Observing Tucson And The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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WEEKLY OBSERVER | MARCH 15, 2006 | ISSUE 1130

GOP Attempts To Kill Hate Crimes Bill

Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI) (above), has successfully clipped an amendment that will drop Gays, Lesbians and Transgendered from federal hate crime laws. See story below, and write your congressman.

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Using a procedural maneuver Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI) the Chair of the House Judiciary Committee chopped an amendment to the Children's Safety and Violent Crimes Reduction Act that would have included Gays, Lesbians and the Transgendered in federal hate crime laws, reported 365Gay.com. The amendment was passed by the House last September on a 223 to 199 vote with 30 Republicans casting their votes in support of the measure.

"The United States Congress is not a card game. You can't just keep re-shuffling the deck if you don't like the first hand the majority deals you," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "The House has already passed hate crimes legislation by a clear majority. To callously disregard that vote signals how far out of step House leadership is with both the majority of Congress and the American people."

A Senate version of the bill is currently before the chamber.

This legislation extends existing hate crimes laws that already cover crimes motivated by race, color, national origin and religion to include crimes based on actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation, disability and gender identity, including gender-related characteristics. The gender identity/characteristics language was added to this bill this year to make clear that anti-Transgender crimes are covered.

The bill would allow the Department of Justice to assist local authorities in investigating and prosecuting cases in which violence occurs.

The hate crimes measure is endorsed by more than 175 law enforcement, civil rights, civic and religious organizations, including: the National Sheriffs' Association, International Association of Chiefs of Police, U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association.

"Hate crimes are often times crimes against children and our goal should be to protect all of America's children from violence," said Solmonese in a statement.

"It is hypocritical to claim to promote child safety while squashing legislation that would keep millions of Americans, children included, safe from hate violence."

A Kaiser Family Foundation poll released in November 2001, shows 73 percent of Americans supporting hate crimes legislation.

Advocates Hope Supreme Court Ruling Can Renew Attention To 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

WASHINGTON - Advocates for repealing the ban on military service by openly Gay men and Lesbians say they hope that their cause may be helped by the Supreme Court decision barring universities from keeping military recruiters off their campuses in protest of that ban, reported the New York Times.

The unanimous ruling upheld a law requiring colleges to allow military recruiters access to students that is equal to access given to other employers, or risk forfeiting some federal grants.

The ruling led several newspapers to write editorials calling for the government to change its policy, including USA Today, which said the ban was "archaic and hurtful," and The Washington Post, which said "a combination of bigotry and inertia keeps the Gay ban in place."

"The silver lining in this decision is that it has focused attention on the underlying issue of the prejudicial 'don't ask, don't tell' policy," said Steve Ralls, a spokesman for the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, which monitors discrimination against Gay people in the military.

Mr. Ralls said he believed that the ruling was likely to help build momentum for a repeal of the ban, and that it would increase interest in the issue among young adults.

The "don't ask, don't tell" policy, which went into effect over a decade ago, is still being debated largely because of efforts by groups like the legal defense network and the Log Cabin Republicans, a Gay political group. Both organizations have filed lawsuits in federal court seeking to overturn the policy.

The military's ban on openly Gay service members was a compromise to permit Gay men and Lesbians to serve without fear of harassment or expulsion as long as they kept their sexual orientation to themselves.

Patrick Guerriero, executive director of the Log Cabin Republicans, said his group had found "new traction" recently among lawmakers who say they are concerned that the military's policy of discharging personnel who are discovered to be Gay further hampers a military already strained by overseas deployments.

Mr. Guerriero said the group had also begun to reach a new generation of Gay conservatives and veterans who oppose the "don't ask, don't tell" policy. He said the group's supporters had sent more than 10,000 letters in the past year to members of Congress asking for an end to the ban.

"Ultimately," Mr. Guerriero said, "we think it's going to take a Republican with strong military credentials to make a shift in the policy."

Elaine Donnelly, president of the Center for Military Readiness, an independent public policy group in Livonia, Mich., called the groups' efforts "a big P.R. campaign."

"The law is there to protect good order and discipline in the military," Ms. Donnelly said, "and it's not going to change."

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld has said that the Bush administration would not revisit the ban. The Defense Department, when asked about the policy on Friday, issued a statement saying that the policy "implements a federal law," adding, "The law would need to be changed to affect the department's policy."

Mr. Ralls said veterans had "enormous influence on Capitol Hill," and his group has encouraged them to talk about the issue. Those who have include Gen. Wesley K. Clark, the former NATO supreme commander and Democratic presidential candidate, and several retired Gay officers who have traveled to Washington to discuss their experiences.

Mr. Ralls's group and the Log Cabin Republicans, along with Representative Martin T. Meehan, Democrat of Massachusetts, have organized a speaking tour of Gay former service members that has stopped at 18 colleges and universities this year.

Mr. Meehan introduced a bill last year to repeal the policy on Gay service members in an effort to enhance military readiness. It has 109 co-sponsors, including 4 Republicans.

"The fight to repeal the 'don't ask, don't tell' policy has been a 12-year marathon," he said, "with many uphill climbs and roadblocks along the way. The finish line isn't in sight yet, but we've moved a lot closer."

UPDATE

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.

'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.

Pride Theme & Logo Contest Announced

TUCSON - Tucson Pride Inc. (TPI) announced the launch of the 2006 theme and logo contest, with this year's theme " Stand Together . . . For Equality, With Pride, In Action!"

This year's theme, according to a statement from TPI was chosen as a call to action for their community; asking everyone to stand and be recognized. The winning entry's logo will be used in an array of print advertising for 2006, including posters, flyers, ads, t-shirts and more. The winner of this year's contest will receive $150 for their entry.

Contest specifications include: Entries must coincide with this year's theme. Entries should be created in color, in PDF, JPEG or TIF format. Deadline for entry submission is midnight, Apr. 8. Entries received after that time may not be considered. Winning entry will be chosen Apr. 12. Winner must agree to sign over all rights of use for winning entry to TPI, submissions cannot be returned and all submissions become the property of TPI.

To submit your entry, mail to P O Box 57478 Tucson, AZ 85732, or E-mail: info@tucsonpride.org.

TPI also announced that this year's OUToberFEST is being rethought and re-designed from the ground up. Everything you think you know about our pride event is changing, including the name. If you have suggestions for the new name of Tucson's annual pride event, please send them to TPI via one of the addresses above. This is not a contest and no prize will be awarded. TPI will make its final decision at their monthly Board meeting on Apr.12 as well

Senior Pride Picnic March 18

TUCSON - Join Senior Pride for a chat and some nibbles, Saturday, Mar. 18, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Himmel Park (1st St. & Tucson Blvd.) for a picnic and good times!

Bring your favorite brunch "dish" or lawn game to share in this great way to meet other LGBT folks 50+, as well as bringing your mind to learn about the services or volunteer opportunities available in the community. For those with food sensitivities or diet restrictions, if you are bringing a home made "dish," picnic organizers ask that you bring a list of the ingredients, so wise choices can be made. For more information, contact Pat Woelke at Senior Pride, (520) 624-1779, ext. 22, E-mail: pwoelke@wingspan.org.

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TIHAN UPDATE

TUCSON - TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network) is expecting to move to new offices in April, addressing TIHAN's growth and our current lack of office space, and will providing almost twice as much square footage.

TIHAN is asking for support to help make the transition as smooth as possible. For more information, call Cherwee Hughley, (520) 299-6647 to help or for more information. . . .

Join TIHAN on Tuesday nights, 5:30 - 8 p.m., for a drop-in volunteer opportunity. TIHAN has all sorts of volunteer projects for you, your friends, partners, anyone interested. Make a difference, have fun, and make new friends. Whether you have never volunteered, or are a long-time TIHAN volunteer, help is needed and appreciated. Call (520) 299-6647, to volunteer. . . .

"Treasures for TIHAN," the signature fundraising event for the programs and services is coming up on Saturday, May 6, 6 p.m. at The Hotel Arizona (formerly the Radisson Hotel), 181 W. Broadway. A sparkling evening of great music, fantastic food, and wonderful auction items to raise funds to support the programs and services, the "Treasures " benefit is the largest event of the year, raising over $84,000 last year.

Tickets for the event are $50 ($23 is tax-deductible), and can be purchased by calling (520) 299-6647 or online at tihan.org If you can help by donating or soliciting items for our auction–trips, gift certificates, massages, antiques, jewelry, rugs, unique gift items, and collectibles of value (over $50 in value, please), please contact Scott at TIHAN.

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.

....CORRECTION...

In last week's edition, the last paragraph of Kyle Lawson's story was incomplete. Here is the last paragraph as it was written:

"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 women 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 comfortable in Tucson - Wingspan and all of its great services. Last but not least, I want to thank Representative Jim Kolbe for all of his support and encouragement in my time of need."

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Office Hours: 9a.m.-6p.m.M-F

Office Closed Thursdays

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Informing the Community
The Observer

Bush Court Nominee Who Used Homophobic Epithet Arrested

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A former aide nominated twice by President Bush to the Court of Appeals has been arrested suburban Maryland, reported 365Gay.com.

Claude Allen, 45, was arrested by Montgomery County police for allegedly claiming refunds for more than $5,000 worth of merchandise he did not buy.

Allen was the No. 2 official in the Health and Human Services Department when Bush nominated him in April 2003 to the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Va. Bush nominated Allen to the court again a year later, but he never received a Senate vote.

During his confirmation hearing, Allen was questioned about his use of the word "queer" when he was a press aide to Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., in 1984. Allen said he didn't intend it as a slur against Gay people.

In early 2005, Bush hired Allen as a domestic policy adviser. He resigned abruptly on Feb. 9, saying he wanted to spend more time with his family.

Allen has been under investigation since at least January for the alleged thefts on 25 occasions at Target and Hecht's stores, said police spokesman Lt. Eric Burnett.

Burnett said that Allen would buy items, take them to his car, then return to the store with his receipt. He would select the same items, then take them to the store return desk and show the receipt from the first purchase. Using that method, he would receive credit for the second items on his credit cards, Burnett said.

Allen was allegedly seen Jan. 2 at a Target in Gaithersburg, Md., taking items off the shelf that he then took to the return desk. He had a receipt for the merchandise, was given a refund and left.

The items he allegedly received fraudulent refunds for included clothing, a Bose theater system and stereo equipment. Some purchases were for as little as $2.50.

The night of Jan. 2, after the alleged incident at the Target in Gaithersburg, he called White House chief of staff Andy Card to inform him of what had happened. The next morning, he spoke again, this time in person, with Card and White House counsel Harriet Miers, assuring them it was all a misunderstanding, press secretary Scott McClellan said.

Allen told his bosses there was merely confusion with his credit card because he had moved several times. "He assured them that he had done nothing wrong and the matter would be cleared up," McClellan said.

During his 2003 confirmation hearings for the Court of Appeals Allen was grilled by Democrats about his use of the word "queer"

In 1984 when Helms was running against North Carolina Gov. Jim Hunt, Allen was quoted by a North Carolina reporter as using the word. In the interview, Allen said Hunt was vulnerable because his campaign could be "linked with the queers." He went on to say that the Hunt campaign could be connected with homosexuals, labor unions, radical feminists and socialists.

Allen told the Senate Judiciary Committee he meant the word in the sense of "odd, out of the ordinary, unusual" instead of as a slur against Gays.

Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) asked Allen, "Do you understand how some people in America might take your use of this word 'queers' as being negative, to denigrate them, and not respectful?"

"Senator, absolutely, and that is the exact reason why that at the time I used the word, I sought to correct the record so that it would not be understood to denigrate any individual or any group," Allen replied.

Allen was released on his own recognizance by a Montgomery District Court judge.

Before joining the Bush administration, Allen was Virginia Health and Human Resources secretary.

Award Winning Author To Speak At Grace St. Paul's March 24

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.

Author Fenton Johnson

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.

Wrestlers Needed For Jello

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.

The End Of Marriage? The War Over The Future Of State-Sponsored Love, Mar. 27

TUCSON - Lisa Duggan will speak on why anti-Gay marriage initiatives succeed, why they appeal to voters at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St., Monday, Mar. 27, 5:30 p.m.

Looking specifically at Arizona, she asks, why does an institution in such seeming decline as marriage (according to national census statistics) appear at the center of ideology and aspiration on the international stage? Marriage politics played a strange role in the "wedge" politics of the 2004 election in the U.S.–and have been at the center of a range of debates over welfare "reform," single parent families, same sex partnerships, and celebrity lifestyles.

Duggan is a historian, journalist and activist who teaches at New York University. She is author of Sapphic Slashers: Sex, Violence and American Modernity, co-author of Sex Wars: Sexual Dissent and Political Culture, co-editor of Our Monica, Ourselves: The Clinton Affair and National Interest, and author most recently of Twlight of Equality: Neoliberalism, Cultural Politics and the Attack on Democracy. She is currently at work on The End of Marriage? The War Over the Future of State Sponsored Love. Her articles on marriage politics in the Mar. 15, 2004 and July 18, 2005 issues of The Nation, and are available online at henation.com.

For more information, E-mail: lbriggs@email.arizona.edu.

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Red Cross Calls To End Ban On Gay Blood Donors

BETHESDA - Officials from the American Red Cross, speaking at a recent blood donation conference in Maryland, called for an end to the federal government's ban on Gay and Bisexual blood donors, the Washington Blade reported on Advocate.com.

A Food and Drug Administration policy in place since 1985 bans donations from any man who's ever had sex with another man–even one time–since 1977. Even Gay men who've tested negative for HIV antibodies and those who are in monogamous relationships are barred for life from donating blood. Government officials, when launching the ban, said it was needed to guarantee the safety of donated blood in the country since Gay men were significantly more likely to be infected with HIV than heterosexual men.

But the Red Cross is now joining with the American Association of Blood Banks and America's Blood Centers in calling for an end to the lifetime ban on Gay donors. "The AABB, ABC, and ARC believe that the current lifetime deferral for men who have had sex with other men is medically and scientifically unwarranted and recommend that deferral criteria be modified and made compatible with criteria for other groups at increased risk for sexual transmission of transfusion-transmitted infections," the groups said in a joint statement issued at the advisory panel meeting, reports the Blade."Because of advances in blood-screening technology, the ban on Gay blood donors is unnecessary since virtually all infected blood–from both heterosexual and Gay donors–is caught in the screening process. Instead of barring Gay donors, prospective donors of all sexual orientations should be asked about any recent risky sexual activity, particularly in the three weeks prior to donating blood, as it is possible for very early HIV infections to be missed during blood screening."

The American Association of Blood Banks in 2000 lobbied for an end to the lifetime ban of Gay blood donors, calling instead for a one-year deferral for all Gay-male donors. The Red Cross, which supplies about half the nation's blood supply, was opposed to the proposed change, but the organization now says that with better screening methods in place it is now comfortable in calling for an end to the Gay ban. FDA officials were unavailable for comment.

Husband-Husband Transplant Pair Doing Well

BOSTON - The recipient of what is apparently the nation's first husband-to-husband organ transplant is recovering nicely in Massachusetts, the Boston Herald reports. On Valentine's Day, Bill Mokeler of Malden, Mass., donated his kidney to his husband of two years, Paul Sagon, liberating him from the dialysis machines on which Sagon had relied since 1998.

Mokeler had initially not been a donor candidate, because he was using heavy doses of ibuprofen to deal with excruciating arthritis pain. But he stopped taking the pills in order to qualify as a donor, and he did not tell his husband about it. "The pain I endured was nothing in comparison to what he had to endure with his kidneys," Mokeler told the Herald. In October, Mokeler discovered he was a good donor match, and told Sagon he had a present for him on the week of their first wedding anniversary.

Bill Mokeler and Paul Sagon

"I was expecting a DVD or some clothes," Sagon said. He has a sister who could have been a donor, but she is a single mother and Sagon ruled it out as too risky for her. Mokeler and Sagon are recovering at home with their two dogs and cat. So far, there have been no complications.

"We say 'thank heavens' this couple was living in Massachusetts and were married and were able to take care of each other," said Samiya Bashir, communications director of Freedom to Marry, an organization devoted to marriage equality. Massachusetts is the only U.S. state to allow same-sex marriage. "Conservatives can hopefully look at this case and see that we are real people and see that the level of commitment we have to each other is no more and no less than any other couple," Bashir said.

Tucson's Black Cat

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Phelps To Curb Funeral Pickets

TOPEKA - A small Kansas church known for its anti-Gay protests said Wednesday (Mar. 8) it will stop picketing soldiers' funerals in states with new laws against the practice, reported 365Gay.com. "We're not going to get arrested. We obey the law," said Shirley Phelps-Roper, an attorney and member of Westboro Baptist Church of Topeka, a fundamentalist congregation headed by her father, the Rev. Fred Phelps.

Westboro Baptist has outraged mourning communities across the nation by showing up at soldiers' funerals with signs that read "God Hates Fags" or "God Made IEDs," a reference to roadside bombs. Members of the congregation contend soldiers are being struck down by God for defending a nation that tolerates homosexuality.

In response, several states have passed or considered legislation restricting when and where pickets may demonstrate at funerals. Violators can be fined or jailed. Westboro Baptist canceled demonstrations at funerals this past week in Oklahoma, Indiana, Missouri and Wisconsin, which have new laws limiting such protests. Shirley Phelps-Roper said the church is considering legal challenges to the new laws. "We're waiting until all the legislatures are over to see what tattered shreds they've left the Constitution in," she said.

Idaho Activists Make Rights Statement With Stickers

BBOISE - Gay rights advocates put stickers reading "Heterosexuals Only" on bus benches and public drinking fountains Monday morning (Mar. 6), reported Sirius OutQ News on Advocate.com. The activists told KBCI-TV the 150 or so stickers were a protest against a proposed constitutional ban on same-sex marriage approved by lawmakers for the November ballot.

They said the stickers were intended as reminders of past discrimination, namely the "Whites Only" signs affixed to fountains and benches in the South before the passage of civil rights laws. One activist, speaking on condition of anonymity, admitted they'd risked punishment for littering or defacing property.

But, the activist said, "I hope people will realize this...is a model of resistance that falls into a historical basis and they won't decide to be extremely punitive." The TV station says the stickers were easily removed and were in place only briefly.

This space isn't big but it caught your EYE!

...AND YOU COULD HAVE BOUGHT IT FOR ONLY PENNIES. IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE

LGBT Democrats Leader Steps Down

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Eric Stern announced Monday (Mar. 13) that he is stepping down as executive director of National Stonewall Democrats, reported 365Gay.com. "As a cancer survivor, my health has always been of paramount importance to me," Stern said in a statement. "While I have not had any health-related complications, the last five years of constant campaign-related work have taken their toll on me and I need to take a break from politics before I completely burn out and risk damage to my health and well-being."

Eric Stern

Stern indicated he was preparing to leave the organization at Stonewall's Capitol Champions congressional reception at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. The event, which raised more than $152,000 for grassroots electoral efforts, was the largest grossing fundraising event in the organization's history.

Stephen Driscoll, Co-Chair of the NSD Board of Directors said the board pleaded with Stern to remain on but accepts his reasons for leaving. "The board strongly regrets that he is leaving, but he has made a point of leaving us in great shape," Driscoll said. A statement by the Stonewall board said that under Stern's leadership National Stonewall Democrats has emerged as a financially stable and politically effective organization with an increased national profile and an emphasis on local organizing. Deputy Director Jo Wyrick will serve as Interim Executive Director until a formal search has been completed for Stern's replacement.

Boy George Picks Rehab In Plea Bargain

Boy George

NEW YORK - Boy George, in a plea bargain deal that spared him possible jail time, agreed Wednesday (Mar. 8) to enter a drug rehabilitation program and perform community service to resolve his arrest last year on a cocaine charge, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

The former pop star, whose real name is George O'Dowd, entered his guilty plea to third-degree false reporting of an incident in Manhattan Criminal Court. He only spoke to answer questions from Judge Anthony Ferrara with a simple "yes." Under the deal, O'Dowd will enter a drug program in England and perform five days of community service in Manhattan. He will pay a $1,000 fine and must avoid arrest on any charges over the next six months.

"I am relieved and happy that this case has been disposed of, and would like to thank the judge, the district attorney and my attorney, Lou Freeman, for the fair and speedy way it was dealt with," O'Dowd, 44, said in a statement distributed to reporters by his manager. "I love New York, and am looking forward to coming back and working in the States later this year." It was signed, "George."

He must return to court June 9 with written proof of his stay in a rehabilitation program. O'Dowd had a previous drug history, including a 1986 heroin possession arrest after two of his friends overdosed. O'Dowd entered a rehab program at that point. His drug woes reportedly led to the collapse of the Culture Club, which scored the hit singles "Karma Chameleon" and "Do You Really Want to Hurt Me?" O'Dowd will leave New York to head back to England and the Clouds House rehabilitation facility, said his manager, Jeremy Pearce. If convicted at trial on the drug possession charge, O'Dowd faced a possible sentence of one to 5 1/2 years, said Barbara Thompson, spokeswoman for the Manhattan district attorney.

He was arrested Oct. 7, 2005, after he called 911 to report an alleged burglary in his Manhattan apartment. Officers found a small pile of cocaine next to a computer. A charge of criminal possession of a controlled substance was dropped as part of the plea bargain. If O'Dowd had gone to trial on the false reporting charge and had been convicted, he could have spent up to a year in prison. Pearce said O'Dowd hopes to fulfill his community service obligation by putting on a concert to benefit AIDS research.

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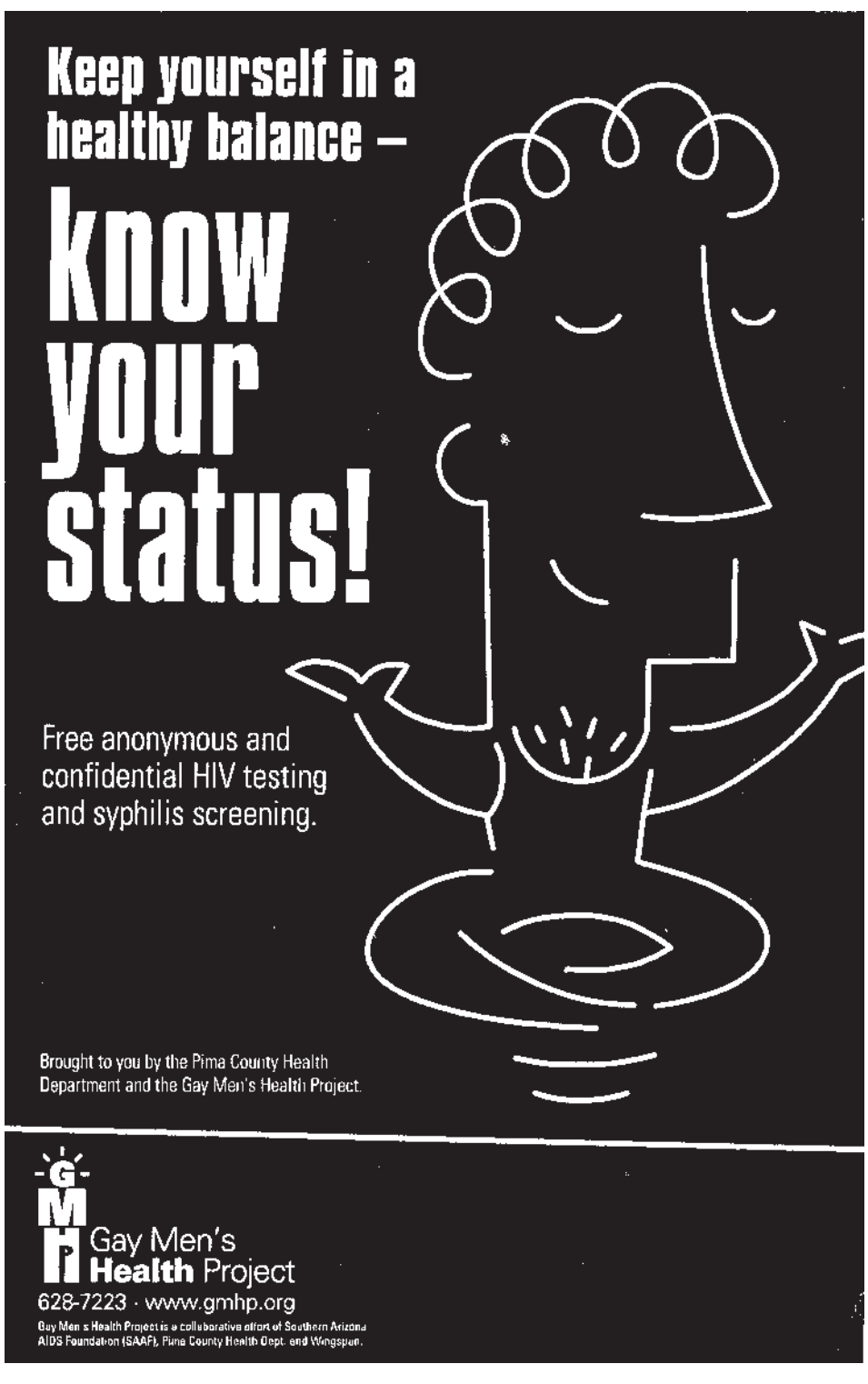

PERSPECTIVE

Quoting Bible To Attack Gays Is Hypocritical

By Leonard Pitts Jr.

An open letter to Donna Reddick:

I'm writing this for Desiree. She's a student at Miami Sunset Senior High, where you teach business technology. A few days ago, she sent me an e-mail recounting an incident that happened on campus last week.

It seems that on three successive days, the morning announcements, which are televised throughout the school, featured student-produced segments on the subject of Gay rights.

On the first day came comments from students who took the pro position. On the second day came remarks from a counselor who spoke of the need for students to respect one another. On the third day came you.

You and a few students, actually. One told classmates homosexuality was ''unacceptable in the eyesight of God.'' Another said Gays were ``unrighteous.''

The coup de grace, though, was you invoking Sodom and Gomorrah and telling students homosexuality was ''wrong according to the Bible'' because God ordered humanity to multiply, which Gay couples cannot do.

Desiree was, to put it mildly, upset. In the e-mail, she accused you of bigotry and wondered how a Gay student could feel assured ever again of fair treatment in your class. I tend to agree. She also suggested that you crossed the line between church and state, an accusation about which I'm more conflicted.

It seems to me there's a difference between proselytizing for a religion and explaining how one's faith has influenced one's opinion.

You're entitled to think what you think, no matter how stupid it might be.

But I'll leave those questions for others to parse. My biggest frustration lies elsewhere. Put simply, I've had it up to here with the moral hypocrisy and intellectual constipation of Bible literalists.

By which I mean people like you, who dress their homophobia up in Scripture, insisting with sanctimonious sincerity that it's not homophobia at all, but just a pious determination to live according to what the Bible says.

And never mind that the Bible also says it is ''disgraceful'' for a woman to speak out in church (1 Corinthians 14:34-36) and that if she has any questions, she should wait till she gets home and ask her husband. Never mind that the Bible says the penalty for going to work on Sunday (Exodus 35:1-3) is death. Never mind that the Bible says the man who rapes a virgin should buy her from her father (Deuteronomy 22:28-29) and marry her.

I'm going to speculate that you don't observe or support those commands. Which says to me that yours is a literalism of convenience, a literalism that is literal only so long as it allows you to condemn what you'd be condemning anyway and takes no skin off your personal backside.

As such, your claim that God sanctions your homophobia is the moral equivalent of Flip Wilson's old claim that the devil made him do it.

You resemble many of your and my co-religionists, whose faith so often expresses itself in an obsessive focus on one or two hot-button issues – and seemingly nowhere else.

They're so panicked at the thought that somebody accidentally might treat Gay people like people. They run around Chicken Little-like, screaming, 'Th' homosex'shals is comin'! Th' homosex'shals is comin'!'' Meantime, people are ignorant in Appalachia, strung out in Miami, starving in Niger, sex slaves in India, mass-murdered in Darfur. Where is the Christian outrage about that?

Just once, I'd like to read a headline that said a Christian group was boycotting to feed the hungry. Or marching to house the homeless. Or pushing Congress to provide the poor with healthcare worthy of the name.

Instead, they fixate on keeping the Gay in their place. Which makes me question their priorities. And their compassion. And their faith.

If you love me, feed my sheep. For the record, Ms. Reddick, the Bible says that, too.

[Leonard Pitts Jr. is a columnist for the Miami Herald, from which this is reprinted from their Mar. 10 edition.]

Anti LGBT Group Launches Boycott Of Ford

DETROIT - Nineteen anti-LGBT groups on Monday said they were launching an official boycott of Ford Motor Co., contending that the automaker reneged on an agreement to stop supporting Gay rights organizations. The groups set up a Web site urging supporters not to buy Ford vehicles after the automaker said last December it would continue running advertisements in Gay publications.

The American Family Association, which is leading this latest effort, had threatened a boycott of Ford last year but held off for six months at the request of some Ford dealers. "Ford has the right to financially support homosexual groups promoting homosexual marriage, but at the same time consumers have a right not to purchase automobiles made by Ford," said AFA chairman Donald Wildmon in a statement.

Ford, in a statement, said it was "proud of its tradition of treating all with respect, and we remain focused on what we do best, building and selling the most innovative cars and trucks worldwide." Ford spokeswoman Kathleen Vokes declined further comment. In December, Ford said it would stop advertising its Jaguar and Land Rover luxury brands in Gay publications to reduce marketing costs. But several Gay rights groups raised concerns about the plan and met with

Continued on Page Fifteen

POLITICS 2006

by Mark R. Kerr

As The GOP Goes, So Follows Arizona

In an effort to shore their ever withering base of support, as well as getting them to the polls for the upcoming midterm federal elections and statewide contests, Republicans across this nation have followed the "Rovian" direction handed down from the White House by utilizing their sure-fire, political tactics to raise funds and more important, votes by going after Gays and Lesbians, playing up religion and using their "red meat" issue, abortion.

Recently, the Republican (GOP) controlled South Dakota Legislature recently enacted legislation and signed into law by Republican Gov. Mike Rounds, barring a woman's right to choose, even if she is raped or a victim of incest. In November, Tennessee voters will be considering a proposed, state constitutional amendment barring the procedures. Efforts to curtail the rights of Gays and Lesbians to adopt children, either through the state's usually overburdened and crowded foster a care program or otherwise have started and proposals curtailing the rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning (LGBTQ) or straight-supportive students to form "Gay-Straight Alliance" organizations at their schools, as well as measures introduced to undermine anti-discrimination ordinances and policies at these learning institutions or districts.

Arizona is no exception to this either with various proposals going through the state Legislature and if the radical-right wing Republican leadership in both chambers gets their way with two legislative proposals working their way through the process.

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, the House Rules Committee and the House Committee of the Whole (COW)

By a vote of 32-25 Thursday Mar. 9, HB 2696 was approved by the House and sent to the state Senate for which the bill was assigned to the Senate Family Services Committee and the Senate Rules Committee. As of press time (Tuesday, Mar. 14), HB 2696 had not been placed on the Senate Family Services Committee (information on committee members and agendas online at azleg.state.az.us/CommitteeInfo.asp?Committee_ID=4) for consideration, and the Senate Rules Committee.

In Arizona, the three state universities, several community colleges, schools and school districts have policies to protect the rights of LGBTQ students but these measures are under attack with SB 1153, a bill that would permit student organizations in public colleges and universities to discriminate, denying equal opportunity access for all students all in the name of "moral proclivities."

SB 1153 was approved by the Senate Higher Education Committee, the Senate Rules Committee, the Senate COW, and received final Senate approval (Mar. 6), by a 21-8 vote and sent to the Arizona House, which assigned the measure to its Universities, Community Colleges and Technology Committee, (information of committee members and agendas online at azleg.state.az.us/CommitteeInfo.asp?Committee_ID=60), and the House Rules Committee respectively.

It is important to contact your state Senator and Representative and speak out on the measures. In Tucson and Pima County, call the Tucson Legislative Office, (520) 398-6000; for Phoenix and Maricopa County, call the Capitol Complex, (602) 926-3559 (State Senate), (602) 926-4221 (State House); and, for those outside these two areas or who wish to reach their legislators offices at the Capital directly, one can also call toll-free, (800) 352-8404.

Send an E-mail to your state Senator, by going online to azleg.state.az.us/MemberRoster.asp?Body=S, and click on the E-mail link for your Senator, and to send an E-mail to your state Representatives, go online to azleg.state.az.us/MemberRoster.asp?Body=H, and click on the E-mail links for your two Representatives.

If you want to send an E-mail or perhaps don't know who your representatives are, go online to eqfed.org/ahrf/home.html, the Arizona Human Rights Fund Advocacy Center, to send messages on these measures in support and opposition, as well as finding out who represents you by just entering your zip-code and pressing enter.

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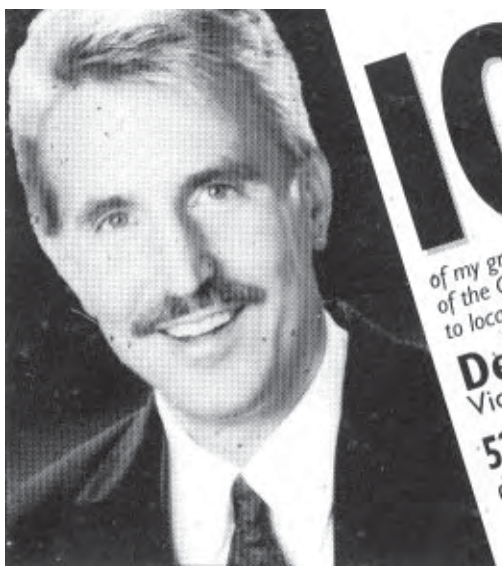

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Friends and Lovers

Queen Calls For Increased Health Care And Hope For PWAs

SYDNEY - The Queen has used her Commonwealth Day speech to draw attention to HIV/AIDS. The Queen is in Australia to open the Commonwealth Games, reported 365Gay.com. At a service at Sydney's St Andrew's Cathedral she said that half of the world's 40 million people living with HIV/AIDS live in Commonwealth countries. "Ignorance and lack of understanding about these issues sometimes breed uncertainty, even fear and the inclination to turn from those who are unwell," the Queen said. "But we know, for example, that someone who is HIV positive can, with proper support, lead a full and rewarding life."

She also urged Commonwealth leaders to do more to provide basic health care for their people. "Many of us can often take steps to eat better food or take more exercise. We can also, as communities, work to improve our surroundings to make them cleaner, safer places in which to live." The service - the first time it has been held outside of Britain - was attended by representatives of all Commonwealth countries. Some 1.7 billion subjects and citizens make up the Commonwealth.

"There is a traditional proverb which says, 'He who has health has hope, and he who has hope has everything,'" the Queen said. "This year, as governments search for new ways to tackle these important challenges, we as individuals can also play our part so that, in pursuing health and vitality for all, we bring hope to the world."

Mussolini Heir Prefers Fascism To Homosexuality

ROME - The granddaughter of former Italian dictator Benito Mussolini has come under heavy criticism for stating that she'd prefer to be "fascist than queer." Alessandra Mussolini made the comment during a televised debate with a Transgender activist in Rome on Thursday (Mar. 9), reports Deutsche Presse-Agentur on Advocate.com.

"Mussolini's comment provides further confirmation, if ever we needed one, that Silvio Berlusconi's center-right coalition is deeply homophobic," Franco Grillini, a member of Parliament and leading Gay activist, told the German news agency. He added that her comment could be interpreted as an "apology of fascism," which is illegal in the country, and promised to bring the issue up in Parliament.

Italy has a general election scheduled for Apr. 9 -10, in which same-sex marriage has become a major issue. The country's center-left coalition wants to grant marriage equality, while a populist party within Prime Minister Berlusconi's governing coalition opposes it.

Alessandra Mussolini

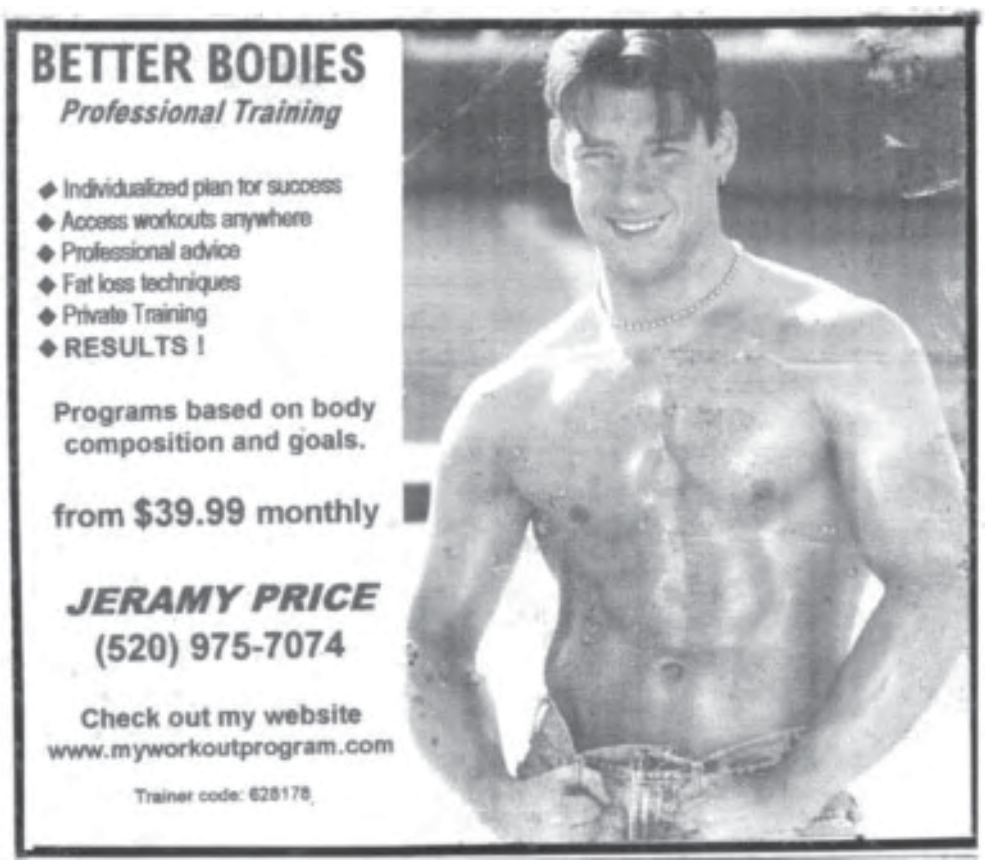
Hong Kong Pressed Over LGBT Rights

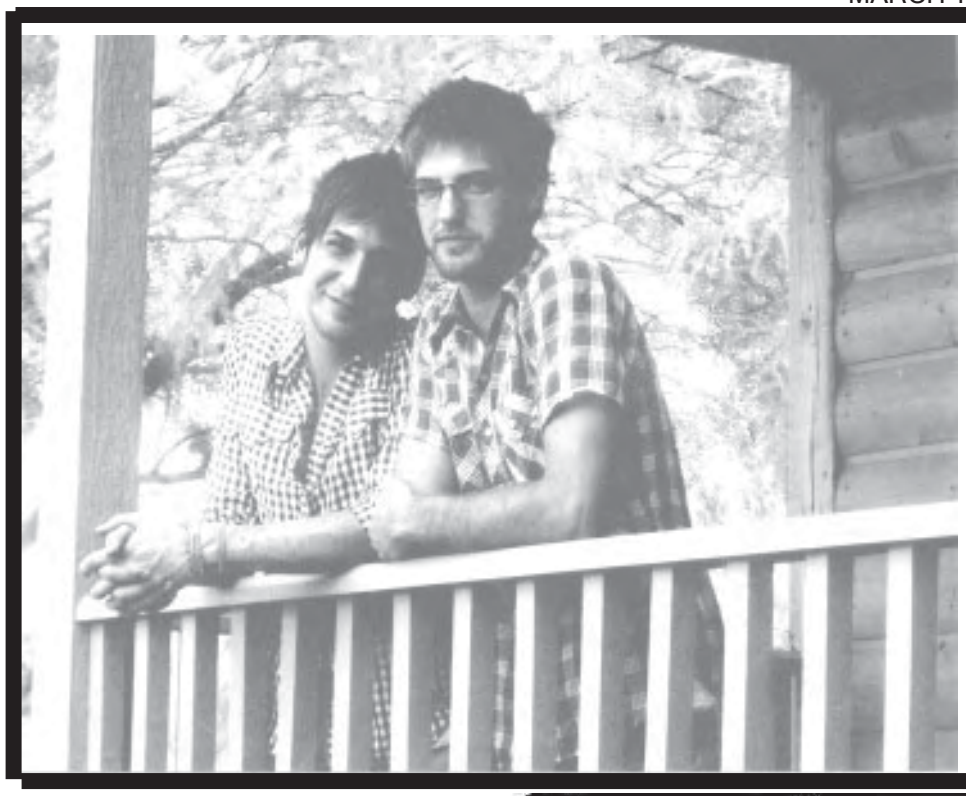
HONG KONG - Two Hong Kong legislators have accused the government of hiding behind public opinion polls to stall on passing LGBT anti-discrimination legislation, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. The two lawmakers, Emily Lau and Margaret Ng say the government should be leading not following. They called on the government Friday (Mar. 10) to bring in a bill extending human rights to Gays and Lesbians.

"You always talk about executive-led government, and now it's time to lead," Ng, a lawyer, told the English language Hong Kong Standard. Ng said the government has a duty to comply to follow much of the world that already outlaws discrimination in the workplace, schools and goods and services.

But Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs Stephen Fisher told the paper that neither the government nor the public is ready for an anti-Gay discrimination law. Instead, he said public consultations have to be conducted further, citing moral and religious concerns. "People are afraid that Hong Kong will follow in the footsteps of other countries and allow same-sex marriage," he said.

Public consultations have been going on for a year. Last May a watchdog human rights agency has condemned the Hong Kong government for dragging its heels. In a report to the government Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor said that the semi-automatons city state is lagging behind the rest of the world. The report was issued less than a week after the city saw its first Gay rights demonstration.





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COMMENTARY. . . . by Michael Bronski

Roe V. Wade Today, Lawrence V. Texas Tomorrow

Monday, (Feb. 27) South Dakota Governor Mike Rounds signed a comprehensive bill that would enact a near-total ban on abortions. He described the bill as a "direct frontal assault'' on Roe v. Wade, the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision that gave women the right to have abortions. What he didn't say, but could have, is that the bill is an assault on Gay rights as well.

The attack on the constitutionality of abortion rights is an attack on the right to privacy – the same constitutional right to privacy that in 2003 won us Lawrence v. Texas, the Supreme Court decision that abolished sodomy laws in the United States. In the language of Roe v Wade, a woman's right to choose whether or not to carry a pregnancy to term was predicated on a constitutional right to privacy and that this "right of privacy" was "broad enough to encompass a woman's decision whether to terminate her pregnancy."

Make no mistake about it. The people – be they right-wing religious leaders, conservative politicians or far-right ideologues – who want to dismantle a woman's right to choose whether or not to carry a pregnancy to term would be more than happy to begin rolling back the clock on all aspects of Gay rights. They are not just looking at the barely-gained right to marriage equality, but to many other aspects of civil rights for Gay people – the right to adopt children, the right to be foster parents, the right not to be discriminated against, as well as the right to simply engage in same-sex relationships. The preservation of abortion rights are the new line in the sand for Gay rights.

So what exactly is the legal and constitutional connection between abortion rights and Gay rights? Conservatives are fond of arguing that there is no right to privacy in the constitution. And they are right – if you read the Constitution as an originalist, that is, as it was understood in the specific historical context in which the founding fathers wrote it. Nowhere in the Constitution is a right to privacy – especially as we understand it today – explicitly stated. But the Constitution is a living document. Not a dry, legal one that emerged in a particular point in history and cannot be interpreted as social mores and thinking progresses. This was clear to lawmakers as early as 1791 when the Ninth Amendment was added to the Bill of Rights, stating that "the enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people." This "open door" policy to rights "retained by the people" allows the articulation of the "right to privacy."

But the idea of constitutionally protected privacy is a fairly new invention. Early legal cases such as Robertson v. Rochester Folding Box Company, in which a woman sued a company for using her photograph without permission, addressed general issues of privacy. But it wasn't until the last 40 years that issues of privacy and sexuality came to the Supreme Court. In its 1964 decision Griswold v. Connecticut the Supreme Court ruled that a constitutional right to privacy gave married couples the right to use contraception within marriage. In 1967, the Court expanded the right of privacy to the institution of marriage when in Loving v. Virginia they knocked down state laws that forbid interracial marriage. By 1972 the Court took up the privacy issue of contraception again and in Eisenstadt v. Baird, ruled that unmarried couples had the right to use contraceptives. As the Court expanded the idea of a personal right to privacy in matters of sexuality and reproduction, it was a logical step to 1973's Roe v Wade. In Roe the Court – using the First, Fourth, Fifth, Ninth and Fourteenth Amendments found support for a constitutional right of privacy that was "broad enough to encompass a woman's decision whether to terminate her pregnancy."

One would think that this clearly articulated right to privacy would be easily applied to issues of non-heterosexual sexuality, but alas, that would take another 30 years. In 1987, in Bowers v. Hardwick, the Court ruled that homosexual sodomy – as defined by various state laws – was not constitutionally protected. And it was only in 2003, when the Court overturned Bowers in Lawrence v. Texas that same-sex sexual activity was finally granted constitutional protection.

As shocking as it is to realize that it was less than three years ago that queer people had the constitutional right to simply engage in sexual behavior. It is important to remember that just over thirty years ago it was illegal for unmarried heterosexual couples to even buy and use birth control. Since the mid-1960s – remember the famous Summer of Love? – we have lived in a culture that has promoted increased sexual freedoms. But these cultural changes and freedoms have always been far ahead of the legal protections that were needed to secure and support them.

There is no doubt that there is a war against the very idea of a "constitutional right to privacy." We heard it in the arguments in Lawrence v. Texas and we hear it explicitly now in the language of those that are against a woman's right to an abortion. We heard it continually in right-wing commentary during both the Roberts and Alito confirmation hearings. During those hearings Justice Roberts stated that he considered Roe v Wade settled law – implying, but never actually stating – that he would not overturn it. Justice Alito gave no such assurances.

While Griswold v. Connecticut, Loving v. Virginia, and Eisenstadt v. Baird are all vitally important decisions it is Roe v Wade that is – both legally and symbolically – the keystone to our contemporary ideas about a constitutional right to privacy. If Wade is overturned – or chipped away to such a degree that it becomes completely ineffective – then there is little doubt that the folks who went after Roe v Wade would also, in some form, go after Lawrence v. Texas. The right of people of different races to marry and the right of couples, be they married or not, to use birth control are so commonplace now that the American public would never tolerate turning these rights back. But homosexuality and Gay rights – like a woman's right to choose – are still hotly contested issues. There is no general public consensus. And just as President Bush has stated that he is against abortion and would welcome Roe v. Wade being overturned, he has also stated, when he was governor of Texas, that he approved of the sodomy law that Lawrence v. Texas overturned.

Last November, Dan Savage wrote an op-ed in The New York Times entitled "Can I Get a Little Privacy" in which he argued – seriously, but with a touch of humor – that liberals should stop fighting these small "right to privacy" battles and take the fight to the next level and simply introduce and fight for a new Constitutional Amendment that would ensure a right to privacy for everyone. It's a great idea, but one that has a long, and very rocky road ahead of it. In the meantime, it's imperative for the sake of basic Gay civil rights – as well as the welfare of women – that queer activists fight against all laws that chip away at or try to overturn Roe v. Wade.

[Michael Bronski is a Visiting Lecturer at Dartmouth College. This op-ed was reprinted from the Mar. 9 edition of the Bay Windows newspaper of Boston, MA.]

LGBT College Protest Marked By Heavy Police Presence

VIRGINIA BEACH - A heavy police presence attempted to keep students from meeting with Gay protestors outside the campus of Regent University in Virginia Beach on Monday (Mar. 13). The demonstrators are on what they call the Equality Ride, visiting eighteen universities and military schools that organizers say bar LGBT students. Regent University is connected to Christian Broadcaster Pat Robertson.

Campus police stood guard to prevent more than 20 "riders" from entering the campus, while local police ringed the demonstrators. Jacob Reitan, one of the organizers of the Equality Ride, told 365Gay.com that several dozen students walked off the campus and approached the group during the peaceful protest to learn more about the group, "but police told them that they were not supposed to talk to us."

Reitan said that other students left the campus, crossed the street and then came back to the "riders" and were not blocked. Regent University said on the weekend that if protestors tried to enter the campus they would be arrested. "We'll be back tomorrow," Reitan said, "and we will attempt to enter the campus then." Twenty-four members of the group were arrested when the entered Jerry Falwell's Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. (story) The were released later the same day without bond. Regent University originally said it would welcome the Equality Ride, associated with the nondenominational Soulforce, onto the campus.

The college said the decision to "univite" the Soulforce riders was based in part on a statement on the ride's Web site that says Regent has a policy banning GLBT students. Vice President of Academic Affairs Randall Pannell said the the school has no such policy, something Soulforce continues to dispute, pointing to the Regent University student handbook which states "...homosexual conduct or any other conduct, which violates Biblical standards, is prohibited." Soulforce said the Equality Ride was inspired by the Freedom Rides of the 1950s and 60s to end segregation. On Tuesday (Mar. 14), six of the Soulforce Equality Riders were arrested as the walked onto the campus.

NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

'Again'

by Lee Thorn

Davis Dominguez, Tucson's world-class art gallery, has knocked the ball out of the park again. Their current magnificent show closes Mar. 18, so anyone with any interest at all in painting or sculpture needs to hurry on down to 154 W. 6th. Taken as a whole, this exhibit of James Cook's landscapes and Mark Rossi's bronze animal sculptures has a bombastic, explosive feel. I can just imagine the gallery staff putting it together with glee, telling each other, "This is going to kick butt."

Stylistically, Cook's paintings are large impressionistic impastos with more than a hint of impatience and dash. Rossi's sculptures are hyper-realistic critters whose postures are every bit as convincing as their perfect shapes. They have a dramatic quality that is hard to put your finger on. Maybe it's that they're so real they remind you of that dry-mouth moment just after someone crucial to your well-being says, "I've got to be totally honest with you."

Anyway, the show, full of brilliance, tempted me to approach in from behind. Instead of talking about "Best of Show" like critics generally do, I'll start with the worst. In Rossi's case it's "Two Ravens," the birds quite artificially attached to a tree in an uplifting composition of Costco kitsch that makes you want to start singing patriotic songs off key. Cook has two real stinkers that make the choice difficult. His smallish "Aspen Fire" looks like something indiscernible burning in blackest night. It could be anything. Call it "Generic Night Fire" and wonder why he bothered with it. His large "Blue River #1" of treetops in a field of snow seems utterly devoid of aesthetic ambition. It's so directionless it could be wallpaper. In addition to his paintings, Cook has several monotypes in the show. They're perfectly good little landscapes but they all suffer by comparison with the intensity of his starkly beautiful "West Wind #20."

Okay, enough of negativity. Rossi's best effort is "Rainbow Trout," two fishes swimming through the air around some branches submerged in the air. I'm pleased to point out that this work should not have been placed against a wall because both sides are critical and one is hard to see in that placement. Even this gallery can goof. Rossi's "Jackrabbit," the larger one, is also a very compelling piece, in part perhaps because of its larger-than-life size. Certainly because of its very believable posture. Having observed jackrabbits in the wild at close range since 1980, I feel that this one is too well fed to have been fending for himself.

Cook hits his stride again and again in works like "Sawtooth Branch," a landscape in the tradition of works you can almost walk into. "Oak Creek #6" is a rock formation reflected in a river that actually improves on nature. The water doesn't really reflect the formation; it transforms it fancifully into something water might do if it were more imaginative.

There are two "sweet" paintings in the show that got me to thinking about what we mean by that word. One is a large pastel abstraction by Joanne Kerrihand. The other a townscape titled "Oro Valley #2" by Cook. They're both sweet, but not in the sense that David Letterman uses the word in a phrase like "that's a sweet ride." And certainly sweet is not another word for charming. The sweetness of these works strikes me as a mixture of gentleness, kindness and humility, a warm friendly modesty that makes you want to kiss somebody in a non-erotic way.

The show is really a triumph for Cook and Rossi, but, as always with Davis Dominguez, there's so much more. There are single pieces of other artists tucked away all over the place. I recommend that you hunt down Len Chesney's "Passion Roost," a day-glow bright frenzy of vague shapes and vital movement best seen from a distance of at least 20 feet. For my hard-core aesthetes seeking food for thought, let me suggest that you ponder Cook's use of man-made structures in his landscapes. Why does he include them? Does he succeed in his intent? Why or why not? Extra credit: Compare Cook's use of man-made structures in landscapes with that of John James Audubon. Don't forget there's a photo gallery next door to Davis Dominguez and two galleries right up the block going east. Make a day of it.

[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.]

Gay Bishop Wins Praise For Public Battle With Alcohol

PORTSMOUTH - Parishioners thanked Episcopal Bishop V. Gene Robinson for going public with his alcohol addiction following a weekend sermon he delivered on relinquishing comforts to save the soul, reported 365Gay.com. "It feels like a homecoming," Robinson said following Sunday's (Mar. 12) service at St. John's Episcopal Church in Portsmouth. "People are always friendly here, but they are unusually warm today."

One woman spoke of her brother's battle with alcohol and drug addiction, and mentioned he was given a sobriety chip from Alcoholics Anonymous for so many days clean. Robinson immediately dug into his pocket to bring out his one-month anniversary chip. "I'm doing great," he said, calling his treatment thus far "a blessing." "I feel that God was very much with me (in the first month), and this promises to be a wonderful journey," Robinson said.

During the sermon, Robinson briefly mentioned his addiction and the difficulty he had going public with it after discussing Jesus' cry of "Get behind me, Satan" to banish the devil. "When I say devil, I mean the temptations in you and me, inside us. We all have them," he said. Robinson said one of his own temptations was to keep silent out of fear of reaction to his alcoholism. "I was so worried about your opinion of me."

The Episcopal Church's first openly Gay bishop surprised many when he disclosed last month that he was being treated for his "increasing dependence" on alcohol. He recently returned from treatment from the Caron Foundation center in Wernersville, Pa.

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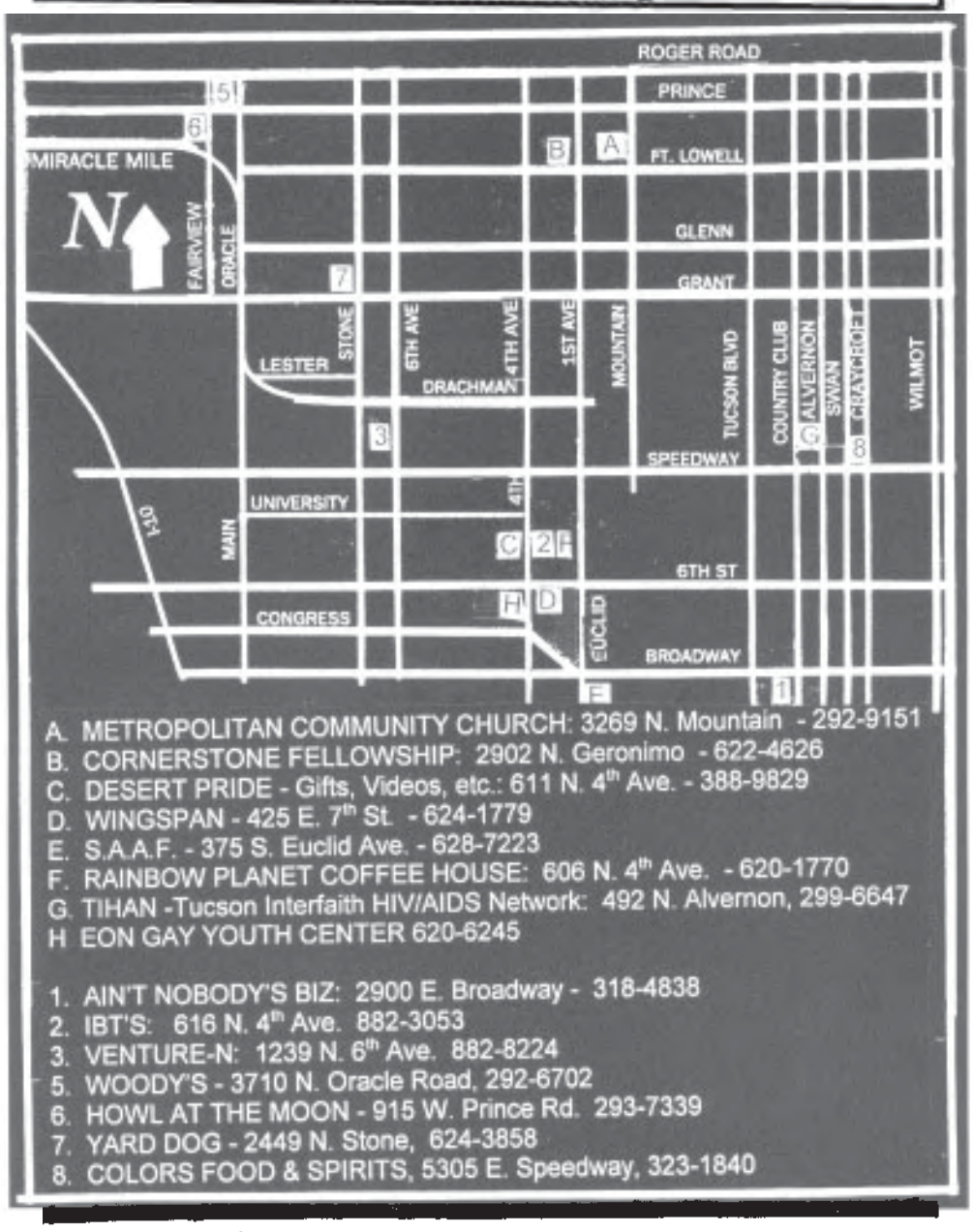

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Non Bar Calendar

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
Reveille Rumage 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.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed):7:30 p.m. Join us after putting out the Newsletter for the MSN Premiere of "10 Attitudes". a comedy about a man who has given up on the dating scene, but decides to give it one last try by having 10 dates in succession to see what might happen.For reservations and directions, please call Arlan at 323-7414.

Tuesday, March 21
#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed: 7:00 p.m. The Circle of Men is a support group that helps you deal with yourself and your relationships with others. For directions and reservations, please call Tom at 591-2828.

#2 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Karol for an evening of Dinner and a Movie. Tonight's movie is "The Nightmare Before Christmas", a Tim Burton film about Halloween creatures who are trying to help out with Christmas. For details and directions, please call Karol at 744-9017.

Wednesday, March 22
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Join Merlin for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Merlin at 207-5336.

Thursday, March 23
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed: 7:00 p.m. Join the men of MSN for Coffee Night out at Rainbow Planet Coffee House. This is a chance to have a cup of coffee and chat with the men of MSN. This is a No-host event, so please ask Barista to point you in our direction.

Friday, March 24
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed:7:00 p.m. Lloyd hosts a fun evening of Scrabble. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Lloyd at 792-8537.

Saturday, March 25
#1Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 1:00 p.m. Join Danny for a midday hike honoring Elton John's Birthday to the Romero Pools at Catalina State Park, classified as Intermediate to Difficult. Please call Vaughan at 834-9980 beforehand to arrange a meeting place and carpooling where available. Come prepared with Water, snacks and sunscreen.

#2Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed:6:30 p.m. Join Tom as he hosts the 2nd Annual March Hare Tea Party with a 1965 Italian movie, "Juliet of the Spirits" starring Giuletta Masina, Sandra Milo and Mario Pisu. Cupcakes will follow after the movie. Somewhat limited seating, so please contact Tom at 744-9036 for reservations and directions by the 23rd.

#3Men'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 26
'Old Fashioned BBQ Picnic' and Comedy Show at MCC Water of Life Church, 3269 N. Mountain Ave. Services start at 10:15 a.m. Comedy Show 11:30 a.m. BBQ (Tickets $6.00) at Noon.

#1Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 3:00 p.m. Join your hosts Rick and John for a Potluck. The hosts will supply the burgers and dogs, you bring a sidedish to share. For reservations and directions, please call John & Rick at 743-3289.

#2 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed):

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Friday	12:30 – 3:30 P.M

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4th Stop:

Venture-N
1239 N. 6th Avenue
Thursday April 20th, 2006
Time: 7 pm – 10 pm

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HOROSCOPES

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Retro Jupiter squares Neptune and our creamy dreams whip up into a bubbly frenzy. Pop, pop, pop! Expect a series of rude awakenings so take things as they come this particular week. You imagine that you are floating on air but you might be scrapped off the sidewalk with a spatula.

ARIES (MAR. 21 - APR. 20)
If you stir and blend sexual passion into platonic relationships, do so at your own risk, proud Ram. You may think that you have found a diamond in the rough but how rough do you really like it? Hold off on any matchmaking lest you scuttle the Love Boat into the Carnival Cruise. Instead of being left hanging out in drydock just hang Out and relax instead.

TAURUS (APR. 21 - MAY 21)
Hard work may pay off but don't compromise your relationships for the lure of the big paycheck. Queer Bulls who ignore partners as they claw their way through the corporate jungle will bring the bacon home to an empty cave. Balance is everything and this week makes that lesson come home. Take notes and don't burn the midnight oil into a waxy puddle.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
Pink Twins have trouble deciding whether they should relax and take some time off from work or put their nose to the grindstone and finish up some pending projects. Your mind is just not on the job. The decision does not get any easier when retro Jupiter squares Neptune. My advice: stack your papers neatly, close the door behind you and escape! Leave the blackberry.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
There is a very thin line between intoxicating sex just plain intoxication when Jupiter squares Neptune. How many tall drinks will you quaff before you become woozy and swept off your feet? Pink Crabs have their pick of the litter and cat around on their little clawed feet. Will you go head over heels for a bull, a bear, a pup, a snake, a fox or a kitten? Do tell.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)
Even a mild discussion can escalate into a domestic war between partners and family this week. Each side will marshall its forces and make demands. Each side feels that it commands the high ground. Proud Lions are not usually the compromising types but try to give a little latitude now as emotions run high. Manipulate the situation to your advantage next week.

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)
Queer Virgins can inadvertently spray their venom around the office when Jupiter squares Neptune. Oh my, what you may say! If you feel your frustration rise and your emotions bubble and seethe, take a deep breath, count to ten and walk around the block. Nothing can be achieved by complaining now. Heck, better count to one hundred.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)
Beautiful objects come with beautiful price tags. Inspired Gay Libras ache to demonstrate their good taste in any way possible and are willing to plow up their carefully tilled investment patch of green. Care to be an angel to a struggling theatrical troupe or become the Gay Paul Getty of Party, Inc.? Hold your ample endowment until next week when it has greater push pull.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)
Quietly keep a high opinion of yourself even as family gets in their digs, proud Scorp. Unresolved situations come to a head this week and the temptation is to give as good as you get. Instead, try to lower the heat from a full boil to a slow simmer. Roll with the punches... for now. You'll have plenty of time to get your points across rather pointedly next week. Ouch!

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)
Gay Archers get some great ideas this week but your imagination can conjure more than a stray innocent dream. Intuition goes into overtime and "little voices" impart their lurid and somewhat unbelievable secrets to you. While you may have impressive psychic powers don't broadcast your news to others now. You are casting pearls before swine.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)
What price friendship? Pink Caps are in for a series of surprises in anything having to do with money and compadres this week. The communal vault appears to be empty as more and more friends ask you for favors. Be conservatively compassionate. The lesson is - Don't lend if you can't afford and don't paste money on people to cement friendships.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)
Aqueerians are unorthodox contrarians in the truest sense. You now feel rather rebellious and can be goaded to making an unpardonable first impression on certain well connected folks. Thought that your professional path was etched in stone? Oh think again. Expect a few eye openers this week as the earth moves and the walls sway. Will they show stress cracks?

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MAR. 20)
Guppies think of themselves as pretty sophisticated and worldly. Expect to be taken down a few pegs as your best kept secrets and sorted crackpot theories are broadcast globally and critiqued. Even your altruistic charitable efforts have an unintended effect. Self actualization ain't in the stars now, cousin. Settle for a slice humble pie. Chew well, swallow carefully.

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Ford Boycott

Continued From Page Eight

the automaker, leading to Ford's announcement that it would place corporate ads featuring all eight of its brands in Gay publications. Joe Laymon, Ford's group vice president for corporate human resources, said in December he hoped the decision would "remove any ambiguity about Ford's desire to advertise to all important audiences and put this particular issue to rest."

Wildmon and other leading conservatives wrote Ford chairman and CEO Bill Ford in January, asking him to remove the automaker "from involvement in the cultural war." Randy Sharp, AFA's director of special projects, said Monday (Mar. 13) that Ford's chairman "refused to acknowledge, much less reply, to our concerns." Gay rights organizations criticized the boycott. Said Brad Luna, spokesman for the Gay rights group Human Rights Campaign: "Clear trends toward fairness, nondiscrimination, inclusion, and acceptance of Gays in corporate America are unstoppable. Any attempts to turn back the clock such as this one are out of step with the values of the majority of Americans."

The American Family Association says it has 2 million online members who have requested e-mail alerts about various issues and that it sends a monthly news journal to 160,000 homes. Other groups joining the boycott include Center for Reclaiming America, Coalitions for America, and Liberty Counsel.

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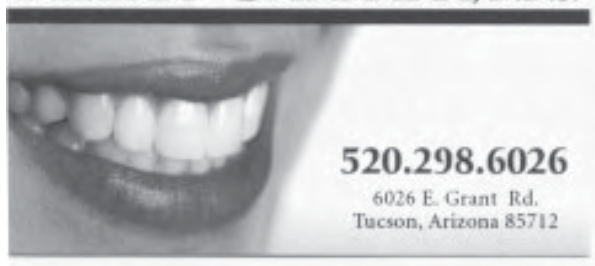

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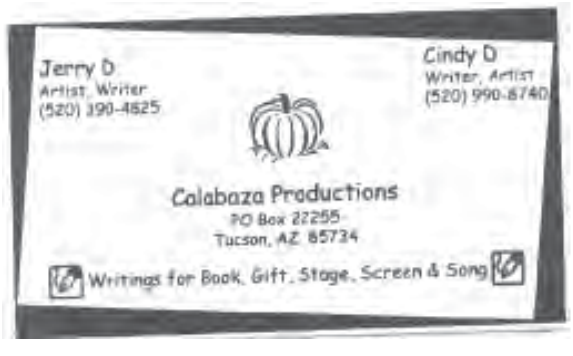

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G/L Disrupt Speech By Polish President

BERLIN - Gay rights advocates marched into the auditorium of Berlin's Humboldt University Thursday as (Mar. 9) Polish President Lech Kaczynski was preparing to speak, reported 365Gay.com. LGBT groups have been dogging Kaczynski in several countries over his opposition to Gay civil rights in Poland.

"Get this man out of the university," the protestors chanted as they attempted to make their way to the stage where Kaczynski was to speak on European affairs. The Polish leader was protected by his own security detail and university officials blocked the demonstrators from reaching the stage, but allowed one of the protestors to speak. Kaczynski sat impassively as the protester denounced Kaczynski's views on homosexuality. When he finally got to the podium Kaczynski lashed out at the protestors, and the university for allowing the demonstrator to speak. "I taught for 30 years at university but never in circumstances like this," Kaczynski said.

Last month Kaczynski was met by protestors in Chicago. Members of the Gay Liberation Network dogged the Polish leader over two days in the Windy City. The former Warsaw mayor was elected president last year. Both he and his ruling Law and Justice Party are under a warning from the European Union over threats to curtail LGBT civil rights. Last June, while still Warsaw mayor, Kaczynski refused to grant permission for a Gay pride parade in the capital. Nevertheless, more than 2,500 people ignored the order and marched anyway. In October Kaczynski was elected President in a campaign marked by frequent homophobic attacks, prompting the European Union to issue a stern warning to the government not to try to limit the rights of Gays and Lesbians. The European Commission said that if the government continues to oppose Gay rights Poland risks losing its voting rights in the EU. Despite the warning a month later riot police were used to break up a Gay

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 Domestics 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 Tourneys at 4 and 7pm. Sign-up begins one hour before playing time. No Cash - Play for Prizes and Points. Great chance to learn the hottest game around

IBT's -Troy's Recovery Bar noon-4pm. 4-7:30 Karaoke on the patio. Benefit B-B-Q for the Pride Parade 5:30-7:30 and dance with DJ Mike Lopez 9pm to close.

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

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

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

monday

COLORS - Closed on Mondays.

HOWL AT THE MOON -Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, $2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, $3 sm pitchers, $5 lg pitchers. Kitchen open 4-9 pm with reduced prices on appetizers - best deal in town! Free Texas Hold-'Em Poker Tournaments at 6:00 pm and 9:00 pm. Sign-up begins one hour before playing time. No Cash - Play for Prizes and Points.

IBT's -Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, DJ Craig Carter 10pm-2am $1.50 well vodka drinks, All drink specials not available during special events.

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

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

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

tuesday

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7 $3 Skyy cocktails, $2.50 Domestics and Well. 1stTuesday of month "Dinner & Movie" sponsored by GMHP. All other Tuesdays "Dinner and a Concert"shown on 52" projection system. Full menus served until l0pm.

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 Domestics 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 Domestics & 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 Domestics 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 Domestics 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

Now playing thru APRIL 23
"Born Yesterday" Top Hat Theatre Club, 3110 E. Ft. Lowell. Fridays & Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. Sundays at 3:30 p.m.

Now playing thru MARCH 25
"Sherlock Holmes; The Final Adventure" by the Arizona Theatre Company. Temple of Music and Art, 330 S. Scott Ave. 622-2823

Now playing thru MARCH 26
"The Philadelphia Story" by Arizona Repertory Theatre Company at Morroney Theatre, SE corner of N. Park and E. Speedway) on the UofA campus. 621-1162.

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Now playing thru MARCH 19
"Doctor Dolittle" staring Tommy Tune. Tucson Music Hall. 3231-1000

MARCH 17 - 18
Borderlands Theatre presents "Coyolxauhqui ReMembers" by the Latin Dance Project. 'Strongly physical theater by gifted professionals with imagination and wit...stunning video by Garcia Davis" - *Albuquerque Journal*. Pima Community College Center For The Arts Proscenium Theatre. Box office 882-7406 or Antigone Books for tickets.

Arts and Entertainment

Continued

MARCH 19
Big Band Express at the Desert Diamond Casino. 321-1000.

MARCH 23 - APRIL 30
"Black Coffee" at Live Theatre Workshop. 327-0160

MARCH 31 - APRIL 1
"Brundibar - Hear My Voice" Arizona Onstage Production. Temple of Music and Art. 270-3332

APRIL 10
"The Bob Dylan Show" starring Bob Dylan and his Band with Merle Haggard and the Strangers. Tucson convention Center Arena 321-1000

APRIL 15 - MAY 6
"Tuesdays With Morrie" Arizona Theatre Company. Temple of Music and Art. 622-2823.

APRIL 18
Engelbert Humperdinck at Casino del Sol AVA Amphitheater.. 838-6700.

AUGUST 17 - SEPTEMBER 24
"The Lion King" Broadway's Award Winning Musical. At Tucson Music Hall. Tickets: Tucson Convention Center Box Office, 260 S. Church Ave. Ticketmaster 321-1000.

BAR CALENDAR
Of Upcoming Events

FRIDAY, MARCH 17
HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at noon today. St. Patrick's Day special menu - Corned Beef Dinner or Reuben with Fries.

IBT'S -2nd Annual Green Party. 5:00 p.m. Corned Beef and Cabbage. 9:00 p.m. to closing dance with DJ Raymond. 10:00 p.m. DJ Mike Lopes on the patio. Green Beer, Drink Specials and more..

VENTURE-N - St. Patrick's Day Party. Beer Bust 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. plus $1 drink specials all day and night. Midori Cocktails and Irish Whiskey Cocktails $3.

WOODY'S - St. Patrick's Day Party - Rodger's Corned Beef and Cabbage from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Give-Aways and drink specials. DJ Jeff on the patio.

YARD DOG SALOON - St. Patrick's Day Party. Drink specials, Shepherd's Pie at 5:00 p.m. "Wear your green!

SATURDAY, MARCH 18
HOWL AT THE MOON - TMI in Concert. 8:00 p.m. 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 with steak BBQ and live jazz with Arthur Migliazza at 5:00 p.m. DJ Jeff 9:00 p.m. to closing.

YARD DOG SALOON - "Toga Party IV". Costume Contest at 10:00 p.m. $150 first place; $100 Second and $75 third.

SUNDAY, MARCH 19
IBT'S - "Menergy" An evening of flesh, fun and fantasy beginning at 9:00 p.m. featuring Dino Phillips and Guests!

FRU-SAT-SUN, MARCH 24-25-26
IBT'S - 4TH Avenue Street Fair. Always packed with fair goers with shows on Saturday and Sunday.

NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

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

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

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

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

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

GLBT-friendly AL-ANON group mets 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 call743-0810, 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 individual needs should be directed to Wingspan and other local agencies listed here. For more information call 622-3200 or visit the TPI website at www.tucsonpride.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THEATER / DINNER / 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; Dezert Girlz (MTF Support) meets 2nd Mondays at 7pm; Dezert Boyz (FTM Support) meets 3rd Tuesdays at 7pm. Also serving partners, youth, intersex, service providers and allies. Call (520)624-1779 x26 for more info.

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

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

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

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

AAPSP - ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY PROFESSIONALS: a confidential organization committed to providing support and networking for all Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual public safety professionals in Arizona. Membership open to Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters, Probation, Parole and Corrections Officers and civilians working within these agencies. Website: AAPSP.org or e-mail: AAPSP@aol.com or call Dave (520)745-9059 (Tucson) or Kim (602)534-6219 (Phoenix)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

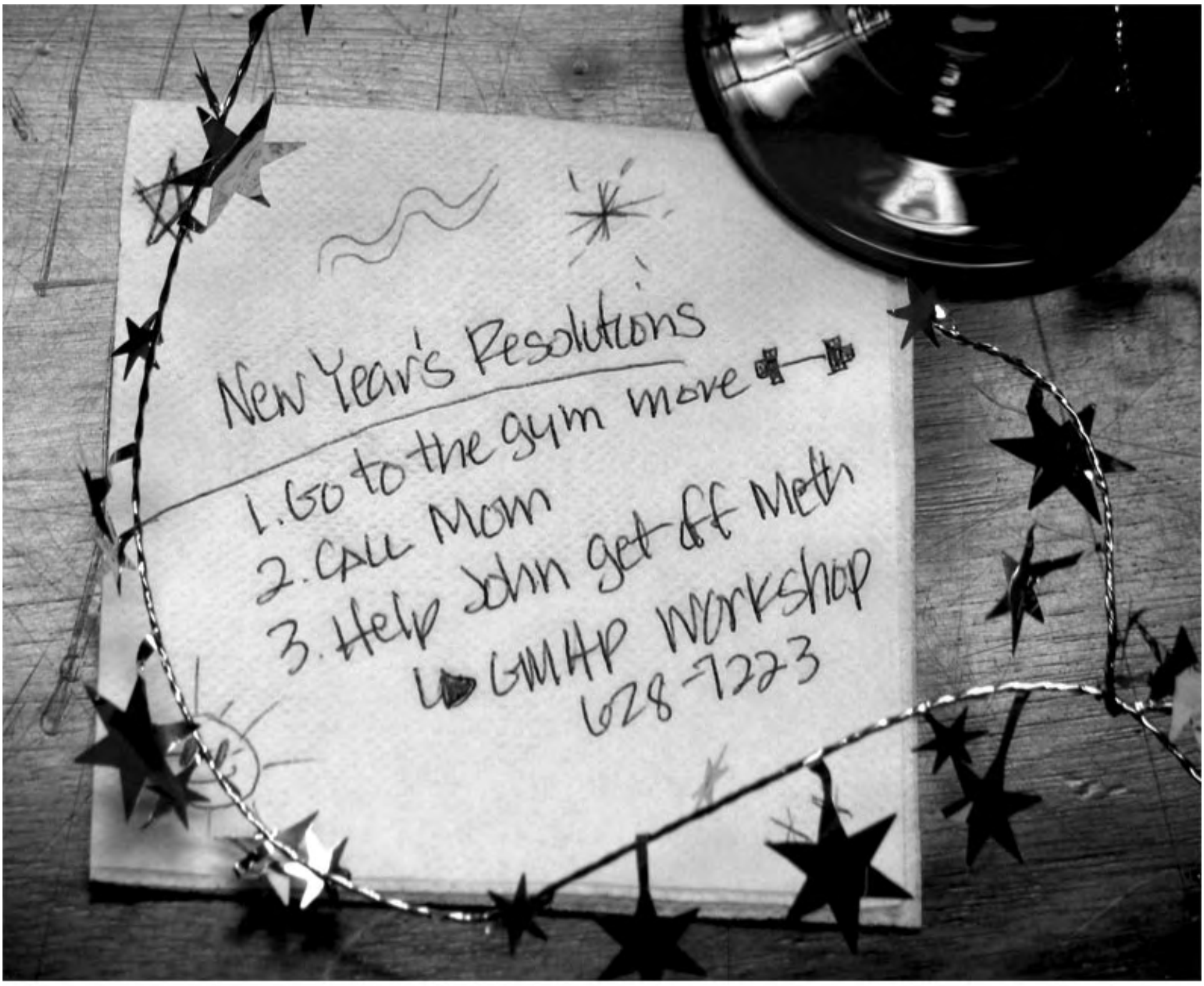
LGBT SUPPORT GROUP FOR VICTIM/SURVIVORS OF Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Hate Crimes, Bias Acts, Harassment. Call Lori at Wingspan, 624-1779, ext. 20. Services are free.

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.

Gay Men's Health Project

Gay Men's Health Project is a collaborative between the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, Wingspan and the Pima County Health Department