

MERRY CHRISTMAS



Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

<http://www.tucsonobserver.com>

WEEKLY OBSERVER

DECEMBER 21, 2005

ISSUE 1118

Gay Soldier Leaving The Army After Assault At Ft. Huachuca

SIERRA VISTA - Fear is keeping Pvt. Kyle Lawson awake at night – not of the enemy, but of his fellow soldiers, the Arizona Star Reported.

For weeks, the 19-year-old Tucson native has been sleeping on a cot in his drill sergeant's office to protect him from further attacks because he is Gay. He's already had his nose broken – and says he also was threatened with a knife – after a friend let Lawson's secret slip at a party attended by members of the 309th Military Intelligence Battalion, a training unit at Fort Huachuca 75 miles southeast of Tucson.

Lawson now feels he has no choice but to leave the military and has requested a discharge. He was training to be an Army interrogator, a high-demand job in the age of terrorism. "I can't keep living a lie. It's not safe for me here," said Lawson, who is described by friends and family as smart, moral and hardworking – qualities the Army says it values in soldiers.

Critics of the Pentagon's Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy say Lawson is one of hundreds of homosexuals harassed or assaulted each year, and say his story is a telling example of what's wrong with the ban on openly Gay troops.

Lawson was punched in the face by a fellow 309th soldier at the off-post party on Oct. 29, according to a police report of the incident. The soldier told police Lawson made sexually suggestive remarks. Sierra Vista police Officer Darryl Scott, who investigated and laid a charge of felony aggravated assault, said in an interview that "there was no provocation." The Army chose not to prosecute the charge, for reasons fort officials say they are not at liberty to explain. A week after the first attack, Lawson said a second soldier threatened him with a knife outside a barracks as word spread about his sexual orientation. Lawson said the soldiers who accosted him received little punishment from the Army. Fort Huachuca officials say neither case was mishandled.

Nearly 10,000 Gays and Lesbians – at least 63 from Southern Arizona bases – have been discharged under the rule that forces them into the closet. A move is afoot to repeal the 12-year-old policy. But change will not come soon enough for Lawson, who, despite

his woes, wishes he could stay in uniform. Most fellow soldiers have been supportive and sympathetic, he said. "But I can't deny who I am anymore. I thought I could do it, but I can't," said Lawson, who said he agreed to an interview so the public can see how the policy affects people.

Striding down a sidewalk near the fort's main gate, Lawson looks as if he stepped off a recruiting poster. A blond buzz cut peeks from beneath his black Army beret. Camouflage covers shoulders squared by endless push-ups. His 6-foot-2-inch frame is arrow straight, hands tucked at his sides as if each fist is gripping a roll of quarters – just the way troops are trained to hold their hands while in uniform. Before joining the Army – before admitting to himself that he was Gay – Lawson was a teen preacher at a Baptist church in conservative southern Missouri, where he went to high school after moving from Tucson. His church's disapproval of homosexuality caused him such angst he tried

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Administration Accused Of Spying On LGBT Groups

WASHINGTON, D.C. - An organization that represents Gays in the military said Tuesday (Dec. 20) that it will file a Freedom of Information Act request to learn if it or other LGBT organizations have been monitored by the Bush Administration following media reports that the Pentagon has been spying on "suspicious" meetings by civilian groups, including student groups opposed to the military's "don't ask, don't tell," 365Gay.com reported.

Allegations of spying were first reported on NBC which said that Pentagon investigators labeled a Gay kiss-in at the University of California - Santa Cruz as a "credible threat" of terrorism.

The demonstration, to protest the ban on Gays in the military, was staged in front of Army, Navy and Marine Corps recruiters who were trying to interest students in careers in the military.

NBC and other media outlets also reported that Pentagon had spied on New York University law school's

LGBT advocacy group OUTlaw, which the military classified as "possibly violent".

The administration is also alleged to have spied on Gay groups at the State University of New York at Albany and William Patterson College in New Jersey.

"To suggest that a Gay kiss-in is a 'credible threat' is absurd, homophobic and irrational," said Servicemembers Legal Defense Network executive director C. Dixon Osburn. "Students have a first amendment right to protest and Americans have a right to expect that their government will respect our constitutional right to privacy.

Osburn said that the SLDN will file the Freedom of Information Act request to see how much information the Pentagon is amassing on Gays.

"The Pentagon is supposed to defend the Constitution, not turn it upside down," Osburn said.

In January, the Department of Defense confirmed a report that Air Force officials proposed developing a chemical weapon in 1994 that would turn enemies Gay.

The proposal, part of a plan from Wright Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, was to develop "chemicals that effect (sic) human behavior so that discipline and morale in enemy units is adversely effected (sic). One distasteful but completely non-lethal example would be strong aphrodisiacs, especially if the chemical also caused homosexual behavior."

The Pentagon later said it never intended to develop the program.

Reports of spying on Gay groups was also denounced by the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military, a think tank at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

The CSSMM said that the reports evokes memories of the Cold War crackdowns on Gays during the McCarthy era.

"Then, as now, the government compiled lists of American citizens who were suspected of subversive activity by virtue of their association with critics of government policy. Targets included Gays and members of Gay or Gay-friendly groups," the center said in a press statement.

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LA NOCHE BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Tis the night before Christmas
And all through the casa
Not a creature is stirring
Caramba! Que pasa?

The stockings are hanging con mucho cuidado
In hope that St. Nicholas will feel obligado
To leave a few cosas aqui y alli
For chico y chica (y something por me).

Los Ninos are snuggled all safe in their camas
Some in vestidos and some in pajamas
Their little cabezas all full of good things
They all esperando que Santa will bring.

Santa esta at the corner saloon
Mui borracho since midafternoon.
Mama is sitting beside la ventana
Shining her rolling pin para mañana

When Santa returns to his home zigzagando
Lit up like the Star Spangled Banner cantando.
And Mama will send him to bed con a right
Merry Christmas a todos, y a todos good night!

Author Unknown

UPDATE

Desert Voices Open House Jan. 2

TUCSON - Come sing in a new year at Desert Voices (DV) Open House, Monday, Jan. 2, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m., at MCC-Water for Life Church, 3269 N. Mountain.

DV, a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) and straight supportive chorus also welcomes all singers and supporters who feel drawn to our cause of uniting the LGBT community and in promoting acceptance of all people throughout Tucson and Arizona.

Desert Voices performs two to three concerts during their season, as well as appearing at numerous community events. The concerts are multi-faceted performances that include large choral pieces performed by the whole choir, in addition to solos, small group numbers, humorous skits, and spoken parts. And, if that isn't enough, the whole show from the script to the refreshments is produced by the members. So whether you feel like being the star of the show, or someone who would quietly work in the background, there is something for everyone.

This open house is free and open to all who are interested in DV. For more information, call (520) 791-9662, E-mail: info@desertvoices.org, or go online to their Web site, desertvoices.org.

Wingspan Holiday Hours

TUCSON - Wingspan will have reduced hours during the Holidays.

Wingspan will be open on regular weekend hours, 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., on Saturday, Dec. 24, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 25, 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Monday, Dec. 26, Sunday, Jan. 1, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Monday, Jan. 2, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., then from 5:30 to 9 p.m.

Thanks to the hard work of Wingspan staff and volunteers, the Wingspan Anti-Violence Project crisis line is available 24 hours/day, 365 days a year. If you or someone you know is in crisis and would like to talk to an advocate, please call the AVP line, (520) 624-0348 or toll free at (800) 553-9387.

To volunteer for the AVP, please contact Ed at ed@wingspan.org

Arizona Together Benefit January 6



Kathleen Williamson

TUCSON - Kathleen Williamson will be performing a benefit concert for Arizona Together, Friday, Jan. 6, 8 p.m., at the Historic Y, 738 N. Fifth Street.

Dr. Kathleen Williamson is an award-winning original songwriter whose music uses elements of folk, jazz, soul and rock who has toured the U.S., Europe and Asia. Her recently released album "The Sacred Spud" features songs written by Kathleen over the last two years concerned with the current state of political affairs, integrating personal and global worlds. A real toe-tapper, this Americana album seeks to "take back God, Country and country music from the evildoers!"

Arizona Together invites you to enjoy this concert with your friends, family, and co-workers. The ticket price is a minimum donation of \$25 and tickets are on sale at Antigone Bookstore, hurry and get yours before this fantastic show sells out! For more information please contact Jess Knutson at jk@aztogether.org or call (520) 275-4790.

Coyote Moon Closes Its Doors

TUCSON - The Coyote Moon Health Resort and Spa, 7501 N. Wade Road, in northwest Tucson, checked out its last guest and closed its doors Monday (Dec. 19), reported the Arizona Daily Star.

Touted as one of the first in the country to target Gay and Lesbian travelers with its health and wellness programs, the Coyote Moon opened last winter to moderate success, said managing partner and general manager Keith Bradkowski. "We wanted to

the country to target Gay for the Gay and Lesbian community," Bradkowski said. "But the market wasn't out there."

Since opening, Bradkowski operated the resort with Joe Studer, a former general manager, along with other staff members. Capitalizing on Tucson's desert climate and reputation for integrative healing programs, Bradkowski said their main focus was to offer a place where members of the Gay and Lesbian community could renew their body, mind and spirit. But the bottom line came down to an inability to pay back start-up costs, Bradkowski said.

Coyote Moon Resort LLC is now looking at options to pay back loans, and bankruptcy is a possibility, but nothing has been decided, Bradkowski said. Spending about \$300,000 on extensive renovations and another \$100,000 on marketing, Bradkowski said the resort spent far too much for "things that weren't needed." It also came down to bad managerial decisions, Bradkowski said. "We weren't keeping track of costs and we exceeded our ability to pay for it all," Bradkowski said.

Costs to stay at the resort ranged from about \$219 a night up to \$498 for a larger suite. The Coyote Moon Resort opened last November and offered guests a range of activities, with a focus on holistic health education and wellness programs. The resort features 16 guest rooms, horse stables, a yoga and Pilates studio, a pool and a whirlpool spa, tennis courts and the facade of an 1800's "Wild West town" on the property. The 30-acre resort is housed in the former La Tierra Linda Guest Ranch Resort, a dude ranch where Hollywood elite vacationed in the 1930's. The ranch currently belongs to Chicago property investor Craig Wolfe, who leased the ranch to Coyote Moon Resort LLC in 2004.

Wolfe declined an interview request but said the property is being appraised for a possible sale in the next two to three months. Bradkowski, a former registered nurse, said Coyote Moon was created in part to honor his late partner, Jeffrey Collman, a flight attendant killed aboard American Airlines Flight 11, the first plane to crash into the World Trade Towers on Sept. 11, 2001.

"We envisioned this place together," Bradkowski said. "After his death, we wanted it to become a place for healing."

Since opening about a year ago, Coyote Moon had hosted more than 400 guests from around the world and had recently won the Greater Phoenix Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce "New Business of the Year" award. Bradkowski said they thought the resort would prove successful, considering the number of Gay and Lesbian travelers who frequent spas and resorts.

Nationally, more than 53 percent of Gay and Lesbian travelers spend at least \$5,000 per person on vacations and travel about three times a year on airplanes, according to a 2005 study by Community Marketing Inc., a San Francisco-based marketing research firm.

David Paisley, with Community Marketing Inc., said those figures makes the travel industry pay attention to Gay and Lesbian travelers. "The Coyote Moon was offering something unique," Paisley said. "But when you look at destination cities for the Gay community, Arizona isn't ranked in the top 20 places to vacation." Paisley said cities with strong marketing programs geared to Gay travelers include New York, Las Vegas, San Francisco, Los Angeles,

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NEW ORLEANS - A few Christian political activists blamed Hurricane Katrina on Gays, noting that it hit immediately prior to Gay-friendly New Orleans' famed "Southern Decadence" Gay festival.

But, in fact, about the only parts of the city that weren't severely damaged by the massive flooding from burst levees were the Gayest areas. And the New Orleans Gay scene appears to be bouncing back faster than the city in general.

"The 20 percent of the city that was spared, 80 percent of those parts of the city are Gay [neighborhoods]," said Larry Bagneris, executive director of the New Orleans Human Relations Commission. "The benefits of living in that environment - the French Quarter, the Marigny, the Bywater, Uptown - where most Gay people live, they were spared the water. We've come back not only to dry land, but to our jobs.

"All those preachers who blamed the Gay community for Katrina - our neighborhoods were the ones that had the rainbow over us and were blessed," Bagneris said.

But many Gay people didn't live in those Gayest neighborhoods - especially Lesbians, blacks and men who don't frequent Gay bars.

"The flooding hit a lot of the community that is less visible than the bar crowd," said Randal Beach, co-chair of the Lesbian and Gay Community Center of New Orleans. "A lot of the people whose social activities revolve around the bar scene live in and around the French Quarter, and they were fortunately spared the flooding. But many others in the community - particularly the women's and trans[gender] communi-

Christmas In Gay New Orleans

ties - lived in areas that were badly flooded. New Orleans also has a large black community, and the overwhelming majority those people lived in neighborhoods that were severely damaged."

Former city Health Department director and well-known French Quarter figure Dr. Brobson Lutz agreed that "Gay people of color were more prone to live in areas that were more susceptible to the flooding."

Lesbians took a harder hit, Bagneris said, because "more Lesbians lived in [the flooded] Mid-City and Lakeview [areas], and many have kids that have to go to school."

Most schools have not reopened, which prevents people with school-aged children from coming home, even if they have a home to come home to, which most evacuees do not.

The city's Lesbian population is likely to remain depleted for some time, said Belinda Hernandez, an openly Lesbian executive producer at WDSU-TV. "A lot of the Lesbian population relocated - and we don't even know where they are," she said. "Lakeview is gone. Much of Mid-City was under water as well."

The fact that most evacuees still haven't been able to come home also has thrown the Lesbian and Gay Community Center into dire financial straits. It may, in fact, have to close if help doesn't arrive soon.

"It's devastating," Beach said. "We have met several times trying to figure out how to keep the doors open. The base of our support has always been in the community itself, we've

never had a lot of corporate support, [and] many of our heavy donors are scattered around the country. Many we haven't been able to talk to. We don't even know where they went.

"Also, it's hard to ask people for money when they don't even have a house," he said.

The center has 100 to 150 core donors but has been able to contact "no more than half a dozen of them," Beach said.

The all-volunteer facility, located in the unflooded Faubourg Marigny neighborhood, operates on \$30,000 to \$50,000 a year. If 2,500 people from the Gay community around the country donated \$20 each, the center's crisis could be averted for a full year, Beach said.

"At a time when there are a lot of people in our community desperately needing help and desperately needing community, the center needs to be up and running and operating," he said. "But we can't keep the doors open without insurance and rent and utilities."

The center hosts the Metropolitan Community Church; Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG); political organizations; a youth group; the Gay film festival and other community institutions. It also operates a resource library.

Another way that Gays around the country can help out is to start visiting New Orleans again, said Bagneris.

"The crowds in the bars are about the same, if not fuller, because we have FEMA (Federal Emergency

Management Agency) people, computer people, people from out of town," he said.

"I'm encouraging Gay people to visit now - if you can get a hotel and a flight. Only about 35 percent of our flights are coming in and out. Hotels are tight because of FEMA and insurance people. But this would be a great time to visit. ... The areas that were preserved are the areas that we enjoy the most. The bars are popping, the restaurants are open, you can view the sights, and you can go through the areas that have been under water and realize how blessed you are."

While FEMA partiers may be helping keep the Gay bars afloat, that's pretty much the only positive thing Bagneris and others had to say about the feds.

"The federal government has shown a lack of leadership from the top down," Bagneris said. "We're dealing with an inept president and an inept FEMA. ... But I feel extremely optimistic. We've always done what is best for the city, which has kept this unique culture and individuality. We tend to build and restructure in spite of the federal government's lack of support."

FEMA also came in for criticism during conversations with French Quarter Gay bartenders.

"We're ready for the FEMA people to go away. In fact, we'll help them pack," said Eric Evans, manager of the Rawhide 2010 bar.

"They've sucked up all the rooms in the hotels," he said. "We don't know what they're doing. We need our tourists to come and visit and stay in the hotels that they can't get

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HOLIDAY EVENT SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE

- 5PM KARAOKE ON THE PATIO & TERIYAKI-BEEF KABOBS**
- 8:30PM "SATURDAY NIGHT STARRLETT'S" HOSTED BY JANE STARR WITH AJIA SIMONE & BUNNY FU FU**
- 10PM PARTY ON THE PATIO WITH DJ MIKE LOPEZ & DJ Q SPINNING ON THE DANCE FLOOR**



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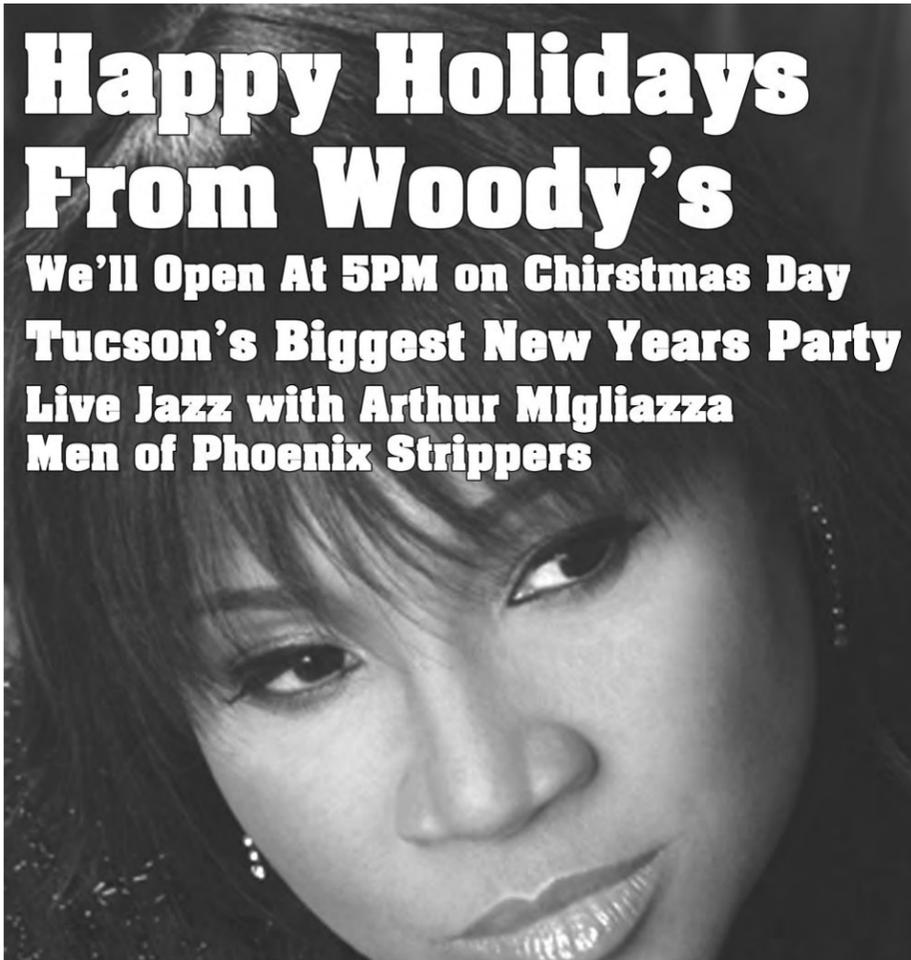
- 8:30PM SHOWTIME-"AN EVENING WITH AJIA SIMONE" HOSTED BY AJIA SIMONE WITH BUNNY FU FU & JANE STARR**
- 10PM DJ'S SPINNING ON THE DANCE FLOOR & THE PATIO**

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- 6PM OPEN**
- 9PM DJ Q SPINNING ON THE DANCE FLOOR**





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America's First 'Legal' Lesbian Couple Splitsville



Carolyn Conrad and Kathleen Peterson

MONTPELIER - Five years ago Carolyn Conrad and Kathleen Peterson became the first same-sex couple in the nation to have their relationship legally recognized, reported 365Gay.com.

The women, who at the time had been together for five years, were the first couple to have a civil union in Vermont. Now, Conrad is asking a Brattleboro court to dissolve the union. "All I want to say is that the civil union was a big source of pride for me and now it's not," Peterson told the the Rutland Herald.

Nether women nor their lawyers will comment on why the relationship ended. But, court records show that a Brattleboro Family Court judge granted a relief-from-abuse order against Peterson Wednesday after Conrad filed for an emergency

order against Peterson. The order bars Peterson from contacting Conrad and she must remain more than 100 feet from her home, workplace and vehicle.

In her court filing Conrad said that she feared physical harm from Peterson following two incidents earlier this year. In December 1999, the Vermont Supreme Court ordered the legislature "to assign to same-sex couples the common benefits and protections that flow from marriage under Vermont law." The civil unions law was enacted and signed into law in 2000.

The following election year, after a virulent national backlash campaign, seventeen Vermont lawmakers who supported civil unions lost their seats. The newly-elected Republican majority in the House attempted to impeach the Vermont Supreme Court and overturn the civil unions law. But, ultimately the campaign to 'Take Back Vermont' failed, and civil unions remained in effect.

Since July 1, 2000 when civil unions became legal in Vermont more than 7,500 couples have united. Only 78 have been dissolved in court. "There's no proof that our relationships are any better than heterosexual relationships," said Bari Shamus, one of the founding members of the Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force. "We all experience similar issues in relationships."

Man Takes Plea In Gwen Araujo Killing

HAYWARD - One of four men charged in the beating and strangulation of Transgender teenager Gwen Araujo pleaded no contest to voluntary manslaughter Friday (Dec. 16). A jury had previously deadlocked in the murder trial, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

Under the plea agreement, Jason Cazares, 25, will spend no more than six years in prison, according to prosecutors. His sentencing is Jan. 27. Araujo, 17, was beaten, tied up and strangled Oct. 4, 2002, after men she had had sexual encounters with learned she was biologically male, according to authorities. Cazares claimed he was outside the house when his friends killed Araujo and only helped bury the body in the Sierra Nevada foothills.

A jury convicted Michael Magidson and Jose Merel, both 25, in September of second-degree murder but deadlocked 9-3 on the same charge for Cazares. The fourth man charged in the case, Jaron Nabors, 22, was allowed to plead guilty to voluntary manslaughter in exchange



Gwen Araujo

for his testimony against the others.

Cazares' lawyer, Tony Serra, could not be reached for comment.

Araujo was born a boy named Edward but grew up to believe her true identity was female. The defendants, who knew her as Lida, met Araujo in the summer of 2002.

Magidson and Merel were expected to be sentenced next month to 15-years-to-life in prison. Nabors was expected to be sentenced to 11 years.

Money Behind Ford's LGBT Mea Culpa

DETROIT - Ford's reversal week on advertising in the Gay media was more the result of pressure exerted by shareholders than by demands for diversity from LGBT rights groups, 365Gay.com reported.

Following Ford's announcement that it would end all advertising in the Gay media the conservative American Family Association declared victory and said it would end a threatened boycott of the automaker. The announcements sparked demands by Gay groups for an immediate meeting with the company and Ford reversed course saying it would continue its ads.

But the decision may not have been the result of pressure from Gay groups, but rather from at least two large institutional shareholders who supports LGBT issues. One of them was the New York State Local Retirement System - the biggest state pension plan in the country.

Its administrator, New York State Comptroller Alan Hevesi confirmed Friday that he contacted Ford Chair William Clay Ford Jr. to voice his displeasure that the company had appeared to cave-in to demands from the AFA. In a letter to Ford, Continued on Page Twenty



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Gay Soldier Leaving The Army After Assault At Ft. Huachuca

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Private Kyle Lawson

Photo: Arizona Daily Star

dating girls and willing himself to feel attracted to them, he said. It didn't work.

Rebekah Fitzgerald, Lawson's English teacher and debate team coach at Reeds Spring High School in Missouri, said Lawson was "very discreet" about his sexual orientation, only confiding it to her after graduation last May. Sheila Lawson, 42, said she hadn't a clue about her son's orientation until he called her from Fort Huachuca after his nose was broken and told her why he'd been attacked. Since then, "I've been crying myself to sleep," she said. "He told me, 'Mom, I love the Army so much. I don't want to get out.' But I'm afraid for his life."

Before heading to boot camp, Lawson said he leveled with his recruiter, who told him "everything would be fine" as long as he stayed in the closet. His case is not unusual, say those who help such troops. Beatings, taunting — and occasionally, murders — are fueled by the policy that makes Gays hide, they say.

Despite a Pentagon push in 2000 to prevent Gay-bashing — spurred by the slaying of a Gay soldier at Fort Campbell, Ky. — more than 900 homosexual troops were verbally or physically harassed last year, according to the Service Members' Legal Defense Network in Washington, D.C. Don't Ask, Don't Tell promotes ill will by stigmatizing homosexuality, said Steve Ralls, spokesman for the group. "When the military as an institution can discriminate against you, what message does that send to your co-workers about how they can treat you?" he asked. The military does not do enough to punish personnel who harass or attack Gay colleagues, Ralls said.

In Lawson's case, police charged his alleged attacker with a Class 3 felony aggravated assault — a charge that draws an average 3 1/2 years in prison upon conviction in Arizona, more if a judge finds the crime was hate-based. Lawson told police that the soldier who broke his nose used a profane anti-Gay slur. Fort Huachuca requested control of the criminal case — common when soldiers are charged by civilian police — but didn't prosecute. Lawson said as far as he knows, his attacker was punished by losing some privileges, such as having his weekend pass revoked. Fort Huachuca spokeswoman Tanja Linton said that although the Army did not take the case to court, commanders took "appropriate action." She would not say what action was taken, citing federal privacy laws.

Lawson's claim that he was threatened with a knife was not

substantiated, so no action was needed, Linton said. However, out of concern for Lawson, he was told to sleep on a cot under his drill sergeant's watch after the knife report, she said. She said the Army is satisfied that "the soldiers involved did not harbor prejudicial beliefs." Still, Lawson's colleagues received "reinforcement training" stressing respect for each other, Linton said. "Harassment of any type is not tolerated," she said.

A 2000 Pentagon study found anti-Gay sentiment common in the military. In the study, 80 percent of troops surveyed said they'd heard homosexual jokes or slurs in the past year; 37 percent said they'd seen or experienced anti-Gay harassment. But attitudes may be mellowing. In one poll this year of potential military recruits, 67 percent said openly Gay troops would have "no effect" on their decisions to enlist. Other recent polls have found public support as high as 79 percent for allowing Gays to serve openly, said Aaron Belkin, director of the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military at the University of California at Santa Barbara. Some say opening the closet would hurt recruiting and make life uncomfortable for many who already serve.

"The military is not like any other employer," said Elaine Donnelly of the Michigan-based Center for Military Readiness, which wants Gays banned from the service and has fought to restrict the role of women. Troops often live in close quarters with little privacy, creating "forced intimacy," Donnelly said. "This is not a question of bigotry," she said. It's about "respect for personal modesty." Not all polls support openly Gay service, she noted. A recent Army Times poll found that 65 percent of respondents favor Don't Ask, Don't Tell.

Arguments like Donnelly's have surfaced in two dozen countries that legalized Gay military service, said Belkin, who runs the research center on Gays in the military. But the problems predicted never came to pass, he said. U.S. troops in Iraq and elsewhere already serve with openly Gay troops from Britain, Australia and other allied nations without incident, Belkin said.



VENTURE-N
TUCSON'S ONLY MEN'S BAR

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AGRA Rounding Up Volunteers For January Rodeo



Some of the Phoenix contingent of Arizona Gay Rodeo Association- AGRA. The group was in Tucson last weekend looking for volunteers and in general talking about the big plans for the annual Road Runner Regional Rodeo. to be held January 13-15 at the Rawhide Wild Horse Pass. See story below

CHANDLER - Volunteers are needed for January's Gay rodeo! Join TIHAN in supporting the Arizona Gay Rodeo Association, which in turn helps fund TIHAN's programs, by helping with the annual Road Runner Regional Rodeo Jan. 13-15, 2006, at its new location at the Rawhide Wild West Town on the Gila River Indian Community located outside of Chandler.

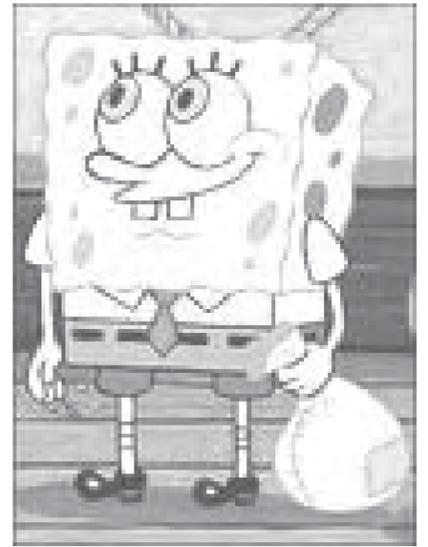
To sign up to volunteer for a few hours at the rodeo, agravolunteers.org. Be sure to put "TIHAN" under group name so that we get credit for your volunteer efforts. Volunteer opportunities include ticket taking, ticket sales, volunteer check-in booth, security, parking, runner, relief, and AGRA booth. There are morning, mid-morning, afternoon, and late afternoon shifts available.

The new rodeo grounds are on the site of the new Rawhide, which is less than two miles off I-10. From Tucson, take I-10 west to Wild Horse Pass Boulevard exit. Follow the signs to Wild Horse Pass Casino and look for Rawhide on the right hand side of 40th Street. For more information, call Scott Blades, (520) 299-6647 or AGRA, (602) 265-0618.

With its beginnings in Reno in 1976, the LGBT rodeo movement has grown substantially, and raises thousands of dollars for charity each year. The Arizona rodeo is among the longest-running and best-attended on the International Gay Rodeo Association circuit. All the profits raised from the rodeo is distributed to charities, and TIHAN has been the recipient of over \$10,000 from AGRA.

Outing Of Sponge Bob Makes Mad Magazine's 'Dumbest' Of 2005 List

NEW YORK - Mad magazine published its annual "20 Dumbest People, Events, and Things" list in the issue that hit the newsstands December 20, and Focus on the Family's James Dobson scored the number 16 slot with his accusations earlier this year that cartoon character SpongeBob SquarePants was being used to promote a "homosexual agenda" by appearing in a video that encouraged tolerance among schoolchildren, reported Advocate.com.



Says Mad in the blurb, titled "HomoNeurotic: Right-Wing Group Outs SpongeBob": "Early this year, Focus on the Family founder Dr. James Dobson claimed there was a 'sinister agenda' behind a children's video because it featured 'pro-homosexual' cartoon characters, such as SpongeBob SquarePants, singing the 1979 Sister Sledge hit 'We Are Family.' We can't help thinking that Dr. J has actually lost his focus on the family—isn't it much more sinister that the video is trying to revive disco music? And, given that SpongeBob works as a deep-fry cook churning out Krabby Patties, shouldn't family groups be more worried about childhood obesity? As right-wingers continue to warn us about harmful influences in the fictional world of animation, they better take a look at this utterly shocking information we've uncovered, as it is indeed cause for grave concern."

Finger," with "Hurricane Katrina: The Bush League Response" coming in at number 1. "With George W. in the White House, we start each year needing only 19 Dumb Things," said Mad editor John Ficarra. "Bush doing something incredibly stupid is pretty much money in the bank. In fact, he's made our Dumbest list for six straight years. We really owe him a debt of gratitude, which is why we're supporting him again in 2008."

The list also includes entries like "The Terri Schiavo Circus" and "Scam Artists Give Wendy's the



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POLITICS 2005

by Mark R. Kerr

They Spied, Then Lied And Now Should Be Tried

Article 2, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution states before becoming President of the United States, they shall take the following Oath or Affirmation: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States," the oath taken by George W. Bush on two occasions.

Thursday, (Dec. 15), the New York Times broke the story that months after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, George W. Bush secretly authorized the National Security Agency (NSA) to eavesdrop on Americans and others inside the United States to search for evidence of terrorist activity without the court-approved warrants, even through the special Foreign Intelligence Service court, ordinarily required for domestic spying.

Consisting of eleven members, the Foreign Intelligence Service court was created by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) of 1978 that prescribes procedures for requesting judicial authorization for electronic surveillance and physical search of persons engaged in espionage or international terrorism against the United States on behalf of a foreign power.

FISA (Section 1809) - A) Prohibited activities. A person is guilty of an offense if he intentionally - (1) engages in electronic surveillance under color of law except as authorized by statute; or (2) discloses or uses information obtained under color of law by electronic surveillance, knowing or having reason to know that the information was obtained through electronic surveillance not authorized by statute. B) Defense - It is a defense to a prosecution under subsection (a) of this section that the defendant was a law enforcement or investigative officer engaged in the course of his official duties and the electronic surveillance was authorized by and conducted pursuant to a search warrant or court order of a court of competent jurisdiction. C) Penalties - An offense described in this section is punishable by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than five years, or both. D) Federal jurisdiction - There is Federal jurisdiction over an offense under this section if the person committing the offense was an officer or employee of the United States at the time the offense was committed.

"After 9/11, I told the American people I would do everything in my power to protect the country, within the law, and that's exactly how I conduct my presidency," Bush said in an interview with PBS' "The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer," on Friday, (Dec. 16).

During his Saturday, (Dec. 17) weekly radio address and in subsequent speeches following, Bush admitted that he did authorize the NSA to spy on Americans, adding that he will continue this.

In the Bill of Rights in the U.S. Constitution, the Fourth Amendment says that "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall

issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

U.S. Representative John Conyers (D-MI), has compiled and released a report (Tuesday, Dec. 20) entitled, "The Constitution in Crisis: The Downing Street Minutes and Deception, Manipulation, Torture, Retribution and Coverups in the Iraq War," which examines the Bush Administration's actions in taking us to war from A to Z. The report finds there is substantial evidence the President, the Vice-President and other high ranking members of the Bush Administration misled Congress and the American people regarding the decision to go to war in Iraq; misstated and manipulated intelligence information regarding the justification for such war; countenanced torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment in Iraq; and permitted inappropriate retaliation against critics of their Administration.

In a press release, Conyers said that "The Report concludes that a number of these actions amount to prima facie evidence (evidence sufficiently strong to presume the allegations are true) that federal criminal laws have been violated. Legal violations span from false statements to Congress to whistleblower laws," as well as concluding that "these charges clearly rise to the level of impeachable conduct. However, because the Administration has failed to respond to requests for information about these charges, it is not yet possible to conclude that an impeachment inquiry or articles of impeachment are warranted."

A report can only go so far and Representative Conyers has taken further action by introducing three resolutions: House Resolution (H. Res.) 635, 636 and 637.

H. Res. 635 would create a Select Committee with subpoena authority to investigate the misconduct of the Bush Administration with regard to the Iraq war and report on possible impeachable offenses. In 1973-74, during the Watergate scandal, the Congress did not begin matters as an impeachment inquiry, but investigated matters through a committee and referred impeachable evidence to the House Judiciary Committee, which in turn approved Articles of Impeachment against then President Richard Nixon, who resigned Aug. 9, 1974, after the U.S. House had approved the Articles, sent them to the U.S. Senate who would hold a trial of Nixon, similar to what happened to former President Bill Clinton but on a more credible and non-partisan charges approved by an overwhelming number of both Republicans and Democrats.

H. Res. 636 and 637 deals with Bush, and Vice-President Cheney, proposing that they be censured by Congress based on the evidence already on the record and their failure to respond to Congressional and public inquiries about these matters and have never accounted for their many specific misstatements in the run up to War.

Conyers, who was on the House Judiciary Committee for both



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times in recent history when Articles of Impeachment were considered said it best, "The Constitution is in Crisis. There are serious and well-substantiated allegations that the Executive Branch has usurped the sole power of the Congress to declare war by deceiving the Congress about the evidence for war. There are serious and well-substantiated allegations that the Executive Branch has deceived the American people to manufacture the people's consent for war."

It is time to no longer be silent and action from the people must be taken to preserve the Constitution for which this country is founded upon. For those with access to a computer and the Internet, go online to johnconyers.com or censurebush.org. Also, contact your local Member of Congress in the U.S. House of Representatives and express support for H. Res. 635, 636 and 637.

In the Tucson and Pima County area, call Congressman Raul Grijalva's office (online - house.gov/grijalva), (520) 622-6788 or Congressman Jim Kolbe's office (online - house.gov/kolbe), (520) 881-3588. Both Kolbe and Grijalva's district encompass more than just Tucson and Pima County. For those not in these areas, Grijalva's office in Yuma can be reached at (928) 343-7933, and Kolbe's office in Sierra Vista can be reached at (520) 459-3115. For the rest of Arizona and across the nation, either call the U.S. House toll free number, (800) 972-3524 or go online to capwiz.com/hrc/dbq/officials/.

In his own words: " . . . Secondly, there are such things as roving wiretaps. Now, by the way, any time you hear the United States

government talking about wiretap, it requires - a wiretap requires a court order. Nothing has changed, by the way. When we're talking about chasing down terrorists, we're talking about getting a court order before we do so. It's important for our fellow citizens to understand, when you think Patriot Act, constitutional guarantees are in place when it comes to doing what is necessary to protect our homeland, because we value the Constitution" - Remarks by President Bush in a Conversation on the USA Patriot Act, Kleinschans Music Hall, Buffalo, New York, Apr. 20, 2004.

"If this were a dictatorship we'd have it a lot easier. Just so long as I'm the dictator." - Nov, 12, 2004 - Bush during an address televised by CNN.



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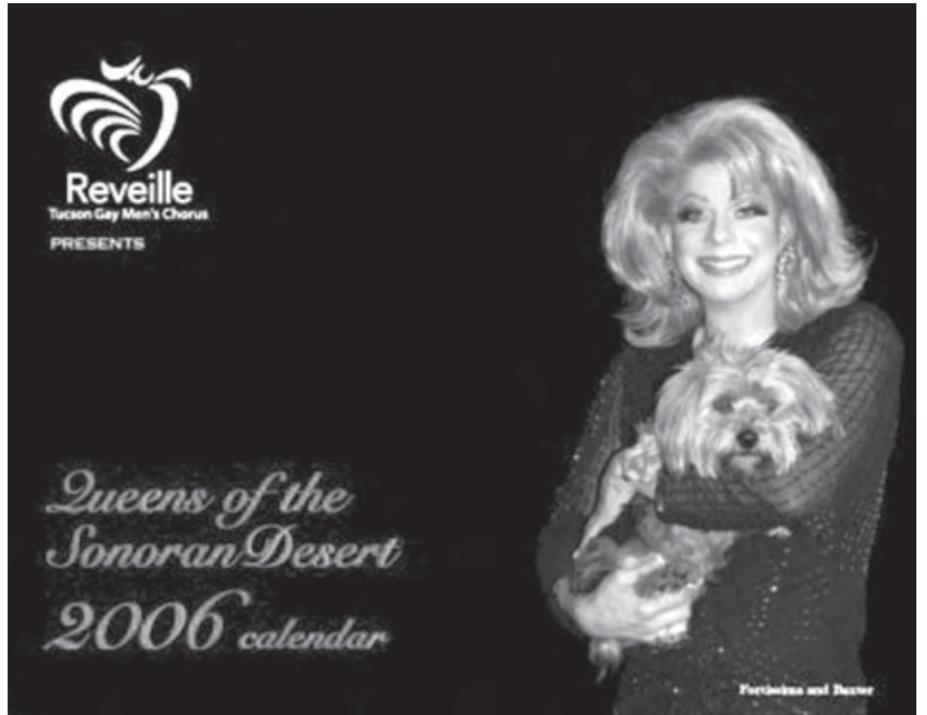
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Reveille Gay Men's Chorus Selling Unique Calendars As a Fundraiser



The Reveille Gay Men's Chorus has a very unique fund raising effort underway. The only one of its kind, "Queens of the Sonoran Desert" is a fundraising calendar that features 13 of Tucson's most gorgeous and voluptuous female illusionists. Among the glamorous ladies gracing the months of 2006 are Ajia Simone, Lucinda Holiday, Bunny Fu Fu, Tori Steele, Veronica Chase, Kimi San-Dumi, newcomer Azul and many more (not to mention Reveille's very own cover girl Fortissima Piano).

Calendars are now available for sale for \$15 and can be purchased from any Reveille member or on the website, reveillegmc.com. Don't be the last one on your block to have a copy of the Queens of the Sonoran Desert Calendar! They also make a great Christmas gift.

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Bunny FuFu



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Administration Accused Of Spying On LGBT Groups

Continued from Page One

David K. Johnson, a historian at University of South Florida and author of *The Lavender Scare: The Cold War Persecution of Gays and Lesbians in the Federal Government*, the banner of "national security" has long been used as a pretext to crack down on Gay rights and even to spark moral crusades against homosexuality under the guise of national defense.

His book explains that "security risk" was used throughout the Cold War to invoke "the specter of homosexuality," which was cast as a threat to national security, and as something that "needed to be systematically moved" from the government and minimized in the culture at large.

Johnson said the Pentagon's spying is the latest in a long history of targeting Gays and Lesbians as subversives, despite lacking any evidence for such a charge.

"It's no surprise," he said. "The federal government began spying on those who challenged its discriminatory policies from the very earliest days of such activism."

He said the FBI investigated the first organizational meeting in 1961 that became the Mattachine Society, one of the earliest Gay rights groups. Government agents took photographs in 1965 at the first Gay and Lesbian public demonstration in

front of the White House against the military's exclusionary policies.

"What is surprising," he continued, "is that in nearly a half century of undercover intelligence gathering, they haven't yet figured out that these are always peaceful, lawful protests."

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Psychiatry Ponders Whether Extreme Bias Can Be An Illness

PART TWO

[This is part two and the final of a commentary about the psychiatric community pondering whether Extreme bias can be an illness.]

"We treat racism and homophobia as delusional disorders," said Shama Chaiken, who later became a divisional chief psychologist for the California Department of Corrections, at a meeting of the American Psychiatric Association. "Treatment with antipsychotics does work to reduce these prejudices."

Amid a profusion of recent studies into the nature of prejudice, researchers have found that biases are very common. Almost everyone harbors what might be termed "ordinary prejudice," the research indicates.

Anthony Greenwald, a psychologist at the University of Washington in Seattle, and Mahzarin R. Banaji, a psychologist at Harvard, developed tests for such biases. By measuring the speed with which people make mental associations, the psychologists found that biases affect even those who actively resist them. "When things are more strongly paired in our minds, we can respond to them more quickly," Banaji said. "Large numbers of Americans cannot as swiftly make the association between 'black' and 'good' as they can between 'white' and 'good.'"

Similarly, psychologist Margo Monteith at the University of Kentucky in Lexington found that people can have prejudices against groups they

know nothing about. She administered a test in which volunteers, under time pressure, had to associate a series of words with either "America" or a fictitious country she called "Marisat." Volunteers more easily associated Marisat with such words as "poison," "death" and "evil," while associating America with "sunrise," "paradise" and "loyal." "A large part of our self-esteem derives from our group membership," Monteith said. "To the extent we can feel better about our group relative to other groups, we can feel good about ourselves. It's likely a built-in mechanism."

If biases are so common, many doctors ask, can racism really be a mental illness? "I don't think racism is a mental illness, and that's because 100 percent of people are racist," said Paul J. Fink, a former president of the American Psychiatric Association. "If you have a diagnostic category that fits 100 percent of people, it's not a diagnostic category."

But Poussaint said there is a difference between ordinary prejudice and pathological bias — the same distinction that psychiatrists make between sadness and depression. All people experience sadness, anxiety and fear, but extreme, disabling forms of these emotions are called disorders.

While people with ordinary prejudice try very hard to conceal their biases, Solomon said, her homophobic patient had no embarrassment about his attitude toward gays. Dunbar said people with pathological preju-

dice often lack filtering capabilities. As a result, he said, they face problems at work and home. "Everyone is inculcated with stereotypes and biases with cultural issues, but some individuals not only hold beliefs that are very rigid, but they are part of a psychological problem," Dunbar said.

The psychologist said he has helped such patients with talk therapy, which encourages patients to question the basis for their beliefs, and by steering them toward medications such as antipsychotics. The woman with the bias against Jews did not overcome her prejudice, Dunbar said, but she learned to control her fear response in social settings. The patient with hostility against African Americans realized his beliefs were "stupid."

Solomon discovered she was most effective dealing with the homophobic man when she was nonjudgmental. When he claimed there were more gays and lesbians than ever before, she presented him with data showing there was no such shift. At those times, she reported in a case study, the patient would say, "I know, I know." He would recognize that he was not being logical, but then get angry and return to the same patterns of obsession. Solomon did not identify the man because of patient confidentiality.

Standing in the central yard of the maximum-security California State Prison with inmates exercising around her, Chaiken explained how she

distinguished pathological bias from ordinary prejudice: A prisoner who belonged to a gang with racist views might express such views to fit in with his gang, but if he continues "yelling racial slurs, assaulting others when it's clear there is no benefit" after he leaves the gang, the behavior was no longer "adaptive." Prison officials declined to identify inmates who had been treated, or make them available for interviews.

Chicago psychiatrist Bell said he has not made up his mind on whether bias can be pathological. But in proposing a research agenda for the next edition of psychiatry's DSM of mental disorders, Bell and researchers from the Mayo Clinic, McGill University, the University of California at Los Angeles and other academic institutions wrote: "Clinical experience informs us that racism may be a manifestation of a delusional process, a consequence of anxiety, or a feature of an individual's personality dynamics."

The psychiatrists said their profession has neglected the issue: "One solution would be to encourage research that seeks to delineate the validity and reliability of racism as a symptom and to investigate the possibility of including it in some diagnostic criteria sets in future editions of DSM."





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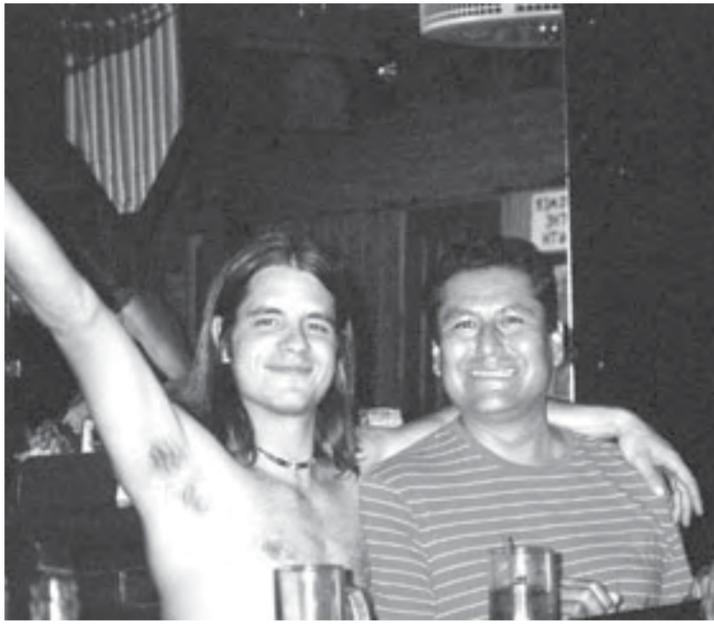
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LOOKING BACK AT 2005 PART ONE



Mapplethorpe Exhibit Opens In Cuba



Robert Mapplethorpe

HAVANA - Communist Cuba hasn't exactly been tolerant of homosexuality. In the late 1960s, Cubans were sent to labor camps for being Gay, with homosexuality derided as an illness of the capitalist past. Even today, Cuban transvestites are sometimes detained and threatened with prison. But a new tolerance over the past decade has led to what many believed they would never see on the island - an exhibit by Robert Mapplethorpe, the controversial American photographer known for his homoerotic images, reported the PlanetOut Network.

The "Sacred and Profane" exhibit, which opened Wednesday (Dec. 14) at a recently restored gallery in the heart of Old Havana, features 48 photographs spanning Mapplethorpe's career. The exhibit runs through Feb. 15.

"I never thought I would have this experience in Cuba, to see Mapplethorpe's work firsthand," said Ricardo Rodriguez, a 35-year-old photographer. "When people told me this exhibit was coming, I didn't believe them." Rodriguez said his surprise stemmed from the fact that Mapplethorpe is Gay, American and highly controversial even in his own country.

In 1990, the Contemporary Arts Center in Cincinnati and its director were charged with obscenity for exhibiting Mapplethorpe's photographs. Both were acquitted, but the case sparked a national debate over using government funds for the arts. Conservative lawmakers and religious fundamentalists attacked the National Endowment for the Arts for subsidizing Mapplethorpe shows. "It's incredible to see him here," Rodriguez said.

As for the images themselves, most agreed they were more serene than shocking. "Pure sensuality," Farah Gomez, a 26-year-old art historian, said of the black-and-white images portraying flowers, various female body parts and nude black men.

Parliament Speaker Ricardo Alarcon, one of Cuba's highest-ranking officials, agreed. He said

Mapplethorpe "achieves the transmission of a purely artistic message and sense." "Frankly, this really doesn't strike me as a sexual exposition," he told the Associated Press. "Nudity is found in cultures dating much further back than the United States or Cuba. Classicism is full of the nude human body."

Mild hints of sadomasochism pepper the exposition, which also features images of two men kissing, actress Susan Sarandon holding a child and a young Arnold Schwarzenegger in his bodybuilding days. Another photograph shows the profiles of an albino man and a black man with a shaved head. The eyes of the albino are open, his gaze drifting off the photograph; the black man's eyes are closed.

Mapplethorpe's own self-portraits express some sadness, showing the deterioration in his health before he died of AIDS at age 42 in 1989.

The exhibit, which doesn't include Mapplethorpe's roughest images, embraces the photographer's internal contradictions, said Philip Larratt-Smith, a New York-based Canadian who curated the show with the help of Cuba's Pamela Ruiz. "His work toys with the polarities of masculine and feminine, insider and outsider, personal and political, subjective and objective, black and white? and of course, sacred and profane," Larratt-Smith said.

The turning point in the island's newfound tolerance toward homosexuality, which came with the limited economic and social liberalization of the mid-1990s, is often linked to the release of the 1994 hit film "Strawberry and Chocolate." The movie explores the friendship between a naive young communist and a highly educated Cuban Gay man who is in love with his country but at odds with his government.

Several Cuban artists have started tackling some of Mapplethorpe's themes in the last decade, including Rene Pena and Eduardo Hernandez Santos. Pena is among a dozen photographers with an exhibit called "Descartes," opening Friday in a Cuban gallery.

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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

The Next UA Prez

by Lee Thorn

The ARIZONA DAILY STAR had a piece on what "essential qualities" the next president of the University of Arizona should have. The very first essential quality they suggested was "SCHOLARSHIP: He or she must be an academic, a researcher, an educator with top academic credentials." This suggestion is so ridiculous, and so potentially counterproductive, that I felt compelled to reply.

A scholar is just exactly what you don't want as a university president. Scholars like to be left alone with their books and their computers. University presidents need to be out shaking hands and kissing whatever to raise money.

But it's not just that the scholarly temperament is exactly opposite of the ideal presidential temperament. As bad as that is, it's not the worst of it. The worst of this ridiculous notion of the scholar/president is that limiting your presidential search to scholars would be like limiting your social life to people who had six fingers on each hand. Such a limitation would cut out 99.9% of the people best qualified to do the job.

What you need most of all in a university president is an administrator. You are supposedly hiring the guy responsible for running the joint. An administrator is the opposite of the sorry CEOs of giant American corporations who, when being tired for their corporate crimes, claimed that they had no idea about what their corporations were doing. Real administrators know exactly what their organizations are doing, and why, and how, and who's responsible for what.

The STAR piece says a prez needs "business savvy." They define this quality in terms of knowing how to manage big budgets. I'd add that the prez must know enough about business to be able to talk with businessmen at a level of sophistication sufficient to assure them that he's not a moron. The reason: a big part of his job is wheeling money out of businessmen.

The STAR thinks that a prez needs "vision," but vision in a president can be a liability if it doesn't coincide with the vision of the permanent professional employees — the faculty. This is a truly critical recruiting issue that many churches handle better than most universities. A growing number of churches, before recruiting a new minister, use

lengthy questionnaires to determine what vision their parishioners share of the direction their church should take. They share this data with potential ministers to avoid spectacular mismatches. For example, you might be considering hiring a minister whose vision is a congregation that works tirelessly to transform the local community into one which manifests a high degree of social justice. When you get your questionnaires back from your congregation, you might discover that they're more interested in having an inspiring Sunday service than they are in changing the community. Thus, everybody can be saved from massive aggravation by not hiring the would-be do-gooder minister.

The changing of presidents often allows universities to radically change directions. UA has many prominent characteristics that could be enhanced, eliminated, or transformed at this juncture. It's known first and foremost as a party school. It's also known as a sports-obsessed place. UA has a strong international reputation for astronomy and related fields. It also contains some institutions that are extremely unusual in a state university, unusual not only in type but in size, the massive Center for Creative Photography and the soon-to-be massive Poetry Center.

One recruiting criterion that the STAR completely overlooks is the marquee value of presidential candidates. Everybody admits that a winning sports team adds prestige to a university's name. Whether or not that makes sense, it's surely the case. But isn't it equally true that a celebrity president would add prestige? Not to be overly crass, but when some university, or perhaps it was a college, hired retired General Robert E. Lee to be its president the alumni probably started writing larger and more frequent checks. Of course, in this day and age of disastrous American military adventurism, a retired general is probably out of the question from the PR point of view.

In sum, and in stark contrast with the STAR, my ideal president would be a beloved celebrity who had never been a general, a proven administrator who had never been a scholar, and a visionary whose vision for the future of UA closely matched that of the faculty.

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

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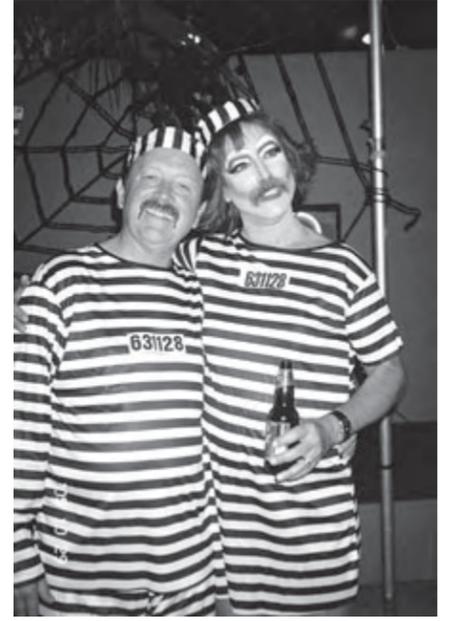
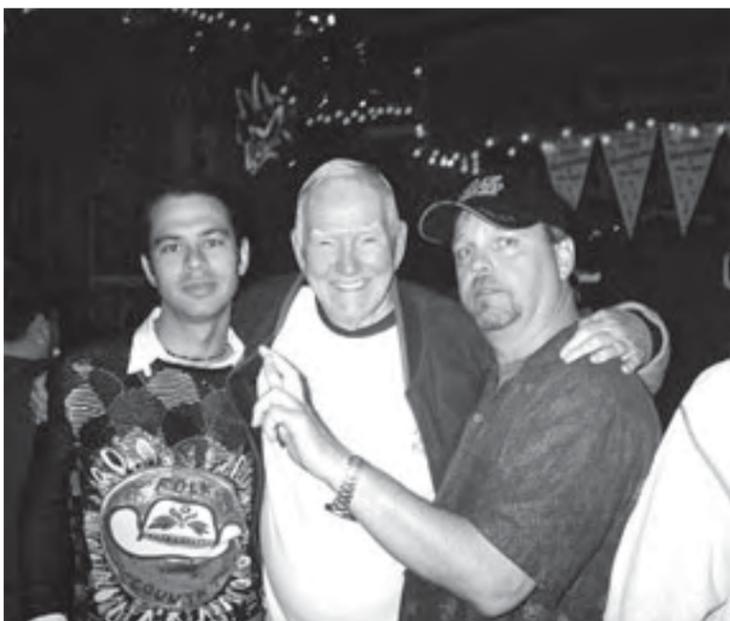
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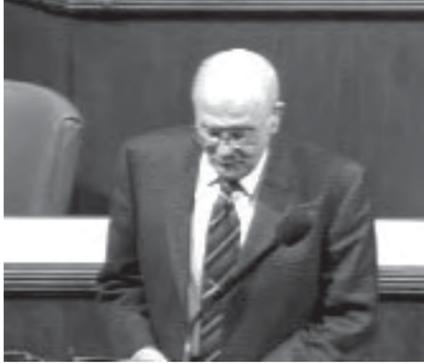


LOOKING BACK AT 2005 PART 2



Dingell's Holiday Jingle

Congressman John D. Dingell (MI-15) recited the following poem on the floor of the US House of Representatives concerning House Resolution 579, Dec. 14 which expressed the sense of the House of Representatives that the symbols and traditions of Christmas should be protected. "Preserving Christmas" has been a frequent topic for conservative talk show hosts, including Fox News's Bill O'Reilly.



Congressman John D. Dingell

Twas the week before Christmas
and all through the House
No bills were passed 'bout which
Fox News could grouse;
Tax cuts for the wealthy were
passed with great cheer,
So vacations in St. Barts soon
would be near;

Katrina kids were nestled all snug
in motel beds,
While visions of school and home
danced in their heads;
In Iraq our soldiers needed
supplies and a plan,
Plus nuclear weapons were being
built in Iran;

Gas prices shot up, consumer
confidence fell;
Americans feared we were on a
fast track to...well...
Wait— we need a distraction—
something divisive and wily;
A fabrication straight from the
mouth of O'Reilly

We can pretend that Christmas is
under attack
Hold a vote to save it— then pat
ourselves on the back;
Silent Night, First Noel, Away in
the Manger
Wake up Congress, they're in no
danger!

This time of year we see Christ-
mas every where we go,
From churches, to homes, to
schools, and yes...even Costco;
What we have is an attempt to
divide and destroy,
When this is the season to unite
us with joy

At Christmas time we're taught to
unite,
We don't need a made-up reason
to fight
So on O'Reilly, on Hannity, on
Coulter, and those right wing
blogs;
You should just sit back,
relax...have a few egg nog!

'Tis the holiday season: enjoy it a
pinch
With all our real problems, do we
honestly need another Grinch?

So to my friends and my col-
leagues I say with delight,
A merry Christmas to all, and to
Bill O'Reilly...Happy Holidays.

Non Bar Calendar

Wednesday, December 21

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Join Jack for an evening of Canasta. If you don't know how to play, they'll teach you-and it's a very relaxed atmosphere. For directions and reservations, please call Jack at 887-3736.

Thursday, December 22

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed: 7:00 p.m. Join the men of MSN for Coffee Night 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, December 23

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed:7:00p.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, December 24

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, December 25

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 1:00 p.m. Join Lloyd as he hosts our Christmas Potluck. For directions and reservations, please call Lloyd at 792-8537.

Monday, December 26

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

Tuesday, December 27

1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed: 7:00 p.m. The Circle of Men is a support group that helps you deal with yourself and your relationships

with others. For directions and reservations, please call Tom at 591-2828.

#2 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed):7:00 p.m. Terry hosts Bridge Night. If you don't know how to play, they'll teach you-and it's a very relaxed atmosphere. For reservations and directions, please call Terry at 577-3545.

Wednesday, December 28

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Join Jack for an evening of Canasta. If you don't know how to play, they'll teach you-and it's a very relaxed atmosphere. For directions and reservations, please call Jack at 887-3736.

Thursday, December 29

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed: 7:00 p.m. Join the men of MSN for Coffee Night 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.

Saturday, December 31

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

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11th Stop:

IBT'S

616 N. 4th Ave.

Wednesday November 16th

Time: 7 pm – 10 pm

12th Stop:

Howl at the Moon

915 W. Prince Road

Friday December 16

Time: 7 pm – 10 pm

A collaboration of the Pima County Health Department and Gay Men's Health Project

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Theresa Lee Health Center

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Tucson, AZ 85745

(520) 624-8272

Monday	12:30 – 3:30 P.M.
Tuesday	8:00 – 10:30 A.M.
Tues.	12:30 – 3:30 P.M.
Wednesday	12:30 – 3:30 P.M.
Thursday	4:00 – 6:30 P.M.
Friday	12:30 – 3:30 P.M.

HOROSCOPES

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Feel the universal love when perky, sexy, romantic Venus stam-pedes into ecumenical Aqueerius... and then retrogrades. Ohhh! What do you have up your sleeve, lover? Err, and exactly which sleeve?

ARIES (MAR. 21 - APR. 20)
You gather together a virtual United Nations of pals. Gay Rams are diplomatic and make even bitter rivals feel as if their opinions are heard and considered. Let's see if you can achieve world peace. Have a bit of fun while you're at it and dip a toe into hot new social pools. You may decide to jump in head first. Beware of sharks ... unless you are wearing shark bait.

TAURUS (APR. 21 - MAY 21)
Navigate the treacherous corporate waters this week as you bank on your innate charm and grace to get what you want when you want it. Tell 'em what they want to hear, advance and toss them out once you occupy the corner office. Venus sez survey the lay of the corporate land and carve out a small kingdom for yourself. Did I say small? I meant big, big, big, queer Bull!

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
The world is now your oyster, along with a stray pearl. This is no time to plop in front of the television. Escape your routine pink Twin. Venus sends you on interesting tangents where you explore exotic locales that get you into mischief. (Finally!) Even legal issues go more smoothly especially if you bring your briefs into evidence and rest your case. That's because the jury is Out.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
If wandering daydreams of sex wander through your every waking minute, have it park for a while in a loading zone. Venus in Aqueerius makes you appealing and romantic and helps you catch a certain someone's eye. Gay Crabs can also use their new powers of persuasion to find a well endowed benefactor to help them massage their asset base ... or something like that.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)
Any rough patches in partnerships are smoothed over when Venus glides into Aqueerius. Proud Lions need to be especially diplomatic and forgiving no matter how insulted they may feel. So pamper your partner and reap the rewards. If you're on the prowl, bottle your charm and pour it into various mugs. It's intoxicating as long as it doesn't sit and become too syrupy.

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)
Queer Virgins discover little tricks that ease the pain and strain of any crummy job. Try to look at dull and boring tasks more optimistically. A good state of mind can make even the worst project a dream to tackle. You not only clear your desk, you also have more energy for healthier outlets. Hire a personal trainer. It is never too late to prepare for nude beach season.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)
Venus in Aqueerius heralds in luck, creativity and fun. Make good use of time, Gay Libra and implement your plans for the holidays. Go all out - the party begins on the hour at any hour. But know when to step back, relax and

recharge. The week also brings the prospect of romance. Will you know it when you see it or will you be too busy diving into the punch bowl to care?

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)
Impasses with family can be overcome if you focus on them. Collect your thoughts and your most persuasive arguments to set things queer with folks. Keep cool but don't take "no" for an answer, proud Scorp. If your domestic agenda needs renovation along with any languishing home repairs, see to it now. We can all use a bit of sprucing up now and then. Hint...hint.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)
Proud Archers are at their communicative peak while Venus lolls in Aqueerius. You make fewer gaffs and get your point across in a more diplomatic and charming manner. What a nice change of pace! Sugar your delivery with some yummy compliments. So say what you mean and mean what you say without fear of retribution. Errr what exactly do you mean??

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)
Pink Caps are usually fiscally adept. It is never too difficult, boring or time consuming to keep a careful track of the flow of cash. But now, with Venus in Aqueerius you are not only able to corral any ornery monetary problem, you can hogtie and brand it. Just in time pardner! The holiday season will bring extra needs and wants and you will be well heeled to handle it all.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)
Charisma oozes out of every pore. Pour it on and see who licks it up. Aqueerians have all the luck when Venus sits in their own sign. Try not to waste this glorious energy on short term low level nonsense. Set all your new ideas into motion, pursue your long held personal goals and meet those who can give you a leg up. And if you happen to get a leg over as well, congratulations.

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MAR. 20)
There are times when Guppies feel the need to open up their largess to those in need. Venus in Aqueerius is one of those times. Now that the year is winding down, do what you can to alleviate pain, poverty and loneliness in the community. Leave some time for yourself to rejuvenate and meditate on life. Contemplate your navel... or perhaps someone elses.

Coyote Moon Closes Its Doors

Continued from Page Two

Miami and Palm Springs."They are destination cities. It's not hard to sell a resort in those places," he said.

Matt Harding, president of the Tucson GLBT Chamber of Commerce, disagrees with Paisley's assessment and said Tucson can compete against larger markets. "We're striving to get the word out about Tucson," Harding said. "We might be in a red state, but Tucson is place where Gay travelers can feel safe and welcome."

Still, others were not happy to hear about Coyote Moon's closure.



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H. EON GAY YOUTH CENTER 620-6245

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 3. VENTURE-N: 1239 N. 6th Ave. 882-8224
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 6. HOWL AT THE MOON - 915 W. Prince Rd. 293-7339
 7. YARD DOG - 2449 N. Stone, 624-3858
 8. COLORS FOOD & SPIRITS, 5305 E. Speedway, 323-1840

Scottsdale resident Robert Black has stayed at the Coyote Moon three times since its opening. "They had a unique niche and they were at the forefront of a really unique business," said Black, former owner of Ford Robert Black Agency Inc. in Scottsdale. "It was a place where you could feel comfortable. It's always disappointing to hear of people with good intentions going out of business."



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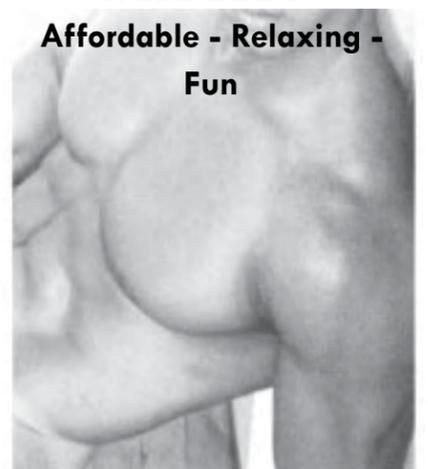
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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

sunday

COLORS - Open 11am - 11pm Champagne Brunch 11am - 2pm with choice of complimentary mimosa, Bloody Mary or Screwdriver. Happy Hour 4-7pm \$3 skyy Cocktails, \$2.25 Domestic and half price appetizers. Full menu served 2-10pm. Nightly dinner specials. Live music from Bob Feldhaus during Brunch (11:30-2:30) & Dickie Steede during dinner (6:30-9:30)

HOWL AT THE MOON -Open at 11am. Kitchen open until 9pm. Watch the NFL here! \$1.00 Jumbo Hot Dogs, \$2 Chili Dogs. Free Texas Hold'em Poker Tournaments at 4 and 7pm. 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 -Troy's Recovery Bar noon-4pm. 4-7:30 Karaoke on the patio. Benefit B-B-Q for the Pride Parade 5:30-7:30 and dance with DJ Mike Lopez 9pm to close.

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio open 3pm. \$2.00 Bloody Marys or Screws til 3pm Patio Beer Bust 3-7. Burger BBQ 5-7. Selection of burger meats to choose from. \$3 proceeds go to Pet Watch (helping HIV/AIDS clients with their veterinary bills).

WOODY'S - Open 11am. Brunch \$5, 11:30 - 2:30. Patio open 1pm-close. Yard games on the grass. Beer Bust 16oz \$1 2-7p. \$2.50 Sirloin Burger or Chicken w/sides 5-9pm. Karaoke with Michael D. 9pm-close. Drag Bingo every other Sunday 8-9

YARD DOG - Open 10am - 2am. Patio Bar opens at 5pm.

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. Kitchen open 4-9 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-8pm, DJ Craig Carter 10pm-2am \$1.50 well vodka drinks, All drink specials not available during special events.

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio 6pm. Free pool til 4pm. \$2.75 Skyy & Beekeepers Martinis.

WOODY'S - Open 10am. w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm \$1.50 well or domestic longnecks. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Karaoke w/Michael D. 9-1

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. 50¢ off any Top Shelf Rum until 8pm. Beer Bust 4-8pm

tuesday

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7 \$2 Skyy cocktails, \$2.25 Domestic and half-price appetizers. Full menu served until 10pm.

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. Kitchen open 4-9pm. Karaoke with Debbie from 8 - midnight

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, Tropical Tuesdays \$2.50 Tropical drinks and DJ Craig Carter playing Retro Music 70's, 80's and 90's 9pm-close.

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Spaghetti Nite (2nd Tuesday every month \$2.00).

WOODY'S - Open 10am w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm \$1.50 well or domestic longneck. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. 80s Nite 9-close. \$1 off to those wearing 80s concert T-shirt. (Excludes draught & schnapps).

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. 50¢ off any Top Shelf Tequila until 8pm Beer Bust 4-8pm.

wednesday

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3 Skyy cocktails, \$2.25 Domestic and half-price appetizers 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. Free Pool all day. Draught Beer Specials all day. Kitchen open 4-9pm.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, "Diva-Licious" show 9pm w/ Bunny Fu Fu & Friends. After show dance with DJ Q til 2am,

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

WOODY'S - Open 10am w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm \$1.50 well or domestic longnecks. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Underwear- fetish-leather nite \$1 off for those wearing underwear-fetish or leather. (Excludes draught & schnapps) for all in leather or underwear.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. 50¢ off any Top Shelf Vodka until 8pm Beer Bust 4-8pm.

thursday

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$2 Skyy cocktails, \$2.25 Domestic and half-price appetizers. 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. \$2.00 Mexican Beers all day. Kitchen open 4-9pm. Karaoke with Debbie from 8 to midnight.

IBT's -Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, Boyz Nite Out with your Bartenders & GoGo Boys dancing in their undies and DJ Mike Lopez spinning Top 40 & All request \$1.75 Long Islands and \$1.50 Tequila shots 10pm-2am.

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. 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 \$6.00.

WOODY'S - Open 10am w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm \$1.50 well or domestic longnecks. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Free Pool all day. NTN Game Nite w/prizes 9-close. \$1 Pabst Blue Ribbon. Patio bar open 8pm-close

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. 50¢ off any Top Shelf Bourbon til 8pm. Beer Bust 4-8pm. Patio Bar opens 5pm.

friday

COLORS - Open 4pm-1am. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$2 Skyy cocktails, \$2.25 Domestic and half-price appetizers. Full menu served 4-11pm. Nightly Dinner Specials. 6:30-9:30pm. "Hot Jazz, Cool Martinis" with Susan Artemis 10pm "Guys & Dolls" hosted by Lucinda Holliday. Reservations suggested.

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 4-9pm.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm,, Hot Dance with DJ Mike Lopez 9pm-2am.

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

WOODY'S - Open 10am. w/Special Happy Hour til-2pm \$1.50 well or domestic longnecks. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Patio Bar open 8-close. Party w/DJ Jeff 9-close.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. 50¢ off any Top Shelf Gin until 8pm. Beer Bust 4-8pm. Patio Bar Opens 5pm

saturday

COLORS - Open 4pm-1am, Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$2 Skyy cocktails, \$2.25 Domestic and half-price appetizers Full menu served 4-11pm. Nightly dinner specials. Singer, piano player Marilyn Harris performs during dinner from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Reservations suggested.

HOWL AT THE MOON -Open at 11:00 am. Kitchen open til 9pm. Happy Hour 11am-8pm, \$2 Well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 small pitchers, \$5 large pitchers. \$4.00 Cheeseburger & Fries all day. DJ Johnny D playing your favorite dance & country 9pm to close. Kitchen re-opens 9pm - midnight for late night munchies.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, 5-8pm karaoke and Teryaki Kabobs on the patio. 8:30pm Show time w/ Ajia Simone or Janee Star. DJ Q spinning Club Music inside and Mike Lopez spinning on the patio 10pm to close..

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

WOODY'S - Open 10am. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. \$5 Steak or Fish w/all the trimmings 5-9. Patio Bar open 5-close. Live Jazz w/Arthur Migliazza on the patio 6-9. Party w/DJ Jeff 9-close.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. Beer Bust 4-8pm. \$1.25 glass, \$2.25 pitcher. Patio Bar Opens 5pm.

CASINOS.

AVA AMPHITHEATER AT CASINO DEL SOL COMING ATTRACTIONS: (Box office 838-6700 -I-10 Exit Valencia West)

Feb. 26 - Brooks and Dunn (Tickets On Sale Now)

DESERT DIAMOND CASINO UPCOMING ATTRACTIONS: (Box office 393-2799 - I-19 & Pima Mine Road, Exit 80 - 7 minutes south of Tucson)

HARRAH'S AK-CHIN CASINO RESORT From Tucson take I-10 West to Queen Creek Road (Exit 164), turn left, drive 17 miles. Buses leave from Tucson daily. Call (520)743-4386.. Ride free and get cash. For more information 1-800-Harrahs or visit www.harrahs.com

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open today from 2:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m. "Now we don our Gay Apparel" - Holiday Drag Show - Special night of holiday cheer!

IBT'S - Karaoke on the patio and Teriyaki Beef-Kabobs. 8:30 p.m. 'Saturday Night Starlettes' hosted by Janee Starr with Ajia Simone and Bunny FuFu and at 10:00 party on the patio with DJ Mike Lopez and DJ Q spinning on the dance floor.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

HOWL AT THE MOON - Opens today from 2:00 p.m. until 1:00 a.m.

IBT'S - Opens today at 6:00 p.m. with DJ Q Spinning on the dance floor at 9:00 p.m.

VENTURE-N - Opens at 10:00 a.m. It's Christmas and they're having a pot luck dinner starting at 1:00 pm. Sign up with your bartender

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

COLORS FOOD & SPIRITS - New Year's Eve "Black and White Ball". \$55 per person includes two well cocktails or domestics; appetizer, dinner, wine, dessert, champagne toast and party favors. 6pm: pianist Amiclar Guevara and Bassist Richard Shosie. 9pm: Improve comedy by "Not Burnt Out Just Unscrewed". 10pm: Stand-up comedian Kaynin Richardson, 10:30: Guys & Dolls Special Edition with Lucinda Holliday, Janee Starr & Veronica Halliwell. 11:30: Dancing with Johnny DJ.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open today from 2:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m. \$5.00 Cover starts at 8:00 p.m. includes Hors d'Oeuvres, Dancing, Party Favors and Champagne at Midnight. Ring in the New Year here!

IBT'S - Fabulous New Year's Eve Party with No Cover!! 8:30 p.m. It's showtime with 'An Evening With Ajia Simone' hosted by Ajia with Bunny FuFu and Janee Starr. 10:00 Dance the New Year in with DJs spinning on the dance floor and also the patio. Champagne Toast at Midnight, Balloon Drop and More!!!

VENTURE-N - Bring the New Year in with Buster's Balloon Ball here!

WOODY'S - Big New Year's Party here starting off with life jazz with Arthur Migliazza and a Buffet Dinner. Men of Phoenix strippers dance during the evening. Champagne Toast, party hats and favors. A mega Balloon drop. Special appearance by International Dance Diva Ms. Pepper MaShay singing her #1 hits "Dive in the Pool" from Queer As Folk, "I Got Pride" from Sex in the City and her newest hit "Beauty Shop". \$10.00 advance tickets available Dec. 15. \$15 at the door. Limited Tickets Available.

in a blink
the world is changed

Your partner hurts you.

...physical, verbal, sexual and psychological abuse, even isolation, intimidation, fear and economic abuse, all can be signs of **domestic violence** in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender relationships. Don't kid yourself, anyone can be affected and it won't just go away. Do something about it. Call us.

Wingspan Anti-Violence Project
24-Hour Crisis Line

624-0348
1-800-553-9387

www.wingspan.org

In a blink, your world could change. For help with LGBT domestic violence, sexual violence, hate crime, harassment, and discrimination, please call the Wingspan Anti-Violence Project 24-Hour Crisis Line.

624-0348
1-800-553-9387

www.wingspan.org



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.sAAF.org>. **VOLUNTEERS WELCOME.**

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

P.F.L.A.G. - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays - is a support group available to anyone who has a son, daughter or friend who is Gay. Call 360-3795 or write P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740-6264. All replies confidential.

GLBT-friendly AL-ANON group meets Saturdays at 11am at Unitarian Universalist Church, 4831 E. 22nd Street, Tucson

YOUNG AND GAY?

GLBT Youth 23 and under, meet every Saturday in Tucson for sharing, support and information. Meetings are held at 425 E. 7th 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 743-0810, 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 M-F.

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, 425 E. 7th St., offers support groups / info line / social events / library / meeting space. Volunteer Opportunities. Board meetings every 2nd Thursday (open to all), 6:00 p.m. Information 624-1779.

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

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

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

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

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO - a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, Call the Bears Hotline (520)790-5775 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 of visit our website at www.botop.com All are welcome

to our general meetings/potlucks on the 2nd Friday of every month, at 3202 E. 1st St. (the "Ward 6" Office Bldg.) Just south of Speedway & East of Country Club. PotLuck Dinner begins at 6:30 and the monthly meeting follows at 7:15 p.m.

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, 425 E. 7th St. All alcoholics welcome.

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

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

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

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

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

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GLBT, Tucson's Gay and Lesbian business networking group holds regular meetings the third Thursday of every month. Call 615-6436 for more info. www.tucsonglbtchamber.org

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 indi-

vidual needs should be directed to Wingspan and other local agencies listed here. For more information call 622-3200 or visit the TPI website at www.tucsonpride.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THEATER / DINNER / MOVIES / ETC! Nonsmoking Lesbian Network meets every month. If you'd like to meet women 50+ (flexible) and socialize in a smoke-free environment, please call or email: 888-8010 'til 9pm, or joycesmth1@aol.com. The group dines OUT! and attends shows, movies, comedy events, etc. Now in our 23rd year, 7th in Tucson.

SOUTHERN ARIZONA GENDER ALLIANCE (SAGA). The Southwest's largest transgender and gender-diversity advocacy organization. Speakers and panelists available. General meetings monthly on the 1st Mondays at 7pm; Dezerz Girlz (MTF Support) meets 2nd Mondays at 7pm; Dezerz Boyz (FTM Support) meets 3rd Tuesdays at 7pm. Also serving partners, youth, intersex, service providers and allies. Call (520)624-1779 x26 for more info.

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

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

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

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

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

9059 (Tucson) or Kim (602)534-6219 (Phoenix)

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

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

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

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

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

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

LIKE TO READ?

The Guys' Book Club (TGBC) invites new members to join us. The group meets once a month, on the 3rd Monday, at 6:30 p.m. Reading selections include Gay-themed novels, bios and other nonfiction. For location or more info, email Bryan at Bryansct@aol.com

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

LGBT BUDDHIST MEDITATION GROUP. Join us for two 20 minute silent sitting meditations, a reading from a Buddhist religious text and discussion. Bring a friend and a pillow or cushion. Meets every Sunday from 10:00 - 11:30am at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St.. Contact Sean Seeba at 622-8759 for more information.

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

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

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

SUN WORSHIPERS OF TUCSON (SWOT) is a local men's nudist organization for men of all ages. Events feature swimming, hot tubbing and socializing in a relaxed, private setting

MAN TO MAN INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY FORMING for anyone wanting quality friendships, better health and more passion in their lives. This group has far-reaching benefits for those who want to explore their own spirituality, sexuality and purpose in life. Contact Marc Haberman, Holistic Health Practitioner at 881-4582.



SAAF UPDATE

ARIZONA AIDS FOUNDATION by Anne Maley

As we end 2005 and move into the New Year, I reflect on some of the events that made this year remarkable and memorable. There were too many natural disasters around the world that affected everyone. Just watching the news caused emotions. Many of us reached into our pockets to help people affected by the tsunami and hurricanes that killed people and left thousands homeless. In times of crisis it often brings people together and put aside our differences to help each other. It reminds me of the AIDS crisis in the early 80s. At the beginning there was very little support and then slowly people started to help one another and began advocating for local communities and the government to get involved.

Today the support we receive from the local community - individuals, corporations, city and county is strong. You know the importance of caring for people with HIV/AIDS and for prevention services. Both are critical programs. Our events help sustain these services.

AIDSWALK occurred within weeks of the New Orleans Hurricane and we felt it. While the Walk was a fabulous event in terms of the energy and the number of people, we didn't meet our goal. We raised over \$222,000 and the goal was set for \$246,750. Many people worked hard this year to help us meet our goal but some of it was beyond anyone's control. One person we want to note here is Jay who works at Woody's and raised \$2000. Thanks Jay!

On a positive note, the Jerome Beillard Festival for Life (held in November) raised over \$97,000 - the largest amount raised for this event. Our goal was \$92,750. Thank you to all who helped make the up the difference.

We are getting ready for our next event on Sunday, February 19, 2006 - Moda Provocateur. We are thrilled to announce it will be held at the newly renovated historic Fox Theatre. Local salons, shops and boutiques put on this benefit fashion show. Last year we sold out. Get your tickets now! Tickets are available through SAAF for \$30.

Events and individual income make up less than 15% of our budget but they are significant. About 75% of our budget comes from the Federal Government and this is where we are seeing big changes and cuts. Every sector of the non-profit community is being impacted. We recently learned of cuts to our prevention and client services dept.

Pulse is a HIV prevention program serving the "club drug" population. We signed a five year contract over a year ago. All club drug programs across the country have been notified that the funding will be cut at the end of September 2006. We are gravely concerned about this cut. The connection between substance abuse/use and HIV infection is high. Cutting Pulse will have an impact on the community.

In addition, funding for several of our Ryan White funded services will be reduced beginning April 1. While no program will stop providing services, we have had to make some internal changes in the way we work. For instance, we have three case managers who have recently resigned. We are able to fill

just one of those positions due to the cuts.

I feel very fortunate to be working with a community that is committed to helping others who are in need of support. The support of the community has always been important. Now it is even more important if the services and programs SAAF provides are to continue.

To everyone who joined with us this year in the fight against AIDS, thank you. Your support is greatly appreciated. We cannot do this alone. Your ongoing support is needed in order to meet the growing needs of our clients. I look forward to working with you in 2006. If you want to learn how you can become involved with SAAF, call us, (520) 628-7223.

Best wishes for a happy holiday and a peaceful New Year.

[Anne Maley is the Executive Director of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation.]

LGBT Mea Culpa

Continued from Page Four

HevesiContinued said he wanted the know the reasons behind the decision.

"I am interested to know what cost/benefit analysis you performed in order to reach the conclusion that ending advertising to that particular customer base would be a positive strategic move for the company," Hevesi wrote in his letter to the chair. He not only pointed out the importance of diversity, but the importance of being seen as unbiased. Hevesi also noted that the LGBT market is worth an estimated \$610 billion annually. Hevesi is the sole trustee of the retirement fund which controls about 9.4 million shares of Ford stock valued about \$107 million.

Ford, which this year teetered on economic disaster was concerned that its position could be weakened by shareholder dissent sources within the company said. The company officially maintains the intervention of Hevesi and other shareholder groups played no part in the final decision to maintain its LGBT ads and made no mention of the groups in its statement to Gay rights groups.

"It is my hope that this will remove any ambiguity about Ford's desire to advertise to all important audiences and put this particular issue behind us," said Ford V.P. Joe W. Laymon in the company statement.

Hevesi has been a longtime Gay supporter. Before becoming state comptroller he occupied a similar position in New York City, where he used the clout of the city pension fund shares in ExxonMobil to muster support for including sexual orientation to the ExxonMobil non-discrimination policy. While pressuring Exxon has so far been unsuccessful, the issue keeps coming up at shareholder meetings and support has been growing annually. Hevesi in 2004 used his position as state comptroller to order the NY pension plans to treat the marriages of Gay and Lesbian workers who married in Canada in the same way as heterosexual marriages. It was the first time that married Gay and Lesbian couples in New York have been recognized by a state agency. He is only one of two statewide elected officials who support same-sex marriage. The other is Attorney General Elliot Spitzer.

Christmas In Gay New Orleans

Continued from Page Three

into because the FEMA people are occupying them. Basically, we're occupied by the federal government right now. We need them to go away.

"Tell all of our people it's time to come home," Evans added. "We're ready for you."

Evans said business at Rawhide has been "steady ... pretty much normal for December, but it's all locals."

A Saturday-night pub crawl found 40 to 75 people in each of several Gay bars between 11 p.m. and midnight - numbers that some locals said were low. A Sunday afternoon visit to a popular Bourbon Street Gay bar found more than 100 patrons.

"It's very unpredictable," said Jerry Frederick, assistant manager of Good Friends Bar. "Some nights we're crazy busy when we don't think we're going to be, and then when we think we're going to be [busy], it's slow. The majority of the time, though, we are generally rather busy, so we're getting back to where we should be."

"It's a lot of locals," Frederick said. "We don't have any tourists in town yet. There's not a lot of lodging available because all the hotels are taken by FEMA and construction workers. When the tourists come back, then it's gonna pick up a lot more."

"We also have a 2 o'clock curfew," he noted. "When they lift the curfew, that's going to change things a lot, too."

Over on Bourbon Street, the main tourist strip, Bourbon Pub barback Marc Anthoni said that "the last month or so, business has been good."

"I think the Gay population in New Orleans has bounced back considerably faster than the general population," he said. "I feel we're very fortunate that the business really is here. It's kind of a 50/50 mix here - we get some relief workers, a lot of construction people who are coming in from out of state to rebuild the community and, yeah, a lot of the local faces have been gracing our humble establishment. We've been blessed."

Cafe Lafitte In Exile, which also is on Bourbon Street, "has been pretty busy," said bartender Manuel Carillo.

"We're getting a lot of out-of-towners," he said. "What we're really worried about is when the relief workers leave, are we going to have enough actual residents to keep the city going. That's the big scare. We just don't have enough people returning, so that's not a good sign."

"Tourism is real, real low because of all the relief work going on," Carillo agreed. "There's no space at the hotels."

Former city health director Lutz predicted it will be many years before New Orleans' population returns to pre-hurricane levels.

"New Orleans was said to have a population of 480,000 to 500,000 pre-Katrina," he said. "There's no way we'll get 200,000 residents in a year. We'll be lucky to have 150,000 residents in a year. I think the next three to four years are really going to be rough. I think it's going to take us 10 years to really start booming again."

Lutz suggested that the present population mix gives the city an Old West feel. "The city is running 60 to 70 percent male right now, which is very unusual for a U.S. city, and probably more characteristic of an old frontier operation like in the Wild West or in Alaska," he said.

[Donations for the Gay community center can be mailed to: LGCCNO, 2114 Decatur Street, New Orleans, LA 70116.]

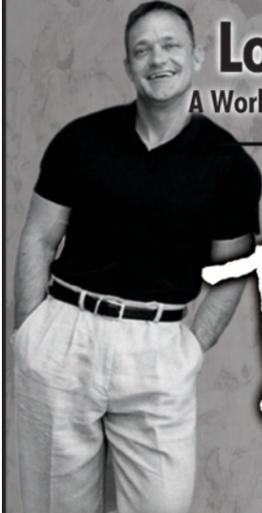
U.S. Group: 36 G/L Soldier's' Jobs Saved

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Servicemembers Legal Defense Network claims that this year it saved a record 36 military careers that were threatened because of the "don't ask, don't tell" ban on Gay and Lesbian service members, 365Gay.com reported.

The 36 service members include six whose retirement benefits, worth up to \$1 million, were threatened. In one case, SLDN attorneys helped a sailor accused of being Gay who not only faced expulsion from the U.S. Navy but jail time as well. The legal group helped the sailor get more than 15 statements from members of his chain of command, each saying they would serve with him any time and anywhere, regardless of his sexual orientation. Ultimately, the Navy agreed. He remains on duty today.

Steve Ralls, spokesman for SLDN, told the PlanetOut Network his organization's success has not come from a lack of enforcement of "don't ask, don't tell" due to wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. "In many of those cases, we had to wage a very long and hard-fought legal battle. These people are the exception and not the rule," Ralls said.

Ralls said it helped that these people had exemplary records and that Gay men and Lesbians continue to earn respect in the armed services. However, he said, the real reason SLDN was able to win these cases was because commanders would start investigations that should never have been launched.



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