



Observing Tucson And  
The Greater Arizona Community

# OBSERVER

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WEEKLY OBSERVER

FEBRUARY 22, 2006

ISSUE 1127

## EDITORIAL

Many advances in LGBT rights have been made in Tucson since the adoption of the city's anti-discrimination ordinance in 1977 but a recent event showed there is still work to be done in a town noted for tolerance and open-mindedness.

Recently, a community activist going to one of the city's local eateries for lunch, had an incident where they encountered verbal harassment and physical intimidation by one of the staff members of the restaurant.

Word of the incident quickly spread throughout the city and talk of action, such as protests and a boycott of the eatery spread.

An apology of sorts, in the form of a letter and in a discussion, came from the son of the family who owned the establishment, adding that the son said the staff was in the process of taking a sensitivity course to deal with the unfortunate situation. The person though who had made the remarks and initiated the physical threats didn't apologize nor signed the letter the son delivered.

A community forum was held at Wingspan, Monday, Feb. 20, to discuss the situation.

The individual who was assaulted was present at the meeting, stating that they don't wish to pursue it further since they have tried to get the offending party to apologize for the incident and to learn from it but to no avail and that is as far as they wished to pursue it.

No family member from the restaurant attended the forum, despite the invitation given to them. One person at the forum said that the family had received hateful letters and calls from people outraged over the incident and have since retained counsel in lieu of potential legal action.

This incident showed that Tucson's LGBT supposedly empowered community still has a lot of work to do, despite the "advancements" the LGBT community has made in the Old Pueblo.

So what should the community do, or how should it act?

Even if one doesn't agree with the decision made by the individual in this case, they should support the victim, asking questions like "What do you need from me?", "How can I help you?" or "What would you like to do next?" There is no one correct way in responding or acting, such as displaying hatred will only breed more hatred or threatening violence will propagate more violence. Change happens when approaching each other as human beings, whether you agree with, or like or dislike them. In this case, a member of our family has been hurt so honor their personal wishes but if one frequents the establishment in question, or has been in another where an incident has taken place and you've been discriminated against sometime in your life, tell your story to

the employees or staff present

Question each and every derogatory remark about LGBT people? If you hear a statement made, let the offending individual know that it isn't appropriate but speak up in ways that draw attention to positive resolutions and away from the comments in question. Denounce the comments but focus the majority on a solution - what the offending party can do differently not just what they did was bad or wrong. People change in response to requests and solutions, not shaming and finger pointing.

If you have been intimidated, threatened, harassed, call the Wingspan Anti-Violence Project, (520) 624-1779 (Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.), or in a crisis, the 24-AVP Crisis Line (520) 624-0348. If you have been physically assaulted, call the police at 911 and report it, then call the Anti-Violence Project.

Since 1977, Tucson has had an anti-discrimination ordinance on the books, protecting the rights of individuals who have been discriminated against in employment, housing and public accommodation. This ordinance covers sexual orientation and gender identity, perceived or otherwise as well, so if you've been discriminated against, file a complaint with the City of Tucson Equal Opportunity Office (EOO), (520) 791-4593, or go online to [tucsonaz.gov/eoo/](http://tucsonaz.gov/eoo/).

In order for the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs (OEOP) to have the legal jurisdiction to investigate a complaint filed under Chapter 17 of the Tucson City Code, the following guidelines must be met:

The issue must be one of discrimination. Note: A prima facie case must be established for the OEOP to begin an investigation. Prima facie is a term that means, "at first glance", and has specific criteria that must be met to determine if you can proceed with your charge of harassment, discrimination and/or retaliation.

It is necessary to show that persons of a different group than yours (race, color, religion, ancestry, sex, age, disability, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, familial status and/or marital status) have been treated in a manner different from you and that the difference in treatment has had an adverse impact to your employment, housing or in the refusal or restriction of a facility or service;

The business against whom the complaint is filed must be located within the City limits;

The complaint must be filed within 90 working days from the date of the alleged discriminatory act (180 days for housing complaints). There are specific organizations that can not be investigated under authority of this code (See Tucson City Code Section 17-13, 17-51(b) and 17-53). This document is available upon request or you may contact the OEOP for additional information on exclusions.

## 'DADT' Ban Assessed On Mental Health Angle

NEW YORK - An article in the journal Professional Psychology reports that "don't ask, don't tell" (DADT) hurts the mental health of LGBT soldiers and offers ways mental health professionals can help military personnel affected by the anti-Gay policy, reported the PlanetOut Network.

The article, "Service Delivery in a 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' World," was published as part of the American Psychological Association's Task Force on Sexual Orientation and Military Service. According to the article, LGBT soldiers are "routinely subjected, without recourse, to discrimination in employment, harassment, ostracism and even hate crimes."

The authors claim the situation "is often exacerbated in the military, where commanding officers display notable [bias] in the way sexual orientation is addressed."

Adding to the anxiety of LGBT service members is whether they will be turned in by their therapists. "It's not a requirement, but there's not a zone of privacy either," explained Steve Ralls, spokesman for Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), an organization for LGBT members of the military.

The article notes some psychologists believe they are required to turn in service members who reveal their sexual orientation, even if that information is disclosed during the course of medical treatment. The report claims for that reason LGBT service members may be reluctant to seek help and recommends mental healthcare providers ensure service members' confidentiality is respected to the extent allowed by Department of Defense regulations.

The authors also recommend mental health professionals conduct Gay-sensitive clinical assessments, understand LGBT identity development, practice affirmative rather than merely "tolerant" counseling, and help LGBT service members explore the pros and cons of continued military service.

"Military psychologists now have an important set of 'best practices' to use when treating Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual (GLB) service members," said Capt. Robert Michael Rankin, USNR (Ret.), a former Navy psychiatrist and member of the SLDN honorary board of directors. "'Don't ask, don't tell' presents unique obstacles for healthcare providers who are entrusted with the treatment of our men and women in uniform," Rankin

added. "Until the military's ban is repealed, the guidelines in today's article will be an invaluable roadmap for everyone interested in providing the best possible medical care to our troops."

The Professional Psychology article asserts the rationales for maintaining the military's ban on openly Gay personnel have not "garnered scientific support." "There is no evidence," the article says, "that combat performance is diminished or that unit cohesion declines when GLB persons serve openly."

The article states the arguments for maintaining the ban "are undermined by research showing that none of the 24 foreign militaries that allow Gays and Lesbians to serve have reported deterioration in unit cohesion."

"Today's article provides welcome guidelines for military psychologists and their patients," said C. Dixon Osburn, the SLDN executive director. "No patient should have to risk losing their career because they have sought needed medical attention. Those who sacrifice so much for our country should receive only the best in medical care, and this article goes a long way in outlining what 'the best' should be."

The Urban Institute estimates 65,000 LGBT service members are currently on duty in the U.S. armed forces.

## Elton John Wins Damage Suit

LONDON - Elton John won undisclosed libel damages and an apology from a British newspaper on Thursday (Feb. 16) over a story which said the singer had acted "in a self-important, arrogant, and rude manner" at one of his AIDS charity functions, reported Reuters on Advocate.com. At London's High Court, John's lawyer told the judge the rock star had sued over a 2005 article in the Sunday Times headlined "Rock Royals Get Too Grand" about his AIDS Foundation Summer Ball.

The story said the singer had issued a "bizarre and absurd edict to guests at his annual charity fundraising White Tie and Tiara summer ball not to address him unless spoken to." Hanna Basha said the story had caused her client considerable embarrassment and distress, particularly because he feared it would be damaging to his fund-raising efforts. She said that Times Newspapers Ltd. now accepted that the allegation was untrue and should not have been made. It has agreed to publish an apology and pay damages to John,

Continued on Page Nine

# UPDATE

## Don't Miss The 2006 Wingspan FilmFest March 10 - 12

TUCSON - The Wingspan FilmFest will be showing March 10 through 12 at the Loft Cinema in Tucson. In its 11th year, the FilmFest is Southern Arizona's showcase for great LGBT film on the big screen.

All films will be screened at the Loft Cinema, 3233 E. Speedway. Films to be shown are: 100 Percent Woman, 20 Centimeters, Both, Boy Wonder, Brian and Lazzio, Brooklyn's Bridge to Jordan, Cairo Calling, Call Me Malcolm, Coming Out at Work is Hard to Do, Damage, Dani & Alice, Don't Tell, Don't Ask, El Favor, eXposed, Gay Volleyball Saved My Life, Girl Named Kai, A, Gloriously Free, Hitch Cock, In My Shoes: Stories of Youth with LGBT Families, Inclinations, Liselda's Birthday, Mexican Refugee (Mexicano Refugiado), Mia's Journal, Mom,

Moustache, OpenCam, Original Pride: The Satyrs Motorcycle Club, Overdue Conversation, Placebo, Prom Night, Proteus Point, Queer Mexicana, Rosario Miranda, Search for Her, Standing Up, Straight Acting, Such Great Joy, The Reception, Tomboys! Feisty Girls & Spirited Women, Whatever It Takes and Who's the Top?

To purchase passes, go online to [wingspan.org/FilmFest/index.php](http://wingspan.org/FilmFest/index.php), or for more information, go to the same site or call (520) 624-1779.

## Lobby Day At State Capitol Feb. 27

PHOENIX - With the Protect Marriage Arizona amendment (PMAA) looming on the political horizon, as well as pending measures introduced, LGBT voices must not be silent during this election year.

On Monday, Feb. 27, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., at the Arizona State Capitol, 1700 W. Washington, the annual Lobby Day will take place. Coordinated and sponsored by the Arizona Human Rights Fund (AHRF), this day LGBT Arizonans need to converge on the Capitol Mall, and in the state House and Senate, and make sure our collective voices are heard loud and clear!

For more information, call Amy Kobeta at AHRF, (602) 650-0900, or go online to [ahrf.org](http://ahrf.org).

## Westenhoeffer At The Rialto March 3

TUCSON - Open Lesbian comic, Suzanne Westenhoefer, brings her wit, wisdom and laughter to the Old Pueblo when she will be appearing at the Rialto Theatre, Mar. 3, 8 p.m.

Raised in The Pennsylvania Amish country, Suzanne always loved being the center of attention, so she naturally gravitated to acting in school. After graduating from college, with a BFA, like so many aspiring actors, she moved to New York City and became a bartender. Finally, she was dared to enter a comedy contest at a popular cabaret in the West Village and won first prize. From then on, she was hooked on comedy and everyone who saw her was hooked on her. Suzanne then began doing stand-up as one of the first openly Gay comedians performing Gay comedy to straight audiences in mainstream comedy clubs. In 1991, Suzanne appeared on a groundbreaking episode of the Sally Jesse Raphael show called, "Breaking the Lesbian Stereotype...Lesbians Who Don't Look Like Lesbians". Says, Suzanne, "In the 12 years since that showed aired, I still get mail from people who tell me how that show changed their lives. It changed mine too."

Her television appearances include, The Late Show with David Letterman, Comedy Central, Evening at the Improv, Caroline's Comedy Hour and Politically Incorrect. Her HBO comedy special, the first by an openly Gay comic, was nominated for a Cable Ace award. Her live engagements include theatres, clubs, colleges, large fundraisers, and social events across the USA and Canada. Suzanne continues to perform over 100 live comedy concerts a year. She is currently touring with a new show that has no name, but she's open to suggestions. Suzanne's CD, NOTHING IN MY CLOSET BUT MY CLOTHES is a best-seller and won the GLAMA award for best comedy CD in 1999. I'M NOT CINDY BRADY, won acclaim as best comedy CD of the year from GLAMA (Gay and Lesbian American Music Award). Her third CD is titled, "Guaranteed Fresh." In-between shows and being on the road, Suzanne has acted in independent films, co-hosted fundraisers (Project Angelfood) with Eric McCormack, hosted and headlined at the Montreal Comedy Festival, and appeared on HBO's Arli\$\$\$. Suzanne was nominated for the prestigious GLAAD media award for best Los Angeles theatrical production. (A first for stand-up.)

Tickets are \$25 for the floor and \$20 for balcony seats. To order tickets, call (520) 740-1000, or go online to [rialtotheatre.com](http://rialtotheatre.com).

## Kyle Lawson To Share Story Mar. 6

TUCSON - "I know the military is ready for an openly Gay soldier." - Kyle Lawson

You may remember reading the courageous story of Gay Army Private Kyle Lawson, who was attacked by a fellow soldier once word of his sexual orientation got around Fort Huachuca, which is 75 miles southeast of Tucson. Shortly after the initial assault, another soldier, brandishing a knife, threatened Kyle. Kyle's story made national news as an example of how "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" doesn't work.

Since the story first broke, Kyle has been honorably discharged, is back in his hometown of Tucson and will be talking at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St., Monday, Mar. 6, 6:30 - 8 p.m., about his life as an out gay soldier and his new life as a civilian.

Join in to hear from Kyle first-hand about what happened, what his plans are, and how he wants to working on ridding the army of its anti-Gay policies.

## Effort To Rename Park Launched

TUCSON (ON) - An effort to rename a park after Richard Heakin, who was murdered outside a Gay bar thirty years ago this year has been launched.

On the evening of June 6, 1976, Richard Heakin, a young man from Nebraska visiting Tucson, left a Gay bar and was beaten to death by a group of teenage boys out "to hassle some queers," as one of them testified later. The judge in the case gave the three teenage boys probation for their crime and the widespread outrage from the incident, as well as the judges actions and statements, who said during sentencing that "boys will just be boys," provoked led to the passage of Tucson's anti-discrimination ordinance, making the city one of the first in the nation to have such a law on their books.

In 2002, a group of Tucsonans appealed to the LGBT community to create a permanent public tribute to Heakin and thanks to donations from the LGBT community, the Heakin Memorial Committee achieved its goal with the dedication in 2003 of a permanent tribute - a Canadian pink granite bench and pedestal dedicated to Richard Heakin. The Committee wanted a visible location and worked with park officials to install the bench in front of City Hall, 255 W. Alameda.

The park where the Memorial resides is known as Sunset Park, and To mark the thirtieth anniversary, the effort to rename the small park has started to change the name from Sunset to Heakin Park. On Tuesday, Feb. 21, the City of Tucson Commission on LGBT Issues discussed the proposed name change.

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For more information, contact Wendy Ascione 628-7223 or [wascione@saaf.org](mailto:wascione@saaf.org)



Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation



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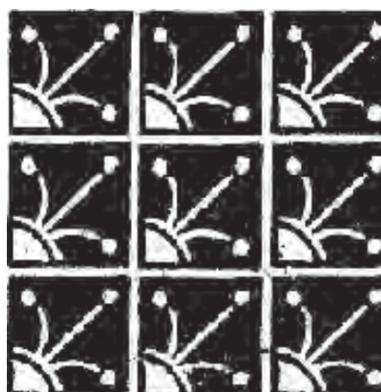
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# UPDATE

## Gay Men's Health Project Workshop February 25

TUCSON - Gay Men's Health Project is proud to announce its newest campaign in the fight against HIV. The multi-faceted approach, entitled The Naked Truth About HIV...will involve bold print media pieces, virtual interaction via the GMHP website, and a series of Community Leadership workshops.

Print media for The Naked Truth campaign centers around a group photo of individuals, in the buff, who are either infected with or affected by HIV. Each individual in the photo will also have a printed card detailing his or her story around being personally affected by HIV. These will be placed throughout Tucson at key locations frequented by Gay and Bi men. In addition, all campaign materials will be accessible online via the GMHP website at gmhp.org.

The Community Leadership workshops are short but intensive group sessions for men 18 years of age and older. The focus of these workshops is to develop participants skills to help friends and partners change their behaviors around substance use, such as the ever-increasing use of crystal meth, and sexual behaviors that put them at risk for HIV and other STD's. In addition to acquiring these valuable skills, compensation ranges from \$60 to \$180, depending on the level of participation.

For details about where you

can see the campaign displayed, or if you are interested in being part of the Community Leadership series, please call Gary at (520) 628-7223 or grhine@saaf.org to secure your place for the next available date. The next session of the Community Leadership series will be held on February 25, 10 am - 4:30 p.m., at Wingspan 425 E. 7<sup>th</sup> St.

## Naked Truth About HIV, Feb. 25

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## Pima County/Tucson Women's Commission Anniversary Luncheon March 8

TUCSON - On Mar. 8, 11:30 a.m., to 1 p.m., at the Historic Manning House, 450 W. Paseo Redondo, the Pima County/Tucson Women's Commission will be having their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Join in as they celebrate 30 years of standing up for women's rights. The keynote speaker for this special event will be Elizabeth Gonzalez-Gann, National Minority Female Entrepreneur of the Year

According to the Commission, this lunch is a fund raiser for the restart of their "Skills for Women" program, as well as the other services offered. Tickets are \$45, \$20 of the ticket price is tax-deductible. Space is limited. To purchase tickets, or for more information, (520) 624-8318.

## Where To Find The Observer

TUCSON (ON) - For those individuals who prefer to have a copy of the print edition of The Observer to enjoy, it can be picked up, free, at the following locations in the Old Pueblo:

SAAF - 375 S. Euclid, Wingspan - 425 E. 7<sup>th</sup> St., Antigone Books - 411 N. Fourth Ave., Rainbow Planet Coffeehouse - 606 N. Fourth Ave., Cornerstone Fellowship Church - 2902 N. Geronimo, MCC Water for Life Church - 3269 N. Mountain. - Caesar's Adult Bookstore, 2540 N. Oracle.

Colors Food & Spirits Restaurant - 5305 E. Speedway, Howl at the Moon - 915 W. Prince Road, Yard Dog - 2449 N. Stone, Woody's - 3710 N. Oracle, and the Venture N - 1239 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave.

The paper is also available in Phoenix at Charlie's, 727 W. Camelback and the Bunkhouse, 4428 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

The entire print edition of The Observer, and every issue of the paper going back to 1976 is available online at tucsonobserver.com.

### Informing The Community



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# IBT'S EVENT SCHEDULE



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## Catholic Church Launches Viscous Personal Campaign Against Pro-Gay Spanish Prime Minister



**José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero**

history. He forced soldiers and nobles alike to have sex with him, engaged in sadism and bestiality and reportedly raped his sisters. In the year 41, at the age of 29, after having been in power only three years and ten months, he was assassinated. "If Zapatero wants to become Caligula, it's up to him," Bishop Algora was quoted as saying in Spanish language newspapers. "But without doubt people will have to learn who Caligula was and what customs he imposed on Rome, it's as simple as that."

MADRID - A leading Catholic bishop is comparing Spanish Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero to the Roman Emperor Caligula over Spain's legalization of same-sex marriage, reported 365Gay.com. Spain became the third country in the world when it passed a marriage equalization law last year. The Church is in open warfare with Zapatero over the Gay marriage law but the attack by Bishop Antonio Algora is the most personally vicious.

In 2004, shortly after Zapatero announced he would bring in the Gay marriage legislation, he was summoned to Rome for a lecture by Pope John Paul. Nevertheless, Zapatero and his government refused to bow under the pressure. The Church organized a massive rally in Madrid shortly before the Spanish parliament voted on the marriage bill and a spokesman for the Spanish Bishops Conference, Antonio Martínez Camino, said that allowing Gay marriage was like "imposing a virus on society - something false that will have negative consequences for social life."

Caligula, who ruled Rome in the first century is considered one of the most depraved leaders in world

The attacks have continued under Pope Benedict. The Pope, speaking through Cardinal Alfonso López Trujillo, head of the Pontifical Council on the Family, said Roman Catholics should be prepared to lose their jobs rather than co-operate with the law.

## Lesbian Cop In Benefits Battle, Dies

TOMS RIVER - Lt. Laurel Hester died Saturday morning (Feb. 18) at her home only weeks after winning a long battle with Ocean County (New Jersey) freeholders over who would get her benefits. She was 49, reported 365Gay.com. Hester's longtime partner Stacie Andree was at her bedside when she died. Hester had been ill with cancer for some time. Until she became too ill to work Hester was a lieutenant with the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office. She had worked there for 23 years - more than half her life - and was a member of the New Jersey Police and Firemen's Retirement System.



**Lt. Laurel Hester**

Although the state's five other pension systems allow its members to pass pension benefits to domestic partners the NJPFRS does not. Under the state's domestic partner law local governments can transfer pension benefits. For months Ocean County freeholders refused to allow Hester to transfer her benefits - amounting to about \$13,000.

In a special meeting on January 25, they quickly voted to allow the transfer of benefits. Despite her fragile condition, and against her doctors' wishes Hester showed up at the meeting to personally thank the politicians. In a voice barely audible Hester thanked the freeholders saying it "was democracy at its best."

Knowing that she had very little time to live Hester made a final plea from her hospital room. Appearing weak, and breathing with the help of a machine, she said on a video tape that she feared partner Stacie Andree would lose the home they shared after Hester dies. Nevertheless, freeholders refused to reopen the issue. But following news coverage including television reports which showed Hester's deteriorating condition, freeholders were besieged with critical phone calls and emails.

While Ocean County politicians dithered over transferring the benefits nearly a half dozen other municipal governments in the state immediately changed local laws to permit the transfer of benefits to same-sex domestic partners and the case became a rallying point for Gays and Lesbians across New Jersey for full marriage rights. Arguments were heard at the state Supreme Court in a marriage equality case.

Fearing a backlash from voters state GOP leaders from the county held a conference call with freeholders and threatened to bring in legislation that would amend the police and fire pension fund to permit domestic partners to receive benefits. Freeholders quickly agreed to reopen

Even though Hester's death was not unexpected members of Garden State Equality, the statewide organization that helped her in her battle for civil rights, were in shock Saturday morning (Feb. 18). In a brief interview with 365Gay.com Garden State Equality Steven Goldstein choked up with tears as he recalled a valiant woman. "She was kind, caring, brilliant, charismatic and other-directed. She was a cherished friend, life partner and selfless partner in justice," he said.

**SATURDAY FEB. 25th**  
**Live Jazz on the Patio**  
 with **ARTHUR MIGLIAZZA 6-9PM**  
**Enjoy Music and Dinner.**

**SUNDAY FEB 26th PARTY**  
**Brunch 11:30AM**  
**Beer Bust 2-7PM**  
**Patio Bar Opens 2PM**  
**Burger Bar-B-Que 5PM**  
**Drag Bingo with STELLA VIRGIN**  
**and JANE STARR 8PM**  
**Karaoke with MICHAEL D. 9PM**

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# New Marriage Setback In For G/L Couples

ALBANY - A mid-level New York state appeals court ruled on Thursday (Feb. 16) that it is not unconstitutional to prevent same-sex couples from marrying, reported 365Gay.com. The court was considering an appeal by the American Civil Liberties Union of a lower court ruling that said only the legislature could decide whether Gay and Lesbian couples can wed.

The ACLU was representing 12 same-sex couples, among them New York State Assemblyman Danny O'Donnell and his partner John Banta. O'Donnell is the brother of Rosie O'Donnell.

"In our opinion, the Legislature is where the changes to marriage should be addressed, Justice John Lahtinen wrote in the 5-0 Appeals Court decision. The ruling follows a similar decision by an Appeals Court in Manhattan last December that overturned a lower court ruling that it was illegal to deny marriage to same-sex couples.

That case involved five Gay and Lesbian couples represented by Lambda Legal. It is expected that the two cases, and at least one other, will be heard by the Court of Appeals, the highest court in New York State. Both Lambda Legal and the UCLU said they look forward to arguing the case for same-sex marriage before the high court.

"Same-sex couples who make the commitment to love and support each other for the rest of their lives shouldn't be denied the same protections for their families that married couples receive from the state," said James Esseks, Litigation Director of the ACLU's national Lesbian and Gay Rights Project.

"While we're disappointed with today's decision, we look forward to our day before the Court of Appeals where this issue will finally be settled,"

## Game Sparks Rights Uproar

SAN JOSE - A Gay-rights uproar in the popular "World of Warcraft" online game has spurred the game's maker to review its treatment of Gay players, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. The game, which draws more than five million players worldwide, was hit by controversy last month after a player was threatened with expulsion from the virtual Warcraft world when she sought to recruit others into her Gay-friendly team.

Blizzard Entertainment, the game's maker, apologized to the player, Sara Andrews of Nashville, Tenn. It said the warning was a mistake and that it will make some changes to prevent a repeat, Andrews and her attorney from the Lambda Legal civil rights organization said Wednesday (Feb. 15). Blizzard repre-

Susan Sommer, the senior lawyer with Lambda Legal told 365Gay.com. "There are thousands of real-life families headed by same-sex couples in New York who have a lot at stake, and we look forward to the day when the Court of Appeals settles this question once and for all."

A group of religious leaders in the Albany area also said they look forward to the day when they can perform weddings for same-sex couples. "I will continue to pray for an end to this injustice and will reach out with care and compassion to everyone who is being denied fair treatment under the law based on fear and bias," said Reverend Steve Clunn, pastor of the First United Methodist Church in Schenectady.

"It is my hope that New York will ultimately choose the courageous message of equality and justice for all families, not just some."

New York State Pride Agenda, the state's largest LGBT rights group, called the decision disappointing but not unexpected. "We have always believed this issue would have to go to the highest court in New York, the Court of Appeals, for a decision," Pride Agenda Executive Director Alan Van Capelle said in a statement. "We will be looking to the high court to reaffirm this important principal of equal treatment by ruling in our favor."

Earlier, the Court of Appeals struck down New York City's Equal Benefits Law. The law would have required contractors that do more than \$100,000 of business each year with NYC to offer benefits to the partners of Gay and Lesbian workers equal to those the companies give heterosexually married couples.

representatives did not return phone calls for comment.

Gay-friendly teams already exist in Warcraft, but the issue here stemmed from Blizzard's enforcement of its policy banning the harassment of players based on sexual, religious or political affiliation.

According to correspondence between Andrews and game officials, the company said it does not allow such recruitment efforts on its general chat channels to help prevent harassment. Andrews said she protested because she had done similar recruitment in the past without reprimand and noted that many others associated with a political or other affiliation have done the same.

While the harassment policy is sound, trying to silence players from stating their sexual affiliation is not, contended Brian Chase, a Lambda Legal staff attorney.

"If you want to stop harassment, you should punish the harasser, not the victim," Andrews said. As part of its review, Blizzard has instituted a new chat channel specifically for recruitment and told Andrews it also plans to provide sensitivity training to the employees who monitor the online play and communications forums.

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## COMMENTARY . . .

### Reject The Protect Marriage Petition

by Vicki Gaubeca

For many same-sex couples, February is a time when they reflect on love and on justice. On Valentine's Day, as many celebrated the love and commitment they have for each other, they also took note of the continued discrimination they face. For me, there is one question that keeps coming up. When is it enough?

The question is not when is the love between two people enough so that they are finally recognized, but when is it enough for people to take a stand for what is right? Is it when, after a decade of working on politically amenable strategies, the state of Arizona still refuses to provide domestic-partner health benefits to its employees? Is it when my friend's son is turned away from a faith-based school because the board of directors does not approve of a family that is made up of two mommies?

Is it when a couple leaves the state because it won't legally recognize two mothers or two fathers as equal parents of children they raised together? Is it when a family refuses to acknowledge a relationship of 35-plus years by taking away the property the couple shared after one of them dies? Or when a government or corporation refuses to give the life partner a pension or survivor benefits? When is it enough?

These, and other indignities, happen to Arizona same-sex couples daily. They happen to couples from all walks of life, businesspeople, health-care professionals, community leaders, teachers, service-industry personnel, homemakers, people of faith, parents, couples living a quiet life, activists, seniors, middle-age people; in short, they happen to real people. And this year, these couples will have to stand up against extremists who not only want to impose their version of faith on the rest of Arizonans, but who also want to write discrimination into the Arizona Constitution.

Ironically, the mean-spirited, misnamed "Protect Marriage Arizona" initiative that these extremists hope to place on the November ballot not only will hurt same-sex couples, it also will strip away any legal recognition of unmarried couples — Gay or straight. If it passes, domestic partners of those who work for Pima County or the cities of Tucson, Phoenix, Scottsdale or Tempe will lose medical and other benefits. The Tucson Domestic Partner Registry will be voided. Unmarried couples will lose the ability to visit their loved ones in a hospital and be barred from making medical decisions.

It may even result in domestic-violence laws being overturned. In Ohio, where a similar amendment passed, a man who beat his girlfriend had a reduced sentence because the judge ruled that domestic-violence laws no longer applied to unmarried couples. And, in Utah, a protective order was challenged by a defense lawyer for a man who continued to show up at a former girlfriend's home.

What does it take to drive people into exceptional leadership and finally say enough is enough? Often it is one person who is just willing to take a stand: former Tucson Mayor George Miller, who established the Tucson GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender) Commission after the horrific hate-

crime death of Matthew Shepard, paving the way for the Tucson Domestic Partner Registry. Or University of Arizona President Peter Likins, who made it possible for the UA to offer tuition waivers to same-sex couples.

But it's also groups like Arizona Together, a coalition formed by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and straight individuals and groups who have a strong sense of social justice. Members include faith-based and civil-rights groups, as well as nonpartisan organizations like Wingspan, the Arizona Human Rights Fund, the Arizona Psychological Association and the Arizona Public Health Association. Galvanized by the proposed amendment, Arizona Together members are encouraging people to refuse to sign the petition initiative that ultimately will hurt Arizona's families. They are asking Arizonans to say "Enough."

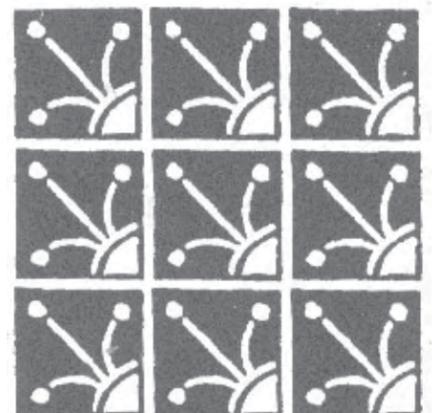
[Vicki Gaubeca is a civil-rights advocate, who also works at the University of Arizona. This is reprinted from the Feb. 16 edition of the Arizona Daily Star.]

### Doctors: Penis Enlargement Surgery No Help

LONDON - Thanks to the incessant spam, it's become the most hyped of all operations, but researchers said on Tuesday (Feb. 14) that most men who have had penis enlargement surgery are not satisfied with the results, Reuters reported on Advocate.com.

"For patients with psychological concern about the size of the penis—particularly if it is normal size—there is little point in offering them surgery because it makes no difference," said Nim Christopher, a urologist at St. Peter's Andrology Center in London. Christopher and his colleagues, who questioned 42 men who had undergone the surgery, found the dissatisfaction rate was very high. Often the men requested another surgical procedure. "The average increase in length is 1.3 centimeters [0.5 inches], which isn't very much, and the dissatisfaction rate was in excess of 70%," said Christopher. He added that spam e-mails advertising penis enlargement surgery are inaccurate and give men unrealistic expectations.

Rather than having surgery, Christopher and his colleagues, who reported the findings in the journal of European Urology, said the men should be referred for psychological counseling. "We now know that the majority of these patients are dissatisfied after these procedures. Research should be directed toward nonsurgical options," said Yoram Vardi, of the Rambam Medical Center in Haifa, Israel, in an editorial in the journal.



# Harvey Fierstein Opens 'Hairspray' In Las Vegas



Harvey Fierstein as Edna Turnblad

LAS VEGAS - When Harvey Fierstein came to Las Vegas, he knew the Mamie Eisenhower joke had to go, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. The Tony Award-winning actor wrote 15 jokes to replace it for the Las Vegas version of the musical Hairspray, the latest Broadway hit to find a home on the Strip. The show is at the Luxor hotel-casino.

In the gender-bending role of housewife Edna Turnblad, Fierstein usually deadpans: "I haven't been out of the house since Mamie Eisenhower rolled her hose and bobbed her bangs." But in Sin City, the joke became: "I haven't been out of the house since Wayne Newton's voice changed." "We thought Mamie Eisenhower might be a little obscure for the Vegas audience," Fierstein said. The Wayne Newton replacement joke won over local audiences in previews, he said. "It's the simplest and it's the most direct," he said. "We sort of let the audience choose." The joke is just one of several changes the show's creators made to the production that began on Broadway with Fierstein in August 2002 and went on

to win eight Tony Awards. The show is a stage adaptation of John Waters's 1988 cult film, set in 1962 in Baltimore, about a chubby girl who achieves her dream of dancing on, then racially integrating, a local sock-hop TV show.

The stripped-down Vegas version is a nonstop 90 minutes, compared with the two-hour, 20-minute Broadway original, which included intermissions. Luxor chief executive Felix Rappaport said he wanted a show that made people feel good. The lack of intermissions also helps prevent people from wandering off midway to play slots. "I think this particular show is an ideal show for Las Vegas. It's funny, it's lively," Rappaport said, adding that the show's creators are hooked on the shorter version. "They love this version so much they've even talked about doing it on Broadway." "We didn't want to show it was shorter, we wanted to show it was better," Las Vegas show producer Myron Martin said.

Fierstein, who had never been to Las Vegas before, and co-star Dick Latessa, who plays husband Wilbur Turnblad, will stay with the show for the first 12 weeks. Rappaport said Hairspray had been booked for at least a four-year run. Fierstein said he looks forward to sightseeing, shopping for antiques, hosting out-of-town friends and relatives, writing and commuting to Los Angeles to do a voice-over for an animated film. He's also interested in Las Vegas taking on a role as the western hub for big theatrical productions.

Mamma Mia began its run at Mandalay Bay in February 2003, while Avenue Q opened at Wynn Las Vegas in September and will close there May 28. The Phantom of the Opera is coming to the Venetian this year and Monty Python's Spamalot is headed to the Wynn next year. "I'm as curious as anyone else how this whole 'Broadway in Las Vegas' is going to work out," Fierstein said.

## Olympian Weir Dodges Gay Question

TURIN - Considered one of the rising stars on the US figure skating team Johnny Weir had a less than stellar week on the ice at the Turin Olympics, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. But Thursday night (Feb. 16) after finishing fifth in the free skate the questions from reporters were not about his skating. Instead reporters were focused on his sexuality. The queries were sparked by an interview earlier in the day in the Chicago Tribune with former US champion Rudi Galindo, who attacked Weir for "copying" his routines.



Johnny Weir

Galindo, the only out US figure skater and who is HIV-positive, slammed the media for not confronting Weir about his sexuality. "He's drinking tea with his pinkie finger in the air, and he's so over the top and feminine, why is everybody asking him about his 'style' and not just ask him if he's Gay?" Galindo told the Tribune. "It's the funniest thing to watch." Weir laughed off the media questions while refusing to be pinned down. "I think it's funny that people care," Weir reasoned to a reporter's question. "I don't have a problem with people saying anything. People could be saying, 'Oh, let's poll about Bode Miller. Let's poll about Michelle Kwan being a Lesbian, something like that.' It's not a big deal. Who I sleep with doesn't affect what I'm doing on the ice or what I'm doing in a press conference."

Weir has in the past, though,

given a few hints, without being specific. After a rocky performance at the nationals he said he'd recently been through a tumultuous personal relationship that negatively impacted on his skating. During a news conference he called himself "princess-y," and said he isn't a jock, but an athlete dressed in rhinestones and sequins. Along with the Galindo interview the Tribune asked its readers: "Do you care if Weir is Gay?" Ninety-five percent said no.

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# POLITICS 2006

by Mark R. Kerr

## Arizona Legislative Update

Friday, Feb. 17, marked a deadline for the current session of Arizona State Legislature for bills to be heard by the committees the measures were assigned to in their respective chamber.

Of the proposed positive legislation introduced: HB 2672, expanding the state hate crimes statute to include misdemeanor offenses; HM 2003, having the Arizona Legislature on record opposed to the don't ask, don't tell policy; HCM 2005 another version of HM 2003; HB 2726, enacting a statewide employment non-discrimination act; HB 2422, creating a state family leave insurance program; and, HB 2752, creating a state health plan, were not heard by the state House committees they were assigned to and are now dead in their present form.

HB 2730, which would have banned Gay/Straight student alliance groups from Arizona's schools is dead in its present form, as well as HM 2002, which would have Arizona's Legislature come out on records as opposing proposed federal hate crimes legislation, since they did not receive hearings before the Feb. 17 deadline.

All these measures though, positive and negative, can be resurrected during the session, either as a strike-everything amendment or a floor amendment.

A strike-everything amendment is where the language of another bill that has gone further in the legislative process can be removed, by permission of the bill's sponsor, and the language from another measure can be inserted. This is usually the case for many proposals since so many bills are introduced and the short time frame in which they have the opportunity to be considered by the Arizona State Legislature.

A floor amendment is offered when a bill has reached the respective chamber's Committee of the Whole (COW). The COW Committee consists of the entire body of each chamber, the sixty members in the Arizona House and the thirty that compose the Arizona Senate. These types of amendments though, must be relevant (germane) to the bill being

attached to, before being considered.

Meanwhile, two positive measures received hearings with mixed results.

SB 1417, allowing for the discussion of medically accurate information in Arizona's public schools, and included HIV/AIDS as well as other sexually transmitted diseases, was voted down, 5-3, by the Senate K-12 Education Committee.

SB 1518, ensuring that a licensed pharmacy in Arizona either fills a prescription or offers a viable alternative, so that no harm comes of the patient or the pharmacy, was approved by a 4-2 margin by the Senate Health Committee, but has been held up in the Senate Rules Committee, whose function is to ensure proposed legislation is legal and constitutional under state guidelines.

These two measures can still be brought up as well during the session either as a strike-everything amendment or floor amendment.

HB 2696, dealing with adoption in Arizona, giving preference to married couples applications and greatly restricting the ability of single people, straight, Gay and Lesbian, to adopt a child in the state's foster care system received approval, from both the House Judiciary Committee, as well as the House Rules Committee, looking like it was on the legislative fast track until Tuesday, Feb. 21, when an objection was raised on HB 2696 as it was being caucused by the House Republicans and Democrats - the next step in the legislative process.

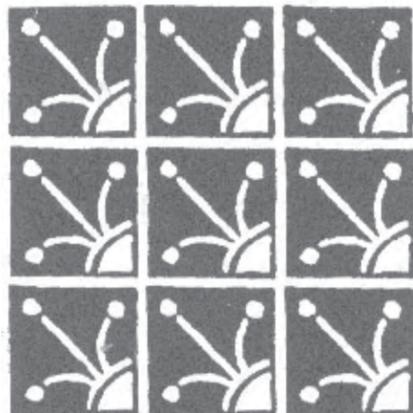
If the objective is sustained, HB 2696 will be dead in its present form, but if overruled, overturned or otherwise, HB 2696 will then proceed to the House Committee of the Whole for consideration.

## Elton John Wins Damage Suit

Continued from Page One

which he will donate to his AIDS Foundation. The publishers will also pay his legal costs.

"As soon as the defendant found out the story was untrue—it had been picked up from another newspaper—it immediately apologized to Sir Elton, and it is happy to repeat that apology here today," Times Newspapers' lawyer Alastair Brett said. The singer set up the Elton John AIDS Foundation in 1992. The White Tie and Tiara Ball has raised at least \$5.2 million a year for it.



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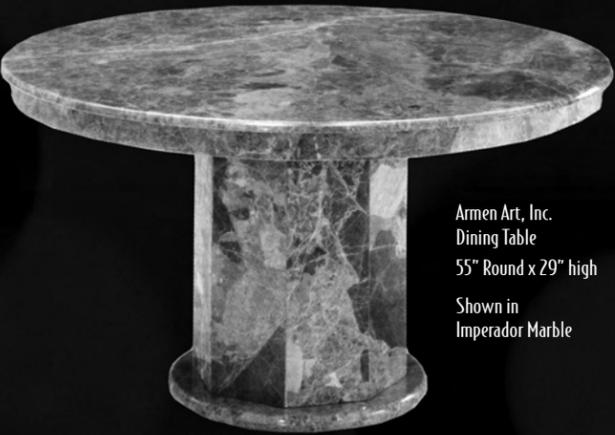
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The Senate has been very energized and exciting these last few weeks! As this Senator has worked double time to catch up on the bills and the procedure at the legislature, I have met with numerous representatives of various constituencies every day and I'm already "up to speed." My greatest work so far as a Senator lies within the Appropriations Committee and Commerce Committee.

In Appropriations we hear the budget requests of every government agency or department that is State funded. Then, we go back and huddle with the constituents of those agencies trying to figure out ways to lobby the Republican majority members on the Appropriations Committee to win the vote for the special programs within that specific department's budget request. While that may not sound interesting, the work is crucial to those agencies like DES and AHCCCS that are helping the less fortunate. At the same time, I am trying to promote the Dept. of Environmental Quality, which is responsible for maintaining clean air and water in our environment as well as monitoring the hazardous wastes that come to the US from Mexico via the American companies across the border. I'm also very interested in maintaining the budget for the WEIGHTS & MEASURES Committee: a "minor" committee that is responsible for overseeing the weight of every product that consumers purchase: like making sure that when you purchase one gallon of gas or milk or a pound of cheese, that you aren't being cheated by the business owner. Small but important. Of course, I'm actively soliciting funds for our U of A.

expertise: neighborhood issues, small business interests, real estate and property development, environment, women and children's issues and GLBT concerns. The Senators are learning my deep commitment to the well-being of our community as well as my commitment to forwarding our economic interests. I support the Governor's program, Innovation Arizona, that partners business and the University of Arizona and builds and solicits advanced technological companies' investment in Southern Arizona.

All in all, this last 6 weeks has been a fantastic experience AND I'm already in there sparring and soliciting and lobbying on behalf of the interests of our Tucson community, Gay and Straight, business and neighborhood, owners and workers interests...and always for Peace, for women, for children and for those less fortunate.

I am keenly aware that the work of a Legislator can be successful if she/he partners with her community members to all lobby and work together for the good of one's community. I encourage each person to connect with your legislator or with me, or with your favorite activist organization to lobby the legislators who don't support your issues and to support those friendly legislators who are battling the conservative forces at the State House on our behalf.

I welcome any help in this "team" approach to the legislature. It's not enough to send us up there, you help yourself and our community by staying involved. I can always be contacted at [paboud@azleg.gov](mailto:paboud@azleg.gov), or by calling (800) 352-8404, ext. 6-5262. Thanks!

State Senator Paula Aboud  
D-LD 28 (Tucson)

I'm basically building relationships with the Democrat & Republican Senators to trust my judgment on issues that relate to my areas of

## What Does LGBT Friendly Mean?

NEW YORK - A friend of mine who has always been what I call sorta out at work - meaning he's only out to selected colleagues - recently started to look for a new job, Kirk Snyder of [gfn.com](http://gfn.com) reports. This time he assured me he only wanted to work for a Gay-friendly employer, but wasn't exactly clear on what that meant.

Did it mean the company had written policies that protect GLBT workers from discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity? Was it about domestic partner benefits? Did it mean he could bring a partner or same-sex date to company functions without creating national headlines? His question about what exactly defines "Gay-friendly" in the context of one's workplace is a good one. While all of the aforementioned attributes are part of the Gay-friendly equation, what it boils down to is whether or not you are going to succeed based solely on your professional merits out of the closet. In terms of workplace equality, Gay-friendly employers ideally offer a true meritocracy. It's not about what school you graduated from, who you know, or how feminine or masculine the world perceives your behavior. It's simply about how well you can perform your job, and what you offer as a professional when you are free to come to work as yourself.

Looking at it from this point-of-view, consider that inclusive policies and benefits are the by-products of a Gay-friendly employer. Are all companies that include sexual orientation or gender identity in their equal opportunity statements going to provide you

with the chance to rise or fall based just on your professional merits? Of course not, but it does provide a solid starting point.

My advice to my friend, who I commend for making the decision to work for an employer where he no longer feels the need to whisper about his own identity, is to start with those by-products. Without them, chances are you are not going to be given the opportunity to succeed as yourself. The next thing to do is determine the actual level of the company's inclusiveness by looking at its top-level management. Do you see yourself represented? If not, it may be one of those companies that say all the right things but do all the wrong things. With a little bit of detective work, you can usually make this distinction. For example, if there is a GLBT employee group, start to network with its members and find out about the company's internal reality. Other things to look for: Does the company support inclusive charities? Are top-level managers attending diversity-focused events reaching out to the GLBT community? Even just an hour or two of Internet research will turn up illuminating insights.

The next time you think about the definition of Gay-friendly employers, think of who you are as a human being. Because that's where the true meaning of Gay-friendly begins and ends. When your sexual orientation is a non-issue in the eyes of your employer, and the only thing that your success depends upon is your own abilities and initiative, then it's Gay-friendly. It's what we all deserve.

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## Willie Nelson's Valentine To Gay Cowboys Debuts



**Willie Nelson**

NEW YORK - Willie Nelson's rendition of the song "Cowboys Are Frequently, Secretly (Fond of Each Other)," written by Texas-born musician Ned Sublette in 1981, debuted on Howard Stern's Sirius Satellite Radio morning program, coinciding with the track's exclusive Valentine's Day release on iTunes.

Nelson recorded the song last year during an iTunes Originals session at his Texas studio. According to a statement from Lost Highway Records, which timed the release to capitalize on Brokeback Mountain's Oscar buzz, a video by the Broken Lizard Comedy Troupe (Super Troopers, Club Dread) is also in the works.

Another Willie Nelson cover, "He Was a Friend of Mine," appears on the Brokeback Mountain soundtrack. Fans of the queer punk band Pansy Division may remember "Cowboys Are Frequently, Secretly" as a track on their 1995 album Pileup.

### Ottawa LGBT Community Asks City For 'Rainbow Village'

OTTAWA - Members of Ottawa's LGBT community are pushing the city to recognize what they refer to as the "Gaybourhood," a section of Bank Street home to a number of stores catering to the Gay and Lesbian community, reported CBC news. "This is our home and space and we want it to feel like that," said Gareth Kirkby, associate publisher of Ottawa's Gay and Lesbian newspaper Capital Xtra. "We want it to be a celebratory thing."

The neighborhood runs from Laurier Street to the Queensway. The City of Ottawa are holding public consultations to discuss whether to recognize the area. Some want the "Gaybourhood" to be decked out in rainbow flags, in a similar style to the signs and flags lining the streets of Little Italy and Chinatown.

Kirkby says no one is suggesting an exclusively Gay area, but he's heard a lot of support for branding the area "Rainbow Village." Some retailers in the area are supportive of the idea because Gay and Lesbian tourism is seen as a growth industry. "I think certainly Rainbow Village would not be detrimental to the region," said Peter Waiser, who works at Henry's

Camera on Bank Street near the corner of Somerset Street. "There are a lot of people that are interested in that lifestyle living in the neighborhood, and there is no reason why they should not have a neighborhood of their own."

However, a few business owners privately worry that some customers will object to the theme. Most pedestrians declined to speak to CBC about the issue, but some said they think it's going too far. "If you want to have a Gay business have a Gay business, but if they want to turn it into a mini Gay city I think that is a little much," one pedestrian told CBC. But supporters insist an Ottawa "Gaybourhood" is long overdue, especially since the city is home to the third largest Gay community in Canada.

### ESPN Slams Writer For Anti-Gay Column

BRISTOL - ESPN's new ombudsman scolded basketball analyst Jay Bilas for a Brokeback Mountain reference one viewer found offensive. He said Kenny Mayne should have turned down Dancing With the Stars, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. He wrote that it "boggles the mind" that the network would make reality shows with Barry Bonds and Bobby Knight.

And that was in the course of only one column. It shows the wide

scope of retired newspaper editor George Solomon's job, holding a magnifying glass to ethical concerns at a network that has become an omnipresent empire for sports fans. In six months of sober, plainspoken columns that are posted on ESPN's website, Solomon has also taken on the network's infatuation with rebellious football receiver Terrell Owens, its fabricated news conferences with an actor portraying baseball executives and ESPN's reluctance to cover stories that involved their own employees.

Solomon, who retired in 2003 after 28 years as sports editor of the



**Jay Bilas**

Washington Post (he still writes a weekly column for the Post), was appointed ESPN's first ombudsman last spring. The decision to install a watchdog wasn't in response to anything specific, said Vince Doria, ESPN news director and senior vice-president. The general climate of

scandals involving the news media was the key factor, he said.

"The response has been unbelievable," Solomon said. "It shows the depth and breadth of their audience. They have a humongous audience and many of them are concerned with what they do and the complexities of what they do. I'd say I hear from about 1,000 people a month." As Solomon expected, his phone calls aren't the most welcome things for ESPN employees. Bilas objected to criticism of his comment that struggling Kentucky basketball players needed to see Brokeback Mountain and have a good cry. A viewer thought it tasteless to equate homosexuality with a lack of toughness. Bilas said he was only making reference to a tear-jerker film; Solomon wrote that Bilas meant no malice, but didn't really understand what he was talking about.

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## GOP Pressures Churches For Membership Lists

RALEIGH - Some church leaders in North Carolina have asked their members to ignore a request made by the state Republican Party for copies of church directories that the GOP wants to use in voter registration efforts, reported 365Gay.com.

A spokesman for the Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, which covers 46 counties, said the group does not share parishioners' contact information with anyone. "If a pastor were to seek some guidance from the diocese chancery - the diocese's offices - we would remind him of this general policy that prohibits the sharing of personal information," said David Hains, the communications director for the diocese. That message would apply to parishioners as well, he said.

The request, sent statewide by e-mail Thursday (Feb. 16), said that research by the national Republican Party shows "people who regularly attend church usually vote Republican when they vote." A GOP sponsored bill to amend the state constitution to ban same-sex marriage died last year in the legislature. Republicans are trying to resurrect the measure despite a state law that already bars Gays from marrying. Chris Mears, the political director for the state GOP who sent the request seeking directories from church members, referred questions to Bill Peaslee, the party's chief of staff.

"In doing voter registration, you always go to where your base is," Peaslee said. The request says the directories would be used for "voter registration, education and GOTV (get out the vote) purposes only." National religious leaders criticized a similar Republican effort during the 2004 presidential election. The state party gets an occasional complaint about the request, which it has made in the past, Peaslee said. "The Republican Party believes that people shouldn't leave their moral and spiritual beliefs at the door of the polling place," Peaslee said. "We're just appealing to one of our constituencies, just as the Democrat Party does. ... The Democrats may feel it's more profitable to go and do voter registration drives at a homosexual convention. We feel more comfortable going to churches."

State Democratic Party Chairman Jerry Meek said that party doesn't seek membership lists. "We believe that people go to church to worship and not to sign up to receive Republican propaganda," Meek said. "I would say the vast majority of Democrats are Democrats because of

their faith, not in spite of it. But that is a place that is so sacred that we should not inject politics into the church."

The Rev. Ken Massey of First Baptist Church in Greensboro said he believes the perception that more churchgoers vote Republican is correct so he doesn't fault the GOP for making the effort. But he said he would discourage members from complying with such a request from any outside group. "We wouldn't want our friends to be selling their personal directories to someone who is selling something. That would be an abuse of our friendship. I would think the same thing about giving it to a political party," he said.

## G/L Students Find More Scholarships Available

NEW YORK - Coming out of the closet may open the door to college for some students as scholarship money for Gays and Lesbians becomes more available. Donations to scholarships based on sexual orientation have grown in Indiana and nationwide as young people acknowledge their homosexuality at an earlier age than previous generations, The Indianapolis Star and the Associated Press reported on Advocate.com.

"More students are out in college than ever before, so the need is more visible," said Brett Genny Beemyn, an Ohio State University instructor who heads a national group of campus directors of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender services.

Corporations, individuals, foundations, and charities have met the need with donations. In Indiana, at least three scholarship programs are available for Gay students. Brett Janecek, a University of Notre Dame sophomore from Billings, Mont., received a full scholarship through the Point Foundation of Chicago. He estimated the scholarship would save him more than \$40,000 this school year. "All I've heard from my parents is that being Gay is not going to help you in anything," said Janecek, a former high school football player and student body president who came out as Gay during his freshman year at Notre Dame. But, he added, "these people absolutely understand and embrace you for your sexuality."

The Point Foundation was formed four years ago to fight discrimination against Gay, Lesbian,

Continued on Page Seventeen

## Gene Robinson Goes Into Rehab

CONCORD - In an e-mail written from a treatment center, the Episcopal Church's first openly Gay bishop, V. Gene Robinson, said he is receiving treatment for alcoholism, reported the Associated Press on Advocate.com. For years, Robinson said in the e-mail sent to clergy, he considered it "a failure of will or discipline on my part, rather than a disease over which my particular body simply has no control, except to stop drinking altogether."

The news, made public Tuesday (Feb. 14), caught many Episcopalians by surprise. Robinson, 58, said he checked into the undisclosed center February 1 with the support of his partner, daughters, and colleagues. "I never saw it in any way impact his ministry in the diocese," said Robinson's assistant, the Reverend Tim Rich.

Robinson was his predecessor's top assistant for years and was elected to replace him when he retired in 2003 by clergy and lay people in the diocese. He was confirmed by the national church, causing an upheaval not only in the Episcopal Church but the worldwide Anglican Communion of which it is part.

David Virtue of West Chester, Pa., who opposed Robinson's election and runs an online news service he describes as a global voice for orthodox Anglicans, said Robinson should have revealed his problem earlier. "Why now? Why didn't we know this [then]?" he said. "What happened to the discernment process?" Other critics, though, reacted differently. "I'm glad he's getting help. None of us are perfect," said Lisa Ball, who opposed Robinson's selection and was part of a group in Rochester, N.H., that broke away from the diocese and started a new church.

The Reverend David Jones, who co-chaired the bishop search committee, said thorough background checks were performed on all the candidates for bishop, including criminal checks and interviews with former employers and others. Finalists also were asked if there was anything in their past that would embarrass them or the diocese if it came to light, and Robinson did not say he was an alcoholic, Jones said. "For all I know, at that point he didn't have a problem," Jones said.

Several Episcopalians said Robinson is demonstrating his integrity by going public with his problem. "It takes a lot of guts," said David Moberg, who serves on the diocesan governing board known as the stand-



Rev. Gene Robinson

ing committee. "He probably could have hidden it, but this is the kind of person he is. He's open." Rich said Robinson's growing awareness of his problem, rather than a crisis, led to his decision. Rich said Robinson told him his treatment at an undisclosed location is going well. "This is hard, hard work, but he's in good spirits," Rich said.

The Episcopal Church, based in New York, lets dioceses handle such matters and referred calls about Robinson to New Hampshire. Between diocesan conventions, the elected standing committee, which includes both priests and lay leaders, usually decides administrative questions, including handling a bishop's absence. The diocese's standing committee issued a statement supporting Robinson. "We commend him for his courageous example to us all, as we pray daily for him and for his ministry among us," the committee said.



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# NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

## Fear Triumphs

by Lee Thorn

I always knew that freedom of the press was fragile, but I never figured that a small group of foreigners could shut the American media down from coast to coast. I'm thinking about newspapers and TV networks all across our great land refusing to run some Danish cartoons that are causing a ruckus in the Middle East.

Why the self-censorship? I'll quote a typical rationalization, one of many that I've heard and read which are almost identical, not only in content but in their high-minded tone: "To knowingly publish something that is inflammatory and has incited violence elsewhere would be irresponsible. There is no courage in doing so merely because a free press affords us the opportunity."

Let's compare this garden-variety cop-out with the actual facts. It says that the cartoons were "inflammatory and...incited violence." That's not strictly the case. The cartoons were originally published in Denmark way back in September. If we can believe CNN, they didn't incite anything at that time. What happened was that they allegedly offended some religious leaders who asked the Danish government for a chat about them. If I may digress for just a moment to offer some advice to the Danes, government officials never lose anything by chatting with disgruntled residents of their country. You may even reduce the disgruntlement by letting the disgruntled get something off their chests, even if you don't ultimately agree with them.

Anyway, the Danes didn't deign to chat and the disgruntled guys decided to go home to the Middle East and see if they could use the cartoons to stir up some trouble. So let's not blame the violence on cartoons that didn't cause a ripple in September; let's blame the violence on a few disgruntled guys who went out of their way to stir up some violence. And let's remember that one needn't be a rocket scientist to stir up some violence in the Middle East. But how do you get from a few guys stirring up violence in the Middle East to the capitulation of the mass media of the United States of America? The answer is FEAR. On the same CNN program which was refusing to show the Danish cartoons and offering high-minded rationalizations for not showing them, cartoons specifically designed to offend Jews were shown. Why would CNN show deliberately offensive cartoons that ridicule the Jewish faith while withholding cartoons that ridicule another faith? Perhaps it's because Jews don't believe that your ridiculing their faith gives them the right to kill you.

The press has a problem here: How do you deal with people who are willing to use violence to shut you up? The initial reaction of the American media, that of rolling over and playing dead while offering up some lofty rhetoric, will be unavailing in the long run. It's the same old story of the playground bully who wants your lunch money. Give in to that demand and he'll come up with new ones. Why shouldn't he? Consider the possibilities for escalation. If the press rolls over for a handful of guys stirring up trouble far away, what would they do about a serious organized force threatening to slap them around on their own doorstep? Are we on our way toward the concept of a panel of holy men who would review the content of American media and certify it inoffensive before it could be published or broadcast?

The threat is real. As we've seen, violence can easily be generated and can easily be directed in almost any direction. And the press is vulnerable. Reporters can be killed and kidnapped. The physical property of the press can easily be targeted. There's a very real problem of maintaining freedom of the press against a violent adversary. Lots of people are going to have to devote much thought to solving this problem in the immediate future. In the case of the Danish cartoons, the danger of violence might have been minimized if the major American newspapers and television networks had all agreed in advance to publish and broadcast exactly the same material at exactly the same time. I call this strategy "the wildebeest defense." The wildebeest is no match for the lion, but when gigantic herds of wildebeest are all migrating at the same time the lions can only kill a very small percentage of them. If the media all were committing the same offense to the same degree at the same time, no one outlet would stand out as a particularly appropriate target.

This issue promises to be around for awhile. The media having collapsed like a wet kleenex at the first sign of trouble have undoubtedly bolstered their opponents' confidence in the efficacy of violence. We've learned one thing already: high-minded rhetoric can be generated even while you're wetting your pants.

[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.]

## More Awards For Brokeback Mountain

LONDON - Brokeback Mountain took four awards including best picture Sunday (Feb. 19) at the British Academy Film Awards, a result that boosts its hopes for the Oscars, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. The film beat a strong best-picture shortlist that included literary biopic Capote, L.A. story Crash, 1950s drama Good Night, and Good Luck and British favourite The Constant Gardener.

Ang Lee was named best director for Brokeback, which is up for eight Academy Awards on March 5. Jake Gyllenhaal won the best supporting actor prize for playing Jack Twist, one of two cowpokes who fall in love over the course of a Wyoming summer.

Gyllenhaal said onstage that the movie, whose commercial success is unprecedented for a Gay-themed film, "means even more to me socially than it does artistically." "I've had a lot of people say to me after the film, to my surprise, 'Thank you for making it,'" Gyllenhaal told reporters backstage. "It's made a social impression, and that social impression to me is the aftermath of an artistic impression, and so much more important."

Lee thanked the British people for their support. "I don't know what makes me so connect to you," he said. "I'm pretty sure it's not the food." Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana, who adapted Annie Proulx's short story, won the adapted screenplay prize. Gyllenhaal's co-star Heath Ledger was beaten to the best-actor prize by Philip Seymour Hoffman for his depiction of troubled writer Truman Capote in Capote.



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Reese Witherspoon was named best actress for playing June Carter Cash, wife and muse of country great Johnny Cash, in Walk the Line. Thandie Newton took the best supporting actress award for Crash, an edgy depiction of racial divisions in modern-day Los Angeles. The film, which had nine nominations, also won the prize for best original screenplay.



# Non Bar Calendar

## Wednesday, February 22

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed: 7:00 p.m. Join Merlin and Lee 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 Lee & Merlin at 207-5336.

## Thursday, February 23

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, February 24

Tucson Prime Timers , Lunch - 1:00 pm, The Lotus Garden, Speedway & Sonoita (NW corner)

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

## Saturday, February 25

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.

## Monday, February 27

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

## Tuesday, February 28

#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. Perry 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 Perry at 321-4387.

## Friday, March 3

Comedienne Suzanne Westenhofer appearing at the Rialto Theatre, 318 E. Congress downtown Tucson. Suzanne, described as "A center stage Diva who bursts out of her closet with little explosions of outspoken bemusement that could make even Bette Midler blush," according to the New York Daily News. Tickets to this Rondoz Production are \$25 floor, \$20 balcony. Call (520)740-1000. Don't miss this hilarious evening of comedy.

## Friday, Saturday, Sunday, March 10-11-12

Wingspan Film Festival. Check out their ad on page twenty of this issue of Observer.



## Court Delays Out-Of-State G/L Marriage Ruling

BOSTON - It could be weeks, possibly months, before same-sex couples from outside Massachusetts learn if they will be allowed to marry, reported 365Gay.com.

The state's highest court announced that it will not meet its 130-day self-imposed deadline for ruling in a challenge to a 1913 law that prevents clerks from issuing marriage licenses to people from states where that marriage would be illegal.

The law was written when most states did not recognize interracial marriage. After the US Supreme Court ruled that laws barring interracial couples from marrying was illegal the Massachusetts statute fell into disuse. After the Supreme Judicial Court ruled in 2003 that it was unconstitutional for the state to deny same-sex couples the right to marry Gov. Mitt Romney began using the old law to deny marriage licenses to couples from outside the Commonwealth. Eight Gay couples from Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine and New York went to court to fight the ban.

In 2004 a Superior Court judge upheld the 1913 law. In her ruling, Judge Carol Ball said she was "troubled" by the state's decision to suddenly begin enforcing the law after Gay marriage became legal in Massachusetts. But she said the law was being equally applied and was not discriminatory because the state has a reason to ensure that marriages approved in Massachusetts are valid in other states.

The couples, represented by Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders - the same group that won the original marriage ruling, appealed. Arguments were heard last October. "The state is doing exactly what [the marriage ruling] said it can not do," GLAD attorney Michele Granda told the court. "The state is denying marriage to these same-sex couples simply because they are same-sex couples," said Granda

Assistant Attorney General Peter Sacks, arguing for the state denied that the law is being used solely to target same-sex couples. Sacks also told the court that Massachusetts must respect the laws of other states, many of which have passed constitutional amendments defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

States across the country are closely watching the case. If the Supreme Judicial Court strikes down the law, same-sex couples nationwide could come to Massachusetts to wed and demand marriage rights in their home states, prompting legal battles that could wind up in the US Supreme Court.

Both GLAD and the Attorney General's office warned not to read anything into the delay. The court also went past the deadline in its 4-3 ruling that legalized Gay marriage in 2003, taking about 120 extra days to decide the case.

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# HOROSCOPES

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The Sun ambles into Pisces this week and eventually squares Pluto. Expect your best laid plans to be tossed directly into the blender. There is a time for plunging ahead, damn the torpedoes, and there is a time to throw ones arms up and surrender to the wilde and wooly forces. Choose the latter, friends.

**ARIES (MAR. 21 - APR. 20)**  
Planning an escape may not be the escape you planned as Sun in Pisces squares Pluto. Daydreams of blissful afternoons by the pool and naked minions feeding you peeled grapes can warm your cockles. But the way things may evolve, you could very well be cast as "peeler" rather than "peelee." Be sure to pack a tweezer, proud Ram. Hey, whatever turns you on...

**TAURUS (APR. 21 - MAY 21)**  
Friends cast a disapproving eye on your latest heart throb. They see you falling for a nightmare instead of a dream. Chalk it up to Sun in Pisces rubadub Pluto. Somewhere between your experiences and their perceptions is the real story. No one is totally wrong. You realize that as you sample your bag of assorted sweets. Are they sour balls, gummie bears or life savers?

**GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)**  
Relationships chaff against your career plans. But don't ignore one to the detriment of the other. Pink Twins don't feel entirely confident unless their public and private lives are fully integrated and in harmony. If you're on the prowl, you may be drawn to especially needy souls now. Decide just how much you are prepared to give, give, give as the sweaty masses take, take, take.

**CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)**  
The big picture can get lost among all the details this week. Gay Crabs may become so overburdened with diversionary tripe at work that they can't seem to crawl out of the hole. Sun in Pisces squares Pluto may pile it high but you do have options. Take a breather, wait until the dust settles and so will you. A little procrastination can work wonders! Do I smell a vacation?

**LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)**  
Proud Lions are tempted to throw their hearts to the wind and see who scrapes it off the sidewalk when Sun in Pisces pinches Pluto. The toad you kiss could transform into... a larger toad so dispense your puckerings with discretion. You are tempted into extreme behavior and that makes it difficult to ascertain when enough is too much. Hmm, better enjoy it while you can.

**VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)**  
As much as queer Virgins may want to find compromise in certain difficult relationships, remain practical and self possessed. Sun in Pisces makes you overly naive and Pluto tempts you to bring issues to a head. Don't risk probing into heavy issues now. Smile kindly, say nothing and wait until the landscape changes. You can still probe without saying a word.

**LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)**  
Gay Libras are known for their diplomacy. But this week, when Sun in Pisces squares Pluto, all verbal hell can break loose especially at work. You suddenly possess that rare talent of saying the exact wrong thing at the exact wrong time. Oops. My advice; keep your thoughts to yourself. As painful as that may be it's can be more painful to collect unemployment... I think.

**SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)**  
Fun has a way of costing far more than expected now. You splurge on anything and anyone. Where did you hide your priorities this week? Proud Scorps are not usually frivolous souls but now you have the wind in your sails and you and your dough are flying high. Avoid a crash landing by checking the bottom line before takeoff or at least packing a pillow for the landing.

**SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)**  
Will you pick at your hornets nest of domestic issues? While it is tempting to throw caution to the wind and let the chips fall where they may, it is the subtle approach that succeeds. Sun in Pisces offers optimism and oomph to turn over a new leaf in family affairs or create a more relaxing home environment. Will you decorate, renovate or detonate, Gay Archer?

**CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)**  
Pink Caps express themselves when the Sun enters Pisces. But if you expect to shine a karmic beacon into every dark dismal corner, expect blinding neon as Pluto gets into the act. Chill out, pink Cap. Quietly meditate and relax through yoga and stress management techniques. Contemplate your navel (or someone elses...) and save your proud pronouncements until next week.

**AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)**  
Be generous with pals as Sun glides into Pisces. Money flows more easily and your fiscal confidence grows. But don't spend it all in one place, Aqueerius. This flight of fancy comes with a First Class airfare. Social affairs can blow your wad and leave you hitching for the next ride. Enjoy your spark in the dark, but expect the fireworks to ignite even without your costly match.

**PISCES (FEB. 20 - MAR. 20)**  
Sun in your own signs draws everyone's attention to you. Pick the spinach out of your teeth and upgrade your wardrobe. Pluto sez you are about to bite off more than you can professionally chew. The irksome tasks that you willingly accept now will not help your corporate ascent. In fact, they could weigh you down while the rest of the pack ambles ahead. My advice: Delegate!

**WHAT'S BLACK & WHITE & READ ALL OVER?**




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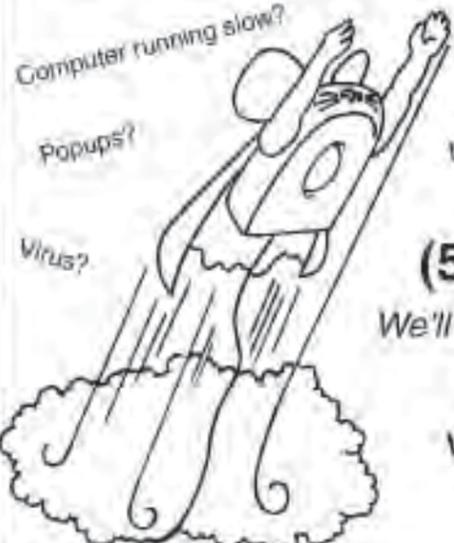
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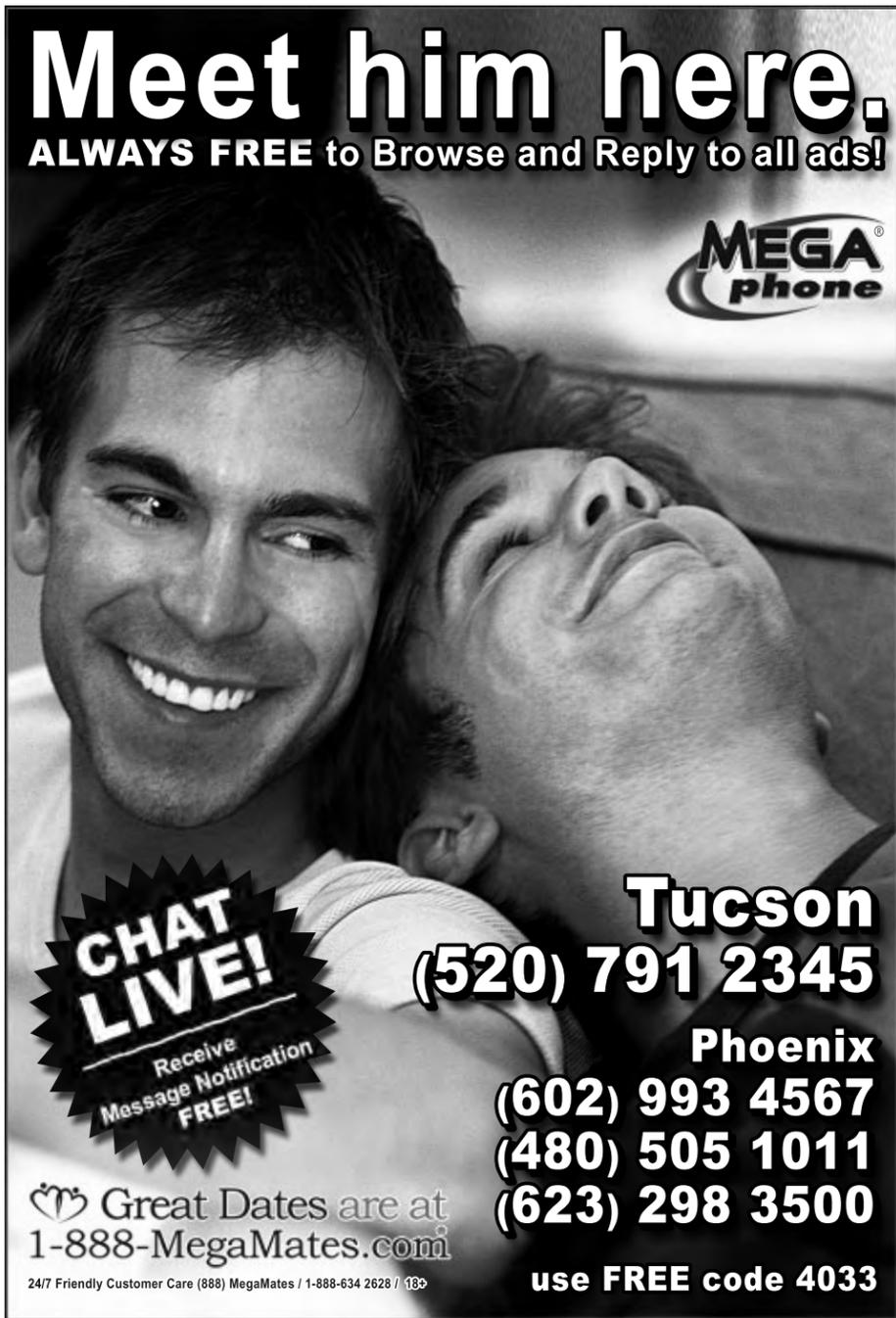
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**Continued from Page Twelve**

and Transgender students. The group started with \$150,000 and now has a \$3 million budget for scholarships and student services. TimeWarner, CitiGroup, Abercrombie & Fitch, and other companies have become donors. Foundation director Vance Lancaster said he expects about 5,000 applications this year. That's more than twice as many as last year. "We're trying to grow really quickly because there's such a demand out there," Lancaster said. "A lot of our donors say, 'I wish there were something like this when I was growing up.'"

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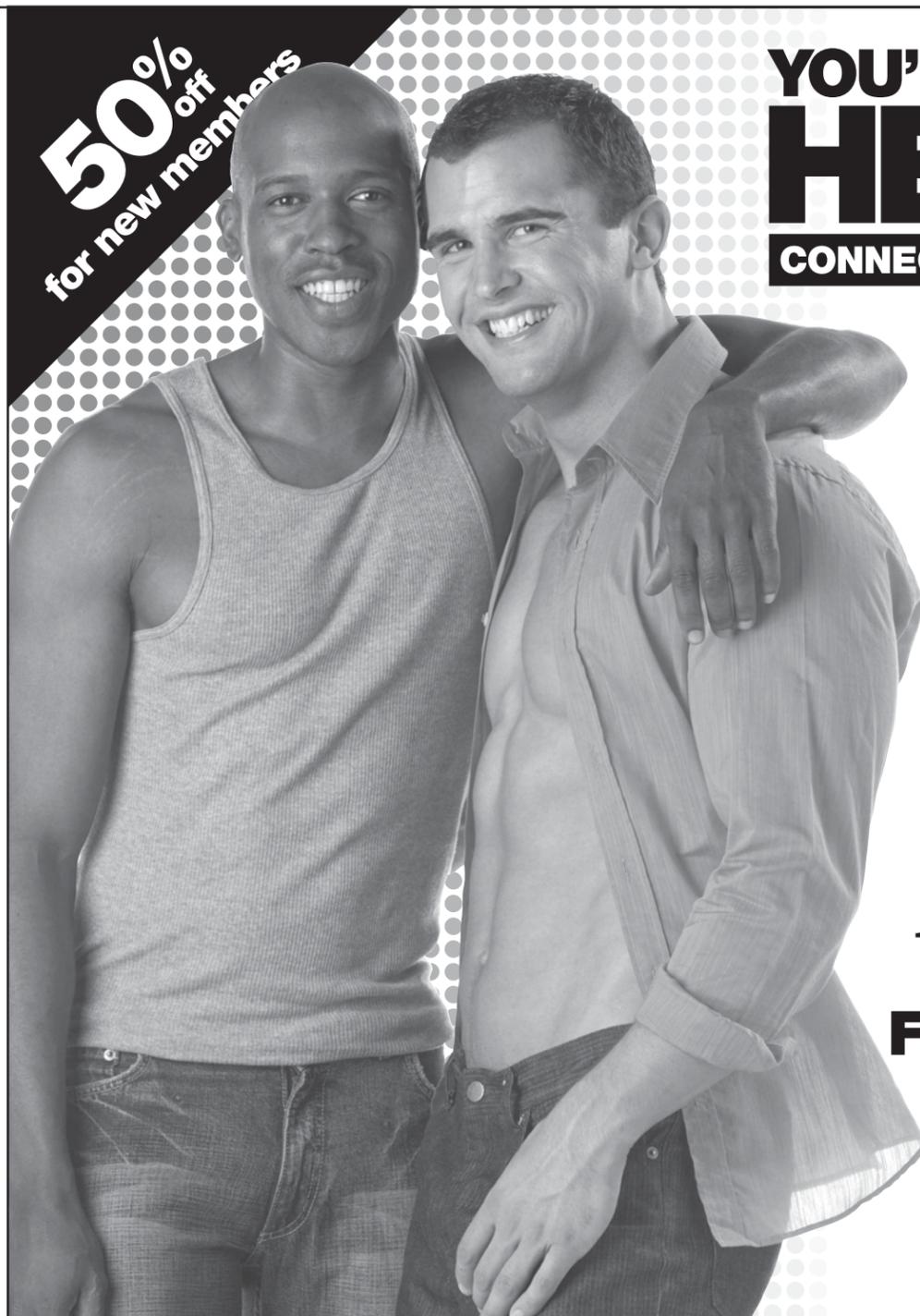
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# DAILY BAR CALENDAR

## 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. \$2 Smirnoff Sundays. 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 & Beefeaters 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 \$3 Skyy cocktails, \$2.25 Domestic and half-price appetizers. 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of month "Dinner & Movie" sponsored by GMHP. All other Tuesdays "Dinner and a Concert" shown on 52" projection system. Full menus 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. Karaoke with Debbie from 8 - midnight

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

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

**WOODY'S** - Open 10am w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm. 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 6am. 50¢ off any Tequila until 7pm Beer Bust 3-7pm.

## 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. Women-only Texas Hold-Em Poker at 6:30 p.m. Play for prizes and points.

**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, \$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. \$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 Tournery 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, \$3 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, \$3 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.

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## Informing The Community



# BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

**HOWL AT THE MOON** - Singles Mingle - DJ starts at 9:0 p.m. Happy Hour all day and night. \$1.00 Hot Sex and Pucker Shots. \$2.00 slippery Nipples.

**WOODY'S** - Live Jazz with Arthur Migliazza on the patio from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Enjoy the music and dinner.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

**WOODY'S** - Party begins at 11:30 a.m. with Brunch then from 2 to 7 p.m. a Beer Bust. The patio opens at 2 p.m. with a Burger BBQ at 5 p.m. The Drag Bingo with Stella Virgin and Janee Starr at 8:00 p.m. and Karaoke with Michael D. at 9 p.m.

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27

**YARD DOG** - It's the return of Monday Night Movies at 7:30 p.m. - Hot Dogs and Popcorn.

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

**IBT's** - It's Mardi Gras Masquerade - the hottest 'Fat Tuesday' party in Tucson!!! Mardi Gras Mask Contest; Beads, Party Favors and Prizes plus Drink Specials and Hot Boys!!!

**VENTURE-N** - Fat Tuesday Party with beads and bangles. 9:00 p.m. to closing.

**WOODY'S** - "Tucson's biggest Mardi Gras Party". Tons of beads, masks and party favors. Don't miss your chance to sin!

**YARD DOG** - "Mardi Gras Party"

## FRIDAY, MARCH 3

**HOWL AT THE MOON** - "Leather and Lace" - get out your chaps.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 11

**HOWL AT THE MOON** - Spring Fling Drag Show at 10:00 p.m.

## Ending the violence.

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

**Call the Anti-Violence Project 24-Hour Crisis Line at 624-0348, or toll-free 1-800-553-9387.**



Southern Arizona's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center

[www.wingspan.org](http://www.wingspan.org)

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**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](mailto: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](mailto:webmaster@gpglcc.org) or call (602)225-8444.

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

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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](http://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](http://teamarizona.org)

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

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

**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](http://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](http://www.tucsonpride.com)

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

**TUCSON INTERFAITH HIV/AIDS NETWORK (TIHAN)**, a coalition of faith communities committed to a compassionate response to HIV/AIDS, provides HIV education in congregational settings, volunteer 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](mailto:tyan@theriver.com) and request guidelines.

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

**THEATER / DINNER / 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](mailto: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](http://AAPSP.org) or e-mail: [AAPSP@aol.com](mailto:AAPSP@aol.com) or call Dave (520)745-

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

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

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

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

**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

**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, and reading from Buddhist spiritual text and discussion. Bring a friend and a pillow or cushion. Takes place every Sunday from 10:00 - 11:30am at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St.. Contact Maurice Grossman for more info. 323-2293.

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

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

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

**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.



# WINGSPAN

# FilmFest

## March 10-12



**C'mon  
out  
and  
watch...**

### Opening Night

Join us for a very special opening night at Wingspan's 11th Annual FilmFest beginning at 7 pm on Friday, March 10 with the lesbian-themed feature *Mom*. A no-host cocktail reception with filmmakers Erin Greenwell (*Mom*) and Robert Gaston (*OpenCam*) will take place at the intermission between the two feature films. The gay-themed feature film, *OpenCam*, will be showing at 9 pm. Tickets are \$15 for either film plus the reception. Or, buy a Producer's Pass for only \$40, and enjoy full access to both films on opening night, as well as the entire festival! For tickets to any of the films and more information, visit [www.wingspan.org/FilmFest](http://www.wingspan.org/FilmFest).

### Here are just a few of this year's films:

Friday, March 10 at 5:00 pm (Earlybird special: Admission is FREE, \$5.00 suggested donation)

**Call Me Malcolm** A journey of self-discovery that started with a simple phrase, "From now on, call me Malcolm."

Friday, March 10 at 7:00 pm

**Mom** In this smart and tangy tale of life's surprises, Kelly is all business as a market researcher, but longs to be a TV news field reporter. When she's shipped off to Little Hope on a data-collecting assignment she's paired with the fascinating Linda, an impulsive, free-spirited butch with camera who has aspirations of her own—to be a tattoo artist. This unlikely duo's adventure will carry you through a zany maze of ups and downs, as the local hotel is unexpectedly overbooked and they find themselves at a Youth Hostel. Tensions erupt when a bored housewife is thrown in the mix, and the annual Chili Cook-Off hits town. This film's characters all learn a few things about themselves and each other, and everyone is surprised by who's hiding beneath each woman's surface.

Friday, March 10 at 9:00 pm

**OpenCam** Director Robert Gaston's *OpenCam* "is a thriller like no other" and "paves the way for emerging talent to get noticed" (Reel Affirmations 15). A rocking soundtrack accompanies this often dark, delicately paced and sexually charged nail-biter that will have you glued to the screen. In this dramatic suspense film, a serial killer is lurking online, creating a dark chase of fear and survival. As the murderer maneuvers in closer to Manny, an edgy and controversial young artist, it's up to Detective Hamilton to stay one step ahead of a killer's twisted plan. Meanwhile, Manny is forced to re-examine his life, his relationships, and the world that he knows, while Hamilton risks everything to keep him alive.

Saturday, March 11 at 7:15 pm

**Reel Relationships** A compilation of narrative shorts that illustrate the dangerous and liberating aspects of relationships, with compassion and humor.

Saturday, March 11 at 9:00 pm

**The Reception** A twisty, tricky story where what you think is happening isn't.

Sunday, March 12 at 5:15 pm

**El Favor** A colorful comedy-of-errors involving aphrodisiacs, seduction, and turkey basters.

Sunday, March 12 at 7:00 pm

**Original Pride** A documentary about one of the first gay men's social organizations ever, the Satyrs Motorcycle Club, formed in 1954.

Programs subject to change

**[www.wingspan.org/FilmFest](http://www.wingspan.org/FilmFest)**

film descriptions / showtimes / ticket information