

G/L Rights Concerns Over Workplace Act

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Legislation introduced in the House and Senate could harm LGBT workers the nation's largest Gay rights organization warns, 365Gay.com reported.

The Workplace Religious Freedom Act which could be used to expand religious rights of some employees while failing to preserve protections against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, the Human Rights Campaign said.

The bill has bipartisan support including two senators usually at opposite ends of issues: Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA) and Senator John Kerry (D-MA).

"Our nation was founded on the principle of 'Freedom of Religion' not freedom from religion," Louisiana Congressman Bobby Jindal (R-LA) said at the press conference. "As such, America should be a place where people are not forced to choose between keeping their faith and keeping their job."

The bill would expand the rights of some employees in the workplace under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 in a way that would require employers to engage in efforts to accommodate an employee's religious practices and observances at the expense of other employees' civil rights.

In a letter sent to members of Congress, HRC expressed concerns about the ways in which the bill could be used to evade non-discrimination policies.

"The concern here is that employers would have serious difficulty resolving instances where an employee posts a sign reading 'God hates fags' in

his office or cubicle; where workers proselytize on the 'sins of the homosexual lifestyle' over lunch and on breaks; where a social worker proffers a religious objection to being the case manager or counselor for a youth who is Gay or Transgender; or where a truck driver on 24 hour driving shift who gives a religious reason for refusing to drive with a co-driver who is Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or Transgender," wrote HRC's Smith and Christopher Labonte, legislative director.

The letter continued, "WRFPA would arguably allow health care professionals to refuse to provide basic health care services to a Gay or Transgender patient."

Sen. Kerry has been pressing for the support of similar legislation for almost a decade. At a news conference Kerry said he realized the need for it after he was contacted by two Catholic who lost their jobs because they couldn't work on Christmas.

"Religious freedom is an ideal we support and it can be ensured without hanging non-discrimination laws out to dry," said HRC Vice President of Policy David Smith.

"We support the goal of securing religious freedom in the workplace, but not without safeguards that should be written into the bill that also ensure it won't be used as a proxy to discriminate against Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Americans, Smith said.

"This bill would leave significant room to disregard state and local non-discrimination laws, as well as employer policies, allowing some employees to create a hostile climate for their GLBT co-workers and clients."

Bush Repeats Call For Anti-G/L Marriage Amendment

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Leading LGBT groups are criticizing President Bush after he spoke out against Monday's (March 14) San Francisco Superior Court ruling that found California's marriage laws discriminatory against same-sex couples, the PlanetOut Network reported.

During a news conference on Wednesday, March 16, the president was asked whether the ruling boosts his support for amending the Constitution to prevent same-sex couples from marrying.

"The court rulings are verifying why I took the position I took, and that is I don't believe judges ought to be deciding this issue," he told reporters. "I believe this is an issue of particular importance to the American people and should be decided by the people. I think the best way to do so is through the constitutional process."

Steven Fisher, vice president of

communications for the Human Rights Campaign, dismissed the president's remarks as partisan politics. "What we saw from the president was another effort to politicize equal rights and divide the American people."

"Every American family has the same rights and responsibilities," Fisher added.

The National Stonewall Democrats (NSD) condemned the president's remarks.

"Each time President Bush calls for a federal amendment, he agitates Republicans into action on the local level," said Eric Stern, NSD executive director. "Wherever anti-marriage state amendments were passed last year, Republican leaders cited President Bush's call for a federal amendment as their

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Supreme Court Refuses To Hear Homophobe Judge Case

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Supreme Court, dodging a charged dispute over judicial nominations, declined Monday, March 21, to consider whether President Bush overstepped his bounds in naming William Pryor of Alabama a federal judge while Congress was on a short break, 365Gay.com reported.

The court refused to hear a trio of criminal cases challenging the "recess appointment" of Pryor to the Atlanta-based 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals last year. The appeals argued that Pryor's temporary appointment was an end-run around the Senate's right to confirm or reject judicial nominees.

During his time on the Appeals Court bench, Pryor cast the deciding vote to uphold Florida's outright ban on Gay adoption. Florida is the only state in the country that explicitly bans children from being adopted by Gays and Lesbians.

Pryor has a long history of homophobia, and his appointment to the

court angered Democrats - who had tied up Bush's original nomination of Pryor in the Senate - and Gay rights groups.

As Attorney General of Alabama, he was the only attorney general outside of Texas to author an amicus brief in the Supreme Court defending Texas's anti-Gay sodomy statute. Pryor argued that states have an interest in singling out same-sex relations for punishment, even though his own state's statute made no distinction between same-and opposite-sex relations. His brief also compared same-sex relationships to pedophilia, bestiality and necrophilia.

While he served at A.G. of Alabama Pryor had links placed on the state website to anti-Gay organizations and other conservative groups but not to groups with a neutral or differing views.

Last month Bush renominated Pryor for a permanent position on the Appeals Court. If approved by the Senate, Pryor would be on the court for life.

Group: 'Don't Ask' Subverts Medical Norm

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A retired Navy psychiatrist accused the military of not respecting the doctor-patient confidentiality of more than 65,000 Lesbian and Gay military personnel, the PlanetOut Network reported.

Capt. Mike Rankin, M.D., USNR (Ret.) claimed Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender service members are being outed by health care providers, and as a result, being discharged under "don't ask, don't tell."

Rankin, a retired U.S. Navy psychiatrist and member of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network's (SLDN) honorary board, said knowing a patient's sexual orientation is essential in providing the best possible health care.

Service members are usually asked their sexual orientation when seeking psychological counseling, HIV testing or treatment for various health conditions.

But SLDN claims military health care providers claim they feel obligated to turn in patients who reveal they are Lesbian or Gay since conversations between service members and their military doctors, psychologists and other military healthcare providers are not confidential.

Sharra E. Greer, SLDN's director of law and policy, added anything service members reveal to military health professionals can be used against them to start inquiries or investigations and as evidence

in discharge proceedings.

The military's practice counters a key policy of the American Medical Association, which states, in part, "There exists a basic right of patients to privacy of their medical information and records, and that this right should be explicitly acknowledged."

"The military unnecessarily puts the health of their Gay and Lesbian service members at risk," added Steve Ralls, the spokesperson for SLDN. "SLDN has been receiving, on average, a dozen calls or e-mails each year regarding the lack of doctor-patient confidentiality in the services. This includes calls from service members who have been outed and calls from physicians who are unsure if they are required to 'turn in' Lesbian and Gay personnel."

Ralls cited two examples. In one, Capt. Joseph Berger, an Air Force physician at Goodfellow AFB, Texas, outed a patient of his in 2000, an Airman First Class, after the patient needed treatment from a sexual assault.

Dr. Berger wrote to the patient's commanding officer, saying he believed the Airman was Gay. "I am required to notify you ... so further actions can be taken." As a result of Dr. Berger's report, the Airman became the target of an Air Force investigation that resulted in his discharge.

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UPDATE

Memorial For Jim Shafer April 2

TUCSON - A memorial service for Jim Shafer will take place, Saturday, April 2, 2:00 p.m., at the St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 545 S. Fifth Avenue in Tucson.

Friends and family of Jim Shafer have suggested that Jim would have liked donations be made to the Arizona Opera Company in his name, for which this is being coordinated with Tom Wright and the Arizona Opera Company Staff, who will keep a record of all donations in his name. Mail them to Arizona Opera Company, 3501 North Mountain Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85719.

Sympathy cards can be sent to Jim's brother, John Shafer, 2330 E. Mitchell St., Tucson, AZ 85719.

GLBTS Band Debuts March 25-26 In Tucson

TUCSON - A new GLBTS rock-n-roll band, Too Much Information (TMI), will make its long-awaited first public appearances in late March, opening at Epic Café on Friday, March 25 and the Casbah Tea House on Saturday, March 26.

The band, fronted by lead singer Michael Woodward, plays the "music of the post-Boomer generation"—songs from the 70s and 80s—as well as a mix of older and newer hits. You'll instantly be singing along to tunes made famous by Tom Petty, Eddie Money, The Cars, Bonnie Raitt, Eric Clapton, The Eagles, The B52s, and many others. Some original works are also in development.

In addition to member ages ranging from mid 20s to late 40s, TMI is proud to point out that six of its seven members are Transgender, Transsexual, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, or some combination thereof—plus one straight ally. Like the greater Tucson community, the band understands that alliance, diversity, and coalition are great tools for building success.

"Only in Tucson would you find such an eclectic group of identities, ages, and talents coming together to make music," said band founder Jennifer R. Lopez. "Our diversity only adds to our strength." They don't necessarily reveal the details of who is what, however. That

is how they landed on such an appropriate name.

"Explaining the individual identities of the band is just 'T-M-I: too much information!'," Woodward mused. "We just want to make great music and show folks a good time, regardless of their-or our-gender identity or sexual orientation."

Woodward's lead vocals are complimented by the rich vocal blends of Lopez, Traci Payer, and Joey Cox. The instrument section showcases the talents of Tucson music scene veteran Bruce Blackstone (lead guitar/harmonica), formerly of Tucson favorites the Rusty Boys, the Wayback Machine, and The Dave Marsh Band; as well as Lopez on rhythm guitar; Sandra Starling on bass; and Cecil O'Reilly on percussion.

For more information, a calendar of appearances, or to book the band for your party or event, visit the TMI Web site at <http://www.tmi-band.com> or call (520) 571-7878. Both shows are free and open to all ages.

Family Of Philip Walsted Requests Letters To Judge

TUCSON - On January 27, 2005, David Higdon was convicted of first degree murder of Philip Walsted in June, 2002. Higdon will be sentenced anywhere from 25 years to life in prison.

Philip's family is asking that his friends, coworkers, and supporters write to the Judge prior to Higdon's sentencing at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, March 28, 2005. In order to convince the judge to impose a life sentence, we need to send letters not so much telling him why we think Higdon deserves life in prison but to focus our letters on talking about Philip, what a loss this is to those who knew him and those who didn't, as well as how the murder of a person because of their sexual orientation makes the world unsafe for everyone. It will be helpful for the Judge to see that people care about Philip's murder and that his murder was a devastating loss for us all.

Send letters to: Judge Frank Dawley, Superior Court, 110 W. Congress St., Tucson, AZ 85701.

Desert Voices: Fabulous Show, Fabulous Auction

TUCSON - Beautiful music! Stories from the heart! Enticing auction items! It must be time for Desert Voices annual Spring Show and Silent Auction Fundraiser! This year's spectacular is "Our True Colors," presented on Saturday, April 16, at The Muse Community Arts Center, 516 N. 5th Avenue in Tucson. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for shopping at the Silent Auction and the show begins at 7:30 p.m.

For its Spring show, the chorus will sing a wide variety of songs with color and rainbow themes. Director Chris Tackett has lovingly presented DV with a gorgeous new jazz arrangement of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," sure to become a DV standard! Other exciting numbers include "De Colores," "Purple People Eater," a funny new arrangement of "Red Roses for a Blue Lady" for Alegria (DV's female barbershop quartet), and many other pieces sure to delight the audience. Local "Rock Star" and DV accompanist, Namoli Brennet, also wrote two new songs for this concert, including the captivating new "Shades of the Rainbow." Chorus members provide inspiration for song choices and stories told from the stage, making this a funny and entertaining show with some personal, poignant moments.

Surrounding the concert will be Desert Voices' exciting annual Silent Auction, with shopping before the show and during intermissions. This year's auction items include an exquisite reptilian pattern paperweight from the Philabaum Glass Gallery. Watch this column in coming weeks for featured auction items! (A complete list of items donated to date appears on the website at www.desertvoices.org.)

Audience members will also enjoy tasty hors d'oeuvres, donated by local eateries and chorus members, and complimentary beverages (beer, wine, and soft drinks) courtesy of DV Season Sponsor, Woody's. Other season sponsors include Pronto Printing, Whitespace Design and Coyote Moon Resort and Spa.

Tickets, available at Antigone Books, 411 N 4th Ave, Desert Pride 611 N 4th Ave, or by calling the Desert Voices office at (520) 791-9662, are \$18 in advance. All ticket outlets accept credit cards. Seating for the show is limited, so get your tickets early! Tickets at the door will be \$20 (if available).

Desert Voices is Tucson's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and straight/supportive others chorus, singing out for those who feel they have no voice, and especially for the Tucson GLBTS community, for the past 16 years.

For more information about the chorus, their upcoming show, or anything else you'd like to know about Desert Voices and their mission, check out their website at www.desertvoices.org, or call the office at (520) 791-9662. Thank you to Tucson Observer Readers for your terrific support!



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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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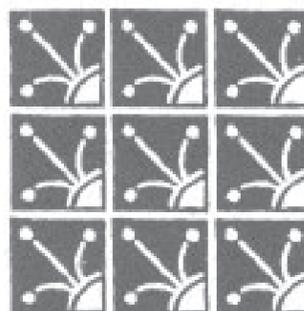
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Republicans Quash Democrats Effort To Demand Credentialing Information On Gannon

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The House Judiciary Committee voted, March 16, against adopting a resolution demanding Bush agencies turn over all credentialing information related to James D. Guckert 21-10, the discredited conservative reporter and prostitute who wrote under the nom de guerre "Jeff Gannon."

Rep. John Conyers (D-MI), the ranking Democrat on the committee, said the resolution was imperative to ensuring that the line between reporters and activists remains clear, RawStory.com reported.

"If we don't investigate this matter thoroughly," Conyers said, "where and when will be draw the line? I plead with my committee members in the Judiciary to support this very plain but necessary [amendment]."

F. James Sensenbrenner, the Republican chairman of the committee, said he felt that "the Administration, in my opinion, has substantially investigated this matter."

"The Secret Service has determined that Mr Guckert did not pose a danger to the President or his family," Sensenbrenner said.

Sensenbrenner outlined his opposition to the measure in terms of not wanting to interfere with "competing investigations" by the Administration he said were already underway.

"I would reiterate the fact that the Administration has substantially complied with the request for information," the Wisconsin Republican said.

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee said the matter demanded an investigation.

It "cries out for a House investigation," she said. "I frankly believe that this is no less serious than my colleagues thought the Clinton investigation was to them."

Jackson Lee said Gannon had engaged in a possible "penetration of the White House."

Voting in favor of the resolution were: (All Democrats) Rep. Conyers Rep. Berman Rep. Scott Rep. Watt Rep. Jackson-Lee Rep. Waters Rep. Meehan Rep. Schiff Rep. Sanchez Rep. Van Hollen.

Voting Against: (All Republicans) Rep. Sensenbrenner Rep. Coble Rep. (Lamar) Smith Rep. Gallegly Rep. Goodlatte Rep. Chabot Rep. Lungren Rep. Jenkins Rep. Cannon Rep. Bachus Rep. Inglis Rep. Hostettler Rep. Green Rep. Keller Rep. Issa Rep. Flake Rep. Pence Rep. Forbes Rep. King Rep. Franks Rep. Gohmert.

New Marriage Amendment Introduced In Congress

WASHINGTON, D.C. - An amendment to the US constitution to ban same-sex marriage has been reintroduced in the House, 365Gay.com reported.

The measure was put forward by Rep. Rep. Dan Lungren (R-Calif.) only days after a judge in San Francisco declared that barring Gay marriage violated the California state constitution.

Lungren, a former state attorney general, called the ruling by Superior Court Judge Richard Kramer "astonishing" and said that the US constitution needs to be amended to prevent courts throughout the country from ruling on Gay marriage.

"The courts aren't democratic institutions," he said.

The proposed amendment would bar same-sex marriage and prevent states from being forced to recognize Gay marriages performed elsewhere.

Lungren's proposed amendment

reads: "Marriage in the United States Shall consist only of a legal union of a man and a woman.

"No court of the United States or of any State shall have jurisdiction to determine whether this Constitution or the constitution of any State requires that the legal incidents of marriage be conferred upon any union other than a legal union between one man and one woman.

"No State shall be required to give effect to any public act, record, or judicial proceeding of any other State concerning a union between persons of the same sex that is treated as a marriage, or as having the legal incidents of marriage, under the laws of such other State."

If passed, it would mark the first time the Constitution was amended to single out a group of Americans for unequal treatment.

"Americans don't want the Constitution turned into a tool for discrimination," said Human Rights Campaign spokesperson David M. Smith.

"Congress should be spending its time protecting families, not ensuring their vulnerability under law."

A Senate version of the proposed amendment was reintroduced in January.

Attempts by Republicans in Congress to pass a proposed amendment failed last July. At the time GOP leaders vowed they would keep bringing the measure back until it passes.

According to exit polling in November 2004, 60 percent of Americans support either civil unions or marriage equality for same-sex couple.

Family of Philip Walsted Request Letters

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Philip's family is asking that his friends, coworkers, and supporters write to the Judge prior to Higdon's sentencing at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, March 28, 2005. In order to convince the judge to impose a life sentence, we need to send letters not so much telling him why we think Higdon deserves life in prison but to focus our letters on talking about Philip, what a loss this is to those who knew him and those who didn't, as well as how the murder of a person because of their sexual orientation makes the world unsafe for everyone. It will be helpful for the Judge to see that people care about Philip's murder and that his murder was a devastating loss for us all.

Send letters to: Judge Frank Dawley, Superior Court, 110 W. Congress St., Tucson, AZ 85701.

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'Laughing Out Proud' April 8

TUCSON - Bas Bleu Production's spring show is bound to be another side splitting experience. The show will be Friday, April 8, 7:00 p.m., at Pima Community College West Campus Proscenium Theater.

Seattle's Lisa Koch is an irreverent comedian/singer who blends comedy, theater and music with dysfunctional characters and demented songs (original and parody).

Lisa's show features such memorable characters as Sister Mary Agnes (a repressed nun who enjoys discipline) who will be joining Lisa for the evening. Lisa has performed all over the globe and is a regular on Olivia Cruises at the Michigan Women's Festival and the Vancouver Comedy Festival. Lisa also finds work as an actor and last year appeared with the Tucson/Phx Theater Company as Mae West in 'Dirty Blond'. She recently toured a one-woman version of the Vagina Monologues. Lisa's shows are always "outrageous and memorable."

Michele Balan is a brash, New

York stand-up comedian who for the past 12 years has appeared all over the country. She has been described as a high-energy, quick-witted comic princess. Her performances include; Dinah Shore Weekend, Olivia Cruises, Michigan Women's Festival, pretty much every Comedy Club in New York, televisions Comedy Central and Lifetime Network, the Improv in La, and many pride events and fund raisers to name just a few. A few of the people she has shared the stage with include Kathy Najimy, Harvey Fierstein and Nell Carter. She has several CD's to her credit including "Neurotic by Nature." You won't want to miss this very funny lady coming to us all the way from NYC.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door and can be purchased at Antigone Bookstore, at the Theater Box Office or by mail until April 1, at Bas Bleu Productions POB 7766, Phoenix, Arizona 85011. For more information, or if you would like to volunteer at the show, please call Kendall at Wingspan, (520) 624-1779 or E-mail Kristen at: kristen_felan@hotmail.com.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week Event: Serving Transgender Crime Victims

TUCSON - The Wingspan Anti-Violence Project (AVP) and the Southern Arizona Gender Alliance (SAGA) are sponsoring a training during National Crime Victims' Rights Week to draw attention to Transgender victims of crime.

"Many members of law enforcement, health care providers, and social service professionals don't know much about the unique issues Transgender individuals face in their lives," commented Lori B. Girshick, Coordinator of the Anti-Violence Project. "Transgender individuals deserve the same professional and thorough treatment as any other person."

National Crime Victims' Rights Week is April 10-16. This presentation adds to scores of events across the country to remember crime victims and bring awareness to the issues crime victims face. "We hope this training will help service providers be more effective in their work. We don't want Tucson to experience the same tragedies found in other parts of the country where Transgender individuals have paid for prejudice or ignorance with their lives." One such case was that of Tyra

Hunter, who died after a car accident in Washington, DC in 1995. Hunter bled to death in the street after emergency medical personnel discovered she was Transgender and refused to treat her.

The training, "Serving Transgender Crime Victims," will be held on April 12th from 9-11am at the Valdez Main Library, lower level conference room, 101 N. Stone Avenue. Lori Girshick, Coordinator of the Wingspan Anti-Violence Project and Michael Woodward, Executive Director of SAGA are the presenters. The training is free. Please RSVP to Lori Girshick at 624-1779, ext. 20 or lori@wingspan.org.

The Wingspan Anti-Violence Project 24-hour crisis line number is (520) 624-0348 or call toll free (800) 553-9387. TTY during office hours at (520) 884-0450. Bilingual English/Spanish services. The Southern Arizona Gender Alliance provides support and advocacy services for gender-variant people in the greater Tucson area. For more information, visit www.sagatucson.org or call (520) 867-0083.

Marriage Post Card Clears Arizona Senate Rules Committee

By Mark R. Kerr

PHOENIX (ON) - On Tuesday, March 22, the Arizona Senate Rules Committee gave approval to the marriage postcard.

HCM (House Concurrent Memorial) 2005, would urge the U.S. Congress to propose an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would state that marriage consists only of a man and a woman. After review on March 22, the Senate Rules

Committee said the bill is "proper for consideration."

Next on the legislative calendar for HCM 2005 will be the Senate Committee of the Whole (COW). On March 22, HCM 2005 was caucused for consent by the Democrats and Republicans, a legislative maneuver but an objection was filed on the measure, meaning the bill will have a debate before Senate COW.

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ADVERTISE IN THE OBSERVER

Under Bush, A New Age Of Prepackaged Television News Part 2

Spreading The Word

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Karen Ryan cringes at the phrase "covert propaganda." These are words for dictators and spies, and yet they have attached themselves to her like a pair of handcuffs, the New York Times reported.

Not long ago, Ms. Ryan was a much sought-after "reporter" for news segments produced by the federal government. A journalist at ABC and PBS who became a public relations consultant, Ms. Ryan worked on about a dozen reports for seven federal agencies in 2003 and early 2004. Her segments for the Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of National Drug Control Policy were a subject of the accountability office's recent inquiries.

The G.A.O. concluded that the two agencies "designed and executed" their segments "to be indistinguishable from news stories produced by private sector television news organizations." A significant part of that execution, the office found, was Ms. Ryan's expert narration, including her typical sign-off - "In Washington, I'm Karen Ryan reporting" - delivered in a tone and cadence familiar to television reporters everywhere.

Last March, when The New York Times first described her role in a segment about new prescription drug benefits for Medicare patients, reaction was harsh. In Cleveland, The Plain Dealer ran an editorial under the headline "Karen Ryan, You're a Phony," and she was the object of late-night jokes by Jon Stewart and received hate mail.

"I'm like the Marlboro man," she said in a recent interview.

In fact, Ms. Ryan was a bit player

who made less than \$5,000 for her work on government reports. She was also playing an accepted role in a lucrative art form, the video news release. "I just don't feel I did anything wrong," she said. "I just did what everyone else in the industry was doing."

It is a sizable industry. One of its largest players, Medialink Worldwide Inc., has about 200 employees, with offices in New York and London. It produces and distributes about 1,000 video news releases a year, most commissioned by major corporations. The Public Relations Society of America even gives an award, the Bronze Anvil, for the year's best video news release.

Several major television networks play crucial intermediary roles in the business. Fox, for example, has an arrangement with Medialink to distribute video news releases to 130 affiliates through its video feed service, Fox News Edge. CNN distributes releases to 750 stations in the United States and Canada through a similar feed service, CNN Newsource. Associated Press Television News does the same thing worldwide with its Global Video Wire.

"We look at them and determine whether we want them to be on the feed," David M. Winstrom, director of Fox News Edge, said of video news releases. "If I got one that said tobacco cures cancer or something like that, I would kill it."

In essence, video news releases seek to exploit a growing vulnerability of television news: Even as news staffs at the major networks are shrinking, many local stations are expanding their hours of news coverage without adding reporters.

"No TV news organization has

the resources in labor, time or funds to cover every worthy story," one video news release company, TVA Productions, said in a sales pitch to potential clients, adding that "90 percent of TV newsrooms now rely on video news releases."

Federal agencies have been commissioning video news releases since at least the first Clinton administration. An increasing number of state agencies are producing television news reports, too; the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department alone has produced some 500 video news releases since 1993.

Under the Bush administration, federal agencies appear to be producing more releases, and on a broader array of topics.

A definitive accounting is nearly impossible. There is no comprehensive archive of local television news reports, as there is in print journalism, so there is no easy way to determine what has been broadcast, and when and where.

Still, several large agencies, including the Defense Department, the State Department and the Department of Health and Human Services, acknowledge expanded efforts to produce news segments. Many members of Mr. Bush's first-term cabinet appeared in such segments.

A recent study by Congressional Democrats offers another rough indicator: the Bush administration spent \$254 million in its first term on public relations contracts, nearly double what the last Clinton administration spent.

Karen Ryan was part of this push - a "paid shill for the Bush administration," as she self-mockingly puts it. It is,

she acknowledges, an uncomfortable title.

Ms. Ryan, 48, describes herself as not especially political, and certainly no Bush die-hard. She had hoped for a long career in journalism. But over time, she said, she grew dismayed by what she saw as the decline of television news - too many cut corners, too many ratings stunts.

In the end, she said, the jump to video news releases from journalism was not as far as one might expect. "It's almost the same thing," she said.

There are differences, though. When she went to interview Tommy G. Thompson, then the health and human services secretary, about the new Medicare drug benefit, it was not the usual reporter-source exchange. First, she said, he already knew the questions, and she was there mostly to help him give better, snappier answers. And second, she said, everyone involved is aware of a segment's potential political benefits.

Her Medicare report, for example, was distributed in January 2004, not long before Mr. Bush hit the campaign trail and cited the drug benefit as one of his major accomplishments.

The script suggested that local anchors lead into the report with this line: "In December, President Bush signed into law the first-ever prescription drug benefit for people with Medicare." In the segment, Mr. Bush is shown signing the legislation as Ms. Ryan describes the new benefits and reports that "all people with Medicare will be able to get coverage that will lower their prescription drug spending."

Continued on Page Fourteen

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POLITICS 2005
by Mark R. Kerr

'They're Still Drinking The Kool-AID'

When Dubya's sixty day, multi-state, bamboozlapooza tour, made a stop in the Old Pueblo Monday, March 21, setting forth on how he wants to put the fix on our futures, i.e. Social Security, Tucson's mainstream media (MSM) ran its biased propaganda extravaganza in full force and nausea.

Tucsonan's MSM continued unabated, spreading the overt and covert government propaganda on Dubya as they have in the past four plus years, which totalled \$254-million from the government in "public relations" and "video news releases."

KOLD-TV news said Tucson was "awaiting word about Social Security" and are "just eager to see President Bush speak about it in person." KVOA-TV news said the Dubya brought his "crusade to Tucson." KGUN-TV news compared Dubya with the Biblical Daniel, stating that "the president ventured into the lion's den for his visit," adding his talk "seem to solidify support from some who had questions and concerns."

Just like lemmings going over the cliff, the two daily fish-wraps flailed away too.

"Bush woos Tucson with Social Security Proposal," blared the Tucson Citizen, adding that the Dubya left Tucson after a "three-hour visit detailing his Social Security plan." Specifics, what specifics?! "Crowd Rallies For Bush," the Arizona Daily Star excitedly gushed, adding Dubya "urged people to talk to their friends and neighbors about Social Security reform."

Friends and neighbors have been talking about the plan the Dubya had been spewing forth - which recently lost 19 business associations who withdrew their

support because the plan requires trillions of dollars in borrowing by the federal government - resulting in massive debt. According to several articles and reports, Dubya's plan hasn't worked in Britain, Sweden, Chile, as well as Nebraska, Michigan, and West Virginia - naming some of the governmental entities that had similar ventures and when the people learn more about Dubya's plan, they really don't like it, with two recent, national polls backing that assertion up.

In the Washington Post poll (March 10), 35% of those surveyed expressed approval of the way the Dubya is handling Social Security, and 56% of those surveyed disapproved of the plan. In the Ipsos poll (March 7-9), the numbers were similar, with 37% expressing approval while 56% said the plan stinks.

So to believe Tucson's MSM, Dubya spewed forth his popular idea to the throngs, and it will pass, then the Angels will sing out with trumpets sounding the victory call! A recent procedural vote in the U.S. Senate shows that the reform Dubya wants just won't happen so don't cue the music.

On March 15, the following non-binding resolution was brought forth by Senator Ben Nelson, D-NE, "to express the sense of the Senate that Congress should reject any Social Security plan that requires deep benefits cuts or a massive increase in debt." By a tie vote of 50-50, the measure was defeated thanks to Dickie Cheney, but it also shows the plan is in already in serious trouble. Both Arizona

Senators McCain and Kyl voted against the measure - expressing their favorable opinion towards debt and mortgaging the future but digressing.

Lest we also forget, as Tucson's MSM did and who tried to get the public to follow suit by burying the recent story about the \$25-million dollar lawsuit filed by the Oregon Gay couple, who sued USA-Next (the new name for the Swift Boat Liars from the 2004 campaign) and a public relations firm who used their picture illegally in an ad blasting the American Associated of Retired Persons, who dared to express their opposition Dubya's plan on Social Security. The judge issued an injunction against USA-Next and told them in the preliminary hearing that they are basically guilty.

Dubya rocked, Tucson's MSM blathered and, every one of the pre-selected, pre-fabricated, pre-screened, pre-vetted and pre-inspected people enjoyed themselves. Even McCain took the stage at the event and said, "The door is open for the Democrats to talk to us about Social Security ... but they won't!" to the supposed enjoyment of the partisan Republican crowd, but was that the case, as Tucson's MSM would have you believe?

Dubya's bamboozle stop, did not welcome Steven Gerner, who was quietly standing in line waiting to hear the President deliver a speech that he felt he needed to pay close attention to. Gerner, 19, was one of 1,400 who had properly obtained a ticket, with his name printed on

it, from Congressman Raul Grijalva's office, to the tightly screened forum, but he would not get the chance to actually make it inside the event because he was wearing a University of Arizona Young Democrats t-shirt.

Twenty minutes before the doors opened at the Convention Center for the event, a staffer approached Steven, asked for a better view of his t-shirt, then demanded his ticket. "When the staffer took my ticket, he literally crumpled it up in his hand and then walked away. I was too shocked and frankly too disappointed to even do or say anything," said Gerner, a University of Arizona student. That staffer returned twenty minutes later, told Gerner that his name had been "reported" and warned that there was no way he could gain entry into the event.

"The debate over whether to privatize Social Security is really important to people my age," added Gerner. "This Social Security debate should be about open communication and ideas rather than overt snubs of people who just want to hear both sides of the issue."

Steven is right, but the door as well as the lines of communication aren't open to Democrats, let alone the general public, young or old, thanks to the MSM and Dubya who continue merrily down their totalitarian path.

In Their Own Words.....

FOX NEWS HOSTS MUSE ABOUT GAY RIGHTS

The Big Story host John Gibson in his March 16 "My Word": Gays can't have kids — other than going to the abandoned kids store and getting one or two, or borrowing sperm from someone with more sperm than brains — so by definition they're out of the marriage game.

Sean Hannity on the March 16 edition of Hannity & Colmes: Bob Beckel (guest co-host): Let me just say one thing about the Boy Scouts. The Boy Scouts, when they allow Gay Boy Scouts in the Boy Scouts, then that won't be a problem for me. But they don't. Hannity: But they can have the Gay Scouts if they want, if they don't like the values of the Boy Scouts.

Bill O'Reilly on the March 15 edition of Westwood One's The Radio Factor: O'Reilly: You know, the Founding Fathers didn't write anything into the Constitution about Gay marriage. Because back then, if you were Gay, they hung you. So — you couldn't get married 'cause they put you in the rack. You know, if you were runnin' around wearing a chartreuse hat, you were in lots of trouble. So, we didn't even have to worry about these people gettin' married because if they come out of their closet in the log cabin — somebody'll shoot them in the head. So, there really wasn't an issue back in the Founding Fathers.

[Information provided by Media Matters for America, mediamatters.org]





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Rainbow Coalition Build Update

TUCSON - On March 17, members of the Rainbow Coalition Build Committee met to discuss the progress on the first Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and straight supportive home build for Habitat for Humanity.

A total of 37 official members have joined the project. The home has a roof and is expect to be completed by this Fall. Ann Jones is working as a volunteer crew leader on a regular basis. Volunteer workers should bring lunch and water to the site or call Wingspan to check on the number of volunteers for a particular day so that they don't end up with a crew that is too large.

Through March 8, 2005, the

GOP Bill Would Force Cities To Admit Scouts Despite Gay Ban

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Senate Majority leader Bill Frist has introduced legislation that would make it illegal to bar the Boy Scouts from using public facilities, 365Gay.com reported.

In 2000 Supreme Court ruled that the Boys Scouts can prohibit Gays. The high court said the constitution gave the scouts, as a private organization, the right to choose its members. The Scouts also prohibits atheists.

Civil liberties groups have challenged the scouts' access to government facilities because of the ban and its requirement to swear an oath of duty to God.

The Pentagon last year settled one lawsuit by telling U.S. military bases around the world not to become direct sponsors of Boy Scout troops or Cub Scout dens.

Dozens of cities and school boards have also barred the scouts from using public facilities.

If Frist's "Support Our Scouts Act" becomes law the federal government would be obliged to support the Scouts and state and local governments would be required to give Scouts access to their facilities if they make them available to other groups.

Frist (R-Tennessee), a former Scout, tried to pass a similar bill last year, but he found little support at the end of a busy year in Congress.

Other Senate co-sponsors include Tennessee Republican Lamar Alexander, Kentucky Republican Jim Bunning, Montana Republican Conrad Burns, Idaho Republican Larry Craig, Nevada Republican John Ensign, Florida Democrat Bill Nelson and Oregon Republican Gordon Smith.

Meanwhile an FBI investigation is continuing into allegations that the Boy Scouts of America is inflating its membership to gain funding.

Medical Norm

Continued from Page One

In another example, an Air Force civilian psychotherapist at Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi outed her client, sending military officials a copy of her patient's mental health record, which contained notes about her Bisexuality.

"Under 'don't ask, don't tell,' discrimination seems to trump the well-being of soldiers. The military should heed Dr. Rankin's advice and protect service members' medical privacy," Ralls concluded.

coalition has raised \$16,611.90, which is 25% of our goal. Nancy Rude from Habitat has detail for every organization if desired. In addition, individual groups can use various materials to create their own flyers or emails for appeals to their friends, family and members.

Rainbow Build coalition t-shirts are still available and can be purchased for \$10 each. Some groups have purchased a t-shirt and then used it as a raffle prize to raise additional funds.

Tuesday, May 10 is the next scheduled meeting to discuss the progress of the build.

The number of scouts has dwindled since it became embroiled in the dispute over Gay scouts.

Membership in the BSA has declined since the Supreme Court ruling. But, in cities where agencies like the United Way continue to fund the BSA it is alleged that troops are being encouraged to list fake names as members to boost enrolment making the group eligible for more money.

Study Details Lesbians' Body Image Issues

NEW YORK - An online poll by Harris Interactive and Witeck-Combs Communications suggests that Lesbians are slightly more accurate in perceiving their body weight than are women as a whole, the PlanetOut Network reported.

Some 77 percent of Lesbians told pollsters they were overweight, while only 67 percent of women in general did so. In fact, the surveyors found that 84 percent of the Lesbians — and 80 percent of women in general, were indeed too heavy — based on a calculation of the body mass index of the participants.

The survey questioned 2,209 men and women, of whom 119 were self-identified as Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual. The information of an additional 341 self-reported Lesbians was compared with the sample. Although 77 percent of the over-sample of Lesbians stated that they weighed too much, only 61 percent of the 119 Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual (GLB) respondents in the main sample confessed to the same. Their body mass index, in turn, ranked them even higher on the overweight scale, with 85 percent of them topping the charts.

Lesbians were much more likely to smoke, with 42 percent of Gay women indulging in cigarettes, vs. 28 percent of all women. On the other hand, Lesbians were more apt to exercise regularly, by a bare 51 percent majority over 43 percent of women in general.

Fifty-three percent of the 119 GLB group pled guilty to overeating, compared with 42 percent of Lesbians, and 43 percent of all women, while vast majorities of all the categories insisted that they ate fruits and vegetables.

The authors of the research concluded that excess weight is "one of the most significant contributors to our nation's epidemic of heart disease, diabetes, cancer and a number of other chronic or life-threatening diseases." The results of the survey, said Colleen Dermody of Witeck-Combs, "enable us to gauge where Lesbians may be found on the health care continuum."

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End Of G/L Teens?

ITHACA - The "Gay adolescent" soon will disappear, predicts a Cornell University expert on teenage sexuality in a new book, 365Gay.com reported.

Ritch Savin-Williams, professor and chair of human development in Cornell's College of Human Ecology, says that these adolescents will still have the same desires, fantasies and attractions, he writes, but they no longer will need or want to identify themselves as Gay.

"The new Gay teenager is in many respects the non-Gay teenager," says Savin-Williams, in his new book, *The New Gay Teenager*.

Savin-Williams is an expert on issues concerning Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual youths and is a licensed clinical psychologist who works with Gay youths and their families. He also serves on a panel of experts for the Human Rights Campaign on teen issues.

In his book Savin-Williams argues that the majority of young people who engage in Gay sex consider

themselves heterosexual and that the majority of youths with same-sex attractions do not call themselves Gay.

Such labels as "Gay" no longer work when describing young people's sexuality, he says, because some teens have same-sex crushes but don't act on them or call them "Gay love affairs." Some believe they are Gay for a while and then not Gay for a while. Still others might consider themselves Gay only in certain situations.

"Most same-sex-attracted young people engage in sexual activities with both sexes. Some are homoerotic in some sexual domains and not in others. Similarly, one can be little or greatly same-sex attracted, in varying degrees and in varying ways," says Savin-Williams. In fact, he says, between 15 and 20 percent of adolescents have some degree of same-sex orientation, yet only 3 to 4 percent embrace a Gay or Bisexual identity or report same-sex activities. Most young people don't link their sexuality to their identity.

California Man Wins Right To Sue Over Partner's Death

LOS ANGELES - A California appellate court on Tuesday, March 15, ruled that the state's recent changes in its domestic-partnership laws gave a Gay man the right to file a wrongful death lawsuit in his same-sex partner's death, even though the partner died before the laws took effect, Advocate.com reported.

The decision was a victory for Charles Karel Bouley II, a radio talk-show host and author who goes by the single name Karel. Bouley, who is also an Advocate.com columnist, filed suit against Long Beach Memorial Medical Center 11 months after his partner, Andrew Howard, died there in May 2001; Bouley contends that the hospital's ineffective care was responsible. The hospital's attorneys responded that Karel did not have the right to sue under California law because he was neither married nor related to Howard. A lower court ruled in the hospital's favor last year.

But Tuesday's decision overturned that ruling, asserting that updates to California domestic-partnership laws in 2002 and 2005 must be applied to Karel's case. Among other rights, the laws give registered domestic partners the legal standing to file a wrongful death lawsuit such as Karel's.

"Yesterday was an important day for Gay equality, but mostly it was an important day for Andy," Karel told Advocate.com, referring to his late partner of 11 years. "It was my job to take care of Andrew in his life, and it was my job to take care of him after his death. The law said that I could not do that, so I had to change the law."

The ruling noted that the state law defining who had legal standing to file a wrongful death lawsuit was amended in January 2002 to include domestic partners, and that the law was in effect when Karel filed his lawsuit in May of that year. "We find that on the plain language of the statute and the legislative history, the 2002 amendments to [the law] were intended to operate retroactively," the judges wrote in their decision.

The judges further wrote that the January 2005 changes to the law—part of the state's strengthening of its domestic-partnership laws—included language stating specifically that in the case of "a death occurring prior to January 1, 2002, a person may maintain a cause of action pursuant to this section as a domestic partner of the decedent by establishing [the appropriate legal standing]."

The hospital may yet challenge the court's decision, and if that happens a final ruling from the state's supreme court may still be a year or longer away. But even if the hospital accepts Tuesday's ruling or Karel prevails in future challenges, he still faces the prospect of starting over in his battle against the medical center when the time comes to file the actual wrongful death lawsuit.

"For the last four years I've been pointing the finger. Now we finally may get to look at where the finger is pointing instead of who's doing the pointing," Karel said. "This ruling takes the focus off me and puts it back on Andrew, where it belongs. We can finally look at the [merits of the] case [for wrongful death] instead of the fact that it's a domestic partner who's filing it."

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COMMENTARY . . . by Laura Flanders

It's Not About Terri Schiavo

About that posturing in Congress on Palm Sunday (March 20), I've got just one thing to say: it's not about Terri Schiavo.

Accidentally in uttering the words "she's my life," in her conversation with the media Terri Schiavo's mother revealed what's at the very heart of this whole dismal story. None of this is about poor brain-destroyed Terri Schiavo. It's all about someone else's life, or various someone-elses.

Tom DeLay knows nothing about morality or ethics. He dragged congress back to Washington for a special session so he could put his fellow members through a loyalty test on Palm Sunday. According to Robert Novak (who, as we know, knows these folks) analysts at the RNC sent out a warning this week to the House of Representatives that the GOP's in danger of losing 25 seats in the 2006 election. The Schiavo case "is a great political issue" for Republicans, anonymous advisors told party senators in an unsigned memo this weekend. It isn't about Terri Schiavo's life; it's about the life of this GOP-ruled congress.

It isn't about Terri Schiavo, it's about tossing a bone to poor Christian voters who voted Republican this November but haven't gotten a thing for those votes so far, except a slap around the face with another brass knuckle budget and tougher treatment for poor folks who go bankrupt. It's about performing compassion when this congress is really only-and-all about profits. And it's about obscuring the corruption and fraud on which DeLay's power is built, and hoping poor voters will forget that once they've cast their votes, the GOP doesn't care about them anymore. Their first order of business is well, business.

It isn't about what DeLay calls "a culture life." When he was governor of Texas, George Bush signed into effect a law that grants hospitals the right to cut off life support in cases that are even more controversial than Schiavo's. Under Texas law, hospitals can cease to feed a patient whose prognosis is so poor that further care would be futile if that patient has no way to pay his or her medical expenses. A baby was pulled of life support under that legislation this past week, against his mother's wishes. It was ok with the National Right to Life committee in 1999 and it was ok with Governor George W. Bush. What changed? Only political expediency.

What do you think this is really about? Terri Schiavo? I don't think so. I think it's about distracting from lawlessness and dying in Iraq and Afghanistan. It's about changing the subject from a cruel and killing budget, and just possibly, about obscuring the news that according to a new National Defense Strategy" the Pentagon has made "first strike" attacks like those used in Iraq a permanent piece of the nation's military policy.

Talk about a culture of life. If the Bush crew really believed human life was sacred, they would never have okayed the loss of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi lives because of the off-chance that the future might bring another terror attack, somewhere, sometime, that might kill Americans. Forget the WMD threat which did not exist. Bush made the argument again this past week that it's better to fight terrorism abroad (and kill innocent people there now,) than tolerate the possibility that more US lives might be lost here at some unspecified time in the future.

Bush's criminal congress isn't about a culture of life any more than

Bush's unilateral war against world majority opinion was about democracy or global security.

Besides, when was the last time you think that any one of Bush's criminal congress took a moment to imagine what it would actually be like to be Terri Schiavo? We can all understand where Schiavo's mother is coming from, but it's not actually her mother's suffering that's at stake here, or Tom Delay's or the Congress's. It's Schiavo's, and I'd say it was a long time since the people in this picture actually put themselves in Schiavo's shoes because as far as I can see, this nation's out of the habit of practicing empathy.

Plastic pathos, sure, and for-profit compassion - there's plenty - but, actual honest-to-your-god empathy? You tell me. I think "do unto others as you'd have others do unto you" is on life support in George W. Bush's America. Don't believe me? Ask the Afghans. Ask the Iraqis. And maybe I'm going out on a limb here, but if you could, I'd say you could ask Terri Schiavo.

[Laura Flanders is host of The Laura Flanders Show, heard weekends on Air America Radio and the author of "Bushwomen."]

Bush Repeats Call

Continued from Page One

inspiration. The Senate soundly rejected this amendment last year because members understood that this is simply an obsession manufactured by the White House for partisan gain."

"It's clear that the president and other anti-Gay forces know that the constitution protects the fundamental freedom to marry and they are seeking to change the constitution to deny us that right," said Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (news - web sites). "It's immoral. It's unjust. And it's hypocritical."

Christopher Barron, a spokesman for the Log Cabin Republicans said the president's remarks did not surprise him. "The constitutional process will not help on this. We're going to have different outcomes in different states. That's called federalism."

"We have said all along that the battle for fairness is not going to be won just in the courtroom," Barron added. "This is going to have to be won by other fair-minded Americans. This is a battle that's going to progress on a number of different fronts."

Dave DeCicco, vice president for communications for the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, echoed Barron's thoughts. "The president can say all he wants about judicial activism. He can say whatever he wants about Mayor Newsom (the San Francisco mayor who issued the order for same-sex marriages). But this underscores the need for Gays and Lesbians to get involved in the political process. It's time that we impact the process from within where we have a vote to barter, rather than try to secure our equal rights only as lobbyists."



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Gay Disabled Vet Wins Landmark New Jersey Tax Case

NEWARK - A New Jersey judge has ruled that a Gay, disabled veteran who owns a home with his partner should receive the same tax break that a married veteran would receive, 365Gay.com reported.

For 72-year old Louis Paul Henefeld, who served in the Air Force during the Korean and Vietnam wars, the ruling means that he and his partner Blair William O'Dell, 60, will not have to pay property taxes in his hometown of Montclair.

Judge Vito L. Bianco said he based his ruling on New Jersey's new Domestic Partnership Act.

The decision overturns a judgment of the Essex County Board of Taxation.

Since 1953, the state Constitution granted tax exemptions to honorably discharged veterans in proportion to the extent of the disability. A fully disabled veteran would get a 100 percent exemption. The property occupied by a married, fully disabled veteran got the full exemption even if the veteran owned it with a spouse.

Henefeld and O'Dell own their home jointly.

They brought the suit in September, two months after the partnership act became law.

Montclair attorney Alan G. Trembulak said he doubted the township would appeal because the Legislature is considering a bill that would extend the constitutional provision to Gay Gay vets and their partners.

The measure has been approved by a key committee and now moves to the full Assembly.

To be eligible couples would have had to register under New Jersey's Domestic Partnership Act. The tax break would then be extended to the partner of a disabled or deceased vet. It would cover 100 percent of the property tax.

All five branches of the military would be included in the measure.

Wednesday's (March 16) ruling was hailed by Lambda Legal which called it "a great step forward for Gay families in New Jersey, especially those who served our country in the armed forces."

However, "This judge would not have had to struggle with this if they had the freedom to marry in New Jersey," said Lambda attorney David Buckel, the lead lawyer for Gay couples whose lawsuit seeking to legalize same-sex marriage in New Jersey is being considered by the state Appellate Court.

Anonymous Letters Mailed To HIV-Positive People In Florida

WEST PALM BEACH - Palm Beach County, Fla., health director Jean Malecki is calling for a criminal investigation into anonymous letters sent to local HIV-positive people—an act she described as "terrorism."

"Your name appeared on a list of HIV-AIDS patients for Palm Beach County," said one letter that had no return address. The letters were mailed after a confidential list of about 6,500 HIV patients was accidentally e-mailed last month to at least 16 county health workers. That list did not include addresses. Twelve minutes after the e-mail was sent, the department shut down the system and deleted the data, the Associated Press reported on Advocate.com.

Mailed in West Palm Beach, Fla., the letters carried printed address labels and listed the phone number of a medical billing

firm in Indiana. The letters asked recipients to call the number to "become a sponsor and donate your time to help the families" of HIV-positive people in the county. The company's attorney, Scott Herbst, denied any link between the company and the mailings.

"We have a creep or creeps out there trying to frighten people following a separate incident with that e-mail," said Malecki. "I believe people are taking advantage of this situation and frightening people who are already living with this horrendous disease."



EDITOR:

This year is the opportunity to recognize and honor your Tucson Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender family and friends and help build a Habitat house at the same time!

You can make a donation to Habitat for Humanity/ Rainbow Build (www.hfhtucson.org) in the name of your loved one and we'll be sure to acknowledge your thoughtfulness to them.

If you are receiving this communication it is because your support for the Rainbow Build is most helpful. Your gift in recognition of the Tucson LGBT community member you know and love may be equally as critical!

There is an affordable housing crisis here as in many parts of the nation. In order to afford a fair market two bedroom home in Tucson, a renter would have to earn almost three times the federal minimum wage. Habitat recognizes that a decent affordable home is critical to a community's health and success. Hard-working and low income families deserve better than sub-standard housing. The family chosen for the Rainbow Build home is a wonderful Mexican American retired couple and their adult hearing impaired daughter.

The nation's LGBT community is facing an assault from the far-right and Arizona is no exception. Tucson's Domestic Partnership Registry, which allows hospital visitation rights and city facility membership to LGBT families, is threatened by a proposed amendment to

our state constitution that may limit even these fledgling civil rights. Community members are responding in many ways to this assault while recognizing that building together fosters health within our community and allows an opportunity to contribute to social justice for all.

There are 38 member groups in the Rainbow Build Coalition! This is the first in the nation coalition of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and straight allies to fund and build a home for a deserving family with Habitat for Humanity. This collaboration directly addresses Habitat's mission to eliminate poverty housing in southern Arizona and to create the visibility which makes affordable housing a matter of community conscience and action. Habitat's inclusively and nondiscrimination values help make the Rainbow Build possible. The partnership raises awareness of issues of housing and justice as well as issues of sexual orientation discrimination.

Your gift in honor of your loved ones will help us complete this house project! Please link to www.rainbowbuild.org for more information about our particular house and to www.hfhtucson.org for your gift. Or mail to HFH-Tucson, 621W. Lester St. Tucson, Az 85705 to make your donation. Remember to put Rainbow Build in the memo line! Thank you!

The Rainbow Coalition Build Committee, Tucson

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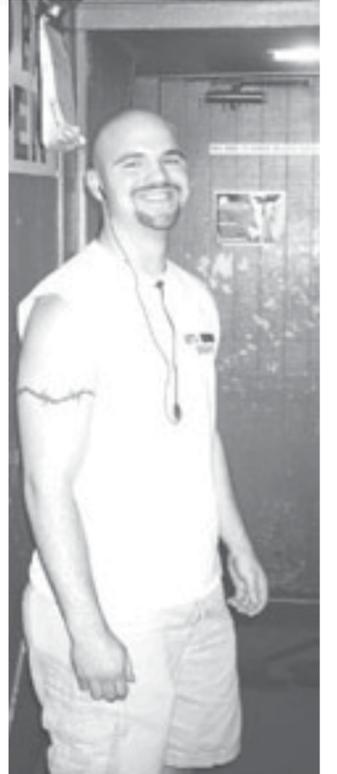
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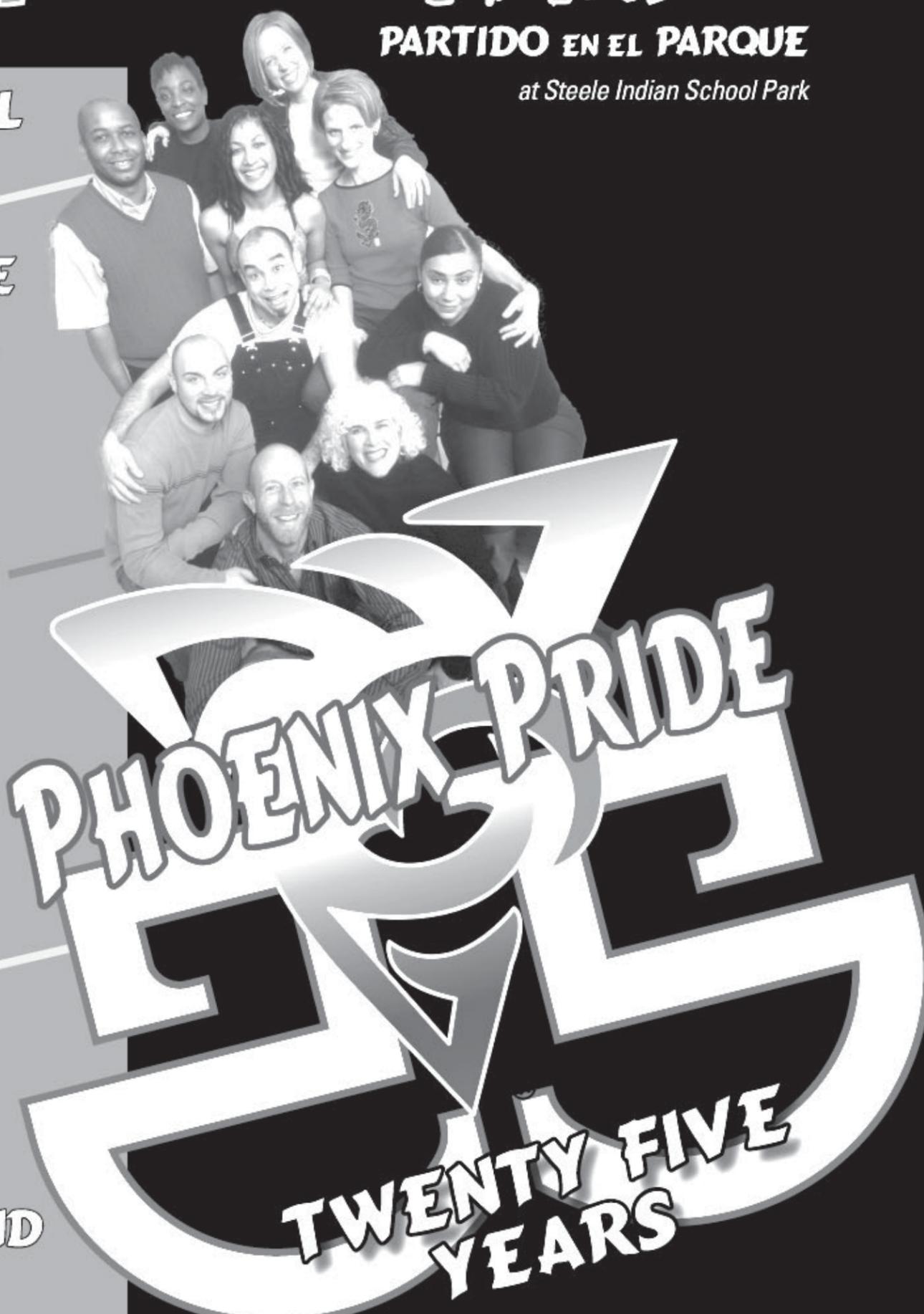
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Around the Gay World.

Religious Right Mobilizes Against Pride Event In Jerusalem

JERUSALEM - A coalition of evangelical Christians and rabbis from the United States as well as ultra-Orthodox Jews in Jerusalem vowed Wednesday, March 16, to try to prevent an international Gay pride parade from being held in Jerusalem this summer, but the mayor of the holy city said he has no way of stopping it, the Associated Press reported on Advocate.com.

California pastor Leo Giovinetti said hosting the 10-day WorldPride 2005 event could bring divine retribution upon Jerusalem, citing the biblical story of Sodom and Gomorra as a precedent.

Ultra-Orthodox lawmaker Nissim Zeev hinted at more earthly troubles in store. "If they think they can party here in this city and carry out this provocation without hindrance, I think the police will be kept busy dealing with demonstrations," he told a news conference. "With demonstrations we never know how they end up, we know how they begin. Residents here are enraged. Everything should be done to stop this [event] and not cause people to break the law."

Israeli Gays have held small pride marches in Jerusalem in the past that have passed relatively peacefully, with a few shouted insults from onlookers and minor acts of vandalism. This time the plan is for a major international happening, comprising parties, a Gay film festival, and workshops, and culminating in the WorldPride parade, street fair, and rally. The event, held every five years, attracted tens of thousands of participants when it was held in Rome in 2000.

Giovinetti, from San Diego, has a nationwide radio ministry in the United States that he says reaches millions of listeners—and he is seeking a million signatures for a petition against the August festival, which he said is offensive to the values of religious people and debases the sanctity of Jerusalem. "We did not come here because we hate homosexuals," he said. "But when they said, 'I'm coming to your house and I'm going to spit on your mother, what are you going to do about it?' In order to be a good son I'm going to say, 'Mom, that's not right and I'm going to fight it.'"

The petition, drafted by Giovinetti, quotes the biblical book of Isaiah (3:8-9) as a warning against profaning the holy city: "Judah and Jerusalem will lie in ruins because they speak out against the Lord and refuse to obey him. They have offended his glorious presence among them.... They sin openly like the people of Sodom."

Organizers of the festival, themed "Love Without Borders," say they want to promote coexistence. "The holiness of Jerusalem does not come from manipulating religion to keep people away," said Hagai El-Ad, the director of Open House, the Jerusalem group that has organized local Gay parades in the city. "Jerusalem's holiness comes from it being a city that can bring together all kinds of people," he said. The decision to host the WorldPride parade in Jerusalem was made by InterPride, the association that organizes Gay parades around the world.

Giovinetti, who also heads an evangelical congregation in San Diego, accused organizers of deliberately targeting holy places. "We are convinced that it is no accident that the last parade was held in Rome and that today Jerusalem is being targeted. Clearly the group's agenda is to

create a provocation and thus offend religious sensibilities," he said. A majority of Jerusalem's more than 600,000 residents are either Orthodox Jews, Palestinian Muslims, or Christians, traditional communities that oppose homosexuality. The city's ultra-Orthodox Jewish mayor, Uri Lupolianski, said in a statement that while he opposes the parade, he has no legal way of stopping it because authorization for public events is given by the police.

New York rabbi Yehuda Levin, representing a group of U.S. Orthodox rabbis, the Rabbinical Alliance of America, said that with the help of the powerful conservative Christian lobby, the coalition plans to put pressure on Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and key Israeli cabinet ministers. "Whatever the police say about the festival, if those men don't want it to happen, it won't happen," he said.

Spreading The Word

Continued from Page Five

The segment made no mention of the many critics who decry the law as an expensive gift to the pharmaceutical industry. The G.A.O. found that the segment was "not strictly factual," that it contained "notable omissions" and that it amounted to "a favorable report" about a controversial program.

And yet this news segment, like several others narrated by Ms. Ryan, reached an audience of millions. According to the accountability office, at least 40 stations ran some part of the Medicare report. Video news releases distributed by the Office of National Drug Control Policy, including one narrated by Ms. Ryan, were shown on 300 stations and reached 22 million households. According to Video Monitoring Services of America, a company that tracks news programs in major cities, Ms. Ryan's segments on behalf of the government were broadcast a total of at least 64 times in the 40 largest television markets.

Even these measures, though, do not fully capture the reach of her work. Consider the case of News 10 Now, a cable station in Syracuse owned by Time Warner. In February 2004, days after the government distributed its Medicare segment, News 10 Now broadcast a virtually identical report, including the suggested anchor lead-in. The News 10 Now segment, however, was not narrated by Ms. Ryan. Instead, the station edited out the original narration and had one of its reporters repeat the script almost word for word.

The station's news director, Sean McNamara, wrote in an e-mail message, "Our policy on provided video is to clearly identify the source of that video." In the case of the Medicare report, he said, the station believed it was produced and distributed by a major network and did not know that it had originally come from the government.

Ms. Ryan said she was surprised by the number of stations willing to run her government segments without any editing or acknowledgement of origin. As proud as she says she is of her work, she did not hesitate, even for a second, when asked if she would have broadcast one of her government reports if she were a local news director.

"Absolutely not!"

[Next week - Part 3, little Oversight: TV Code of Ethics, With Uncertain Weight]

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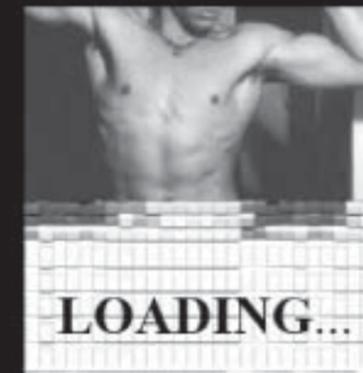
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HOROSCOPES

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Why is it that, despite all obstacles, you suddenly feel like taking on the world, poking the snoot of a particular rival or launching into wilde adventure? The Sun advances into Aries this week and compels you not to hold back. Woo-hoo! Grab on tight!

ARIES (MAR. 21 - APR. 20)
If you yearn for new beginnings and interesting encounters, you take a leap of faith with Sun in your sign. Proud Rams feel like prime meat this time of year so why not trot it all Out while you sizzle. Show the world what you can do in your magnanimous way by getting in a crowd and pressing the flesh. (That means handshakes, buddy.) Don't trip on the curb.

TAURUS (APR. 21 - MAY 21)
It is often the unspoken, hidden thoughts that provide the powerful oomph for change. And so it now seems with Sun in Aries. Queer Bulls think that they can leave their fate to others. That is the temptation. Don't be tempted. You have to empty out your overflowing closet on your own. And while you are carting out all that fetid psychic debris, try updating your wardrobe as well.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
It's all well and good to feel part of a group, but Sun in Aries will not allow you to evaporate. You will not compromise just to fit in. Is the group tune hummable? If not cart your carcass off to another choir. Pink Twins have important opinions and sage advice to contribute to the group effort. There is nothing wrong with giving folks an honest earful of 'em every so often.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
Feel under appreciated? Sun in Aries can be a welcomed friend of influence who boosts your stock from sell to hold. Pink Crabs often live for the sheer applause of it all and there has not been much of that lately. Now however, you can feel the swell of appreciation from the most unlikely of sources. Bask in it while you can; the ungrateful bastards will forget tomorrow.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)
Proud Lions hanker to create a sphere of influence with Sun in Aries. Good thing too; It's time to launch something new and different that charges your batteries. If purse strings are short and tight and time factors factor in, expand your horizons by sampling an array of new things; food, films and even folks. Just as long as you get out of your old moldy routine.

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)
Sun in Aries continues to heat up your passion from a slow simmer to a steady boil. Queer Virgins can use their charms to generate heat. Waste no time, survey the vista, choose your prey and carefully go in for the kill. Who knows who you will ensnare? If that one is too small, throw it back and try again; you get a second chance. Make your karma sutra less calma.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)
Gay Libras ache to connect significantly with a significant other as Sun enters Aries. Yet the communication static continues to remain on the line. Put a little spring in your step by maintaining your ribald sense of humor and playing hard to get. (The harder the better...) Their interest will pique. Even though you are raring to go go go try for slow slow slow.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)
Queer Scorps try to stay out of the fray but now Sun in Aries pushes you into assembly line drudgeries. Still, mindless tasks have their pluses; you never have to take work home or worry about it over the weekend. Don't fight it. Take advantage of the simplicity of your day and use this time to plot a corporate coup d'etat later. Take only gorgeous, compliant prisoners.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)
Sun in Aries enlivens an otherwise dull existence with sparks of creativity, luck and dare I say, romance. But this doesn't mean that you should sit at home and wait for the Gay muse to knock. It means that you have to apply a little perspiration to get your inspiration. Continue to prioritize and don't waste this fabulous energy imagining what could be. Go Out and be it.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)
As much as you would prefer to concentrate on other aspects of your life, family concerns move to the top of your agenda now. Why not build a few bridges while you feel so beneficent and forgiving, Gay Cap? But draw the line at acquiescence. As kind as you feel, don't orbit around the pull of others' idiotic values. The idea to is have them gravitate towards you, not vice versa.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)
Is it really true that money buys happiness? It all depends upon what makes you truly happy... Aqueerians feel betwixt and between. Should they do this or that? Should they go here and there? And they talk and talk about it. Booorring. Thankfully a sudden windfall makes you put your money where your mouth is. Look at those green teeth! Now shut up and get to work.

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MAR. 20)
If thoughts could move mountains, let's watch as the skies shift this week. Sun in Aries infuses Guppies with confidence and moxie. You just can't quite put your finger on it but suddenly you know exactly what you need to do to secure your foundations and create a fortress against the ebb tides. Don't squander your resources on shifting sands. They get in your swimsuit.

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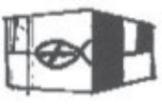
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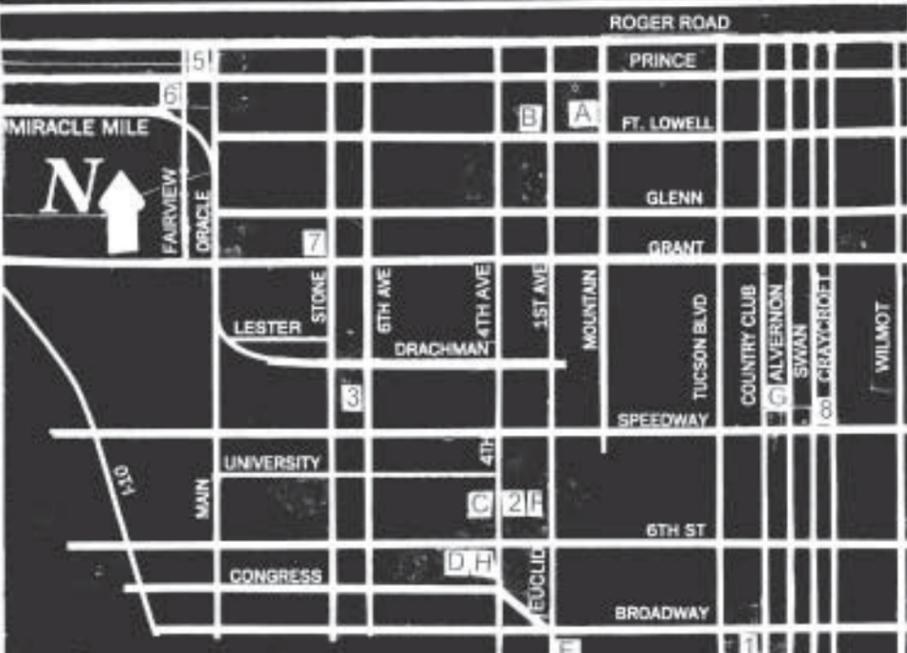
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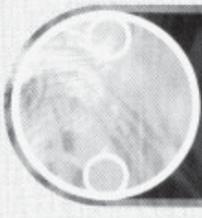
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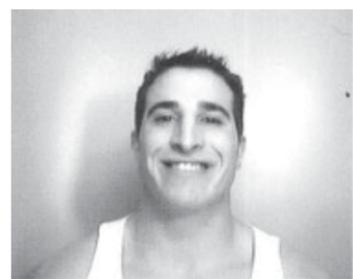


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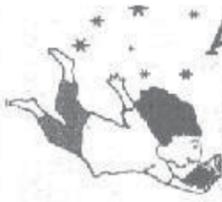


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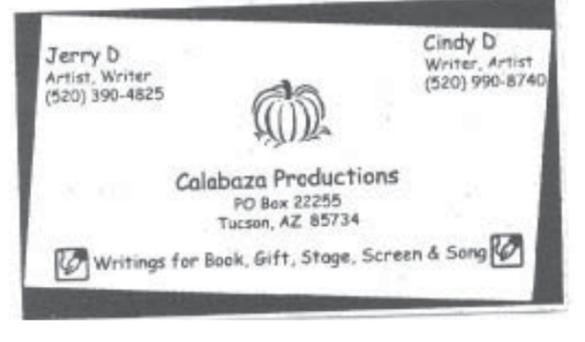
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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

by Lee Thorn

A Labor Party

What this country needs right now is a political party devoted to the interests of people who live on their wages.

The Republicans under the current Bush have become the party of people who live on their dividends. The Democrats are trying to figure out how to be all things to all people. And working people have been left out in the cold with the cost of living going up and their wages going nowhere.

American third parties haven't amounted to much in recent decades. The ideas they've championed have often been co-opted, giving them a claim to having contributed at the same time that they're put out of business.

But I'm not advocating the traditional third party that runs on a big idea. I'm advocating a party that runs to protect a group of people — wage earners — that is currently getting a raw deal.

A good unambiguous name for the new party would be "labor." With a name like that there's very little chance of ideological confusion.

The platform of such a party should be short. Political power is maximized by focusing on a few glaring problems and avoiding smaller issues that invite quibbling.

The first plank of the platform should be a demand for universal health care -- not health insurance -- the same kind of health care that workers get in every other industrialized country in the world.

The likes of Robert Novak will call it "socialism." The party platform can call it "international parity" or something equally flowery. Stuff ideology.

The second plank of Labor's platform should be the protection of workers against unfair competition. Both major parties have pretty much agreed to throw American workers to the wolves of illegal immigration and international slave labor. The platform should say, "We don't care what you call it -- "globalization" "guest workers" "pin the tail on the wage earner" — we're going to fight for a level playing field for American workers. Stuff ideology again. Third plank, protection against regressive taxation, that is any form of taxation that shifts the burden from the people most able to pay to the people least able to pay. Again, it doesn't matter what you call it or how much Alan Greenspan likes it.

Four, a livable national minimum wage. National minimum wages have historically had minimal effect because they've made insufficient provisions for small businesses and poor regions. No small company struggling to survive should be subject to minimum wage laws. Poor regions of the country should not have the same minimum wage as rich regions. The guiding principle for minimum wage is that it should pay an average family enough to live on in whatever part of the country that family lives.

I'm not sure about my last platform proposal. I know how I feel about it, but it may be one of those borderline issues that would cause more quibbling than solidarity among the wage earners. Remembering that the goal is a short list with high agreement, some research might have to be done before adding this last one.

With that caveat, I'd argue that education ought to be free up to the level of a student's ability. How far you went in school would be determined by how well

you did in school, not by how much money your parents had. Obviously, a proposal like this has the special attraction of drastically increasing class mobility. But again, I suspect that there'd be some grassroots resistance to it.

Whenever people write or talk about labor uniting, someone raises the dark specter of a "classless society." I'm not sure why everyone is so terrified of a classless society, but history shows us that it's not something we have to worry much about. Our particular species loves to divide itself into classes. In fact it's one of our biggest preoccupations.

The Labor Party would have no need to oppose the existence of filthy rich people in order to oppose the existence of desperately poor people. We can still have our super rich, our celebrities, our trashy tabloids and not have people dying because they can't afford their meds

A Labor Party could effectively argue for basically the same social organization we presently enjoy, only a little less barbarically brutal on the bottom end, a little kinder and gentler down there.

[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]

Thai Gay Resort Recovers From Tsunami Disaster

PHUKET - Walking along the famed Patong Beach on Thailand's Phuket Island you might never know that only a few months earlier it had been hit by one of the worst tidal waves in history, 365Gay.com reported.

The beach umbrellas are up. The lounge chairs are all in a line. And, the tourists have returned.

Now the resort is turning its attention to Gay pride.

The annual Phuket Gay Festival was postponed in the aftermath of the killer tsunami. It's now scheduled for April 7 - 10.

The festival, which has gained an international reputation in just six years, will feature street parties with performances from the local clubs mixed with information about Gay health and HIV prevention.

There will also be the hugely popular Gay volleyball tournament on the beach and a Gay day trip to Kai Island for everyone up for a day of fun in the sun.

The Grand Finale will be the Big Parade which will start on Sunday at with a variety of floats.

That Phuket has gotten back on its feet so quickly after the disaster is a tribute to Thai ingenuity. The government quickly organized volunteer workers from throughout the country in a massive cleanup campaign.

Of all the countries affected by the December 16 tsunami Thailand has been the quickest to recover.

Nearly 300,000 people died when the giant tidal wave swept over the region. Most the deaths were in Sri Lanka, India, and Indonesia.

At least 40 members of the Sri Lankan Gay organization Companions on a Journey were killed.

Recently officials in Singapore blamed Gay pride for an increase in HIV, but in Thailand the health authorities work with the Gay community to promote HIV prevention.

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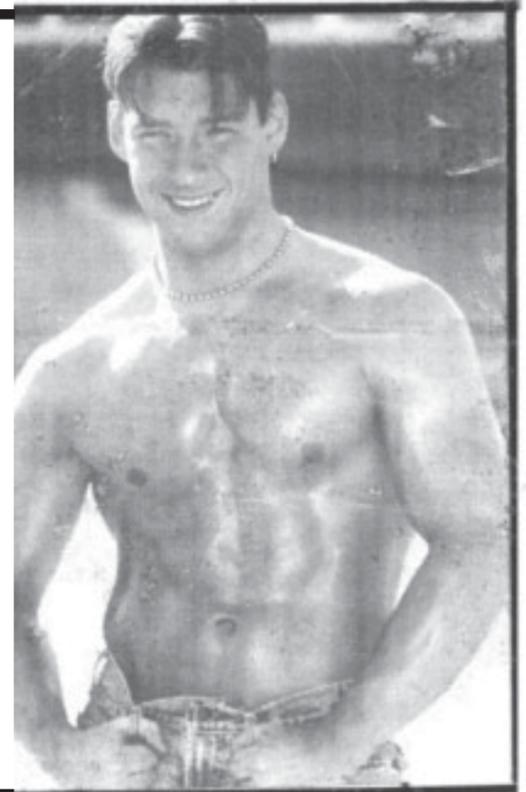
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Out Icon Christine Vachon A Heavy Hitter In Movie Biz

LOS ANGELES - Christine Vachon has produced such eclectic and acclaimed independent films as *Kids, Boys Don't Cry*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, and *Far From Heaven*, the Associated Press reported on Advocate.com.

But she wields the kind of power—and has earned the kind of respect—that marked the producing giants of Hollywood's golden age. "Right now we live in an era where the auteur—the idea of the director as star, the writer as star—is very, very big. And that's warranted, but I think the producer has fallen by the wayside a bit.

What Christine represents is a reminder that the producer has a very, very dominant voice," said Matt Dentler, producer of the South by Southwest film festival, which featured a discussion with Vachon and a retrospective of some of her movies. "I think she's part of that tradition, but it's from the perspective of the independent film world, material that can be very subversive and very, very provocative."

Magnolia Pictures president Eamonn Bowles, who worked with Vachon on two such films—*Go Fish* (1994) and *Kids* (1995)—described her as having been "at the vanguard of independent cinema." "She's one of the rare people who's done a lot and had success in the Hollywood system without really betraying her core principles," Bowles said. "She's fierce, she's really incredibly intense about films, and it's paid off magnificently for her."

Vachon's response to such high praise? "I'm not really self-reflective, and I'm really in the moment," she joked. But she added later: "That's certainly not an allusion, a comparison, that bothers me. When people come up to me and say, 'Wow, you really inspired me to get my film made,' or 'I had your book with me every step of the way,' it feels great, of course it does."

The 43-year-old started out just like them, loving movies from a young age. Growing up in New York, she would go by herself to see everything from *The Bad News Bears* to *The 400 Blows*. While studying at Brown University, she said the idea of working in film was "very sexy." "But it didn't occur to us that there was anything to do besides be a film director, you know, and why would you want to do anything else?" she said. "When I started working on the movies, I started to realize that there was somebody who was holding this whole thing together."

Some of the earliest films she produced—Todd Haynes's *Poison* (1991) and Tom Kalin's *Swoon* (1992)—featured Gay characters and daring themes. In time, she and the Manhattan-based Killer Films, which she cofounded nearly 10 years ago, have become known for bringing female filmmakers and movies with strong roles for women to the fore.

Boys Don't Cry (1999) earned Hilary Swank her first best-actress Oscar. *Far From Heaven* (2002) was nominated for four Academy Awards, including best actress for Julianne Moore. Now Vachon is in the middle of shooting *The Notorious*

Bettie Page, which Mary Harron is directing.

But she says she chooses projects based on what interests her and not necessarily with a sense of social responsibility. "As a Gay filmmaker, I was told, 'You should be making positive images about Gay people, not *Swoon* and *I Shot Andy Warhol*.'...

have to resist that," she said. "I'm not a preacher, I'm a producer. I'm making movies that I want to make because I think they're interesting and have some commercial viability." Vachon also resists purists' definitions of what makes an independent film at a time when seemingly every major studio has a branch that releases art-house fare. To her, the idea of independence is an aesthetic phenomenon, a singularity of vision.

"If that is economically the way these companies choose to diversify their tent poles from their art-house movies, I think it's fine," she said. "I just feel like this whole notion of what's really independent—whether it's Miramax or Warner Independent or Fox Searchlight or Paramount Classics—it's just a way of separating the *Spider-Mans* from the *Sideways*."

Regardless of the source of the money or the size of the company that ultimately releases the film, some of the same issues and obstacles arise, Vachon said she's found. "It's all just about how big your train set is, you know what I mean? But it's the same. How do you keep the actors happy? How do you get as much

done as you want? We are very overambitious always on movies," she added, which is part of why her company is called Killer. "Our eyes are always way bigger than our stomachs."

Georgia Moves To Force Gay Students To Come Out To Parents Before Joining LGBT Clubs

ATLANTA - A proposal aimed at Gay clubs would require high school students to get written parental permission before taking part in extracurricular activities, the Associated Press reported on 365Gay.com.

The rule before the state Board of Education was proposed by schools Superintendent Kathy Cox. It does not specifically target clubs for homosexual students. But it was requested by lawmakers who have tried for several years to squelch Gay student support groups in Georgia high schools.

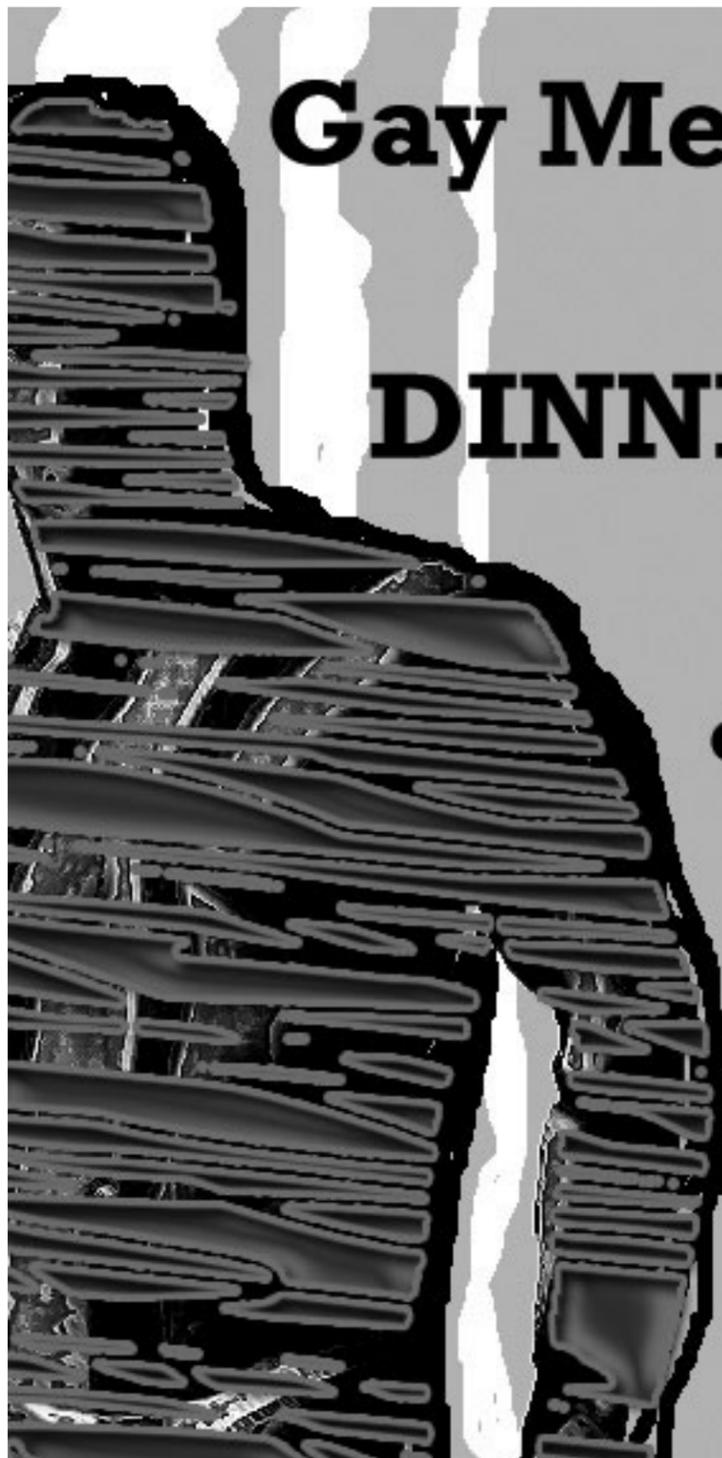
If approved, the rule would require any student who wants to take part in any school-related club or after-school activity to get written permission from parents.

Such permission already is required for student athletes.

Opponents say the rule might keep students from joining controversial groups, such as clubs for Gay students.

Principles say it will increase paperwork for teachers who sponsor the clubs.

Continued on Page Twenty



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Dear Dr. X,

I suppose this is more of an editorial than a question. A friend of mine was recently arrested in Greasewood Park for public sex. When he told me, I was shocked. I didn't think anyone was still cruising the parks. Apparently it is still quite popular, in spite of the arrests. I am so angry with my friend, and the Gay community, for this kind of behavior. When will we stop giving the enemy this kind of ammunition to use against us? I mean really, sex in the parks? Is it any wonder that Gays are seen as perverts, pedophiles and abominations? I was wondering if you would mind addressing this topic in an upcoming column?

Signed, Fuming

Dear Fuming,

I'm not entirely sure I know just what you are after here, but I'll give it a shot. Yes, Virginia, men still cruise for sex on the parks, bathrooms, and other public places. It has been happening for thousands of years, and I suspect it will not end any time soon. I think you are asking "why?" That is an easy question, but it has a complex answer. Though each person is different, I will give you the three most common reasons I hear for this activity.

First: men cruise for sex because it's what they do. Part of the male genetic makeup is the drive for sex. It is at the forefront of our minds hundreds, sometimes thousands of times a day. In this regard we are no different than other animals. Males are born with a driving need to copulate. Sometimes, this need is overwhelming. Often, this need overtakes our ability to think and act with reason. We may forget ourselves in the anticipation of meeting our desires. We want it and we want it now! In times like these, logic and reason seem to drift right out the window.

Second: some men cruise parks, restrooms and such for sex because that is where they feel safe doing so. Most men have grown up in an atmosphere that simply does not tolerate homosexuality. These men are taught that the only right way to live is to have girlfriends and wives, and to despise fags. And while many men will live this way, if they have sexual desires for men, these desires never really go away. Ultimately, many of these men will try to reconcile these feelings by having sex with other men while still in their hetero relationship. They may feel safe and comfortable finding a partner at a park or bathroom because they can tell themselves, or someone else, that there is a "legitimate" reason for being in these locations. It is not so easy to justify to yourself, or someone else, why you are hanging out in a Gay bar if you are not Gay or looking for sex. It seems to me that it is society's views of Gays that fuel much of the issues it has with us.

Third: many men look for public sex because the thrill of possibly getting caught makes it all that much more exciting. It's like having sex in one room while your parents or roommates are in the next room-only on a larger scale.

Make no mistake; I am not excusing anyone from personal responsibility. If you are mentally sound enough to hold a job, drive a car, read this article, then you are certainly able to temper your sexual desires with a fair amount of reason. If you can make responsible decisions about other areas in your life, you are certainly able to be responsible for your own sexual behaviors and decisions. What this means is: if you are able to get

to the park, you are aware of what you should and should not be doing there.

While I am not judging anyone for what they feel they need to do, I must say that I myself am surprised that men still cruise parks for sex. With all of the dangers to personal safety, and the possibility of getting caught and arrested, it just doesn't seem worth it to me. Especially now that we have the internet. My advice to all those who are seeking a quick hookup: get out of the parks. Is getting arrested really worth it? I doubt it. There are lost of other ways to get your groove on.

My advice to you, Fuming, is to be less angry with your friend, and more empathetic. Talk with him about it. Try to understand the reasons why he would have been out there in the first place. If you can help him understand why he goes to the parks, he is more likely to stop going. You cannot dictate or regulate someone else's behavior, you can only help them to understand and make their own decisions. Good luck to you.

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

Hundreds Attend Funeral Of Gay Man Refused Catholic Rite; Church Apologizes

SAN DIEGO - More than 500 people turned out for the funeral of a Gay man refused a service anywhere in San Diego's Roman Catholic diocese.

John McCusker's family was told that Bishop Robert H. Brom had issued a directive to parishes throughout the area to refuse to conduct the funeral.

McCusker died suddenly March 13 of an apparent heart attack at the Mammoth Mountain Ski Resort where he was on vacation.

The 31 year old businessman owned two clubs in San Diego. Club Montage, attracts a mixed crowd. On Friday nights it is mostly heterosexual and on Saturdays is primarily Gay. The other club, ReBar, is Gay.

"To avoid public scandal Mr. McCusker can't be granted a funeral in a Catholic church or chapel in the Diocese of San Diego," a statement from Brom's office said.

On Saturday the bishop's office said that Club Montage had been used as a location where a Gay porno film was shot and that ReBar used advertising slogans that included, "Real Men, No Rules!" and "Tired of Playing With Boys? Come Play With Men!"

"The bishop acted as he did so that the faithful would not be misled and erroneously conclude that the church condones activities such as those included in the businesses of Mr. McCusker," a statement by the diocese said.

But, McCusker's former busi-

ness partner, Michael Mack, said he and McCusker used to rent out Club Montage to private groups. The club is closed five nights a week, open only on Fridays and Saturdays.

"As far as what was filmed there, we had nothing to do with the filming or the production," Mack told the San Diego Tribune.

The funeral was held at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral. Many of the people who attended said they did not know McCusker but came to support his family because of the position taken by the Catholic Church.

The incident has angered San Diego's Gay community.

Members of the LGBT community met on Monday, March 21 to discuss a response to the bishop.

The head of the Roman Catholic Church Diocese apologized Monday, March 21 to the McCusker family. Bishop Robert Brom also has promised to preside at a mass in memory of McCusker at the Immaculata Catholic Church on the campus of the University of San Diego.

In a statement released by the McCusker family, the bishop was quoted as saying, "I deeply regret that denying a Catholic funeral for John McCusker at the Immaculata has resulted in his unjust condemnation, and I apologize to the family for the anguish this has caused them."

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23

#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join David and Daniel for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call David and Daniel at 579-9763.

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 24

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. This is a No-host event, so please ask Barista to point you in our direction.

FRIDAY, MARCH 25

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Lloyd hosts a fun evening of Scrabble. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Lloyd at 792-8537.

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

Miss Gay Western States America Pageant at the Double Tree Hotel, 445 S. Alvernon Way. This regional preliminary to Miss Gay America will feature the reigning Miss Gay America 2005 Raquel Chevallier as well as Patti Le Plae Safe, Miss Gay America 1995 and Catia Lee Cove, Miss Gay America 2000. VIP tickets \$25; General Admission tickets in advance are \$15 or \$20 at the door. For reservations or more information call DRS Promotions, (520)241-3470 or (520)275-7999.

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.

SUNDAY, MARCH 27

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Les hosts "Retro TV" Night. Join Les for hilarious episodes of "What's My Line" and "I Love Lucy". For reservations and directions, please call Les at 690-9565.

MONDAY, MARCH 28

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 1:00 p.m. Les hosts a Lunch Out at Mariscos Chihuahua; his favorite Mexican Seafood Restaurant. For reservations and directions, please call Les at 690-9565.

Tucson Prime Timers Bowling - 10:30 a.m. Call: 888-7264. Lunch -12:30 p.m. The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

TUESDAY, MARCH 29

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.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

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

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 31

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. This is a No-host event, so please ask Barista to point you in our direction.

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MONDAY, APRIL 4

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

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

MONDAY, APRIL 11

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

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

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

MONDAY, APRIL 18

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

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

MONDAY, APRIL 25

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

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

Georgia Moves

Continued from Page Eighteen

A group of students at White County High School is attempting to start a club for Gay students, bringing objections from the community in northeast Georgia.

Cox contends the proposal is not intended to suppress membership in such groups.

The board is expected to vote on the measure in April.



A man who doesn't advertise is like one who winks in the dark: he knows he's doing it, but nobody else does.

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

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

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

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

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

Ira Glasser
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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

sunday

COLORS - Open 11am. Champagne Brunch 11am - 2pm with complimentary mimosa. Lunch menu served 11am-10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 11:00 am. Chuckwagon Breakfast 10:30 am - 1:30 pm, includes Bloody Mary or Mimosa. \$2 Smirnoff Sunday. Free Texas Hold-'Em Poker Tournaments at 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Sign-up begins one hour before playing time. No Cash - Play for Prizes and Points. Great chance to learn the hottest game around

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 5-7. \$2.50 sirloin burger w/salad 5-9pm. Karaoke with Michael D. 9pm

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

monday

COLORS - Closed on Mondays.

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 - best deal in town! Free Texas Hold-'Em Poker Tournaments at 6:00 pm and 9:00 pm. Sign-up begins one hour before playing time. No Cash - Play for Prizes and Points.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-7pm, Audio Anomoly 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. Special Happy Hour 10am-2pm. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Karaoke w/Michael D. 9-1

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

tuesday

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7 \$2.25 well & domestic. Full menu served 4-10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

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 Debbie from 8 - midnight

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. Special Happy Hour 10am-2pm. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Bartender Calls rink specials..

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

wednesday

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$2.25 well & domestic. Full menu served 4-10pm. Nightly dinner specials. 1st Wednesday of month "Dinner & Movie" sponsored by GMHP. All other Wednesdays "Dinner & Concert" shown on our 52" projection System.

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. 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. Special Happy Hour 10am-2pm. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Free Hot Dog Buffet 5-11pm. Underwear- fetish- leather nite w/Gary and Chris 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 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$2.25 well & domestic. Full menu served 4-10pm. Nightly dinner specials. Karaoke from 9pm with Johnny DJ & Dan..

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 8 to midnight.

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. Special Happy Hour 10am-2pm. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. 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 4pm-2am. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$2.25 well & domestic. Full menu served 4-11pm. 6:30-9:30pm Amber Norgarrd sings originals and cover tunes. 10pm "Guys & Dolls" Hosted by Lucinda Holliday in a 2 girl cabaret show with a different guest each week. Reservations suggested.

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. DJ Pat plays your favorite country dance songs 8:30 to midnight then a mix of dance & country 'til close. Kitchen open 10 pm - 2 am for late night munchies.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-7pm, Live Jazz on the Patio with Susan 6pm-9pm, Hot Dance with David Z 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 - 10am. Special Happy Hour 10am-2pm. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. 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 4pm-2am. Full menu served 4-11pm. Nightly dinner specials. Reservations suggested. Karaoke 10pm-close with Johnny DJ & Dan.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 11:00 am. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. \$3.00 Burger & Fries all day. DJ playing your favorite country songs 8:30 - midnight, then "anything goes" requests until close. Kitchen open 10 pm - 2 am for late night munchies.

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 10am. Special Happy Hour 10am-2pm. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Patio Bar opens 5pm. 5-9pm Steak or Mahi Mahi BBQ with all the trimmings \$5, Live Jazz with Arthur Migliazza 6-9pm.

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.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

APRIL 1 - APRIL 23 - Live theatre Workshop late night Series presents "Durang Does Williams including For Whom The Bell Tolls and Desire, Desire, Desire" by Christopher Durang. These two one act plays will provide an evening-long deconstruction of the works of Tennessee Williams. Running in conjunction with Live Theatre Workshop's mainstage production of "The Glass Managerie", these enlightening Durang works wil blow out your candles -- Stella. The show runs Friday and Saturday evenings April 1-23. Clal327-4242 for reservations. \$10 General admissio. \$8 students, seniors and military. 5317 E. Speedway.

APRIL 2 & 3 - Phoenix Pride 25 "Party in the Park. Steele Indian School Park in Phoenix - 11:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. each day. Admission \$10. (Buy early to avoid long lines at the festival. Festival Stage entertainment begins at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday and Noon on Sunday.

Headline entertainment includes Evelyn Champagne King, Crystal Waaters, Sabrina Matthews, Kevin Ceballo, Debbie Deb, Rockell, Nick Tar, Liquid 360, Shirley's Temple, JOSH Zukerman, Ira Levi, Mark Weigle, Kicker's Cloggers, plus many local talents will perform also. For more information contact www.azpride.org.

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23

WOODY'S - 'Boys Gone Wild' and Underwear Party 9:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 24

WOODY'S - 9:00 p.m. til closing, Thursty Thursdays (and every Thursday) - Cheap-Party Nite. Pabst 12oz long necks \$1.00 from 8pm to closing plus Free Pool; All day.

FRIDAY, MARCH 25

WOODY'S - Miss Gay Western States-America pre-Pageant Show. 8:00 pm. Featuring Raquel Chavallier, (Miss Gay America 2005); Patti Le Plale Saafe (Miss Gay America 1995); Catia Lee Love (Miss Gay America 2000)

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

IBT'S - An Evening with Ajia Simone , 8:30 p.m.

WOODY'S - Join the crowd at the Post-Pageant Party beginning at 10:00 p.m. with DJ Jef.

SUNDAY, MARCH 27

IBT'S - Karaoke on the patio 4 - 7:30pm. Benefit B-B-Q / Beer Bust for Reveille Gay Men's Chorus 5:30 - 8pm. Benefit Show for Reveille 8:30pm starring Ajia Simone, followed by dance music with Mike Lopez plus 2 for 1 drink specials.

WOODY'S - Annual Easter Party here. Easter Egg Hunt all day (as long as the eggs last). \$5.00 brunch 11am-2:30pm (includes Bloody Mary, Mimosa or Screwdriver). Games on the Sport Grass and BBQ 5-9pm. Karaoke with Michael D. 9pm to close.

THURSDAY, MARCH 31

WOODY'S - 8:00 p.m. til closing, Thursty Thursday Cheap-Party Nite. Pabst 12oz long necks \$1.00 plus free pool all day.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

APRIL 6 - The Arizona Friends of Chamber Music presnts the final concert in their 57th seasons. The Raphael Trio will perform at 8:00 p.m. in the Leo Rich Theater at the TCC. General admission tickets are \$20. Student tickets are \$10. Named after the great Italian painter, the Raphael Trio will celebrate their 30th anniversary next year. The Trio holds an Endowed Chair in Humanities at Trinity College. They performed the complete Mozaart trios at the Kennedy Center's celebrations on the bicentenary of Mozart's death and are active in commissioning new works for the trio repertoire. The public can contact the AFCM at 520-577-3769 or visit their web site at www.ArizonaChamberMusic.org for further information.

APRIL 16 - Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) hosts their 8th annual benefit "Treasures for TIHAN" at the Doubletree Hotel - Reid Park beginning at 6:30 p.m. This live and silent auction is ssthe major fundraising event that supports the programs and sservices of TIHAN. Not only is it TIHAN's largest event of the year and the biggest revenue-producer for programs, "Tresures for TIHAN" is an event that attrcts several hundred gnerous donors from throughout the Tucson community. Donation \$50 (\$28 tax deductible).

Treasures for TIHAN will be a fun-filled evening with great auction items, wonderfull food and festive entertainment. Questions? 520-323-1128.

OCTOBER 16 - 17TH Annual AIDS WALK takes place at Rillito Downs Race Park, s River Road and First Avenue in Tucson. AIDS WALK 2005 will again feture both the traditionala 4K walk as well as a 10K non-competitive run.

Tucson's supposrt of AIDS WALK over the years has made an important and lastsing statemnt about Southern Arizona's commitment to the fight against AIDS. AIDS WALK attracts approximately 4,000 walkers annually and continues to enjoy strong corporate underwriting alliances.

Of reported demographic information from participants, 60% of all registered walkers are female, two thirds are under 35, and one-fourth are under 18. AIDS WALK Tucson hs grown from 8s0 participants in 1989 to more than 4,000 individuals and 79 businesses raising over \$239,000 in 2004 for local HIV/AIDS education, prevention and support programs.

NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TNTucsonMEN, a nudist Gay men's club. We are a social and recreational group. By the way the TN means Totally Naked! Drop us an e-mail at TNTucsonMEN@nethere.com

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

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO — a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DESERT VOICES, Tucson's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Straight Chorus, has been singing songs of pride, hope and laughter for 16 seasons. Check out our website at www.desertvoices.org, or call (520)791-9662 for information about upcoming concerts or how to join.

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 Jerry at 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 info 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; Dezert Girlz MTF Support) meets 2nd Mondays at 7pm; Dezert Boyz (FTM Support) meets 3rd Tuesdays at 7pm. Also serving partners, youth, intersex, service providers and allies. Call (520)867-0083 for more info.

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. Web: <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 info.

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

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

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

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

"OUT ON THE TRAILS - EQUESTRIAN FUN!"

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

LIKE TO READ?

The Guys Book Club (TGBC) invites new members to join them. The 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 118 or older). 7:00 p.m. at Desert Dominion, 3843 E. 37th Street, Tucson, AZ. (Map at www.desertdominion.org) For those who are kinky or just curious. No fee, contributions are appreciated, but not required

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Bunny FuFu
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