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WEEKLY OBSERVER

MARCH 8, 2006

ISSUE 1129

Citizen Kyle Lawson Tells His Story In His Own Words



Four months after arriving at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, Pvt. Kyle Lawson is no longer a soldier. He was the victim of a beating in which he broke his nose. He was then threatened with his life by another soldier. Carol Ann Alamo, an Arizona Daily Star reporter first broke the story. Last Sunday, March 6, Lawson bravely told his story before a group numbering nearly 100 at Wingspan. In this exclusive Observer report, civilian Kyle Lawson tells his story "in his own words".

I enlisted in the U.S. Army back in Nov. 2004. At the time I was a deeply closeted Southern Baptist boy and I tried to convince myself I was straight. So I joined the biggest Gay-hating organization in the U.S. I went to basic combat training in Fort Sill, Oklahoma. It was a very moving experience for me. I learned the seven Army core values: Leadership, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage. I loved basic Training, and I would do it all over again.

I was then sent to Fort Huachuca, Arizona where I was to attend AIT (Advanced Individual Training). I was to go in training to be an Interrogator. After that, I was to go to a base in California to learn a language at DLI (Defensive Language Institute).

While I was at Fort Huachuca I was granted an opportunity that I had never had before. I was able to get away from the Southern Baptist Church and think for myself. I had made the decision when I arrived at Fort Huachuca that I was going to live my life and be myself. So I went to a close friend of mine and I told her one night out in the parking lot of Wal-Mart that I was Gay. She smiled and said "So what!"

It was that moment that I realized it wasn't such a "bad thing," as I was told by my church and some family members to believe. I went two months at Fort Huachuca serving in different positions of leadership. The most important to me was Platoon Guide. I was put in charge of 130 to 200 soldiers. My Drill Sergeant told me that I did a damn fine job and told me that I would go far in the military.

Then the one day I will never forget, Saturday, Oct. 29, 2005, I went out with this guy on a date he was a friend of a friend, and he was in the military and he out ranked me. We joked about that a lot. After the date I went to a party where apparently someone found out where I had been all day. For some reason this made him

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Report: Meth Addiction Increasing

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Drug treatment centers have seen a substantial rise in the number of people seeking help for methamphetamine abuse, a new report said, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. As trafficking in the highly addictive drug has spread across the country, the number of meth users admitted to substance abuse clinics more than quadrupled from 1993 to 2003, according to a review by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

The report was released hours before the Senate passed legislation to combat meth by limiting sales of cold medicines used to make the illegal drug. States in the Midwest and South that had few meth abuse patients a decade ago are now seeing a sharp rise in the rate of admissions to treatment centers, the report said. The findings mirror the trend of meth abuse moving gradually from the West - where the drug first became popular - across the Midwest and South to the East Coast.

"It's not that the prevalence of meth is changing, but the addictive nature of this drug and the meth crisis is showing up in drug treatment programs," said Mark Weber, an associate administrator for the agency. "They're being overwhelmed by the number of people showing up for treatment."

Nationwide, the admission rate for treatment of methamphetamine or amphetamine abuse rose from 28,000 in 1993 to nearly 136,000 patients in 2003, the report said. The review analyzed data on the approximately 1.8 million patients admitted each year for substance abuse treatment. The report found 18 states with meth treatment rates higher than the national rate: Oregon was highest, followed by Hawaii, Iowa, California, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, Washington, Montana, Arkansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Minnesota, South Dakota, Colorado, Missouri, Idaho and Kansas. Northeastern states had relatively low rates of treatment admissions for meth and amphetamine abuse in 1993 and those rates remained low in 2003, the report said.

Part of the reason meth has become epidemic in some states, experts say, is that it's easy to make in illegal makeshift labs and extremely cheap compared to other drugs. "You get can get addicted to meth very quickly and the slide downward is much faster than drugs like alcohol, marijuana or heroin," said Stephan Arndt, a professor of psychiatry at the University of Iowa and director of the Iowa Consortium for Substance Abuse Research and Evaluation. "These people crash and

burn fast," Arndt said. "Health goes down, you're not eating, you're not sleeping. You're more likely to lose the car, lose the wife, lose the house and your job."

In his budget request last month, President Bush proposed \$25 million in new money for meth treatment. The Senate, meanwhile, passed anti-meth legislation Thursday - as part of the bill reauthorizing the USA Patriot Act - that would require cold pills like Sudafed to be placed behind store counters. Those medicines contain pseudoephedrine, which can be extracted and used to cook meth in makeshift labs. "Because of the steps we are taking, many Americans will never experience the addiction and destruction of this deadly drug," said Sen. Jim Talent, R-MO, who co-sponsored the anti-meth bill with Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-CA. Under the bill, consumers would be limited to 3.6 grams, or about 120 cold pills, per day, and 9 grams, or about 300 pills, per month. Buyers would need to show photo identification and sign a logbook. The measure also provides nearly \$100 million for law enforcement to investigate and lock up meth offenders and establishes new reporting procedures for countries that export chemicals used to make meth.

11th Annual Wingspan Film Festival Mar. 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

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UPDATE

'Gay Sex In The Seventies' At The Loft Cinema March 17

TUCSON - GAY SEX IN THE SEVENTIES, a "steamy romp" from filmmaker Joseph Lovett, opens at The Loft Cinema, 3233 E. Speedway, Friday, Mar. 17. Lovett, utilizes interviews, rare archival footage, period music and film clips to explore the Gay revolution of the swinging 1970s, aka the "golden era of Gay sex," and looks at how this earthshaking moment in Gay history forever changed the social, political and sexual landscape for future generations.

The film has garnered rave reviews from such sources as The New York Times ("Erotic Utopia"), Entertainment Weekly ("It was wilder than you thought..."), The L.A. Times ("Sex, brotherhood and proud debauchery"), and Film Threat ("Gay Sex in the 70s is a blast: Get some!"), among many others. It was also named Best Feature Documentary at the OUTTAKES 2005 Dallas Lesbian and Gay Film Festival.

For more information, call Jeff Yanc, (520) 322-5638, or go online to: loftcinema.com.

Wrestlers Needed For Fund Raiser

TUCSON - On Sunday, May 7, you can slip into something cool and colorful to help raise funds for the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) in a unique and pleasurable way. The 19th anniversary of the Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Extravaganza and Benefit Auction will take place that day at Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd., 2:00 p.m.

The Jell-O committee is now seeking wrestlers who want to flaunt their creative talents to put on a great show for the crowd while raising important and needed funds for SAAF through sponsorships for their wrestling match. Each wrestler is asked to raise a minimum of \$150 and this year wrestlers will again be able to solicit donations online by creating their own web page and emailing it to potential supporters.

Funds raised through Jell-O Wrestling assist SAAF with its mission to help people living with HIV/AIDS and make available vital HIV prevention and education programs for at-risk groups within the LGBT community and throughout Tucson. Please visit the Jell-O website at jello-wrestling.com to submit your application to wrestle, or contact Mae Krueger, (520) 628-7223 or by email at events@saaf.org.

Award Winning Author To Speak At Grace St. Paul's March 14



Author Fenton Johnson

TUCSON - Lambda Literary Award recipient Fenton Johnson will speak Friday, March 24, 7 p.m. at Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church, at 2331 E. Adams (near Tucson Blvd.) as part of Grace St. Paul's ongoing series Story, Faith, and Contemporary Living.

Johnson will address the relationship between the creative imagination and spiritual practice. He will read passages from Keeping Faith as well as work from The Man Who Loved Birds, his novel-in-progress. He will also share thoughts on the ordination of openly Gay and Lesbian priests and the current search for a new bishop of the diocese of California, where two Gay candidates are among the five finalists.

Johnson received the 2004 Lambda Literary Award for best GLBT nonfiction for his most recent book Keeping Faith: A Skeptic's Journey among Christian and Buddhist Monks (Houghton Mifflin), which draws on time he spent living in Christian and Buddhist monasteries as a means to the end of asking what it means for a skeptic to have and keep faith. Earlier he received the 1997 Lambda Literary Award as well as the American Library Association Award for Best Gay Nonfiction for Geography of the Heart: A Memoir (Scribner), the story of his relationship with his partner Larry Rose, who died of AIDS in 1990.

Admission for this event is \$10 for the general public, students \$2. For more information, call Nancy Linnon (520) 327-6857.

Mardi Gras Arizona Style March 18

JEROME - Jerome, Arizona is located only 120 miles north of Phoenix. Population is Jerome is around 400, including cats and dogs. Jerome is a Ghost Town turned into a lively artisans and writers community. Come up and celebrate Mardi Gras in Jerome with us. Plans are still being formulated - so far a short parade and food and drink in the park are planned.

Out In Jerome is held every third Saturday of the month. In addition to events that will be hosted during this time, the citizens, both Gay and Gay friendly, invite you to just come spend the day in Jerome and enjoy our wonderful community. Here you will find fine art, dining, lodging and more.

There is never a lack of things to do while visiting Jerome. After spending time in our town, you can visit other places around Northern Arizona such as the Grand Canyon, Sedona, the various National Monuments, great swimming holes and more. Just ask the locals for the inside scoop and you will certainly not be disappointed. For more information, E-mail: lisa@girlvibeinc.com or go online to outinjerome.com/index.html.

UofA LGBT Studies Forum On G/L Marriage Movement March 24

TUCSON - The University of Arizona (UA) LGBT Studies will be hosting a forum entitled, Sex and Tourism: the economic implications of the Lesbian and Gay marriage movement, Friday, Mar. 24, 3 - 4 p.m. in the UA Modern Languages Building, Room 451.

In this presentation, historian Nan Alamilla Boyd will discuss the economic stakes of the current U.S.-based Lesbian and Gay marriage movement, its impact on the fast-growing LGBT tourist market, and the relationship between LGBT tourism and the globalization of LGBT identities.

This forum is free and open to the public. For more information, call (520) 626-3431, or E-mail: lgbs@email.arizona.edu.

Wingspan Film Festival

Continued from Page One

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, or for more information, go to the same site or call (520) 624-1779.

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How Did Brokeback Lose? Theories Abound

NEW YORK - It was chatted about, joked about, argued about, spoofed. Brokeback Mountain was everywhere in our popular culture - yet it lost the big Oscar it was supposed to win, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. Was there a Brokeback backlash? Or was Crash, directed and co-written by Canadian Paul Haggis, just the worthy contender that came on strong in the final best-picture stretch? There were as many theories being offered up Monday as there are Brokeback parodies on the Internet.

One theory was that, despite the hoopla, the endless late-night monologues and the clever imitations, people (Academy voters, that is) didn't really love the soulful saga of two gay cowboys - and perhaps even felt uncomfortable with its themes. "Sometimes people pretend to like movies more than they actually do," said Richard Walter, who heads the screenwriting program at UCLA's film school. "But this film wasn't really THAT good. What it tried to do was great, sensational. But what it actually accomplished wasn't so great. You can't really buy the love story."

Film critic Kenneth Turan, writing in the Los Angeles Times, said the problem wasn't with the film's quality. Rather, he said, "you could not take the pulse of the industry without realizing that this film made people distinctly uncomfortable." "In the privacy of the voting booth ... people are free to act out the unspoken fears and unconscious prejudices that they would never breathe to another soul, or likely, acknowledge to themselves. And at least this year, that acting out doomed Brokeback Mountain."

Gay activists did not necessarily agree. "I don't think it has anything to do with the subject matter,"

said Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign, the largest American gay rights group. He noted that Brokeback and Crash both dealt with "tough issues like indifference and intolerance." "I was certainly disappointed," Solmonese said. "But I would trade that Oscar for all the positive conversations that this movie spurred between parents and their gay children, or between employees and their gay co-workers. That impact transcends any accolades."

Some people focused on the demographics of the typical Academy voter: older, and city-dwelling. Author and Brokeback co-screenwriter Larry McMurtry thought that was key to his film's loss. "Members of the Academy are mostly urban people," McMurtry, who won the adapted screenplay prize with Diana Ossana, said backstage at Sunday night's (Mar. 5) ceremony. "We are an urban nation. We are not a rural nation. It's not easy even to get a rural story made." McMurtry could have added that not only are Academy voters urban, they are from Los Angeles - the city that is the heart of Crash, a racial drama depicting the intertwining experiences of an array of characters over 36 hours. The film, featuring a huge and accomplished cast ("Raise your hand if you're NOT in Crash," host Jon Stewart quipped to the crowd), also won for original screenplay and film editing.

Brokeback director Ang Lee, who won the directing prize, said he hadn't a clue why the film didn't take the best-picture award. "They didn't vote for it," he said. "I don't know. You asked me one question, and I don't know the answer." But his brother had an opinion. Lee Kang, speaking in Taipei, suggested American bias was involved. "When the locals are voting,



they will have this, whether you call it nationalism or something else," he said.

Haggis, for his part, said he hadn't "for a second" believed the whispers, which grew louder as Oscar night approached, that Crash had the momentum to overtake Brokeback. "I didn't believe any of that nonsense," he said. "In fact, we were so shocked. I mean, we're still trying to figure out if we got this."

Crash came out to mixed reviews in May, considered much too early for a film to stay in voters' minds. But Lionsgate Films reminded voters and critics of the film's potency by flooding them with copies of the DVD late in 2005. In winning over the heavily favoured Brokeback, the film evoked major upsets of the past, most recently the 1999 triumph of Shakespeare in Love over Saving Private Ryan. Another famous underdog champ was Chariots of Fire,

which in 1982 beat both Warren Beatty's historical epic Reds and the family story On Golden Pond.

One disturbing difference for the Academy: a lot more viewers tuned in to see those upsets. An estimated 38.8 million people watched Sunday's telecast on ABC, down eight per cent from last year and the second-worst showing in nearly two decades, according to Nielsen Media Research. Except for the 2003 count of 33 million viewers, when Chicago took the best-picture award, viewership hadn't dipped below 40 million since 1987.

So what is to be learned from Sunday night's upset result? Not much, says Walter, the film professor. You just really never know what Academy voters are going to do. "It's just a crapshoot," Walter said. "You go to Vegas and you put your money on number 17. There is NO lesson to be learned from all this. It doesn't mean a thing."

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Citizen Kyle Lawson Tells His Story In His Own Words

Continued on Page One

angry and he gave me a bashing I will never forget. It was only one swing but it was enough to knock me down and out, and break my nose. I went to the hospital on the post had it fixed and filled out a police report.

At first, my commanders agreed that I could stay as long as I acted straight and keep my private life my private life. I tried to, but AIT is much like college - news travels fast and before I knew a lot of people knew. For the majority, they did not seem to care. For the rest, I felt that it was a small part of who I was, and they weren't going to let it stop me from being a soldier.

Then just before Thanksgiving a soldier approached me and told me I didn't belong in the military and I need to get out. When I laughed at him he proceeded to pull a knife and got very close to me and said "if you don't get out living, I will help you out in a body bag".

I rolled my eyes and walked away and came to Tucson to spend time with my family I didn't give much thought to the incident until I returned. I was called in to my commander's office and was informed that the soldier had been making numerous threats to other soldiers. I was asked to make the decision: did I want to stay or go - and it was in that moment that my life changed forever.

I sat down with my attorneys

Supreme Court Rules For Military In LGBT Cases

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Supreme Court in a unanimous ruling Monday (Mar. 6) said that colleges and universities that accept federal money must allow military recruiters on their campuses, even if those schools have policies opposing "don't ask, don't tell," reported 365Gay.com. The opinion was written by Chief Justice John Roberts. The court heard arguments in the case last December.

The case involved an appeal by the Bush administration of a lower court ruling that said the Solomon Amendment, a law tying funding to military recruitment drives, was unconstitutional because it restricted the schools' freedom of speech.

In 2004 the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals had ruled 2-1 that the Solomon Amendment infringes on the free speech rights of schools after 24 law schools that banned military recruiters went to court to fight the law.

Arguing before the Supreme Court Solicitor General Paul Clement told the justices that when the U.S. government funds research and education grants, the military is entitled to demand "a fair shot" in terms of equal access for its recruiters to a university's "best and brightest."

Clement said the military expects nothing more than any other donor would expect.

Joshua Rosenkranz, the attorney for the universities, told the justices that the military's message is clear: "Uncle Sam needs you but not if you're Gay."

"A military recruiter's mere presence on campus does not violate a law school's right to associate, regardless of how repugnant the law

and signed the paper work to get the process started. I was told it would take between 30 days to 6 months to get me out, so I sat all of December waiting and that's when Carol Ann Alamo contacted me and I was more than happy to answer all of her questions.

The story aired the day I was on my way home for Christmas Exodus - the day I was boarding the plane, it was on the front page of the Sunday Tucson paper. When I got home, I was called and told that I would be out of the military three days after my return to Ft. Huachuca by orders of Post Commander.

When I returned it took four days but I was out on Jan. 5, 2006, a day I will never forget. Not only was I out of the military, but now I was out to the world. When I returned home in Missouri, I wasn't welcomed with open arms. I had no choice but to return to Arizona and seek a new life not as a "Gay Soldier" but as a young teen.

I want to take the time to thank a few people who have been a great means of support first Carol Ann Alamo for risking everything in her career to write this story; then to my two Uncles J.T. and Johnny Lawson here in Tucson, who were a great support while I was in the service, and a great example. Then there's my mother - a woman who has been through so much for me, and no matter what, stands behind me and supports me. I don't want to forget the one place that has made me feel safe and

school considers the recruiter's message," Chief Justice Roberts wrote in the court's decision.

Federal financial support of colleges tops \$35 billion a year.

Meanwhile, the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network has filed a federal lawsuit hoping to get answers to reports the Bush administration is keeping files on LGBT groups as part of its domestic spying program.

Last December media reports said that the Pentagon has been spying on "suspicious" meetings by civilian groups, including student groups opposed to the military's "don't ask, don't tell". (story)

The reports said that the Pentagon had spied on New York University law school's LGBT advocacy group OUTlaw and Gay groups at the State University of New York at Albany and William Patterson College in New Jersey.

The suit was filed after the administration turned down freedom of information requests by SLDN and other Gay groups.

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Alito Thanks G/L Foes For Their Support



Justice Samuel Alito

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A letter from newly appointed Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito to Focus on the Family founder James Dobson thanking him for his organization's support during Senate confirmation hearings is drawing fire, reported 365Gay.com.

"As I said when I spoke at my formal investiture at the White House last week, the prayers of so many people from around the country were a palpable and powerful force," Alito said in the letter. "As long as I serve on the Supreme Court I will keep in mind the trust that has been placed in me." The letter went on to say, "I hope that we'll have the opportunity to meet personally at some point in the future." Dobson, who opposes LGBT civil rights - especially same-sex marriage - and an abortion opponent, had urged listeners to his radio program to contact their Senators to support the nomination of Alito.

But Americans United for Separation of Church and State said the letter compromises Alito's ability to be impartial on the bench of the nation's highest court. "He's not sounding like a fair and independent judge," Barry Lynn, the organization's executive director, told the Colorado Springs Gazette. Focus on the Family is based in Colorado Springs. Lynn said the note can be interpreted as a pledge to rule as Dobson wants on key issues, such as Gay marriage, abortion and church-state separation. "This strongly suggests Alito is going to do just what he was entrusted to do - change the law dramatically in many key areas," said Lynn, whose group, and all national LGBT rights groups, opposed Alito's nomination. "I think this is grossly inappropriate conduct on the part of Justice Alito," he said, noting he's never heard of a Supreme Court justice writing such a letter. "It sounds like he's carrying a right wing agenda instead of being a justice for all the people."

On his radio show Wednesday (Mar. 1) Dobson read Alito's letter and told listeners that their support had "affected history" by helping put Alito on the court. During confirmation hearings some 700 questions were put to Alito on a range of topics, but opponents said his answers danced around the more contentious, including LGBT rights and abortion.

Senator Russell Feingold (D-Wis.) questioned Alito on his 2001 vote on the 3rd US Circuit Court of Appeals to strike down a public school policy that prohibited offensive conduct toward individuals based on sexual orientation or other personal characteristics. In the case, Alito ruled that the First Amendment only pro-

fects people against harassment regarding religious beliefs. Feingold asked Alito whether he felt the First Amendment might also protect Gay students against harassment. Alito said only that the policy he struck down read the amendment too broadly. But he also noted that in another case he had ruled in favor of a New Jersey student who wanted attend a high school outside of his neighborhood because he had been subjected to homophobic harassment.

Kennedy questioned Alito about his membership in the now defunct Concerned Alumni of



James Dobson

Princeton, an extreme conservative group that Alito joined while a law student. Kennedy read from a publication put out by the group that attacked Gays, people with AIDS, women and other minorities. In one selection from The Prospect, read by Kennedy into the record, the publication, noting that scientists believed they had traced the origin of AIDS to rhesus monkeys, called for more research and that it be conducted on homosexuals. It further suggested that the studies be conducted on members of Princeton's Gay alliance. Kennedy then read a portion from another Prospect article attacking adoption for Gays.

Charges Axed In N.Y. Transgender Arrests

NEW YORK - Transit police are dropping charges against a phone repair worker making the transition from male to female who says she was arrested three times in six months for using a women's restroom at Grand Central Terminal, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. At a rally, Helena Stone, 70, said one officer called her "a freak, a weirdo and the ugliest woman in the world."

Stone's lawyer, Michael Silverman of the Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund, said he had filed complaints with the MTA police and the city Commission on Human Rights, whose guidelines say restrooms must be available to Transgender people "consistent with their gender identity or gender expression."

Metropolitan Transportation Authority spokesman Tom Kelly said after Tuesday's (Feb. 28) rally that disorderly conduct charges against Stone would be dropped and the matter had been resolved. "There is an investigation into how this took place, and we will take whatever steps are necessary to avoid a similar situation in the future," Kelly said.



"The Year of the Dog"

Friday Mar. 10th:

Welcome ATC's Cast & Crew of "Sherlock Holmes"

Sat. Mar. 11th:

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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.

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

film descriptions / showtimes / ticket information

Pastor Not Guilty In Lesbian Marriage Trial

SANTA ROSA - A longtime Presbyterian minister who was the first of her faith to be tried for officiating at the unions of Gay couples was acquitted Friday (Mar. 3) of violating her denomination's position on same-sex marriage, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. A regional judicial commission of the Presbyterian Church (USA) ruled 6-1 that the Rev. Jane Spahr of San Rafael acted within her rights as an ordained minister when she married two Lesbian couples in 2004 and 2005.



Rev. Jane Spahr

Because the section of the faith's constitution that reserves marriage for a man and a woman "is a definition, not a directive," Spahr was "acting within her right of conscience in performing marriage ceremonies for same-sex couples," the tribunal said in a written ruling. A tearful Spahr, 63, a longtime activist who could have faced sanctions ranging from a rebuke to removal from the ministry, rejoiced at the verdict. Flanked by her lawyers and the two couples she married, Spahr said she would continue performing same-sex weddings. "The church said God loved everyone, and for years I believed it," she said. "Today, for just one moment, to hear this is remarkable."

The marriages are not legally recognized. In its majority opinion, the tribunal of the Presbytery of the Redwoods, which oversees 52 churches from north of San Francisco to the Oregon border, noted that Spahr's actions were consistent with the "normative standards" of the region. Sara Taylor, one of Spahr's defense lawyers, said the ruling presumably means that all ordained clergy associated with the presbytery's member churches are free to preside at same-sex weddings if they choose.

Robert Conover, the regional body's stated clerk, said Friday that it was too soon to say whether leaders would appeal the ruling. Many local Presbyterians, conservative and liberal alike, complained about the cost of the trial. Acting on a complaint brought by a minister from Bellevue, Wash., the presbytery charged Spahr with official misconduct last year for marrying the couples from Rochester, N.Y., and Guerneville, Calif. The verdict came after six hours of deliberations and a day and a half of proceedings.

The Presbyterian Church is among several Protestant denominations embroiled in debates over what role Gays should have in their churches. Under a ruling by the denomination's highest court in 2000, Presbyterian ministers may bless same-sex unions as long as they do not equate the relationships with marriage and the ceremonies do not mimic traditional weddings.

Spahr acknowledged officiating at the two Lesbian weddings. She testified Thursday that she has performed hundreds of weddings during her career and calls the ceremonies she conducts for same-sex couples "marriages" if that is the term the couples prefer. The judicial commission appeared to accept that reasoning, writing that the Bible proclaims "a message of inclusiveness, reconciliation, and the breaking down of barriers that separate humans from each other."

The minority opinion stated it was logical to assume that ministers should be disciplined for going

against the church's position on marriage, even if the constitution does not spell that out. Spahr, a minister for more than 30 years, came out as a Lesbian in 1978. The Presbyterian Church does not allow openly Gay or Lesbian members to serve as ministers. Still, she was allowed to keep her position but has been prohibited from leading an individual church since 1991. She has worked for two churches since then as a "Lesbian evangelist" and director of That All May Freely Serve, a group lobbying for ordination of Gay and Lesbian Presbyterians.

School Shuns Most Famous Alumni Over Brokeback Role

SAN DIEGO - Michelle Williams may be up for an Academy Award but her former school wants nothing to do with its most famous alumna, 365Gay.com reported. Williams was nominated for best supporting actress for her role in "Brokeback Mountain" a role Solana Beach's Santa Fe Christian School says promotes "the homosexual lifestyle."

"We don't want to have anything to do with her in relation to that movie, the school's headmaster Jim Hopson told the San Diego Union-Tribune. Hopson is equally dismissive of her co-starring role in the TV series "Dawson's Creek". And, don't even mention the daughter she had with "Brokeback Mountain" co-star Heath Ledger. "I hope we offered her something in life. But she made the kinds of choices of which we wouldn't approve. 'Brokeback Mountain' basically promotes a lifestyle we don't promote. It's not the word of God," Hopson told the paper.

Williams' mother, a co-founder of the Christian Community Theater, doesn't share Hopson's opinion. "He never knew her," Williams told the Union-Tribune. "For some people, 'Brokeback Mountain' is difficult. He has the right to his opinion." She said that several people from the school have called to congratulate her on her daughter's nomination. "I know her heart, her kind soul," Williams said. "Nothing she's done as an actress has bothered

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In Their Own Words



Actor George Clooney

“And finally, I would say that, you know, we are a little bit out of touch in Hollywood every once in a while. I think it’s probably a good thing. We’re the ones who talk about AIDS when it was just being whispered, and we talked about civil rights when it wasn’t really popular. And we, you know, we bring up subjects. This Academy, this group of people gave Hattie McDaniel an Oscar in 1939 when blacks were still sitting in the backs of theaters. I’m proud to be a part of this Academy. Proud to be part of this community, and proud to be out of touch.” - **George Clooney, at the Academy Awards during his acceptance speech for Best Supporting Actor for *Syriana* Sunday, Mar. 5.**



Director Ang Le

“Their names are Ennis and Jack. They taught all of us so much, not just about all the gay men and women in our society but just as important - the greatness of love itself.” - **Ang Lee, at the Academy Awards during his acceptance speech for Best Director Sunday, Mar. 5.**



Gustavo Santaolalla

“Love makes us all so similar despite our differences.” - **Gustavo Santaolalla at the Academy Awards during his acceptance speech for his “Brokeback Mountain” musical score, Sunday, Mar. 5.**

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EDITOR:

Re: Reflections on Oscar

Tonight, I watched the Academy Awards amidst a predominantly non-LGBT audience – and, like many of the people in the room, I was disappointed that *Brokeback Mountain* did not win Best Picture. But there was still plenty for which to be thankful (including Ang Lee’s Best Director award for *Brokeback Mountain* and Philip Seymour Hoffman’s win for Best Actor.) The film buffs, attending the Oscar Night® America party in Miami Beach, were cheering *Brokeback Mountain* because they genuinely supported the movie – and because they connected emotionally with the film’s tragic love story.

No matter where you watched the Academy Awards, whether at a big catered event in Hollywood or in your own living room, our community has cause to celebrate. This year, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences handed out a total of 5 Oscars to LGBT-inclusive films. Five movies with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender content were nominated for a combined 21 Academy Awards.

The Oscar wins and nominations of these films have created a remarkable level of visibility and discussion of our lives.

Every day, LGBT Americans face prejudice and discrimination. And films like *Brokeback Mountain*, *Capote*, and *Transamerica* are a testament to the power of cinema to create greater understanding of who we are. These are films that, in many ways, capture an important moment in history and the questions we face today. Will we fight for a world where all people are able to live and love honestly? Or will we allow hatred and bigotry to force us to hide in the closet, deny our love and deny who we are? Last night’s ceremony was an important tribute to films that have invited audiences to open their hearts to our love and our relationships like never before.

Best Director winner Ang Lee summed it up perfectly during his acceptance speech when he thanked the characters of Ennis and Jack: “They taught all of us who made *Brokeback Mountain* so much about

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not just all the Gay men and women whose love is denied by society, but just as important, the greatness of love itself.” That most important message – connecting millions of Americans with the greatness of the love that we experience – is at the heart of the work we do at GLAAD. It’s the kind of aspiration that defines the world we seek to create. And it ensures that films like *Brokeback Mountain* will endure beyond this year’s awards ceremonies and continue to invest an ever-growing audience in the pursuit of fairness and equality for all.

For all the latest on the big night, including a complete list of

LGBT-inclusive Oscar winners, multimedia clips and highlights from the ceremony, please visit <http://glaad.org/>

Neil Giuliano
President, GLAAD
Los Angeles, CA



POLITICS 2006

by Mark R. Kerr

Do Ask, Do Tell: Arizona Congressman Jim Kolbe, R-Tucson (CD-8) has received praise and the proverbial "pat-on-the-back," from the pundits and political scribes for his leadership and service in the U.S. House of Representatives for eleven terms, dating back to 1984, with the GOP "Contract on America" and its pledge for term limits notwithstanding, but a recent court ruling should put the supposedly only Gay, retiring, Republican Member of Congress on an even "higher plane."

On Monday (Mar. 6), the U.S. Supreme Court, in a unanimous ruling, upheld a federal law in the case *Rumsfeld v. Forum for Academic and Institutional Rights (FAIR)*, before the nation's highest court.

Rumsfeld v. FAIR was a free speech challenge to a law known as the Solomon Amendment, named after former U.S. Representative Gerald Solomon, R-N.Y., who drafted the measure, for which denied federal funding to universities, such as the University of Arizona, that enforce their anti-LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) discrimination policies against military recruiters just like other potential employers. In Nov. 2004, the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit ruled that the schools were allowed to enforce their own policies but the Supreme Court's (Mar. 6) decision overturned the Third Circuit's earlier ruling.

Solomon's measure was approved in 1996, during the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" frenzy when then President Bill Clinton had attempted to allow openly Gay and Lesbian current members of the U.S. military serve openly. One of the sponsors and proponents of the Solomon Amendment was none other than Gay Arizona Congressman Jim Kolbe. . . .

Arizona Legislative Update: With the inaction by the Republican-controlled state House and Senate pertaining to the English Language Learning (ELL) court case, now headed back to the same court that decided the legal case previously to await the inevitable ruling of unconstitutionality, Arizona's Legislature is back in regular session so be afraid, very afraid.

Three bills of note and concern to LGBT community are still going through the legislative process as written, SB 1518, HB 2696 and HB 2707 but with the session deadlines passing, especially with the pending ELL case, as well as the adoption of state budget, all measures, positive and negative, can be still 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.

Technicalities and legalese aside, the three bills still pending are:

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 had received approval, from both the House Judiciary Committee, as well as the House Rules Committee. HB 2696 was before the House COW for debate, Tuesday, Mar. 7, receiving approval and goes on for a third reading.

HB 2707, requiring health professionals to obtain the written consent of a young adult's parent or guardian before issuing them a prescription. This not only creates an undue burden for doctors and families, it puts the health and safety of minor patients at risk. LGBT youth in particular may not be safe or comfortable talking with their parents about medical problems, possibly resulting in a medical condition going undiagnosed or untreated because of the barriers the legislation would create if approved and signed into law. HB 2707 had received approval, from both the House Health Committee, as well as the House Rules Committee, awaiting action by the House COW which retained the bill on calendar on Thursday, Mar. 2.

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, had received approval from both the Senate Health Committee and Senate Rules Committees. Sponsored by state Senator Carolyn Allen, R-Scottsdale, SB 1518, as of press time, (Tuesday, Mar. 7), was being caucused by the Majority and Minority state Senate delegations, (Republicans and Democrats). . . .

Maintaining Our Voice: Southern Arizona's only openly LGBT member of the state Legislature, Senator Paula Aboud, D-Tucson (LD-28), has filed campaign paperwork with the Arizona Secretary of State's office to run for a full term this year.

Aboud, appointed to the Arizona Senate by the Pima County Board of Supervisors to succeed Gabrielle Giffords, who had resigned to run for the Democratic Congressional nomination for (CD-8), will be challenged in the Democratic primary by current state House member (LD-28), Ted Downing, who has filed campaign paperwork to run for the Senate seat as well.

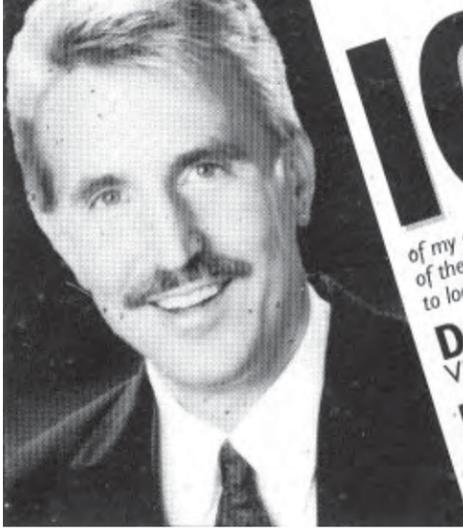
To volunteer for Aboud's campaign, or for more information, call (520) 323-7264 or E-mail: paboud@msn.com.

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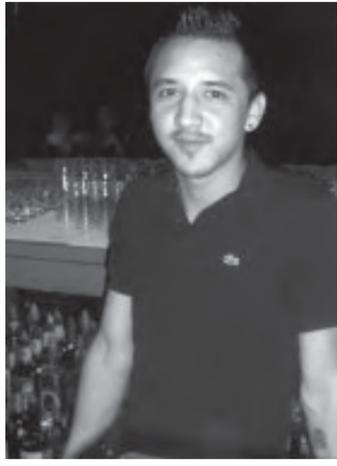
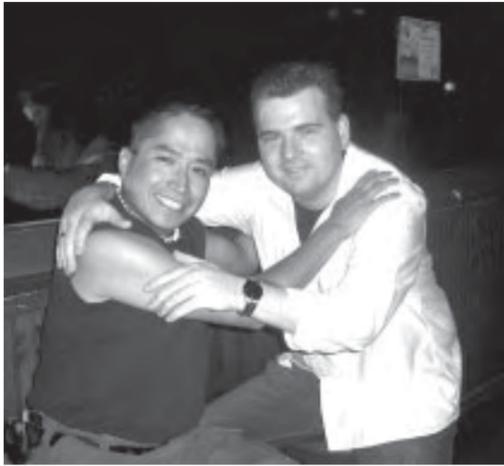
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U.K. Athlete Sues Over Bisexual Rumor

LONDON - Arsenal and England footballer Ashley Cole has brought a libel suit against two newspapers after they ran a story claiming two footballers were Bisexual and involved in a "Gay sex orgy," Gay.com UK. According to reports in the Guardian and the Times, the case will be a landmark since Cole was not named in the stories that appeared in the Sun and the News of the World. However, he says that the stories prompted internet rumors that named him as one of the stories.



Ashley Cole

Since he is engaged to Girls Aloud singer Cheryl Tweedy, he says the story led to rumors that implied he was a hypocrite. Both newspapers are owned by News International. The stories claimed that two footballers were involved in a Gay orgy with a DJ. The News of the World also printed a heavily obscured picture which it claimed was of the two men. Other Web sites have published the original picture, which features Cole. It is not yet known whether these sites will

also face legal action for the publication of the pictures.

Cole maintains that the Internet rumors are wrong to point at him, and that he is heterosexual. Previous libel cases have led to six-figure settlements from the newspapers involved.

Fired Gay Banker Seeks \$9 Million

LONDON - A man who alleges he was fired by multi-national banking company HSBC is seeking \$9 million in damages, reported 365Gay.com. In the biggest case of its kind since Britain banned discrimination on the basis of sexuality Peter Lewis, the former global head of equities trading in HSBC's corporate and investment bank division in London will appear before a special employment tribunal hearing.

HSBC spokesman Pierre Goad was quoted as saying the bank "utterly rejects" Lewis's allegations, insisting he was sacked after a lengthy investigation and disciplinary hearing into claims he sexually harassed another male employee. HSBC, which has operations in Asia, Europe and North America rejects Lewis' claims. The bank says that Lewis was dismissed after an incident in the firm's London gym in which Lewis "looked at" a male colleague.

"HSBC Bank Plc discriminated against him because of his sexual orientation as a Gay man. There is no question of any allegation of financial impropriety or failure at work by my client," said Lewis' lawyer, Alison Downie. Lewis was lured away from his former job Societe Generale, where he was head of global client trading. But in the five months he was at HSBC he says he was subjected to continued slurs.

According to HSBC lawyer Pierre Goad said that it was Lewis who was doing the sexual harassing. "He was treated in the same way as any employee facing a complaint of sexual harassment by another member of staff," Goad said. "We believe in doing what is right and not what is expedient, and our sexual harassment policy applies to all staff."

Pro-G/L Banner Too Big For Historic Church, Commission Says

QUINCY - The historic commission has denied a request by its "Church of the Presidents" to hang a large banner in support of same-sex marriage on the front of the church, reported the Associated Press on Advocate.com. The Quincy Historic District Commission raised objections about the banner's size and proposed location on the United First Parish Church, one of the city's most important landmarks, The Patriot Ledger of Quincy reported. The 34-by-4-foot sign reads "People of Faith for Marriage Equality."

1828 building. The church's pastor, the Reverend Sheldon Bennett, described the banner as an effort to affirm a core religious principle of the church and draw people inside.

Bennett declined comment to the Ledger after the meeting, saying he needed to discuss it with the entire congregation. Paul Wilczynski, one of nine parishioners at the meeting, said, "I'd hate to leave this room tonight feeling that our ability to send a faith-based message will be impeded by the fact that we're in a historic building."

Commission members stressed that their objections were related to the banner's technical dimensions and possible aesthetic effects on the historic facade of the church, home to the crypts of presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams and their wives. There was no discussion of the sign's message or political content at Monday's meeting. "I just think that a vinyl banner like this creates a circus atmosphere that's not a good fit for a building with as much historic magnitude," said park commissioner Thomas Koch, a member of the historic district commission. The commission voted 3-2 against a 30-day permit to hang the sign. The commission passed a second resolution suggesting that it would consider allowing a redesigned banner that is "not as intrusive" to the architecture of the



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Sydney Mardi Gras Glitters

SYDNEY - There are two things Australians do better than people anywhere else in the world: Party hard and thumb their collective nose at the high and mighty in cheeky style, reported 365Gay.com. Sydney's Mardi Gras is the world recognized leader in both and the 28th running of the annual LGBT event in Sydney once again proved it.

An estimated half-million people turned out as the parade marched, jiggled, strutted, and drove its way down Oxford Street Saturday (Mar. 4). It takes more than 6,000 people to put together the parade each year - including a professional choreographer just to make sure everything goes smoothly. While most Gay pride parades around the world are irreverent to say the least, Mardi Gras wears the crown for leaving no sacred cow un milked.

The 120 floats in the parade took on George W. Bush, Aussie PM

John Howard, Brokeback Mountain, the Catholic Church, Kate Moss and dozens of others people, organizations and events. A team of Kate Moss dancers snorted "cocaine" as they strutted their stuff, poking fun at the supermodel's well publicized drug problem. Gay cowboys abounded, with two in a mock Gay wedding. U.S. President Bush was skewered over Iraq and Dick Cheney was portrayed toting a gun - a reference to last month's shooting incident involving a pal. Another float was called "Friends of Dick Cheney" and paid tribute to the U.S. vice president, who publicly supports his Lesbian daughter. Another float lampooned Prime Minister John Howard who is celebrating 10 years in power and who steadfastly refuses to allow same-sex marriage. The Mardi Gras parade, which capped a month of Gay-pride festivities, has grown from a Gay rights protest march in 1978 into one of the country's most popular and nationally televised events.

GOP Anti-G/L CD Also Collects Voter Data

ST. PAUL - The Republican Party of Minnesota is under fire for distributing a CD that aims to drum up support for a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage while collecting digital information about the CD viewer, reported the PlanetOut Network. In order to see the video portion on their computers, viewers must first go to a Web site and punch in an ID code that lets the Republican Party know who is viewing the disk. Once the video begins, viewers are also asked to type responses to questions about abortion, gun control and party preference.

Advance copies of the disk, which contains clips of Gov. Tim Pawlenty and other state officials discussing the "dangers of Gay marriage," were sent to reporters on Monday (Feb. 27), and they contained no disclaimers about how the viewers' data would be used. GOP officials reportedly said the final version of the CD, soon to be mailed to Minnesota voters, will display a notice that the information may be used by the party.

The anti-Gay CD and data-

collection tactics were criticized Thursday (Mar. 2) by the National Stonewall Democrats (NSD). "The only institution that Minnesota Republicans are truly interested in preserving is their slipping grasp on statewide offices," Eric Stern, NSD executive director, said in a statement. "Minnesota Republicans have spent the past month barn-storming the state in an attempt to build support against Democrats in the state Senate who have repeatedly kept this amendment off the ballot in favor of focusing on real issues facing Minnesotan families."

Lillie Coney, associate director of the Electronic Privacy Information Center, raised privacy concerns, saying the GOP CD should clearly indicate that the packet is not only a video on Gay marriage but a tool to collect voter data. "Anytime the consumer is providing information to an entity and they're not aware of how that information is being used or what purpose the information may be put to, they're at a disadvantage," she said.

Lawsuit: Sheriff Allowed Gay Heart Attack Victim To Die

WELCH - A Gay man from W.Va., died of a heart attack after the police chief there physically prevented his friend from performing CPR because the chief falsely believed the man was HIV-positive, the American Civil Liberties Union said in a lawsuit filed on Thursday (Mar. 2), reported Advocate.com. The federal discrimination suit was filed on behalf of the surviving family members of Claude Green Jr.

"I'm heartbroken that I have lost my son over such ignorance and bigotry," said Helen Green, mother of Claude, who died at the age of 43. "I can't understand how someone who is supposed to protect the people of Welch could physically block another human from saving my son's life. It's always difficult for a mother to lose a child, but to have lost my son so needlessly will be with me for the rest of my life."

The ACLU filed the lawsuit in the U.S. district court for the southern district of West Virginia against the city of Welch and Robert K. Bowman, Welch's chief of police. The lawsuit charges that Bowman discriminated against Green by preventing others from providing lifesaving medical care to Green because of his sexual orientation and perceived HIV status. The lawsuit also charges that Bowman violated the Americans With Disabilities Act by discriminating against someone he perceived to be HIV-positive.

"Bowman's actions were a frightening abuse of power," said Rose Saxe, a staff attorney with the ACLU's AIDS Project. "It's hard to say what was more shameful: that Chief Bowman assumed Claude Green was HIV-positive solely because he was Gay, or that Bowman was so ignorant about HIV that he felt you couldn't safely perform CPR on an HIV-positive person."

According to the ACLU lawsuit, Green suffered a heart attack while driving with a friend last summer. The friend, Billy Snead, was performing CPR by the side of the road when Bowman arrived and told Snead to stop because Green was HIV-positive. When Snead didn't stop the CPR, Bowman grabbed Snead by the shoulders and physically barred Snead from continuing CPR at a critical point in Green's resuscitation. Snead, who had not realized at first that Bowman was a police officer, then obeyed his commands. While Green fought to stay alive, Bowman prevented anyone else from aiding Green until EMS workers arrived approximately 10 minutes later, the suit claims. While they were putting Green in the ambulance, Bowman informed EMS workers that Green was HIV-positive. Although the EMS workers ignored Bowman's warnings and performed CPR on Green, he passed away shortly after arriving at the hospital. He did not have HIV.



Sydney Mardi Gras Parade



Sydney Mardi Gras Lineup

NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

'Fiction and Fact'

by Lee Thorn

A friend of mine was trying to talk me into going to a movie called BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN. He described it as a story about gay star-crossed lovers. At my age my shortened attention span doesn't really embrace the feature-length film format, but what finally decided the issue for me was my friend's saying that the movie had no sex scenes. I'm about as interested in a love story without sex scenes in the year 2006 as I am in non-alcoholic wine, decaffeinated coffee and clam chowder minus the clams.

Homosexuality has gone from not being portrayed at all in popular entertainment to being portrayed so grotesquely that it's depressing. I'll never know if BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN follows the current depressing trend or starts a new and better one. I remember a supposedly pro-gay movie from the 1970s called THE BOYS IN THE BAND that was so depressing it made a gay friend of mine cry. Describing his reaction to the film he said, "Oh god, will I have to live like that?"

The answer of course was "no," but I wonder how many young gay people who haven't had much experience in either love or sex take stock dramatic paradigms too seriously. We have the ancient dramatic cliché of star-crossed lovers, already ancient when Shakespeare had a go at it 400 years ago with ROMEO AND JULIET. You basically have these lovers who were obviously meant for each other and who are in a situation that makes their love impossible. In real life star-crossed lovers manage to get their stars uncrossed so they can get on with their romance. In real life Romeo and Juliet elope and settle down far away from their crazy kinfolks. But that kind of practicality infused into stage plays and movies would shorten their running time by 90%.

I hope that young gay people realize that the actual variety of love and sex is much broader than what is reflected in commercially viable vehicles. There are lots of people, for example, who have sex with members of their own gender but do not regard themselves as homosexuals. Yes, it's illogical. There's hot sex between

total strangers. There's hot sex between people who don't like each other. There's totally passionate devoted love without sexual arousal. There's love where sexual arousal is deliberately suppressed. I once talked to a man with a wife and three kids who said, "I'm 100% homosexual but I've never had sex with a man and I never intend to. In fact the idea scars me to death." In short there's more stuff going on than any one person could imagine, so it's a little ridiculous to be limited by what we see in the movies.

And as for movies about mostly male environments, I've been in two such environments for extended periods of time, the army in Vietnam and the Colorado State Reformatory. In both of those contexts, homosexuality was a given that was so commonplace it was barely noticed. Interestingly enough, in both those environments, although the behavior was no big deal, homosexuality as a topic of serious conversation remained a taboo. One could joke about it. One could not wax philosophical or even sociological.

Being interested in both the art of drama and in reality, I pine for theatrical productions that reflect more of the range of what actually goes on. How about a movie dealing with the romantic side of J. Edgar Hoover, one of the most feared men in American history and one who openly held hands with his lifelong boyfriend as they glided merrily through New York's cafe society rubbing shoulders with politicians, movie stars, tycoons and gangsters. Stock dramatic conventions persist because they provide relatively safe investments. Stock dramatic portrayals of gays and other minorities exist because they're comfortably familiar.

About 30 years ago a youngish aspiring screenwriter wrote a film script in which the hero was gay but his gayness wasn't essential to the plot of the story. He, the hero, also had blue eyes that were also not essential to the plot of the story. The screenwriter's agent told him that she had shown the script to five major production companies who were all impressed with it and who had all said the same thing: "Why does the hero have to be gay?" The screenwriter replied, "That's exactly what his mother would like to know." I'm not much of a moviegoer, but 30 years later I'm still not aware of a major commercial movie in which the hero just happens to be gay.

Let me just say, "Hello, young lovers, whoever you are. Don't try to find yourselves in the movies or even in literature. Just as nature painters seldom have the guts to paint nature as gaudy as She really is, filmmakers don't have the guts to paint people as various as we really are. There's simply no money in it. Forget the movies and do the much more interesting thing of inventing yourselves. I hope your troubles are few."

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



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Wednesday, March 8

LGBT Health Needs Assessment - A community forum on the health of LGBT Arizonans, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St. You may have filled out a survey or shared your thoughts at a focus group. Now is your chance to hear the preliminary findings of those efforts and add your voice to the results. For more information call Becky Corran, 237-1399.

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00p.m. Join Marv for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Marv at 745-0304.

Thursday, March 9

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, Saturday, Sunday, March 10-12

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

Friday, March 10

#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Lloyd hosts a fun evening of

Non Bar Calendar

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.

#2 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 9:00 p.m. MSN is proud to co-sponsor opening night of the Wingspan FilmFest at the Loft Theater. Join us for the Tucson premiere of "OpenCam", a 2005 gay murder mystery. Look for more info (including Festival ticket prices) in upcoming issues of the Observer or call the Loft Theater.

Saturday, March 11

#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 12:00 p.m. Join Lee as he hosts an outing at the Reid Park Zoo. Meet at the front gate At Noon. Cost is \$5.00, \$4.00 for Seniors. Zoo closes at 4:00 p.m. so the outing will last until then or whenever people decide to leave. For reservations, please call Lee at 207-5336.

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

Sunday, March 12

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. Thom hosts Dinner Out at one of Tucson's Fabulous Buffets. This week we will dine at Golden Corral (6385 S. Midvale Park). Dinner is usually under \$10 bucks. For reservations and directions, please call Thom at 623-2941.

Monday, March 13

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 11:00 a.m. Join Les as he hosts a Lunch Out at Desert Diamond Casino. We'll gamble from 11 to Noon, then have lunch at the Agave Restaurant. For more info and directions, please call Les at 690-9565.

Tuesday, March 14

#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. Michael 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 Michael at 326-3555.

Wednesday, March 15

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00p.m. Join Jack for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Jack at 887-3736.

Thursday, March 16

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, March 17

#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00p.m. Join Robert as he hosts Pizza Night. For just \$5.00, come and enjoy a night of Pizza and good conversation. For reservations and directions, please call Robert at 400-1376. To ensure we have enough food, please reserve your spot by noon on Thursday, March 16th.

#2 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00p.m. Join Danny for a night of 'Smoker Poker' at Mother Hubbard's. Poker and smoking of pipes, cigars and cigarettes allowed. Contact Danny for more info at 349-5295.

Saturday, March 18

March 18, 2006
Reveille Rummage Sale, 7:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, Rincon Congregational Church of Christ, 122 Craycroft Road Tucson, Arizona

#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 8:30 a.m. Join Jack & Mike for a morning of Volleyball. This is played for fun, and you'll get to know some nice guys as you play. For details and directions, please call Mike and Jack at 881-5733.

#2 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Steve 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 Steve at 664-2076.

#3 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Merlin and Lee for "Dr. Who" Night. We will watch episodes of the new Dr. Who, a British Science Fiction series. For reservations and directions, please call Lee and Merlin at 207-5336. This event is limited to the first 8 callers, so call soon.

Sunday, March 19

#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 9:30 a.m. Join Vaughan for a morning hike on the "Baby Jesus Trail", classified as Intermediate. Please call Vaughan at 834-9980 beforehand to arrange a meeting place and carpooling where available. Come prepared with water, snacks and sunscreen.

#2 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. Thom hosts Dinner Out at one of Tucson's Fabulous Buffets. This week we will dine at China A Super Buffet (75 W. River). Dinner is usually under \$10 bucks. For reservations and directions, please call Thom at 623-2941.

Monday, March 20

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

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What happens when chatty Mercury and blowsy Jupiter retrograde? Even a faint whisper or a mere musing can accelerate into a fierce windstorm. Are you usually considered a blowhard? Oh ho! Well just wait.

ARIES (MAR. 21 - APR. 20)

Proud Rams may be hot to trot but don't go to a gallop just yet. Your forward hoof gets caught in the nookie jar. Idealized romance is great, don't get me wrong, but be sure to keep your feet firmly planted on solid ground while Mercury and Jupiter retrograde. Spontaneous lusty conquests combust and have their lingering aches. Is it your back, or your heart?

TAURUS (APR. 21 - MAY 21)

Talking about illegal wiretapping, your idle chit chat with compadres can wind up being leaked out to the general public when Mercury and Jupiter retrograde. Perhaps even worse, your innocuous complaints about certain relationships manage to get back to the source. Don't try to explain yourself, queer Bull. Just lie back and only think happy, happy thoughts this week.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

As much as you want to make a name for yourself in the professional arena, content yourself with back office busy work this week. Retro Mercury and Jupiter reveal all your Machiavellian machinations to the powers-that-be. And your gripes won't be able to rally the masses in the cubicle sector either. Tone down the rhetoric if you want to be among the powers-that-will-be.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Travel is broadening. Travel is fun. Travel is educational. All of this is true except not for you and not right now. Mercury and Jupiter retrograde and conspire to make any merry jaunt a taxing trudge. All is not lost. Pink Crabs enjoy their comfortable familiar surroundings anyway. So why not get your itchy claws scratched closer to home? Anyone we know?

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)

Proud Lions on the prowl can captivate any stray heart. But what will you do once you get it? Choose your prey carefully and go for quality rather than quantity. Your amorous advances advance well beyond your ability to handle them. When Mercury and Jupiter retrograde, your eyes become too big for your stomach... or something along those lines.

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)

You think you are being debonair but snarky comments won't enhance you in the eyes of a certain special someone. "Clever" banter will be taken out of context and cause a rift in partnerships. If you have to talk, say what you mean and mean what you say. However, if at all possible let your actions speak louder and prouder than your words this week, queer Virgin.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

For those Gay Libras who need to earn their fortune, it would be wise to hold off on any inflammatory office remarks this week. Even emails should be screened for screed as Mercury and Jupiter conspire to blow minor comments out of proportion. Co-workers may be in a funky mood. but that doesn't mean that you should bite to their bark. Why not take a very long lunch?

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

Are you the life of the party? You think so. Not only do you crave to join in the fun, but you aspire to be fun incarnate. Be warned: your public face may have too much of a close up this week as both Mercury and Jupiter retrograde. Every hairy mole is magnified. Proud Scorps boogie down while wearing lampshade hats. Let's hope no one is packing a camera.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)

There may be festering issues at play with family that cry out to be discussed and dissected. And yet, it might be best to wait until next week before you smear your heart on your sleeve. Gay Archers manage to hit a sore spot and not just once but several times. Purposely? Possibly. To what end? You may find that sugar gets you further than spice. At least with relatives.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)

The social beehive turns into a swarm as Mercury and Jupiter retrograde. Idle innocent chatter can set the group off on a high emotional tear. The funny thing is that it may start off as being so innocuous that its ultimate enormity surprises and defies logic. Life is a soap opera. Moral of the story? Don't get involved in gossip pink Cap. Well, at least this week.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

Counting your money in public is so declassé that it is almost silly to point it out to you as a no no. And yet, as Mercury and Jupiter retrograde, you need to be reminded. Aqueerians are not shy souls and now you are positively giddy about the largeness of your largess. The soft and subtle approach will get you further than the big splash, especially with the big fish.

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MAR. 20)

Stick with the tried and true rather than swimming in new social pools this week, Guppie. If first impressions are lasting impressions, Mercury and Jupiter retrograde will certainly make you, ahem, memorable. Just in case, follow these instructions: open mouth, remove foot. There may be the opportunity to laugh about it all next week. Or maybe not.

Gay Student Sues School Over Alleged Bullying

GROVE - A Gay teenager claims school officials in Grove failed to provide him with a safe environment, resulting in an assault by another student, reported 365Gay.com. Eighteen-year-old Michale Bullis of Wyandotte filed a notice of tort claim against Grove Public Schools and the Grove School Board.

In the claim, Bullis alleges he was injured in an attack by another student November 8th in the Grove High School cafeteria. According to the claim, the student said he attacked Bullis because he is Gay. A National Honor Society student, Bullis claims the attack was part of "systematic harassment and bullying" which resulted in his transfer to the Grove Alternative School.

Bullis is seeking more than 10-thousand dollars in damages. He is represented by Miami attorney Erik Johnson. School officials didn't comment on the claim.

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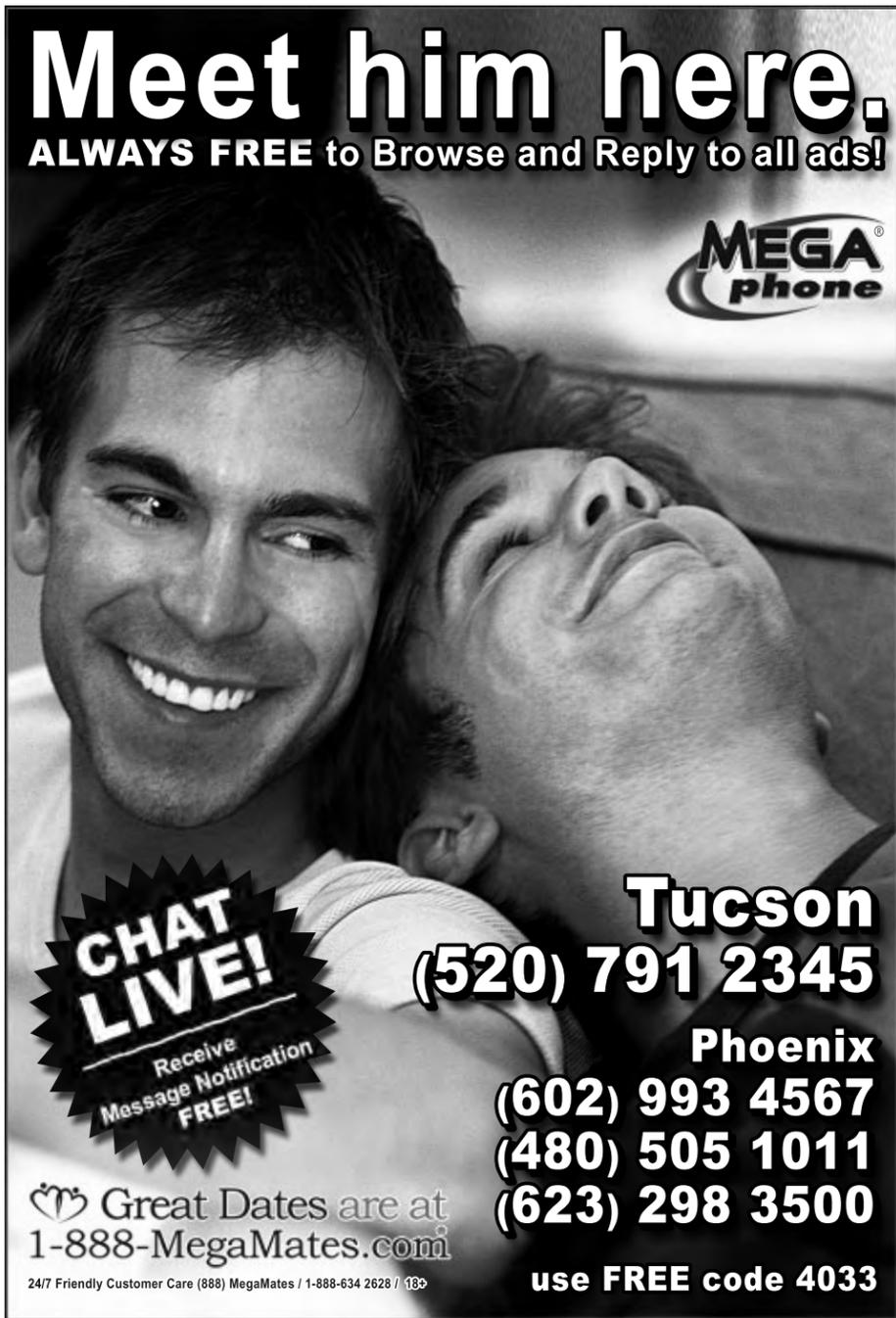
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PERSONALS

GWM LOOKING FOR WINTER SNOWBIRD. Companionship, cuddling and love. 731-6152

1132

WANTED: Someone who needs some TLC and companionship. ME: 42, secure job, likes to have fun, lonely and need someone to enjoy life with and spoil. If interested, please call Mike at 349-3780

1127.

HOUSING/FOR RENT

MOBILE HOME FOR RENT: 1 BEDROOM, washer/dryer, private, mountain view. Central location. Artistic environment. \$450/mo + utilities. Call Richard 867-8582.

1127.

SERVICES

RELAX WITH A FULL BODY MASSAGE FOR MEN in a private studio on the West Side. Call Ralph, 883-7496.

1129

END BACK PAIN. The back solution, massage and bodywork. 15 years experience. Tension Erasure - Stress Reduction - Relax for Health. Abe 294-4810

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SERVICES

SENSUOUS/EROTIC MEN'S FULL BODY MASSAGE. Experienced Therapist. Satisfaction guaranteed., Tucson's Be\$t Deal. \$45/hr. Evenings/Weekends only. John 327-3135

1132

FULL BODY SWEDISH MASSAGE FOR MEN. Best rates in Tucson! Speedway & Swan area. IN and OUT calls 7 days. 548-6314

1130

PROFESSIONAL THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE GUARANTEE QUALITY. Tantric sensuality. Strong and masculine give you passion. An exceptional experience for 24 years. Call now.. Marc 881-4582 by appointment. 1128

ALTERATIONS AND REPAIRS

Let me keep your clothes fitting properly and in good repair. Experienced -- Economical -- Prompt. Merle Hudson, (520) 888-7264 in Tucson.

1130

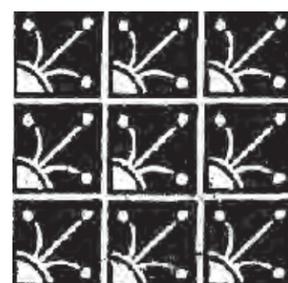
Copenhagen To Host Next World OutGames

COPENHAGEN - Five months before the first World Outgames, an event resulting from a contentious split with the Federation of Gay Games in 2004, is held in Montreal this August, the Gay and Lesbian International Sports Association announced Friday (Mar. 3) that the city of Copenhagen in Denmark will host the next World Outgames in 2009, Advocate.com reported.

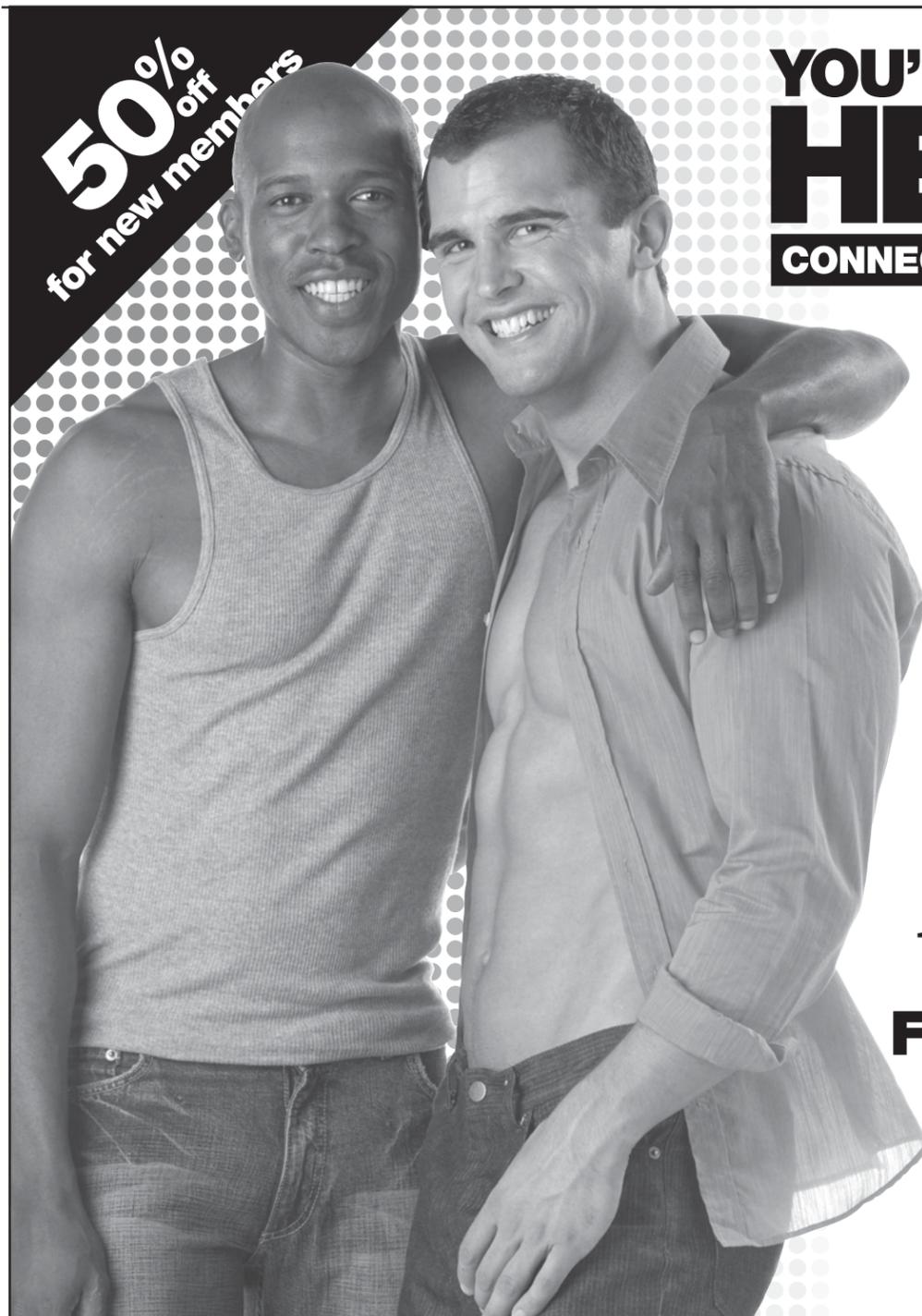
Geoff Lyne, chair of GLISA's Host Relations Committee, said he was encouraged by the agreement. "It has been truly amazing to experience the level of commitment from all sectors of the Copenhagen community," he said. "It is clear that Copenhagen has embraced the GLISA model of partnership and collaboration in the delivery of Outgames."

According to GLISA, the Copenhagen city council has committed significant funds to Phase I of the Outgames project. Martin Geertsen, mayor of culture and recreation, told GLISA, "Our administration fully supports the 2009 Outgames and views it as a strategic opportunity to showcase our city and to demonstrate to the world our capacity and leadership in hosting large-scale sporting events."

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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, \$2.50 Domestic and Well. 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 & Beeefeaters 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, \$2.50 Domestic and Well. 1st 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, \$2.50 Domestic Well. 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, \$2.50 Domestic & Well. Full menu served 4-10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. \$2.00 Mexican Beers all day. Kitchen open 4-9pm. Karaoke with Debbie from 8 to midnight.

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

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio open 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Pool Tourney 7pm. \$3 entry. Special prices for players. Steak Nite (4th Thursday of each month). Bring your own or get it here \$6.00.

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

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

friday

COLORS - Open 4pm-1am. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3 Skyy cocktails, \$2.50 Domestic and Well. 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, 9pm Hot Dance with DJ Mike Lopez outside on the patio and DJ Raynman spinning club music inside. 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, \$2.50 Domestic and Well 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.

Arts & Entertainment

Wednesday, March 8

LGBT Health Needs Assessment - A community forum on the health of LGBT Arizonans, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St. You may have filled out a survey or shared your thoughts at a focus group. Now is your chance to hear the preliminary findings of those efforts and add your voice to the results. For more information call Becky Corran, 237-1399.

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Join Marv for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Marv at 745-0304.

Thursday, March 9

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, Saturday, Sunday, March 10-12

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

Arts and Entertainment

Friday, March 10 Continued

#1 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.

#2 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 9:00 p.m. MSN is proud to co-sponsor opening night of the Wingspan FilmFest at the Loft Theater. Join us for the Tucson premiere of "OpenCam", a 2005 gay murder mystery. Look for more info (including Festival ticket prices) in upcoming issues of the Observer or call the Loft Theater.

Saturday, March 11

#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed: 12:00 p.m. Join Lee as he hosts an outing at the Reid Park Zoo. Meet at the front gate At Noon. Cost is \$5.00, \$4.00 for Seniors. Zoo closes at 4:00 p.m. so the outing will last until then or whenever people decide to leave. For reservations, please call Lee at 207-5336.

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

Sunday, March 12

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. Thom hosts Dinner Out at one of Tucson's Fabulous Buffets. This week we will dine at Golden Corral (6385 S. Midvale Park). Dinner is usually under \$10 bucks. For reservations and directions, please call Thom at 623-2941.

Monday, March 13

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed: 11:00 a.m. Join Les as he

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

FRIDAY, MARCH 10

WOODY'S - March Birthday??? Celebrate at Woody's - cake - balloons - champagne. 10 p.m.

YARD DOG SALOON - Welcome the cast members of Arizona Theatre Company's "Sherlock Holmes".

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

HOWL AT THE MOON - Desert Divas present a "Spring Fling Drag Show" at 10:00 p.m. Starring Aieda Monroe, Amanda Nicole, Giovanna DuMay, and special guest Miss Divinity.

YARD DOG SALOON - Wingspan Film Festival Post Party! 2006 Southwest Bootblack @ 9:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 17

VENTURE-N - St. Patrick's Day Party. Beer Bust plus \$1 schnapps specials. Midori Cocktails and Irish Whiskey Cocktails \$3.

WOODY'S - St. Patrick's Day Party - Rodger's Corned Beef and Cabbage. Party favors.

YARD DOG SALOON - St. Patrick's Day Party.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

HOWL AT THE MOON - TMI in Concert. Tucson's own plays a mix of 70s & 80s classic rock plus a mix of older and newer hits. \$5.00 cover at the door.

VENTURE-N - It's a "Morning After" Brunch with Reubens and BLTs by the world famous chef BUCKY.. Bloodys and Screws \$2.

WOODY'S - The 'Green Party' Continues today!

YARD DOG SALOON - "Toga Party IV". Watch for details.



NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

YOUNG AND GAY?

GLBT Youth 23 and under, meet every Saturday in Tucson for sharing, support and information. Meetings are held at 425 E. 7th Street from 3 to 4:30 pm. You are not alone. For more info call Wingspan, 624-1779.

The **TUCSON Chapter of PRIME TIMERS WORLDWIDE** invites Gay or Bisexual men and their admirers to join and share Prime Timers fellowship. We welcome mature men (and admirers) who wish to become involved with planned and future Prime Timers (TPT) activities. Meetings luncheons and dinners are held monthly. For dates, times and information call 743-0810, leave name and phone number. Tucsonpt@primetimersww.org

TUCSON GAY INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AA Meeting with HIV/AIDS focus, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., Wingspan Annex, 425 E. 7th St. All alcoholics welcome.

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

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

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

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

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

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

TUCSON PRIDE, INC. (Formerly Tucson Lesbian and Gay Alliance - TLGA) meets on the second Tuesday at 845 S. Craycroft Road at 6pm. Tucson Pride events: Pride Week, Gay West and OUToberFEST. Inquiries about support groups and indi-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

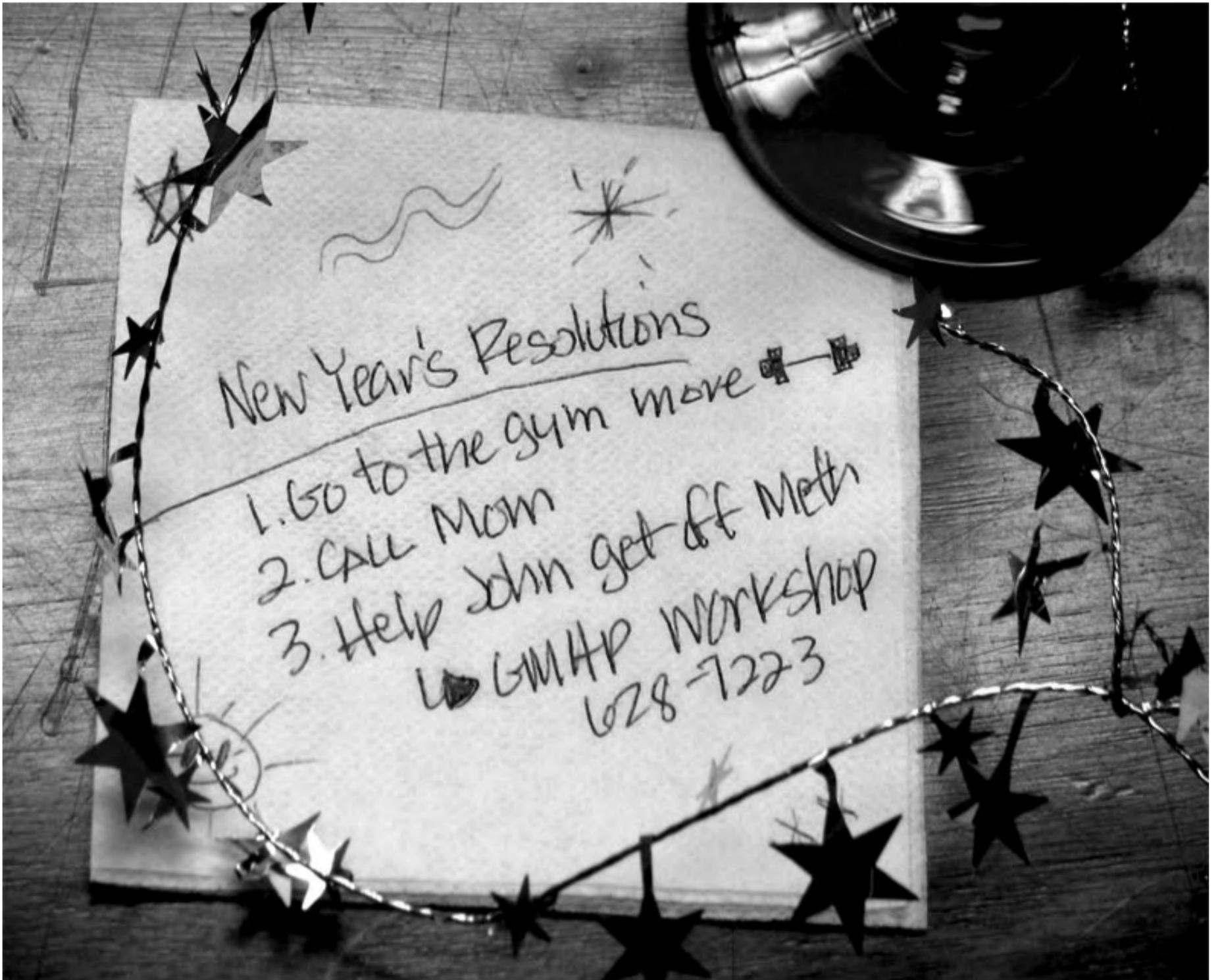
NEW TUCSON SOBRIETY SUPPORT GROUP. Secular Organizations for Sobriety - Sundays 8:00 - 9:30 p.m. at 739 N. 4th Avenue. Contacts Rick R. 520-792-2604 or Gary S. 520-323-1969. More information at www.secularhumanism.org/sos/ This group is an alternative to 12-step programs.

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

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

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





To find out how you can help your friends and partners understand how their decisions around sex and drugs can increase their risk for HIV, come to the GMHP Community Leadership Workshop, Sunday March 19th from Noon to 4pm. Call Gary at 628-7223 to reserve your space.

