. If we must take time to care for an ill partner, we can lose our jobs because we are denied the protections of the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. Surviving Gay and Lesbian partners can find their families imperiled by laws that deny inheritance, child custody rights, and Social Security survivors' protection. Binational LGBT couples and families can be cruelly torn apart by deportation and immigration laws that treat them as legal strangers.

The manifest unfairness of these and countless other discriminations is one reason why support for LGBT equality continues to rise. It's also why we must

commit to creating of our diverse community a truly inclusive movement - one that is represented by and pursues justice for the diverse lives that give it substance.

The groups represented here are parts of a large civil rights orchestra. We play different instruments - lobbying, electoral politics, impact litigation, grassroots organizing, public education, media advocacy and more - and we are dedicated to playing them well. While our organizations vary in focus and strategies, we share a number of common priorities that will help shape and unite our work in the months and years to come. Among them:

We must fight for equal employment opportunity, benefits and protections - and the federal and state laws that safeguard them.

We must fight against anti-LGBT violence and for the inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity in federal hate crimes law that already protects Americans based on race, religion and national origin.

We must fight - in both the private and public sectors - for better access to health care and insurance. We must advocate for HIV/AIDS policies - including age-appropriate, LGBT- inclusive comprehensive sexuality education - that effectively address this epidemic at home and abroad.

We must insist on safe schools, where youth can learn free from bullying, harassment and discrimination.

We must fight for family laws that give our children strong legal ties to their parents.

We must work to overturn the military's discriminatory anti-LGBT ban, which dishonors service members who serve their country with valor and distinction.

We must continue to expose the radical right's efforts to advance a culture of prejudice and intolerance, and we must fight their attempts to enshrine anti-Gay bigotry in our state and federal laws and constitutions.

And we must continue our vigorous fight for the freedom to marry and the equal protections, rights and responsibilities that safeguard our families, strengthen our commitments, and continue to transform understanding of our lives and our relationships.

In December, People asked President and Mrs. Bush about civil unions. "Is a couple joined by that kind of legal arrangement as much of a family as, say, you two are a family?" "Of course," President Bush replied.

Bush's acknowledgement (despite his support for an anti-Gay constitutional amendment) has set an important new minimum standard for future dialogue surrounding same-sex couples and families, one that reflects an evolving public respect for our relationships that even those who seek to codify discrimination against us cannot easily ignore.

This revolution in understanding and respect has been made possible by millions of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Americans who are coming out, being out, and living the truth of their lives for others to see. By families unafraid to publicly declare their love for and commitment to one another. By people unwilling, by word or deed, to tell future generations that our relationships are deserving of anything less than acceptance, respect and celebration. And by an orchestra of organizations committed to the strategic advancement of our movement.

But at the end of the day, our movement must be more than a collective noun. It must also be an action. Even the most vibrant, vital community can, over

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LGBT Groups Push For Civil Rights

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A broad new alliance of the nation's leading LGBT organizations has announced an unprecedented partnership aimed at advancing the fight for civil rights in 2005 and beyond, the PlanetOut Network reported.

Mainstream organizations such as the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) have joined the coalition of 22 organizations, as well as other groups representing Gays, Lesbians, Transgender people, African Americans, Hispanics, Republicans and Democrats.

In a joint statement released Thursday, January 13, the coalition urged people to get involved in the movement.

"Engage new allies at home, in your workplace, in your place of worship, at your school," the groups said in the statement. "Stand up. Spread the word. Share your story."

Leaders from the consortium paired the press release with a teleconference in which they pledged to work together to advance LGBT civil rights.

"Our goal is to send a strong message to the LGBT community that we stand united, we're retreating from nothing and we're moving into 2005 with shared vision," said Joan Garry, executive director of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD).

The group released a list of goals for the coming year. Among them is the continued fight for the freedom to marry, despite the passage of anti-Gay constitutional amendments in 11 states.

Matt Foreman, executive direc-

tor of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, promised there would be no backing down.

"There's no retreat from marriage," he said. "There can't be."

The group also pledged to continue to expose the radical right's efforts to advance a culture of prejudice and intolerance, and to fight for children's rights by working toward schools that are free from harassment and for family laws that give children strong legal ties to their parents.

Another challenge will be the passage of federal and state laws guaranteeing equal employment opportunities, benefits and protections, and amending the federal hate crimes law to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

"It will be an uphill battle," said HRC Political Director Winnie Stachelberg, "because Republican leadership in (U.S.) House and Senate continues to oppose civil rights for Gays and Lesbians."

The officials cited reports that say Americans are becoming more supportive of LGBT issues. And despite recent setbacks, the partners said the LGBT movement is "gathering momentum."

Patrick Guerriero, president of the Log Cabin Republicans, called the new coalition "unprecedented."

"We speak in one voice, share broader vision," he said. "And we're looking forward to a day in America when all are treated equally."

More U.s. G/L Soldiers Sought Help In '04

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The number of U.S. Gay and Lesbian military personnel seeking confidential legal counsel about dealing with the "Don't ask, Don't tell" policy surged to a record number in 2004, according to the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), the PlanetOut Network reported.

The Washington-based advocacy group said on Tuesday, January 11, that it received 1,025 requests for assistance in 2004, compared with 991 in 2003.

The increase occurred despite a nearly two-year U.S.-led war in Iraq, which has drawn widespread criticism that the number of troops deployed is not enough to achieve victory.

"Service members continue to report to SLDN that they face a hostile military environment rife with anti-Gay harassment and discrimination," said SLDN Executive Director C. Dixon Osburn. "Even as their talents are more urgently needed than ever before, Lesbian and Gay service members face investigation, harassment and discharge."

Osburn's statement on Tuesday coincided with the fifth anniversary of Great Britain lifting its ban on Gay and Lesbian military personnel.

"Five years later, our closest

military ally has reported no negative consequences as a result of doing so," he said.

An emerging trend among assistance requests in 2004 were cases of "outing" based on a service member's online profile or personal ad. Such cases resulted in at least one firing per month in the first half of 2004.

Another request for SLDN's help led to a successful battle in 2004 to save the retirement benefits of Air Force Master Sergeant David Cooper, a 22-year war veteran who was "outed" by two civilian women.

"Without SLDN's help, everything I worked hard to achieve would have been stolen from me," Cooper said.

The increase in assistance requests does not necessarily mean that the 2004 total for Gay and Lesbian discharges will rise. The figures have not been released yet. In 2003, the discharges actually dropped to the lowest level since 1995.



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White House Backtracks Again Backs FMA

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The White House sought on Sunday, January 16, to reassure conservatives that President Bush would work hard on behalf of a proposed constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage, backtracking from remarks Mr. Bush made in an interview suggesting that he would not press the Senate to vote on the amendment this year, reported the New York Times

In an interview with The Washington Post published on Sunday, January 16, Mr. Bush said many senators did not see the need for the amendment as long as the law known as the Defense of Marriage Act was in place. Because many senators are waiting to see if that legislation can withstand a constitutional challenge, "nothing will happen" for now with the proposed amendment, Mr. Bush said.

In the campaign, Mr. Bush's stated support for an amendment defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman was a rallying cry for many social conservatives in the presidential campaign.

Along with ballot initiatives in several states barring same-sex marriage, it helped increase turnout among voters who backed him.

In interviews on Sunday on television news programs, Dan Bartlett, Mr. Bush's counselor, said Mr. Bush was referring in The Post interview only to the reality of legislative vote counting and was not suggesting that his support for the amendment had diminished.

"What the president was speaking to was some of the legislative realities in the United States Senate," Mr. Bartlett said. "As you know, it requires 67 votes in the United States Senate for a constitutional amendment to move forward. That's a very high bar. What we learned through the debate last year is that many members of the Senate believe that the Defense of Marriage Act first must be overturned or challenged before we take the next step of a constitutional amendment."

The president's statement in the interview with The Post, Mr. Bartlett said, "does not change President Bush's view about amendment, the need for an amendment. And he'll continue to push for an amendment."

Some of Mr. Bush's conservative allies on Capitol Hill said that they would keep pushing the issue and that they believed the president would be with them.

"I can tell you, I'm not going to break faith with social conservatives, and I know the president won't either," said Senator Rick Santorum, Republican of Pennsylvania, speaking on "Fox News Sunday."

"This president has gone out and led on this issue," Mr. Santorum added. "He understands the importance of traditional marriage, that children need mothers and fathers, and we have to have a culture that nurtures and supports that. And I'm confident the president will go out there, and I don't think one interview is a turning point in his presidency."

Gay Survivor Winner Guilty Of Tax Evasion

PROVIDENCE - Richard Hatch, who became a millionaire when he won the first-ever "Survivor" series, has agreed to plead guilty to two counts of tax evasion for failing to report income including the \$1.01 million he won on the show, the Associated Press reported on 365Gay.com.

Federal prosecutors charged that Hatch, 43, filed false 2000 and 2001 tax returns, omitting his income from the CBS show, as well as another \$321,000 he was paid by a Boston radio station.

The penalty could be up to five years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine for each charge. However, as part of the plea agreement filed in federal court on Tuesday, January 18, the U.S. Attorney's office said it would recommend a lesser sentence.

The agreement is not binding, and Hatch could still choose to plead innocent and proceed to trial.

The charges were announced Tuesday by the U.S. Attorney's office. The details of the plea agreement appeared in court documents, which were signed by Hatch on Jan. 6 and filed Tuesday.

According to the U.S. Attorney's Office, Survivor Entertainment Group paid Hatch \$10,000 in August 2000 for

appearing on the final episode of the reality show and \$1 million for being declared the show's winner. Prosecutors allege that in November 2002, Hatch filed a false personal income tax return for the 2000 tax year by failing to report the \$1.01 million.

Prosecutors also said that Hatch failed to report income he earned working as on-air co-host and on-air personality for "The Wilde Show" on WQSX-FM in Boston between January and December 2001.

A message left at Hatch's Newport home was not immediately returned.

On "Survivor," Hatch stood out because of his penchant for nudity and as the only openly gay contestant. Dave Letterman dubbed him the "fat naked guy."

Since the television show, Hatch has weathered a series of legal battles.

He was arrested in April 2000 on a charge of abusing his then 9-year-old son. That charge was later dropped.

In 2002, in a ruling that overturned a conviction from several months earlier, Hatch was found innocent of assaulting his ex-boyfriend.

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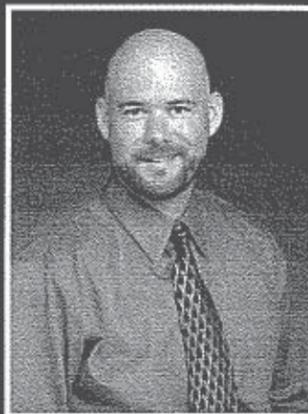
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Air Forcer Proposal Sought Gay Sex Weapon

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Pentagon briefly looked into making a weapon that would render enemy troops sexually attracted to one another, according to an official document uncovered by a watchdog group that monitors research into biological and chemical weapons, the PlanetOut Network reported.

1994 Air Force plan was the only one he knew about that specifically addressed an anti-Gay weapon. He added, however, that the sentiment behind the proposed weapon is not uncommon in the military.

"Humiliating your enemy with Gay sex sounds a lot like what happened at Abu Ghraib," Hammond said, referring to the prisoner abuse scandal that was uncovered last year in Iraq.

The proposed aphrodisiac was part of a weapons development plan circulated in 1994 at the U.S. Air Force Wright Laboratory in Dayton, Ohio. An outline of the plan was discovered by the Sunshine Project and posted on its Web site.

Steve Ralls, a spokesman for the Washington, D.C.-based Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), said, "It is a homophobic and delusional proposition for the Pentagon to assume a Gay opponent is any less formidable than a straight one."

The six-year plan included development of several "non-lethal" chemical weapons, including one that would inflict "severe and lasting halitosis" in enemy combatants and a "sting me/attack me" chemical that would cause bees to become more aggressive.

Ralls also said that the SLDN, which is fighting the U.S. military's ban on openly Gay military personnel, would look into the matter and would consider asking Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to repudiate the proposal.

The aphrodisiac chemical would be designed to make enemy soldiers sexually irresistible to each other. The resulting widespread homosexual behavior, the proposal suggests, would cause a "distasteful but completely non-lethal blow" to morale.

A spokesman for the Department of Defense stressed that the 1994 outline was strictly a proposal that was never approved.

"None of the systems, including the alleged sex bomb, have been developed, nor were they ever considered up for development," Lt. Col. Barry Venable told the PlanetOut Network on Friday.

The proposal estimated that the cost of the project over six years would top \$7 million.

Edward Hammond of the Sunshine Project said he has seen several dozen similar military weapons proposals, but this

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MTV Delays Launch Of GLBT TV Network

NEW YORK - Cable subscribers who have been anticipating the launch of the new Gay Logo channel next month are now going to have to wait until the summer, according to an announcement Thursday, January 13, from MTV Networks, the PlanetOut Network reported.

Brian Graden, president of Logo and of entertainment for MTV and VH1, said the launch of the channel has been moved from Feb. 17 to June 30.

Graden said that major reasons for the delay were to expand diversity in the programming and to make sure the channel gets a wider distribution.

"We can't launch without having something for everyone," he told the PlanetOut Network. "I wanted to make sure ... everyone could see themselves reflected in the channel."

Once the channel launches, MTV Networks expects it will be available in 10 million homes, up from a possible two million in February.

Three major advertisers for the channel have already signed on — Subaru, Orbitz and Paramount Pictures — and several original programs are in development. The offerings on deck include the scripted series "Noah's Arc,"

a comedy-drama about black Gay men in Los Angeles, reality shows about Gay weddings and Gay cruises, new documentaries and previously released films, such as "Far from Heaven" and "Angels in America."

Logo's new documentary franchise, Momentum, has given the green light to several new documentaries, including "Beautiful Daughters," about the casting and performance of a Transgender production of "The Vagina Monologues." Other documentaries focus on Gay fraternities and sororities, the LGBT Hispanic experience, Gay rugby and the Gay rodeo circuit.

MTV officially unveiled the project last May, saying that Logo, with a slogan of "different together," would become the television "home" for LGBT viewers. The channel will be a basic cable offering, so subscribers will not have to pay an additional fee.

As Logo prepares to launch, other companies are capitalizing on the LGBT television market. Last month here! TV launched a Gay channel available on DIRECTV for 12 hours a day. In addition, the Q Television Network, which is available in select cities, announced last week it will launch a live morning show next month titled "Good Morning Gay America."

State High Court Weighs Lesbians' 'Divorce'

DES MOINES - The Iowa Supreme Court heard roughly one hour of oral arguments Friday morning, January 14, as several conservative members of the state Legislature asked the justices to intervene in a Lesbian "divorce" case, the PlanetOut Network reported.

The case, in which two women from Sioux City went to a local court to dissolve their Vermont civil union, caused a firestorm on the far right, where many felt the judge had set a precedent by recognizing a same-sex marriage by law. Subsequently, a recall campaign was launched against the judge, Jeffrey Neary, who survived by a 58-42 margin last November.

Under normal circumstances, third parties who are not involved in a legal matter may not intervene in a court case. Both women were anxious to sever their formal ties, and both were happy with Judge Neary's order, hence no appeal of the decision was forthcoming.

But some lawmakers were so worried that Judge Neary may have opened a Pandora's Box of same-sex couples' rights that they sued the court itself, and asked the state's highest court to strike Neary's order as a violation of the state's ban on recognizing same-sex marriage. The justices scheduled hearings, where the threshold question became whether the anti-Gay group had the legal standing to even make such a request in the first place. Lambda Legal Defense, which filed a friend-of-the-court brief against the ad hoc litigants, took the other side of the oral argument.

The seven state lawmakers were joined in their efforts by Congressman Steve King, as well as a Church of Christ minister in Le Mars, and were represented by Kevin Theriot of the right-wing

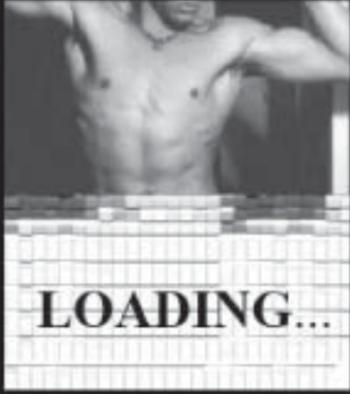
Alliance Defense Fund. In court papers, the group insisted that their standing was based on their positions as "married persons," "lawmakers," "tax payers," and other criteria.

According to the Des Moines Register, Chief Justice Louis Lavorato wasted no time in asking Theriot exactly what injuries his clients had suffered as a result of Judge Neary's efforts on behalf of the women. The lawyer reportedly replied that the dissolution of the civil union threatened the future of marriage throughout the state of Iowa.

Heather Sawyer, the head of Lambda's Midwest regional office, spoke to lead attorney Camilla Taylor just after the morning hearings. According to Sawyer, the court seemed very engaged with the issues, and the justices' questions to both sides suggested they had "grave concerns" with the plaintiff's tactics.

"We hope they send a resounding message that judicial independence is an important value in this country," she said.

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POLITICS 2005

by Mark R. Kerr

'HB 2310'

Arizona's Legislature, as of press time, is going into their second week of this current session and a total of 706 bills, memorials and current resolutions have been introduced for consideration at 1700 West Washington, one of which is HB 2310.

HB 2310, entitled: "sentencing; aggravating circumstances; misdemeanors," would expand Arizona's current bias crimes law, on the books since 1997, to cover misdemeanor offenses. Currently, state law (A.R.S. 13-7) only deals with felonies, and would add the following section to the statute:

"13-712. Misdemeanors; aggravating circumstances; sentencing - If a person is convicted of a misdemeanor offense and the court finds that the defendant committed the offense out of malice toward a victim because of the victim's identity in a group listed in section 41-1750, subsection a, paragraph 3 or because of the defendant's perception of the victim's identity in a group listed in section 41-1750, subsection a, paragraph 3, the court shall affirmatively state its findings on the record and may increase the sentence by up to fifty per cent."

State Representative Linda Lopez, D-Tucson is the lead sponsor of HB 2310, which has three primary sponsors: state Senator Gabrielle Giffords, D-Tucson, state Representative Phil Lopes, D-Tucson - Leader, House Democrats and state Representative Meg Burton Cahill, D-Tempe.

Fourteen other legislators have signed on as cosponsors to HB 2310: state Senator Victor Soltero, D-Tucson; and, Representatives: Tom Prezelski, D-Tucson; Ted Downing, D-Tucson; David Bradley, D-Tucson; Olivia Cajero Bedford, D-Tucson; Amanda Aguirre, D-Yuma, Steve Gallardo, D-Phoenix, David Lujan, D-Phoenix, Kyrsten Sinema, D-Phoenix, Martha Garcia, D-Phoenix, Ben Miranda, D-Phoenix, Albert Tom, D-Chambers, Manuel Alvarez, D-Elfrida, and Leah Landrum Taylor, D-Phoenix.

HB 2310 is the fourth attempt to expand Arizona's law to cover misdemeanor offenses - with its impetus from an incident that took place in 2000, outside a restaurant in the Tucson foothills.

Pima County prosecutors had tried to use Arizona's law in this case, in which the victim was beaten unconscious by an off-duty member of Tucson's fire department but was overruled by the judge since the incident did not take place within city limits and that the state law only covers felonies.

In 2004, this measure had been introduced as a companion to SB 1223, which received a hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee, only to go down to defeat in a 4-4, tie vote.

HB 2310 has gotten over its first legislative hurdle when it was first read by Arizona House Speaker Jim Weiers, R-Phoenix, and only assigned to the House Judiciary Committee. In cases in which the Speaker, or the Senate President, doesn't agree with proposed legislation, bills are assigned to multiple committees, called "double dipping," "triple dipping" or "quadruple dipping" depending upon the number of committees a bill is

assigned to. Each committee would have to take up the prospective measure for the bill to make any progress in the legislative process.

Arizona's House Judiciary is chaired by state Representative Eddie Farnsworth, R-Mesa, Phone Number: (602) 926-5735, E-mail address efarnswo@azleg.state.az.us.

The vice-chair of the Committee is state Representative David Burnell Smith, R-Phoenix, Phone Number: (602) 926-5766, E-mail: dsmith@azleg.state.az.us.

Other members of the Judiciary Committee are state Representatives: Ray Barnes, R-Phoenix, Phone Number: (602) 926-5503, E-mail Address: rbarnes@azleg.state.az.us;

Ted Downing, D-Tucson, Phone Number: (602) 926-5108, E-mail Address: tdowning@azleg.state.az.us;

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Steven Yarbrough, R-Glendale, Phone Number: (602) 926-5863, Email Address: syarbrou@azleg.state.az.us.

HB 2310 faces an uphill battle but the first skirmish is to get the bill heard by the House Judiciary Committee. So contact these legislators and politely ask them to consider the bill and contact the chair and urge state Representative Farnsworth to only put HB 2310 on a calendar for the Committee and to hear the bill.

Walsted Update

Continued from Page One

incrimination, though prosecutors never charged her with a crime and said they would not.

Berry said prosecutors must prove that Higdon was a white supremacist before the slaying, which she said they cannot.

A former jail inmate, Marshall Thompson, is expected to testify today about Higdon's alleged confession to the murder.

Thompson, Higdon and three others were charged with participating in a criminal syndicate and making threats in connection with a jail investigation into a white supremacist ring.

Prosecutors originally sought the death penalty if Higdon were convicted of murder but later withdrew that request. If convicted, Higdon will face life in prison or life with the possibility of parole after 25 years. The trial continues in the courtroom of Pima County Superior Court Judge Frank Dawley.



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COMMENTARY. . . . by Charles Edward Adams**We Need To Define What Marriage,
And Union Really Are**

Being a Gay American, I have sat back and watched what has been happening with Gay marriage and equal rights in our country for way too long.

I no longer can sit back and say nothing, or I'll be giving power to those who are not afraid to speak up. I'm taking that power back.

This is more than another article on Gay marriage; it's about human rights and equality. Some people believe the Gay lifestyle has been in the wrong for years, and they are trying to correct it by denying Gays equal rights. I say, "Give us equal status, and we will prove we deserve it."

In a Dec. 31 column ("Gays are seeking social approval, not equal rights"), Thomas Sowell of Stanford University writes, "Marriage is not a right extended to individuals by the government. It is a restriction on the rights they already have."

He is correct with this statement but goes wrong in his analysis. He questions why anyone would want to marry, to have the government dictate how to split up their worldly belongings. When a couple can make up any arrangement they want, their union becomes as temporary or permanent as they want.

This is what I see as part of the problem with society today, whether heterosexual or homosexual. People go into a relationship assuming it will be temporary when it should be permanent. It is too easy to go out and have affairs with no repercussions, or walk away from a relationship whenever one wants.

When you enter into a union, it should be for better or worse. When worse comes around, you work on making it better and attempt to fix the problems. A homosexual or heterosexual relationship is just temporary without the commitment from a legal contractual obligation.

Legal obligations can make people stop and think about what they are doing before they enter into a union. Likewise, they can make a person stop and think what they might lose in ending a relationship.

A split becomes more difficult. And if it does occur, those in the relationship will have an arbitrator to dictate a fair division of assets. Assets include not only worldly belongings, but also children in the relationship.

Sowell argues, "Marriage laws evolved through centuries with couples of opposite sexes and the children that result from such unions. Society has no such stake in the outcome of a union between two people of the same sex. Transferring all those laws to same-sex couples would make no more sense than transferring the rules of baseball to football."

But Gay unions today do include children. Both parents should have equal rights to those children. The person on the adoption papers or the one who bore the child shouldn't automatically be the parent.

The problem with his argument is that children are resulting from Gay unions more and more, and either the old laws need to be applied or new ones put in place to protect both people and the children.

Sowell even invoked the AIDS issue, saying, "What the activists really want is the stamp of acceptance on homosexuality, as a means of spreading that lifestyle, which has become a death style in the era of AIDS."

This statement by Sowell makes my point.

First, AIDS is not a Gay disease; it was first discovered in this community because of the lifestyle. Today, AIDS is as prominent in the heterosexual world because of lifestyles, not homosexuality.

Without a true commitment to a monogamous relationship, anyone is vulnerable to AIDS. We as a nation should be working to develop in our children the belief that a true relationship is about commitment.

Our laws should ensure that those entering a committed relationship are legally obligated to each other. We should not be fighting with everything we have to prevent homosexuals from entering into a legal contract over a union when those unions exist in every social strata already.

Sodom and Gomorrah were about excess, not homosexuality. We, as a moral community, need to focus on our problems with AIDS in all communities by determining what a marriage or a union really is.

We will never succeed in this endeavor by fighting one another; we need to work together by encouraging what the homosexual community has started by pushing the marriage issue.

[Charles Edward Adams lives in Catalina and does volunteer work in the community. This article ran in the January 14 edition of the Tucson Citizen. Mr. Adams also sent this article to The Observer for publication.]

**New Global
Campaign Launched
To Promote Condom
Use**

NEW YORK - A new global campaign to stop the spread of HIV uses three animated characters dressed as condoms to deliver a serious message in humorous public service spots in 41 languages: If you're going to have sex, use a condom, reported the Associated Press on Advocate.com.

The short spots are being offered free to broadcasters, community groups, and universities, and they have the potential of reaching 80% of the world's population, Canadian producer-director Firdaus Kharas said Tuesday. "We're using humor to stop the spread of AIDS," he told a news conference launching the public service announcements, which are targeted at young people ages 15 to 24 in places threatened by the epidemic, including India, China, Russia, the Caribbean, and central Asia.

"The Three Amigos"—as the cartoon condoms named Shaft, Stretch, and Dick are called—are pictured in a variety of settings, from a spaceship to a soccer field to a casino. Twenty different spots are available in each of the 41

Continued On Page Fifteen

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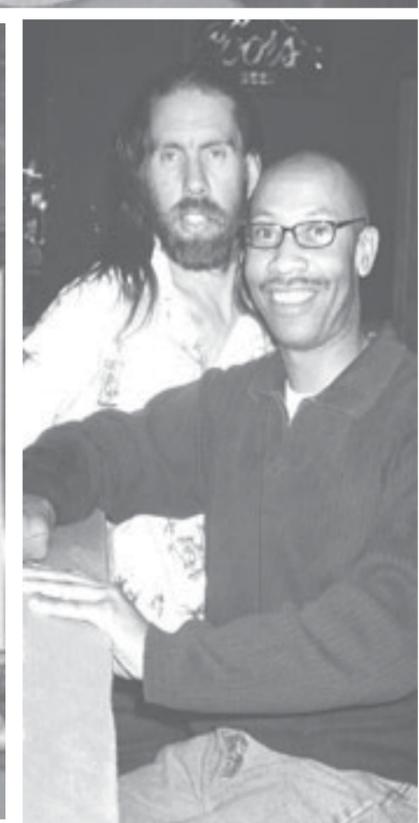
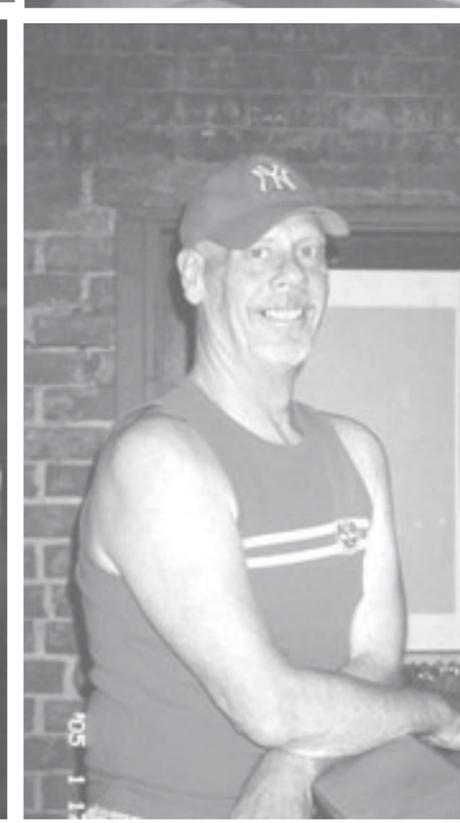
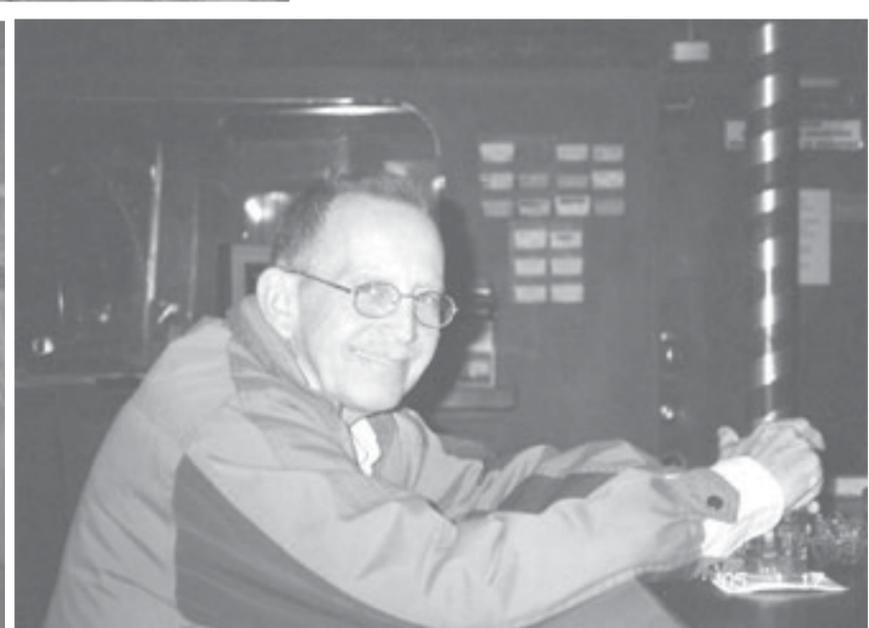
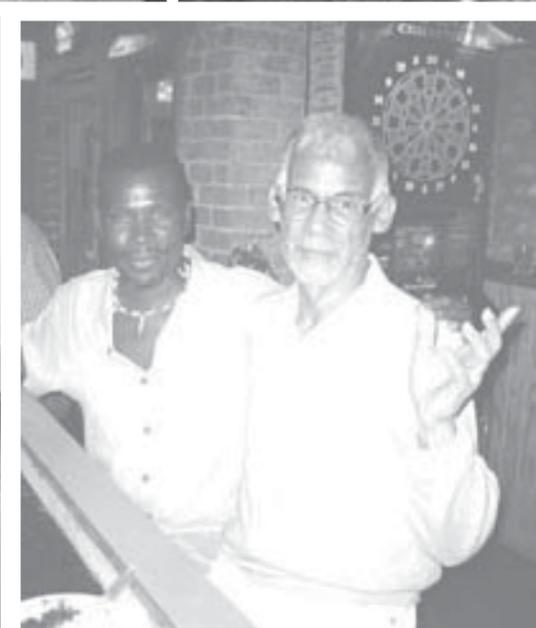
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Venus and Mercury make their moves and bump into each other. Magic occurs! We put our ardor into words and act upon it. But the trick is to "do", not just think and wonder "what if". Prepare for your few moments of clarity and a happy zetz or two.

ARIES (MAR. 21 - APR. 20)
You are political persuasion personified. Proud Rams will whip up their best diplomatic cream and are ready, willing and able to spread it around. You are the one with both the charm and the great ideas this week. This would be a good time to grease the corporate machinery and slide into the inner sanctum. Make an iron fist in a velvet glove your fashion statement.

TAURUS (APR. 21 - MAY 21)
Venus and Mercury cast queer Bulls an expansive net. Your influence can reach far and wide so take a walk on the wilde side and see what the world has to offer. The urge to explore and experience the unusual and exotic may be too tempting to resist even if your bank account is bare. If you're too strapped to travel why not study something new? No names please....

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
It may be January but your temperature is rising thanks to perky Venus and Mercury. Current relationships can heat up (if both of you are on the same wavelength) or you will cast about for your next costar. Pink Twins feel the urge to become more intimate and physical with just about anybody. Choose your quarry wisely and strive for quality and not just quantity... for a change.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
Once you can divert your attention from the nitty gritty details of everyday life and gaze out at the landscape, you may just find the answer to many of your questions. The secret is to look up and stop obsessing. Pink Crabs seek connection, meaning and expansion as Mercury and Venus rubadub. Explore both existing and new relationships for the secret sauce. Don't overcook.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)
This week may not be terribly exciting but there is an opportunity to finally dispatch many day to day tasks that have been gathering dust on your desk. Proud Lions master any job and have greater powers of concentration and application thanks to Venus and Mercury. What a nice change of pace! Stop procrastinating, roll up your sleeves and get to work. Relax next week.

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)
Find time to lie back and smell the flowers this week when Venus conjuncts Mercury. Pastimes and delightful pursuits have a way of fitting into your busy schedule just when you need a lavender lift. Don't fight the mellow vibes queer Virgin. See if you can combine business with pleasure; the drops of creativity that you apply today can become the masterpieces of tomorrow.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)
If you are a prisoner of family constraints and others false expectations, this is the week to set things queer. Venus and Mercury pry open your closet door, let the fresh air come in and you out. Gay Libras are more diplomatic than usual with relatives. But no matter what is said, do what you must do to be fulfilled and proudly happy. Life is far too short to compromise.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)
No one would ever confuse you with a gossip. But now, as Venus bumps Mercury, you seem to be much more open, chatty and frank. Use it to your advantage, proud Scorp. Say what you feel and feel what you say in both love and war. Refine your more inflammatory remarks so you can take your manifesto to the immediate world and set the stage for revolution.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)
Venus and Mercury help all wildly extravagant Gay Archers get down to financial brass tacks. It is never too late to tally up all your assets and apply them to the bottom line. If you come up short, this may be the week to find some spare change under the couch cushions. This is a quick salve though. Resolve to harness your finances before they hogtie and brand you.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)
Venus and Mercury enter your own sign and prepare you for your grand entrance. Don't be shy and retiring now. Meet and greet and don't stop until you have exhausted all opportunities. Pink Caps display more self confidence than usual. It may be that, as you open up to the world, you will get a few insights into the true lavender you. Do you like what you see?

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)
Go with your intuition this week as Venus and Mercury turn up the volume on your inner voice. There is something going on under the surface that wiggles and grooves to your tune. Dance along and take advantage of this temporary gift, especially as it relates to your long term goals. Aqueerians are on the verge of a breakthrough. Remember - you break it, you buy it. So enjoy it.

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MAR. 20)
Grab a few compadres and create a new social swirl when Venus and Mercury collide. Guppies find that large social gatherings provide them with more than just a pleasant platonic afternoon. They, in fact, offer you a greater sense of connection, affirmation and personal identity. There are many groups that vie for your attention. See which one offers the open bar.

Ending the violence.

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

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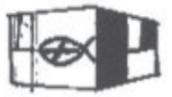
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Golden Globes Leave Oscar Race Fuzzy

LOS ANGELES - This year, the Golden Globes have left the road to the Oscars a fuzzy one. Potential Oscar front-runners Hilary Swank of the boxing saga "Million Dollar Baby" and Jamie Foxx of the Ray Charles film biography "Ray" came away with lead-acting prizes at Sunday's (January 16) Globes, reported the Associated Press.

But the Globes were a split decision for perpetual Oscar also-ran Martin Scorsese, whose Howard Hughes epic "The Aviator" won for best drama, yet missed out on the directing honor, which went to Clint Eastwood for "Million Dollar Baby."

Globe wins for underdogs Clive Owen and Natalie Portman, co-stars of the sex drama "Closer," leave the supporting-actor Oscar categories wide open. Morgan Freeman of "Million Dollar Baby" and Cate Blanchett of "The Aviator" had been viewed as more likely favorites.

Add in lead-acting Globes for two other Hollywood veterans, Leonardo DiCaprio as Hughes in "The Aviator" and Annette Bening in the theater farce "Being Julia," and the Feb. 27 Oscars could be an anything-goes scenario across-the-board.

The Oscars last year followed the Globes' lead to the letter. All four acting recipients preceded their Oscar triumphs with Globe wins, while "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" followed its dominant night at the Globes with a clean sweep of its 11 Oscar categories, including best picture and director.

Bening won the musical or comedy actress Globe for "Being Julia," playing a gleefully vengeful 1930s stage diva. It was the first awards-worthy role Bening has had since "American Beauty" five years ago, when she was the front-runner, but lost the Golden Globe dramatic prize and the best-actress Oscar to underdog Swank for "Boys Don't Cry."

Not wanting to jinx her Oscar chances, Bening sidestepped a question backstage at the Globes about what she would wear to the Oscars. "Trick question," Bening quipped.

Swank, playing a fighter whose life turns tragic, won the dramatic-actress Globe for "Million Dollar Baby." She downplayed the potential Oscar rematch with Bening.

"I don't really see it as competition," Swank said. "Annette's amazing, and she was so gracious to me five years ago when we were both nominated. She gave me good advice and she was gracious, and she's an inspiration."

"I think it's just unfortunate that things are seen as winners and losers, because in the end, the performances all speak for themselves and make everyone, I think, a winner. I'm just honored to have my name mentioned with her."

Like Swank and Bening, lead-actor winners Foxx and DiCaprio seem poised as chief Oscar contenders. DiCaprio, who won for dramatic actor, normally would have the inside track at the Oscars, which favors Globe drama winners.

But Foxx, the Globe winner for actor in a musical or comedy, probably will emerge as the Oscar favorite. His role as Charles goes head-to-head with DiCaprio's turn as Hughes for heavy-duty drama, and his portrayal was an uncannily spot-on emulation of the singer, who died last year.

"It's a beautiful thing for Ray and everything he leaves us," said Foxx, who had a record three Globe nominations but lost the other two, supporting movie actor for "Collateral" and TV movie or miniseries actor for "Redemption."

"The Aviator" was the top Globe winner with three trophies. With its grand scope, weighty drama and vibrant recreation of early Hollywood, "The Aviator" now is positioned as a possible front-runner for the best-picture Oscar, an honor that has eluded Scorsese.

The filmmaker behind "Raging Bull," "GoodFellas" and "Gangs of New York" also has never won the directing Oscar, potentially giving him the sympathy vote among members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Yet best-picture and director honors often are divided at the Oscars. Scorsese could end up in such a split with Eastwood, a best-picture and directing Oscar winner for "Unforgiven."

A major production from perennial Oscar contender Miramax, "The Aviator" was on the awards radar for a year or more before its debut last December. "Million Dollar Baby" crept up quietly, coming just a year after Eastwood's acclaimed "Mystic River," which won acting Oscars for Sean Penn and Tim Robbins.

Like "Mystic River," "Million Dollar Baby" may have benefited from arriving without the fanfare that precedes many big Oscar hopefuls.

"This picture's the same way," Eastwood said. "Let people discover it for themselves and see if they like it, and if they do, then it builds its own life."

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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

by Lee Thorn

Same Old Stuff

I thought I'd stroll over to the University of Arizona's Museum of Art to see if the current main exhibit was worth reviewing. On the way, walking past the University Theatre revived one of my pet peeves.

It also revived my deep appreciation for the sculpture garden in front of the theatre. The whole square created by the art, music and photography buildings is one of the most interesting and satisfying urban spaces in Tucson. Unfortunately for the various galleries and their potential visitors, the parking situation is a bad joke.

I solve that problem by going there on Sundays and parking in the nearest loading zone. How about that for an old guy who's still willing to roll the dice?

Anyway, you walk past the theatre, whether the year is 1975, 1985, 1995 or 2005, and you see the inevitable posters for Shakespeare and the equally inevitable posters for revivals of commercial schlock that's not been dead quite long enough to be completely forgotten.

Why doesn't anyone want to do original work? Where would William Shakespeare be if he were writing today? Why should a university be so eager to participate in our cultural vacuum?

If you ask Broadway producers why they do revivals, they'll say, "This is a business and revivals sell." If you ask Tucson producers why they do revivals, they'll say, "Are you kiddin'?" This is Tucson." If you ask professors of drama at the University why they do revivals, they'll say, "That's what all the other university theatre programs are doing." The professors get embarrassed and annoyed if you point out that no educational institution ever distinguished itself by doing what all the other educational institutions were doing.

I've talked to one very famous commercial dramatist who has written major TV series and major movies and who argued quite convincingly that universities are the logical sources for original dramatic work for the simple reason that they don't have to make money. If they do an original work that flops, they're still in business, if they do 100 original works that flop, they're still in business.

One of the primary purposes of a university is to do new stuff. If you want to get a PhD in physics or chemistry, or an MFA in painting or sculpture, you're required to do original work.

You aren't supposed to turn in a dissertation that's just a rehash of someone else's dissertation. You're not supposed to be able to go to your doctoral committee and say, "But don't you see, mine is a wonderful revival dissertation."

If the principle of valuing original work applies to every other department in a university, why shouldn't it apply to the drama department?

There's only one argument that gets my goat more than the "all the other theatre programs are doing it" argument. It's the "nobody will come to see original work" argument.

I'd come to see it. Sign me up right now. And I don't believe that I'm the only person in Tucson who would pay to see original work and would never ever under any circumstances pay to see a revival. I'd love to know what people who've never had the guts to do original work base their belief that no one is interested in it on.

Some of the staunchest supporters of UA theatre have been Green Valley residents. They come up here to see the UA productions, or reproductions, by the busload. I've talked to enough of them to know that they have no special allegiance to Shakespeare and even less of one to revivals.

Universities are in the business of fostering originality and, at the same time, they're afraid of trying anything new. On the one hand they claim that they want to be distinguished. On the other they're scared to death of being conspicuous. The easiest safest thing to do is keep repeating 1975.

But if somebody ever wanted to stir things up and give the drama department the chance to live up to the highest purpose of a university, it could be done with minimal risk to academic careers. Here's how: You form a committee of concerned citizens who know something about drama but don't work for the U. Call it something like the "Committee for New Works." When the committee actually approves a work that's original enough to cause a public uproar, the academic careerists fire the committee, apologize for its naughtiness, promise an investigation and keep their own skirts snowy white.

[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]

COMMENTARY

Continued from Page Three

time, settle into a status quo. A movement cannot. And the success of our movement is measured not only in the hearts and minds we change, the allies we engage and the civil rights we secure, but in the strength of our collective commitment to the pursuit of enduring social, political and legal change that moves us ever closer to true equality. Each of us. Each of you.

Get involved. Learn more about the work of our movement's local, state and national organizations. Invest in that work. Encourage your straight friends and family to do likewise; give them the opportunity to invest in our future - and theirs. Champion equality and respect in your community. Engage new allies at home, in your workplace, in your place of worship, at your school. Stand up. Spread the word. Share your story.

By virtue of who we are, we're a community. But it is by virtue of the decisions we make that we become part of a movement - a civil rights movement working together to create a better, more hopeful world limited only by our ability to envision its promise and experience all that it has to offer.

[This statement was signed by representatives from the following organizations: American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Lesbian & Gay Rights

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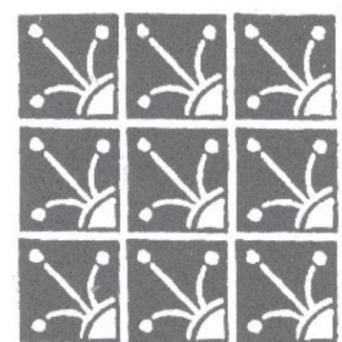
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Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), Sigamos Adelante: National Latino/Hispanic LGBT Leadership, Stonewall Democrats.]



Group Gives Grant To Expelled Gay Student

DALLAS - High school senior James Barnett made headlines in December, when Trinity Christian Academy, a Dallas-area private school, expelled Barnett after he admitted he was Gay. Now a national LGBT scholarship organization has pledged to help the 18-year-old honor student, the PlanetOut Network reported.

The Point Foundation, which supports academic achievement in higher education for LGBT students, awarded Barnett an academic honorarium to help him attend college later this year.

"We are pleased to present this honorarium to James, an outstanding student turned away simply because of his sexual orientation," said Vance Lancaster, executive director of the foundation. "This is a sadly common and very real example of why Point Foundation scholarships are necessary."

The grant amount will be determined after a financial review in the spring, the organization said.

In an interview with the PlanetOut Network, Barnett spoke of the recent hardships he faced at school and at home because of his sexual orientation.

"Private schools need to let it be known where they stand on the Gay issue," he said. "Had I known that Trinity was going to expel me, I would have

moved to (a different school). Life does really get rough in high school."

"About a year ago, I was suicidal from the pressures of being a Gay kid in a private school," Barnett revealed. "I felt like I was the only Gay kid."

Then Barnett discovered Gay chat rooms on the Internet, which lead him to one run by XY magazine. At last Barnett could talk to people his own age, he said. But when XY told its Web site users it planned to charge for the service, Barnett panicked. "If you haven't told your parents (you're Gay) you can't have them see a credit card charge to XY magazine," he said.

So Barnett created his own Web site, my-boi.com, which doesn't charge users. Barnett insists the site is not for "hook-ups" but to alleviate the sense of isolation many people his age experience when they first come out.

Word of the Web site got out around the campus of Trinity Christian Academy, and soon Barnett found himself summoned by the school's chaplain.

"The chaplain asked me if I was Gay and I said, 'Yeah,'" Barnett said. "I had no idea that this was going to get out because I thought this was simply counseling."

Barnett waited until his parents were summoned. "When I saw my mother she said, 'What did you do?'" Barnett said.

The school principal then told Barnett's parents their son was Gay and told Barnett he could either leave quietly or be expelled for violating the school's "immoral behavior" clause of the student code of conduct.

Brian Chase, a lawyer for Lambda Legal, told the Dallas Morning News the school was within its rights to force Barnett's expulsion. Texas, Chase noted, has no law prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation.

"Trinity did what they did for image and political reasons," Barnett said, claiming he harbored no ill will toward Christian conservatives.

"The Christian conservatives I've met have only loved and embraced me," Barnett considers himself a Christian conservative, and revealed he voted for President Bush during the November election.

After being expelled, Barnett's parents took him to counseling in the hopes they could change their son's sexuality. "And they got shot down. They were told they are the ones with a problem," he said.

Despite the obstacles he faces, Barnett believes his story is very important for other LGBT students. "I didn't know this was happening to other kids across the nation. I thought this was a unique case. But apparently not."

Illinois Lawmakers Pass GLBT Rights Bill

SPRINGFIELD - Advocates for LGBT rights hailed Illinois lawmakers on Tuesday, January 11, after the House passed a statewide nondiscrimination bill that was ratified by the state Senate a day earlier, the PlanetOut Network reported.

Gov. Rod Blagojevich, a Democrat, has said he supports the bill and is expected to sign it into law.

The measure would amend the Illinois Human Rights Act to forbid discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing, public accommodations and credit. Transgender people would also be protected, as the bill defines sexual orientation as "actual or perceived heterosexuality, homosexuality, Bisexuality or gender-related identity, whether or not traditionally associated with the person's designated sex at birth."

If the bill becomes law, Illinois will become one of 15 states that ban discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The House approved the bill Tuesday with a 65-51 vote, and the measure passed the Senate by a vote of 30-27. The majority of supporters were Democrats, which pleased the nation's largest group of LGBT Democrats.

"The overwhelming Democratic support for this measure underscores our party's belief that employees should be evaluated based on their merit," said Dave Noble, head of the National Stonewall Democrats. "This is a basic American principle understood by the majority in our nation."

Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, acknowledged the supporting work by Equality Illinois, a local LGBT rights group, and its leader, Rick Garcia, in the legislative victory.

"This win again shows that dogged work by state and local leaders and activists can surmount enormous odds — and is real salve to a community still hurting from the results of Nov. 2," he said.

In Oregon, Democratic Gov. Ted Kulongoski said in his state-of-the-state speech on Monday that he will call on state lawmakers to pass similar legislation.

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Dear Dr. X,

I recently moved to Tucson, and have started reading your columns. You seem to be pretty judgmental for a journalist. What gives you the right to tell people what to do and how to behave? Are you a real doctor?

Signed, Over You

Dear Over,

Wow! I admit to getting some mail from guys who don't always like my approach, but you seem more bitter than most. Let's start at the beginning.

First: you think I am too judgmental as a journalist. I concede that journalists are (or should be) bound by a list of guidelines that maintain a certain integrity for their craft. These guidelines include: truthfulness, accuracy, and impartial reporting, among others. Fortunately for me, my writing falls into a separate category from news journalism called editorializing, and while I still follow guidelines such as truthfulness and accuracy, I am not bound by impartiality. That is what editorializing is...writing your opinions. When my guys write and ask for facts, that is what they get. But when they write and ask for my opinion of what they should do, that is my invitation to speak my mind. A pretty neat gig, really.

Second: What gives me the right to tell people what to do and how to act? Hello? Perhaps you missed the memo explaining how this whole thing works, so I will explain it here. People write and ask me what they should do! I don't just go around and tell folks what to do—they ask! If this part is unclear, re-read it a few times, or ask a friend to read and explain it to you.

Third: Am I a real doctor? I print

a disclaimer routinely explaining this, but will do it again, just for you. No, I am not. The interesting thing about me is that I am not really an I, I am a We. There are several of us that take responsibility for the care and feeding of this column (kinda like the Queer Eye team). And the group changes as the questions change. If a question comes in about a medical matter, we consult more than one physician and consolidate the answers into regular-guy English. If the questions are about substance use/abuse, we talk to experts in that area. We never offer advice on important issues without consulting a professional in that field. This is where those journalistic integrity guidelines come in.

So now I get to exercise my right to editorialize again, since you wrote me first. Thank you for your letter. I respect your point of view. Now bugger off, I'm over you too. ...

Dr. X would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to The Observer for providing me with a space each week to not only let it all hang out, but to help guys who really need it and don't know who else to ask. Thanks also to GMHP, who keeps back issues of this column archived on their website, and who is always there helping to keep this fun project afloat. And not least, Thanks to all of you readers who keep me supplied with the kind of questions that not only make this work enjoyable, but also keep the staff here entertained all week long.

[Got questions? Need answers? Just want an opinion? Love/Hate this column? You can write 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.]

THAI Pride Fest Delayed; Gay Tourists Wanted

BANGKOK - "Please understand that if you want to help us in this difficult time, come here to visit," say organizers of Thailand's largest Pride event, which has been rescheduled for later this spring, the PlanetOut Network reported.

Gay tourists who are thinking about canceling their trip to Thailand in the wake of the tsunami disaster are being urged not to by organizers of the country's largest Pride event, which has been rescheduled.

Those behind the annual Phuket Gay Festival say that the Phuket area, popular with Gay tourists, will soon be back on its feet, and that many of the most popular hotels, guest houses and bars were unaffected by the disaster.

The tsunami hit nearly a dozen countries in the South East Asia and East Africa region on Dec. 26, killing more than 150,000 people. Thailand, Indonesia and Sri Lanka were hardest hit, with popular coastal holiday resorts and local fishing villages deluged.

However, organizers have decided to delay the festival in light of the

disaster, citing respect for the victims as the main reason. Instead of Feb. 9-13, it will now take place April 7-10.

"The general feelings of the Gay Festival organizers, supported by the many participating business owners, was that respect for the consequences of the tsunami was far and away the most important issue, and allowing the [local] residents to have some time to recover both emotionally and physically from the disaster," the organizers stated on their Web site.

However, Khun Daeng, the previous chairman of the festival, said that Gay tourists should not abandon their holidays.

"The best thing that people who care about Phuket and Patong could do is continue to come here," he said. "Don't change your plans."

The organizers say now that the water has subsided, it has become apparent that just two Gay businesses were "hit hard," with one death "directly caused by the tsunami."

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

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

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

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

Ira Glasser
Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union
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www.aclu.org

Because of the high level of devastation across the country, however, it would be wrong to stage the event in February, they said, adding that a new theme would be adopted for this year's more muted celebrations.

"The festival organizers acknowledged that there will be a different feeling for the 2005 event, and want to make it a festival of renewal and remembrance for Phuket, with all areas of the Phuket communities invited and welcome to participate," the statement said.

Promote Condom Use Continued from Page Nine

languages, and they vary in length from 20 to 60 seconds, with some quite blatantly sexual while others are much more restrained in order to appeal to different audiences. The punch line in the spaceship spot says: "No condom, no blastoff. Stop the spread of AIDS." The soccer spot says: "You just can't score without a condom." And the spot focusing on a roulette wheel in a casino says: "Not all gamblers realize the odds stacked against them. Don't gamble with your life. Use a condom. Stop the spread of AIDS."

The ads can be seen online at www.thethreemigos.org.



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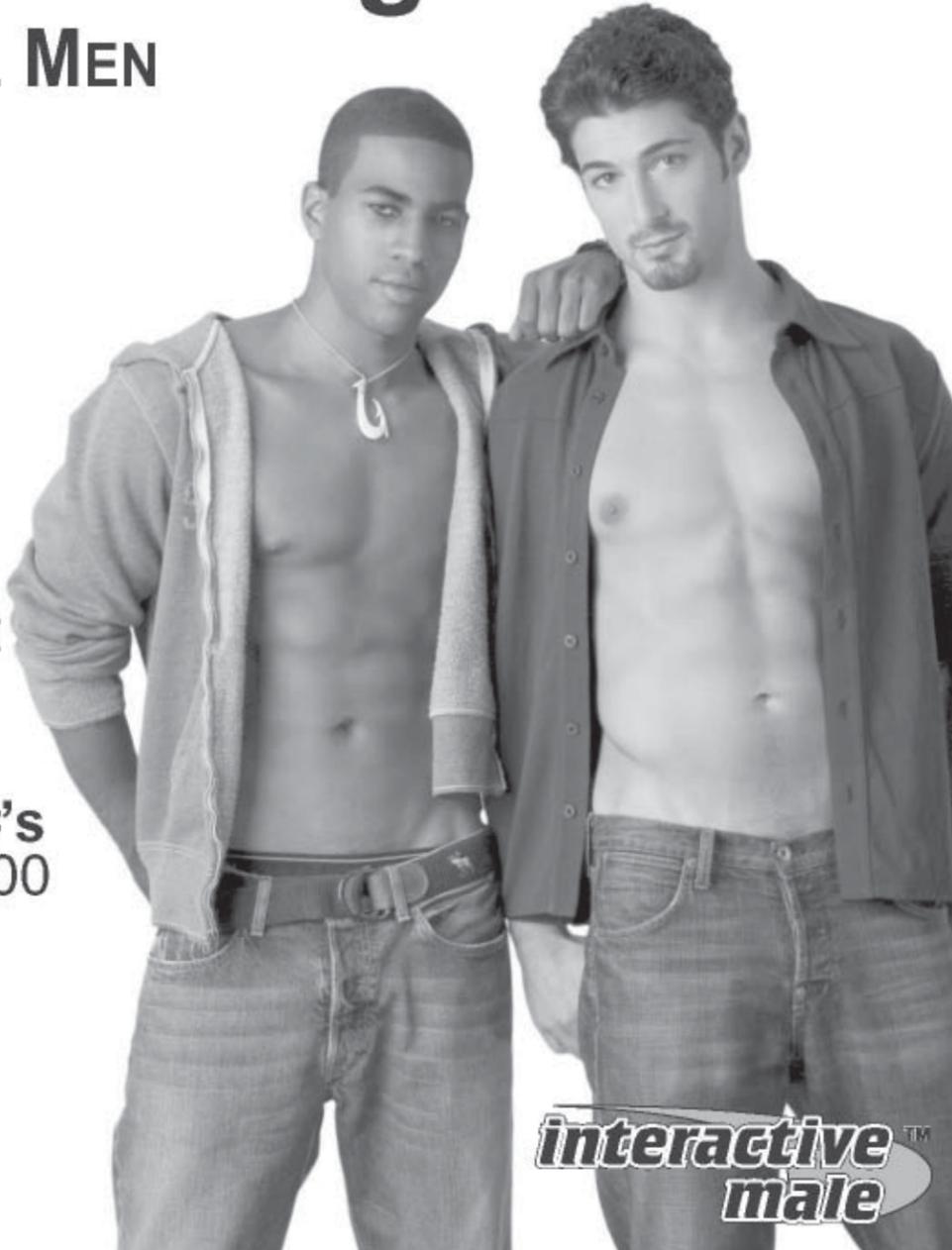
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NON-BAR CALENDAR

Groups / Clubs / Organizations /

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19

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

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21

Ex-Tucsonan Mark Wunderlich will be back in Tucson to read from his bold new poetry collection "Voluntary Servitude" at Antigone Books, 411 N. 4th Ave. With vistas ranging from Austria to rural Wisconsin to Turkey, the poems in this haunting collection consider the poet as both servant and master to memory, sex, family and the will of the lover. Wunderlich is a professor of literature at Bennington College in Vermont. His previous collection, "The Anchorage" won the 1999 Lambda Literary Award. The reading will be following by a question and answer period. Refreshment courtesy of Delectables Restaurant and Catering.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22

#1 Join Jack & Mike & Ed for a morning of Volleyball. This is played for fun, and you'll get to know some nice guys as you play. For details and directions, please call Jack/Mike at 881-5733 or Ed at 407-5733.

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

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 24

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join us for the "putting out the Newsletter" Night. For reservations and directions, please call Arlan at 323-7414.#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:30 p.m. Join us for the MSN Premiere of "Boys to Men" (after Newsletter Night). For reservations and directions, please call Arlan at 323-7414.

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25

#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.

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

BAR CALENDAR

Of Upcoming

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20

IBT'S - 'Tricked Out Thursday'!With the return of Mike Lopez - top 40 all request with drink specials from 10:00 p.m. to close.

YARD DOG - Boo's Meatballs from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21

IBT'S - Free live jazz on the patio from 6-9, followed by the return of DJ David Z spinning the hottest dance music all night.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22

YARD DOG - Tucson Knight Owls (TKO) Spaghetti Dinner beginning at 7:00 p.m. on the heated patio.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23

IBT'S - 4:00 p.m. Karaoke on the patio with Michael D. 5:30 p.m. Bar-B-Que/Beer Bust with Reveille Gay Men's Chorus serving the benefit. \$5 for 5 - 16oz Bud or Bud Light and aa Burger!

YARD DOG - Late night hot snacks with Darryl.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27

WOODY'S - 'Twisted Thursday'. Woody's Smirnoff Twisted Party. Play twisted and win - Giveaways - hot go-go's and music. Featuring special prices for Smirnoff Twisted flavors.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3

VENTURE-N - The annual, fabulous Aquarian Party is here along with fod, specials and uch, much more. DJ Jerry starts at 9:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

WOODY'S - Mardi Gras Party. Tons of beads and sin! Mark your calendars.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14

WOODY'S - Valentine's Day Party. Watch for more details.

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. til 4pm 4-7:30 Karaoke with Michael D. on the patio 5:30-8 Benefit BBQ for community organizations 7:30-2Am Dance with David Z.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. 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, Audio Anomaly 9pm-2am with DJ Trinidad, 10pm-2am \$1.50 well vodka drinks, 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 10am. 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, Tropical Tuesdays \$2.50 Tropical drinks and DJ Q playing Retro Music 70's, 80's and 90's 9pm-close, All drink specials not available during special events.

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm.

WOODY'S - Open 10am. 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 Hour Noon-7pm, 9pm "Diva-Licious" show w/ Bunny Fu Fu. HiNrgy dance 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 10am. 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 Debbie from 7 to 10:30pm.

IBT's -Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-7pm, Tricked Out Thursday with your Bartenders in their undies and DJ Mike Lopez spinning Top 40 & All request \$1.75 Long Islands and \$1.50 Cocksucker shots 10pm-2am, 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 10am. 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 Hour Noon-7pm, Live Jazz on the Patio with Susan 6pm-9pm, Hot Dance from 9pm-2am, All drink specials not available during special events.

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

WOODY'S - Open Noon. Martini Party - Well Martini's \$2.00 3-4pm. Call Martinis \$3 from 3-4pm. 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 - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-7pm, 8:30pm Show time w/ Ajia Simone or Janee Starr, Circuit Saturday's with DJ Q spinning Hot Club Music. 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 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.



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

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

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 info.

YOUNG AND GAY?

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

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

TUCSON INFORMATION & REFERRAL

For Information on Gay 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 or 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 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 Quimm, (520)906-0669 and or Mona Garcia 256-8728.

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

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

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

"OUT ON THE TRAILS - EQUESTRIAN FUN!"

Rider Club forming. Looking for women and men to ride together on the trails of Southern Arizona. Must have own horse, truck and trailer. For more info write: "Out On The Trails" P.O. Box 44045, Tucson, AZ 85733-4045

LIKE TO READ?

The Guys Book Club (TGBC) invites new members to join them. The group meets once a month, on the 3rd Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at 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/ This group is an alternative to 12-step programs.

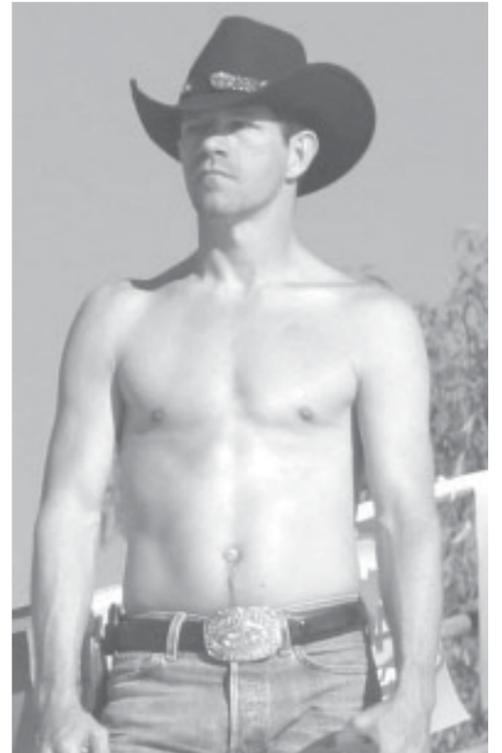
MEN'S KINK DISCUSSION GROUP (Open to all who identify as male and are 18 or older) meets 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at Desert Dominion, 3843 E. 37th Street, Tucson, AZ. (Map available at www.desertdominion.org) For those who are kinky or just curious. No fee, contributions are appreciated, but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



20th Annual AGRA Roadrunner Regional Rodeo



TUCSON INTERFAITH HIV/AIDS NETWORK



PHOTOS BY:
Bill Morrow