Observing Tucson And The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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LGBT Families Join White House Egg Roll

egg roll before a cheering crowd. The president blew the whistle to start the race, a scramble in which children use big spoons to push the eggs.

"Welcome to this happiest of traditions at the White House," Laura Bush told the crowd. "In Washington, we know that spring has arrived when the White House lawn is filled with children for the Easter Egg Hunt."

The Bushes posed for pictures with families, which were restricted to White House staff in the morning hours.

Thousands of eggs were dyed in pastel colors for the egg roll races, as well as for an egg hunt. Other eggs were available for children to color as people dressed up as characters including the Easter Bunny strolled around the South Lawn.

The White House egg roll has been a tradition since the mid-19th century. The celebration took place on the Capitol grounds until 1878, when it was moved to the White House by Lucy Hayes, wife of President Rutherford Hayes.

GOP Controlled Congress Moves To Exempt Religious Schools From LGBT Rights

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Private Christian colleges would be excepted from local and state non-discrimination laws under a proposed amendment to the Higher Education Act - a move that would allow the schools to legally reject LGBT students, reported 365Gay.com. The amendment, proposed by Rep. Chris Cannon (R-UT), would prevent accrediting boards from making adherence to non-discrimination laws a requirement.

The measure passed the House and is currently before the Senate Brigham Young, University of Notre Dame, Baylor, Pepperdine and Samford universities have all been lobbying heavily for passage of the bill. Although few boards specifically make adherence to non-discrimination laws a requirement for accreditation the schools say they want assurances they will not be targeted in the future. "This is really a pre-emptive move on the part of these schools," BYU spokesperson Carri Jenkins told the Deseret Morning News.

Pressure from the school has increased as a result of the Soulforce Equality Ride, a cross country protest of universities and colleges that do not permit gays to enroll. Thirty riders were arrested over two days of demonstrations at BYU, which is affiliated with the Mormon Church. The Equality Ride began last month in Washington D.C.. Riders have been arrested at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma; Regent University in Virginia Beach, Virginia which is affiliated with Christian Broadcaster Pat Robertson; and at Jerry Falwell's Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. Another ten riders were arrested at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs.

Democrats in both houses of Congress oppose the amendment. When the bill passed in a Senate committee Democrats wrote that "we believe that the amendment is not warranted in light of current practices by accrediting agencies and could have tremendous implications for the independence of accrediting agencies in determining appropriate standards for accreditation." The committee also inserted language in the bill stating that it is not meant to allow an institution to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or disability. The provision does not include sexuality.

Details Emerging On U.S. LGBT-Group Spying

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Thousands of children braved chilly rain Monday (Apr. 17) on the South Lawn of the White House, rolling colored eggs across soggy grass in an annual celebration that dates back to the 19th century, the Associated Press reported on the PlanetOut Network.

More than 10,000 people were expected throughout the day, including hundreds of Gay and Lesbian parents who lined up for first-come-first-served entrance tickets over the weekend.

"The message is that Gay and Lesbian families are everywhere in this country," said Jennifer Chrisler, executive director of the Family Pride Coalition.

Bundled in raincoats, President Bush and his wife, Laura Bush, kicked off this year's

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Defense Department has released some documents describing domestic spying on student protests against U.S. military recruitment on campuses in New York and California. The documents came in partial response to several Freedom of Information Act requests lodged by the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, which seeks to end the military's ban on Gay and Lesbian personnel.

In a Jan. 27 letter to the Senate Armed Services Committee, Deputy Undersecretary of Defense Robert Rogalski acknowledged that an operation set up to monitor terrorist activity was used by some "as a means to report information about demonstrations and anti-base activity that would be of interest to field commanders from a force protection perspective."

Under the guise of the TALON (Threat and Local Observation Notice) operation, the U.S. government investigated LGBT rights protesters and anti-war activists in at least three locations. Protests at the University of California campuses at Santa Cruz and Berkeley and at New York University were publicized by student e-mails that were picked up and reported to TALON. Under the category "Incident Type," all three campus protests were listed as "specific threats."

The report on a February 2005 protest against a symposium by military recruiters at New York University contained passages that would be almost comical if it weren't for the context.

"The term 'OUTlaw' is not defined in the posting," warned an analyst who was apparently unaware that the name referred to the university's LGBT law students. "The [deleted] is concerned this is a security issue. Specifically, the term 'OUTlaw' is a backhanded way of saying that it's all right to commit possible violence and serve as vigilantes during the symposium. Therefore, it is possible that physical harm or vandalism could occur at this event."

A bit further along, the analyst notes that "additional research" indicated that " 'OUTlaws' may refer to members of the Gay community that are now 'out' in the open that are studying at law schools. However," the analyst continued, "per the original source there is almost nothing about the term 'OUTlaws' available with conventional Internet search engines."

In fact, a search for "outlaw Gay law students" produces a long list of LGBT campus organizations.

The analyst concluded: "There is still a potential for confrontation at NYU."

According to Rogalski's letter, the reports on domestic protests have been removed from the TALON database, and new rules and regulations "that clarify the purpose of the database" will be distributed to personnel. The Department of Defense, he concluded, "views with the greatest concern any potential violation of the strict DoD policy governing the protection of civil liberties."

The Servicemembers Legal Defense Network said in a written statement Tuesday that the three reports "may not be a complete list of groups monitored." The Department of Defense is continuing to look for more documents related to the legal group's Freedom of Information Act request.

UPDATE

Wingspan Seeking Nominations For Community Awards

TUCSON - Recognize those who have made outstanding contributions to Southern Arizona's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community as Wingspan is seeking nominations for their community awards.

The Godat Award, named after the first recipient, Ken Godat, was inaugurated in 1998 as a way to recognize annually one person who has made outstanding long-term contributions to Southern Arizona's LGBT community. It is the most prestigious award and highest honor granted each year at the Wingspan Annual Benefit Dinner. Past Godat Award winners include: Ken Godat (1998), Jean Baker (1999), Colette Barajas (2000), Ana "Bertie" Lozano (2001), Bob Ellis (2002), Alexander John Goodrum (2003), Alan Storm (2004), and Mae Krueger (2005).

The Community Ally Award recognizes straight ally who has made significant contributions to advance the freedom, equality, safety and well being of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) people in Southern Arizona. Past Community Ally Award recipients include: Ernesto Portillo Jr. (2001), George Miller (2002), Rev. David Wilkinson (2003), J. Kevin Carmichael (2004), and Detective Tim Rupel (2005).

Wingspan is accepting nominations for both awards for 2006, with winners to be honored at Wingspan's 9th Annual Benefit Dinner, on Saturday, Sept. 16, at the Tucson Convention Center. Members of the Wingspan Board of Directors or Selection Committee are not eligible to be nominated. For more information, call (520) 624-1779 or go online to: wingspan.org/content/awardform.html

Cornerstone Fellowship Celebrates 20 Years

TUCSON - Cornerstone Fellowship is pleased to announce the celebration of twenty years of God's blessings with services Apr. 21-23.

To mark this anniversary, Cornerstone said that visiting pastors from Grace Fellowship in Dallas, Texas, Rev. Tony Hoult who co-pastors with his partner of 24 years, Rev. Craig Franklin will be holding services and ministering. Both are committed to raising the standard within the LGBT community. Worship services will be held Friday and Saturday evenings (Apr. 21 & 23), at 7 p.m. and Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m.

On Saturday morning (Apr. 22), 10 at 10 a.m., Rev. Hoult will be conducting a praise and worship workshop. All are invited to attend. Cornerstone is located at 2902 N. Geronimo. Please call Pastor Paul Chambliss, (520) 622-4626 for more information.

Jell-O Wrestling, Auction, Raffle, And More

TUCSON - The 19th anniversary of the Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Extravaganza and Benefit Auction will take place Sunday, May 7, Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd., doors opening at 2 p.m., wrestling scheduled to begin at 4 p.m.

Wrestlers will be slipping and sliding in a pit of Jell-O to help raise funds for the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) in a totally unique way. Interested in wrestling and raising funds for SAAF? There are still some openings for individual wrestlers or teams of wrestlers to get involved and make a difference in the community while having a ton of fun. Check out the website to view current wrestling teams and see the top fund raisers at jello-wrestling.org!

Tickets for Jell-O are $6 in advance and $10 at the door and are now on sale at Woody's (3710 N. Oracle) and at SAAF (375 S. Euclid Ave), both in Tucson. Jell-O Wrestling Raffle tickets ($1 each) are also on sale at the same locations for the amazing prize of a one-week stay in the luxurious Pueblo Bonito Condominiums in Mazatlan, Mexico for the week of November 20-27, plus $250 in cash. For only a dollar, you have a chance to trade in that dry turkey dinner surrounded by all your relatives for a relaxing week long stay in a luxury suite! Talk about more holiday bang for your holiday buck!

For more information, call Mae at SAAF, (520) 628-7223 or send an email to events@saaf.org if you want more information. If you've never been to Jell-O Wrestling, be sure to put May 7 on your calendar now and enjoy the most fun and amazing spectacle of fund raising that you could possibly ever imagine! See you at the pit!

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Treasures For TIHAN Update

TUCSON - Organizers for "Treasures for TIHAN," the fundraising event for the programs and services of the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN), Saturday, May 6, 6:30pm, Hotel Arizona, 181 W. Broadway, announced more donations given to auction off at the event.

The auction raises much needed funds which go to support the programs and services of TIHAN. In 2005, the event raised more than $84,000 for AIDS Network. Some of the items for which those in attendance will have a chance to bid on, while enjoying the fine food and entertainment, include at this point:

A trip for two to Puerto Vallarta's exquisite resort Villa Del Palmar, including airfare and 7-day stay on Banderas Bay, a University of Arizona Wildcat basketball, autographed by Hall of Fame Coach Lute Olson and the 2005-06 men's basketball team, airfare for two and a three-day/two-night stay at the wonderfully-unique House of House of Blues Hotel in Chicago, two VIP seats at a taping of "The Ellen DeGeneres Show," and a "Home Sweet Home" Package from Home Depot Ladders, tools, patio furniture and more will be yours with this fabulous package to enhance your home!

Tickets for the event are $50 ($23 is tax-deductible), and can be purchased by calling (520) 299-6647 or online at tihan.org. And don't forget raffle tickets (just $5 each, or 5 for $20) to get a chance for a $2,500 weekend at the world's #1 rated resort spa Miraval (first prize), a signed UA basketball and football (second prize), and $250 cash (third prize)!

SAGA Announces New Project & Survey

TUCSON - Does your current gender identity and/or expression differ from the gender you were assigned at birth? The Southern Arizona Gender Alliance (SAGA), announced that is spearheading a new community based research project to understand the health and social service needs of Transgender and gender diverse individuals in Southern Arizona.

If you identify as Transgender, or someone whose gender identity and/or expression is different than the gender you were assigned at birth, you are invited to participate in an upcoming focus group and/or survey interview. SAGA said the goal of the project is to aide individuals and organizations in serving the needs of the community by giving voice to the varied experiences within the gender diverse spectrum in Southern Arizona, identifying health and social service needs within the community, and identifying barriers to accessing these services.

Contact SAGA Intern, Kendall Roark at (520) 623-0018, or E-mail: kroark@temple.edu to sign up for the survey or focus group, or get involved as a volunteer with the Community Research Team. The Southern Arizona Gender Alliance (SAGA) is a program of Wingspan, providing education, support, outreach, and other programs for Transgender, transsexual, and people within the gender diverse spectrum, as well as their families, allies, service providers, and employers. Visit SAGA on the web at sagatucson.org.

Calling all responsible and energetic volunteers!

Put your multi-tasking and communication skills to use. Become a reception volunteer with the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation!

For More info contact Wendy
628-7223 or wascione@saaf.org

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Informing the Community
The Observer

South Carolinian Wins Miss Gay Western States Title

TUCSON – At the Miss Gay Western States America 2006 Pageant held last Saturday, April 15, Six contestants from the Southeast, Southwest, Mid-West and the West vied for the coveted title. 'Luscious', from Columbia, South Carolina was the winner. Luscious also won the talent portion of the event which was attended by nearly 400 enthusiasts. Observer congratulates all who were involved with this Pageant. More names and photos on Page Nine.

LGBT Candidate's Wins Help Seal Italian PM Victory

ROME - Leftist Prime Minister-designate Romano Prodi's narrow victory in the Italian general election was accomplished in part by the victories of five LGBT candidates, reported 365Gay.com.

Among them was Vladimir Luxuria, believed to be the first transsexual elected to a European parliament. "I'm going to be the first Transgender to get into a parliament in Europe," she said when she filed her candidacy papers in Rome earlier this year. "It's a way to say to people: don't judge me by the way I look, don't judge me by my sexual orientation. Please, judge me by my ideas." Luxuria ran under the Communist party banner in Rome in a district not far from the Vatican.

Her victory was not unexpected. Luxuria is a popular fixture in Rome's LGBT community. She is a cabaret performer and in 1994 organized the county's first Gay pride march. "We are happy to see a Transgender person being elected as Italian parliamentarian. This is a very important victory not just for Italy, but for all Europe," said Riccardo Gottardi, Co-Chair of the International Lesbian and Gay Association - Europe Board. "This is also a sign that the European electorate is becoming more open minded and embracing the diversity of human kind. "

As 365Gay.com reported, the returns released by the Interior Ministry gave Prodi's coalition a slim majority in both houses of parliament. Silvio Berlusconi, though, has refused to concede defeat and challenged Prodi's victory claim, demanding a recount. Berlusconi said he would concede only after Prodi is confirmed the winner after all the checks are carried out on the voting, which he says was marred by "irregularities." Prodi told reporters that even though the margin of victory in both houses was razor-thin, "I do not fear a reversal of the results."

But his majority is so slim it may it difficult for him to get legislation through Parliament. Among the bills seen as having problems gaining approval are three that would affect LGBT Italians - recognition of same-sex couples, expanded hate crimes legislation to include sexuality, and improved gender reassignment legislation. "We hope the newly elected Italian politicians will fulfill their pre-election promises and will introduce Italy into a family of European nations legally recognizing same-sex families as well as introduce further legislation to guarantee equal rights for LGBT people," said Gottardi

Prodi has been a supporter of moderate rights for same-sex couples since last July when he met with Gay activists, but he opposes Gay marriage. His planned bill would legalize civil partnerships, similar to those in Britain and other parts of the European Union. He also has voiced his support for revamping hate crimes and reassignment surgery.

UPDATE

A Public Service Warning PMAA Update

TUCSON (ON) - Petitions are being circulated during this time to get signatures for political candidates, or for groups seeking to place issues on the November General Election ballot for the voters to consider for approval.

Depending upon either the financial or political circumstances, some of the petitions are being circulated by "paid" circulators. Paid circulators are individuals getting a fee for each signature they get to help the respective candidate or issue campaign in their effort to be placed on the ballot.

One of these petitions, now being circulated in Pima County by paid circulators, is the Protect Marriage Arizona amendment (PMAA), the proposed amendment to Arizona's state Constitution that if approved, would bar governmental, legal, or any type of recognition of same-sex marriages, civil unions and domestic partnerships in the state. Primary proponents behind this measure include the anti-LGBT Center for Arizona Policy, the Arizona Catholic Conference, as well as the state's three Catholic Bishops.

There are other relevant issues, as well as candidates, for which petitions are being circulated by volunteer and paid circulators, also attempting to get the needed signatures to be placed on the ballot as well during this time.

One though may also come across the PMAA petition in the midst of the others, most likely being passed by a paid or volunteer circular, so as a public service, remember:

1) Carefully read the petition you are about to sign

2) That if you don't want to sign a specific petition, you don't have to. Each initiative and campaign must file individual petitions to qualify for the ballot, meaning that if one comes across a table for which the PMAA petition, as well as other issues, such as the Healthy Arizona Initiative (HAI), a person doesn't have to sign both petitions.

3) Arizona's law (A.R.S. 25-101, A.R.S. 25-112), currently forbid governmental recognition of "same-sex" marriages performed in the state or from another state, and has been in effect since 1996, approved by the Republican-controlled Arizona Legislature and signed into law by then Arizona Governor Fife Symington, a Republican.

4) Both statutes, also known as the Arizona Defense of Marriage Act, have been upheld in court in the case of Standhardt v. Superior Court, (May - 2004).

If you are told otherwise, or some questionable action is taken by the circulator, get the details (location, date, time, etc.) and either call Arizona Together, (520) 275-4790 or Wingspan, (520) 624-1779 or E-mail: jk@aztogether.org, cathy@wingspan.org, or info@tucsonobserver.com.

AGRA Announces Poster Contest For 2007 Rodeo

PHOENIX - Arizona's Gay Rodeo Association (AGRA) announced the will be holding a poster contest for their 2007 Road Runner Regional Rodeo (RRRR).

Entries must be 17" x 22" finished size with the only lettering being "2007 Road Runner Regional Rodeo." Exception to the size will be made for computer generated artwork on a CD or zip disk provided with a printed copy of the poster design. Artist's name and phone number must be printed in the upper right-hand corner on the back of the poster. Entries received with the artist's name on the front of the poster will be disqualified. The winning design and artwork become the property of AGRA. All other entries will be destroyed within two (2) weeks following the judging unless arrangements are made by the artist to pick them up or to be returned at the artist's expense. The artist of the winning entry will receive a $200 cash prize from AGRA. The contest is open both to AGRA members and non-members.

All entries must be received by 5:00 p.m. Saturday, May 13. Entries received after this date/time will not be considered. Mail entries to: AGRA RRRR 2007 Poster Contest, POB 40465, Phoenix, AZ 85067. For more information, contact Ron Trusley, AGRA Rodeo Director, (602) 510-9671, or Gary Hatterman, AGRA President, (602) 284-3285, or the AGRA office, (602) 265-8166.

Supreme Court Nixes Falwell In Gay Web Suit

Jerry Falwell

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Supreme Court on Monday (Apr. 17) rejected an appeal by evangelist Jerry Falwell that a Gay Web site satirizing his stand on Gays is not an infringement on his rights.

Last year a three-judge panel of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously agreed that the owner of the site did not violate trademark laws by using a common misspelling of Falwell's name as the site's domain name.

The Appeals Court decision overturned a court ruling and said that Christopher Lamparello of New York City could continue to operate his "gripe site" at fallwell.com.

"After even a quick glance at the content of the website ... no one seeking Reverend Falwell's guidance would be misled by the domain name http://www.fallwell.com into believing that Reverend Falwell authorized the content of that website," the appeals court said in its ruling.

Lamparello's Web site is mainly in black and white, with no photographs or items for sale. He says that Falwell is wrong in preaching that Gay people are sinners who can change. At the top of the site a disclaimer reads: "This Web site is not affiliated with Rev. Dr. Jerry Falwell or his ministry."

New Bush Policy: All Gays And Lesbians Should Be Celibate

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Earlier this year, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced new guidelines for organizations applying for grants for abstinence-only education programs, reported Think Progress.

In addition to being costly, inaccurate, and ineffective, the programs must now operate under a strict new definition of abstinence:

Abstinence curricula must have a clear definition of sexual abstinence which must be consistent with the following: "Abstinence means voluntarily choosing not to engage in sexual activity until marriage. Sexual activity refers to any type of genital contact or sexual stimulation between two persons including, but not limited to, sexual intercourse."

Later, the guidelines explicitly define marriage:

Throughout the entire curriculum, the term "marriage" must be defined as "only a legal union between one man and one woman as a husband and wife, and the word 'spouse' refers only to a person of the opposite sex who is a husband or a wife." (Consistent with Federal law)

In other words, if you're Gay or Lesbians, the Bush administration has decided that you should be taught to never, ever engage in "any type" of "sexual stimulation" – ever.

AS I SEE IT..... BY CLARK

Expelled Gay Student Reluctant Hero

Jason Johnson

LOUISVILLE - Jason Johnson has spent the weeks since his expulsion from college trying to get a grasp of the furor swirling around him, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. "I'm sort of getting my life in line right now and balance it with this sort of mantle I've assumed," Johnson said.

Johnson, a 20-year-old sophomore at the University of the Cumberlands, a small Baptist school in Williamsburg, Ky., posted entries about being Gay and his dating life on his MySpace.com web page. School administrators found out about Johnson's site earlier this month and expelled him from school, sparking a media swirl, possible legal battle and even a political debate over whether the state should give the university $11 million a new pharmacy school.

The school has declined comment on Johnson's expulsion, but college officials have said the university has a policy that says it reserves the right to expel a student who "promotes sexual behavior not consistent with Christian principles," including homosexuality.

Johnson said that was a policy many students were aware of, but no one seemed to follow, so he didn't think the web site would cause any problems. "Mostly I did it just as a way to tell everybody in my life what's going on in my life," said Johnson in a phone interview from his home in Lexington. "I didn't think anything was going to come out of it." Johnson declined to discuss any possible legal action against the school, saying his lawyer advised him not to.

Since leaving the school, Johnson said his life has changed "pretty dramatically." Johnson said he went to college to learn and figure out how being Gay and Christian "fit into the overall picture of who I am." The expulsion from school is an opportunity to talk about what he has learned, Johnson said. "This case has become an outlet for me to speak out about Christianity and sexual orientation and how those two aren't mutually exclusive," Johnson said. "You can be a Gay Christian. I know, I am one."

And, now that he's been expelled from his college of choice, Johnson is looking for a place to finish his education in theater and learning how to juggle the demands of his sudden fame. Johnson said he's waiting to hear from Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Ky., doing interviews and responding to E-mail and phone messages. "It's been a wild ride so far. It's kind of like a roller coaster. It goes up and it goes down," Johnson said.

School Dumps Players After Homophobic Slur Against Teammate

SEATTLE - University of Washington men's crew coach Bob Ernst has thrown two rowers off his team after they admitted painting an anti-Gay slur on a fence outside a teammate's home, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

The two rowers were not identified. "An inappropriate word was painted on a fence" in front of the 19-year-old's house, and Ernst "took some very quick action and elected to remove those members for violating team rules," Marie Tuite, the UW's senior associate athletic director, told The Seattle Times.

The incident involving the nonvarsity rowers occurred the night of March 25, when the Huskies' best crews were in California at a regatta. Athletic director Todd Turner, citing privacy regulations, refused to identify the disciplined rowers or their year at the university.

A police report said the victim suspected he was targeted because he was ill and missed a crew practice the previous morning. The victim also told police he had been outspoken about some of the hazing that freshmen undergo on the team.

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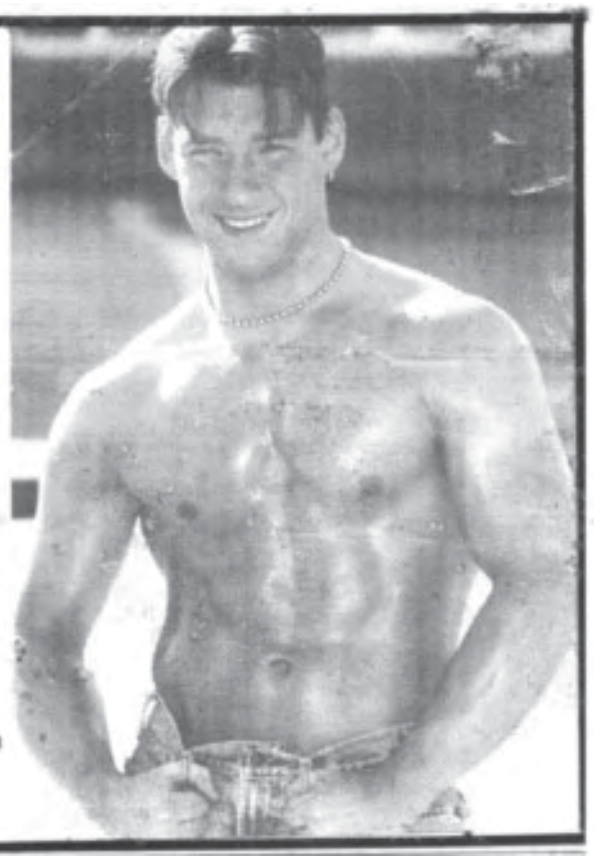


LGBT Ally William Sloane Coffin Dies

MONTPELIER - The Rev. William Sloane Coffin, a former Yale University chaplain known for his peace activism during the Vietnam War and his continuing work for social justice, died Wednesday at his home in rural Strafford. He was 81, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

Coffin had been suffering from congestive heart failure and had been under the care of a hospice, said his daughter, Amy Coffin. "He was out in the sun. Everybody was talking and then he was gone," Amy Coffin said. "Physically he was pretty debilitated but spiritually he was not." Coffin was immortalized in the "Doonesbury" comic strip when its creator, Garry Trudeau, blended his character with that of a Trudeau roommate who became a priest, dubbing the fictitious clergyman "Rev. Sloan."

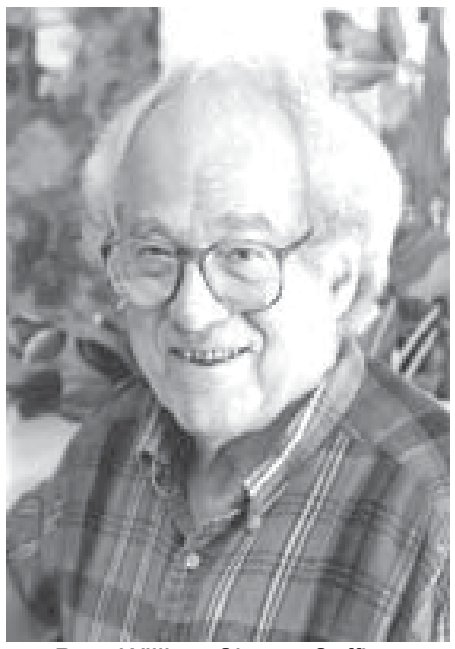
Coffin gained prominence in the 1960s as an outspoken advocate for civil rights and against the Vietnam war. He joined a group of civil rights activists known as the "freedom riders" and was arrested several times at demonstrations against segregation. He became a leader of the group Clergy and Laity Concerned About Vietnam, which engaged in civil disobedience, including offering sanctuary in churches and synagogues to draft resisters.

He often spoke of having a lifelong "lover's quarrel" with America. "Bill's voice was part of a chorus of conscience for a nation dealing with issues of poverty, war, disarmament, racism and bigotry," said the Rev. Frederick J. Streets, current chaplain of Yale University Divinity School. "He distinguished himself by rising above and emerging out of his own background of privilege to speak on behalf of the poor." "He had the voice of orator, the language of a poet, the spirit of a pastor and the conviction of a prophet," Streets said.

Coffin was the middle of three children born into privilege as the son of a wealthy New York City furniture dealer. As a teen-ager and aspiring concert pianist, he studied with the famed Nadia Boulanger in Paris. He went to Yale as a music student, but left in 1942 to join the U.S. Army. He served until 1947, moving into military intelligence and attaining the rank of captain. He went back to Yale as a political science student in the late 1940s, but developed an interest in theology and philosophy. In 1949, he enrolled in the Union Theological Seminary, but the outbreak of the Korean War rekindled his interest in fighting communism. In 1950 he joined the CIA - he said later he wanted to work against Stalin in recompense for his failure to intervene in the repatriation of the Russian soldiers.

Coffin left the intelligence service three years later and enrolled in Yale's Divinity School, receiving his bachelor's degree and being ordained a Presbyterian minister in 1956. He spent a year each as chaplain at Phillips Andover Academy and Williams College. He became chaplain at Yale in 1958. In awarding Coffin an honorary doctorate in 2002, Yale praised its former chaplain, saying, "You changed the shape of college chaplaincy and inspired a generation of young people to challenge injustice. "You urged, in the civil rights and anti-war movements, adherence to the highest moral principles."

Coffin said his advocacy for



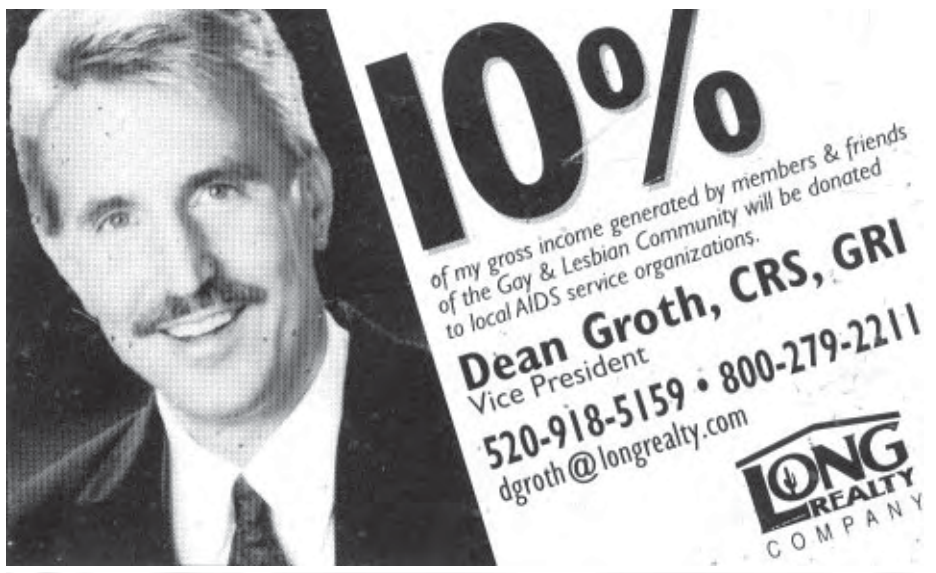
Rev. William Sloane Coffin

the downtrodden was born of faith. "What this country needs, what I think God wants us to do, is not practice piecemeal charity but engage in wholesale justice," Coffin said in a PBS interview in 2004. "Justice is at the heart of religious faith. When we see Christ empowering the poor, scorning the powerful, healing the world's hurts, we are seeing transparently the power of God at work." He continued his activism after leaving Yale in 1976 and moving on to become minister of the Riverside Church in New York City. There he broadened his agenda to working on issues of peace, nuclear disarmament, poverty, homelessness and protecting the environment. He was criticized by some in the congregation as too attentive to his social agenda, at the expense of pastoral work and management of the church. He retired from Riverside in 1987 to Strafford, Vt., but continued traveling the country lecturing on human rights issues, the arms race and the environment.

Long an outspoken supporter of Gay and Lesbian rights, Coffin delivered an address on that issue on the Strafford village green in November of 2000, five months after Vermont passed a law allowing for civil unions between same-sex couples, granting them most of the rights and responsibilities of marriage. Addressing his remarks to U.S. Catholic bishops, who oppose broadening Gay and Lesbian rights, Coffin emphasized, as he had so often throughout his career, the loving rather than the punitive side of Christian faith. "For Christians, the problem is not how to reconcile homosexuality with scriptural passages that condemn it," he said, "but how to reconcile the rejection and punishment of homosexuals with the love of Christ."

Coffin's longtime friend, historian and activist Howard Zinn, said he'll miss Coffin's humor. He recalled a speech in which Coffin spoke to a group of students about what to do after graduation. "He said, 'Remember this: Even if you win the rat race, you're still a rat," Zinn said.

For all of his grappling with weighty issues, Coffin maintained a cheerful demeanor. "Hope arouses, as nothing else can arouse, a passion for the possible," Coffin said, according to Simpson's Contemporary Quotations.



POLITICS 2006

by Mark R. Kerr

Anti-G/L Adoption Bill Fails In Ariz. Senate

A proposal, HB 2696, giving preference to married couples applications and greatly restricting the ability of single people, straight, Gay and Lesbian, to adopt a child in Arizona was defeated Monday, Apr. 17 in the Arizona State Senate.

By a vote of 15 in favor, 13 against, two not present on the floor, HB 2696 failed in its third read before the Arizona Senate because 16 votes were needed for passage.

Three Republicans, Senator Carolyn Allen of Phoenix, Senator Jay Tibshraeny of Chandler and Senator Toni Hellon of Tucson, joined the ten Democratic Senators present on the floor in opposing the bill. All 15 yes votes were by Republican state Senators, including Tim Bee of Tucson. Senators Paula Aboud of Tucson and Robert Cannell of Yuma were not on the floor at the time but both had expressed opposition previous to HB 2696.

Legislative proponents, such as House Majority Leader Steve Tully, R-Phoenix, denied it's a slap at homosexuals, stating the sole reason for introducing the legislation is the research-based belief that placing children with married couples is in their best interests, but one of the two cosponsors of HB 2696, state Rep. Rick Murphy, R-Phoenix, when reached for comment by E-mail, responded, "The bottom line is, some people want to use any loophole possible to facilitate adoptions by Gay individuals and 'couples' masquerading as individuals. This bill will restrict those efforts . . . "

HB 2696 was also supported by the Center for Arizona Policy and the Arizona Catholic Conference, two groups spearheading the drive to get the Protect Marriage Arizona amendment, barring governmental and legal recognition of same-sex marriage, civil unions and domestic partnerships on the ballot for the upcoming general election in Arizona.

Arizona's Department of Economic Security which oversees adoptions opposed the bill, as did the Children Action Alliance, the Arizona Human Rights Fund (AHRF) and the National Organization for Women (NOW) and Wingspan.

"It is clear that Arizonans are growing weary of the religious right playing political football with real people's lives," said Cathy Busha, Director of Programs for Wingspan in a statement about the Arizona Senate action on HB 2696.

This vote by capital observers was seen as a surprise, since on Apr. 3, the Arizona Senate had given approval to HB 2696 when the bill was before the Senate Committee of the Whole and the Arizona House had approved the measure, 33-25 on Mar. 9. Even with the unexpected turn, reaction to the defeat was swift.

"I am extremely elated that common sense prevailed," said openly Gay state Senator, Ken Cheuvront, D-Phoenix. "This bill would have had dire consequences for any single individual who would adopt a child in Arizona."

Barbara McCullough-Jones, AHRF Executive Director, said the organization was "thrilled" by "how the vote turned out," since HB 2696 was a "clandestine effort to prevent Gays and Lesbians from adopting children in Arizona."

"This is a real victory for the LGBT community - we set out to defeat this bill and we did just that," said Amy Kobeta, AHRF Director of Public Affairs. "LGBT parents have become the latest scapegoat of the extreme conservative movement and, by defeating this bill, we cut short their homophobic agenda."

"The defeat of this bill is a testament to the caring nature of our supportive Senators who truly value children's lives," state Representative Kyrsten Sinema, D-Phoenix, said of learning of HB 2696's failure to win Senate approval.

Open Lesbian Tucson City Councilmember, Karin Uhlich, D-Ward 3, said the defeat of the bill, "was a vote in support of all children and families in the state."

Arizona's Senate vote, Apr. 17, kills HB 2696 in that form. Its sponsor, state Representative Steve Tully expressed doubt on whether he will try to resurrect the proposal before the end of the legislative session but there are only two way the proposal can be resurrected one of the "no" votes moves to reconsider HB 2696, or with a strike-everything amendment.

A strike-everything amendment would have to be done in a committee and presently, only two committees, the House Appropriations and Senate Appropriations are meeting, working on a proposed state budget so the chances of this measure being resurrected are seen by capital observers as slim to none but as in past sessions, it was pointed out, nothing is over until Sine Die, when the Arizona Legislature formally adjourns the session.

Prof. Threatened After Speaking Out Against Homophobia

BUTTE - A professor at Montana Tech says his life has been threatened after speaking out against homophobia on the campus of the school, part of the University of Montana in Butte, reported 365Gay.com. John Ray said the threat was made in an email that he has turned over to police.

The threat was made after Ray sent a campus wide email criticizing another professor who had emailed students and faculty denouncing a decision to show the movie "Brokeback Mountain at the school. Ray responded by sending several emails promoting tolerance toward Gays.

"Shut the f**k up," the threatening email to Ray said. "Please stop sending these stupid emails. Get a shrink if you need someone to communicate with. We don't care!!!!!!!!!! I swear to God I will find where you live and beat you if you keep sending these dumb emails out to everyone." Ray said that after receiving the threat he has been receiving email "pop ups" on his e-mail advertising Gay and child pornography Web sites and believes someone got his campus email "user code" and registered his address to the Web sites. Police say that the threatening email has a return Web address but that it is not yet clear if that was the original source of the threat. A forensics investigator is examining Ray's computer to see if it has been tampered with and the schools server to trace the email sent to him.

Miss Gay Western States America 2006

TUCSON - Last Saturday, April15, was pageant night for the Miss Gay Western States 2006 Regional. This pageant is an official preliminary to Miss Gay America. DRS Productions (aka Danny Scott and Daniel Eckstrom) produced their second annual pageant and it went on without a flaw - at least from the audience point of view. The event was held in the main Ballroom of the Doubletree Hotel. Nearly four hundred people made up the audience and was entertained by Top notch talent from around the country.

The judges had a tough time picking one single winner. It was an evening of great entertainment by the contestants. At the end of the evening, the judges announced that the winner of the crown for Miss Gay Western States America 2006 was to go to Luscious, from Columbia, South Carolina. First Alternate - Alina Malletti From San Jose, California.

The rest of the list goes as follows:
2nd Alternate: Janee Starr from Tucson, AZ
3rd Alternate: Veronica Halliwell from Tucson, AZ
4th Alternate: Ginger Manchester from Fort Wayne, Indiana
5th Alternate: Miss Chacha Chalez from West Hollywood, CA
Recipient of the Kenneth Blake Talent Award: Luscious
Recipient of the Miss Congeniality Award: Miss Chacha Chalez

The guest entertainment list contained nobility from across the land. They included the reigning Miss Gay America 2006, Nicole DuBois; Angela Dodd, Miss Gay Western States 2005 who relinquished her crown to this year's winner; Maya Montana, Miss Gay America 1998; Amanda Bury, Miss Gay Arizona 2006; Raquel Chevallier, Miss Gay America 2005; Rachael Erikks, Miss Gay America 2004, Barbra Seville, Miss Gay Arizona America 2000, who also acted as MC for the evening along with Tucson's own Black Cat, Ajia Simone.

Congratulations to Lucious for her winning performance and to all the contestants who filled the stage with top notch talent. Thanks to the judges who had to make some tough decisions. They were Raquel Chevallier, Tommy Reagan, Rachael Erikks, Maya Montana and Brian Livermore. And to all who worked behind the scenes to make this evening a most memorable one - congratulations and thank you. We understand that Danny and Daniel are already working on Pageant #3 for next year.

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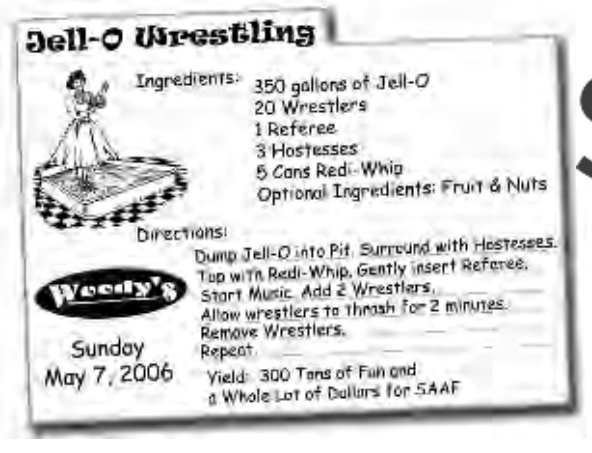

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Rumsfeld Approved 'Gay' Interrogation Of Guantanamo Detainee

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld allowed an "abusive and degrading" interrogation of an al-Qaida detainee in 2002, according to the online magazine Salon.com. The interrogation included accusing the detainee of being Gay, making him stand naked in front of a female interrogator, and forcing him to wear women's underwear, says MSNBC, advocate.com reported.

According to an Army report cited by Salon and denounced as "fiction" by a Pentagon spokesman, officers told of Rumsfeld's direct contact with the general overseeing the interrogation at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The report, obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, comes amid a spate of calls by retired U.S. generals for the Pentagon chief to resign to take responsibility for U.S. military setbacks in Iraq.

Rumsfeld spoke regularly to Army Maj. Gen. Geoffrey Miller, a key player in the treatment of detainees in Iraq and Guantanamo, during the interrogation of Mohammed al-Kahtani, who is suspected to have been an intended 9/11 hijacker, Salon quoted the inspector general's report as saying.

Over the course of 54 days in late 2002, soldiers also required al-Kahtani to perform "dog tricks" on a leash, Salon reported. Kahtani was forced to undergo 18- to 20-hour interrogations during 48 of the 54 days, the magazine said. Salon cites Lt. Gen. Randall M. Schmidt, an Army investigator, as saying in a sworn statement to the inspector general that "the secretary of defense is personally involved in the interrogation of one person." Rumsfeld had weekly contact with Miller, according to Salon.

Dutch Reject Call To Return LGBT Refugees To Iran

AMSTERDAM - The Netherlands Parliament has rebuffed a call by Immigration Minister Rita Verdonk to end a moratorium on the deportation of LGBT asylum seekers from Iran, reported 365Gay.com. Last year Verdonk halted extraditions of LGBT Iranians in the wake of reports two Gay teens were hanged after being found found "guilty of homosexuality."

But in January, in a letter to lawmakers, she said that while Gay sex was punishable by death under Islamic law an investigation into the hangings had determined that the pair were hanged not because they were Gay but because they had robbed, kidnapped and raped a minor. Although Iran maintained robbery and rape were behind the executions all along many international human rights organizations believed it to be "a smokescreen." Other groups that monitor Iran said the government explanation was most likely correct.

Verdonk's position was opposed by a wide variety of politicians in Parliament and by Dutch LGBT rights group COC. Without the support of Parliament she said Thursday (Apr. 13) that she would continue to grant asylum to LGBT Iranians but would "reassess" the situation in the fall. That has raised concerns by COC.

"But what is going to happen in six months? Some of them face death sentences and are left in great uncertainty over their future," said COC chair Frank van Dalen. He called on Verdonk to meet with Gay Iranians who are living in the Netherlands so she can hear first-hand what it is like in the Islamic Republic.

Canada Greenlights LGBT FM Radio Station

TORONTO - Canada's broadcast regulator, the CRTC, has awarded an FM license for a Toronto LGBT radio station, reported 365Gay.com. Although satellite network Sirius already has an LGBT station called Sirius Q and there are a number of internet-based Gay station, the Toronto station is believed to be the first conventional station serving the LGBT community anywhere in North America.

The license was granted to Rainbow Media and is one of a number of new low-wattage stations being created in Canada. With only 50-wats of power the station will be available only in downtown Toronto. Rainbow Media is owned by Evanov Radio Group, which owns mainstream stations in several Canadian cities, and businessman George Marchi. Company spokesperson Camela Laurignano said the station will be up and winning within 12 months. It also will stream its broadcast over the Internet. Laurignano said the station will feature news, music, publicity for events and open-line programs targeted at Toronto's LGBT market. Toronto, Canada's biggest city, has an estimated half-million Gays.

As a condition of granting the license the CRTC instructed Rainbow Media that it must provide $10,000 in scholarships to two schools - Toronto's Humber College and Carleton University in Ottawa. The terms of the annual scholarships, including whether they would be offered only to LGBT students, will be decided after discussions with school officials, Laurignano said . Rainbow's license approval also includes a minimum of $30,000 annually to support musical artists at Pride Week celebrations, as well as funding for musicians and artists at workshops and art exhibits. The CRTC regularly requires broadcasters to provide support to industry and community initiatives but this is the first time those commitments have been limited to the LGBT community. Canada already has a Gay television network. Out TV is available on the digital cable dial.

Kidnappers Targeting LGBT Iraquis

BAGHDAD - Armed gangs are regularly kidnapping and holding for ransom Iraqis - many of them Gay - according to a United Nations sponsored media group, reported 365Gay.com. IRIN reports that hundreds of people have been seized throughout the country and American troops seem helpless to prevent it.

A Baghdad LGBT organization tells the news service that 12 of its members have been killed by kidnappers when their ransom demands could not be met. Another 70 have been threatened with kidnapping. "We're trying to help these people, but it's getting very difficult, and our organization has been targeted twice since last month," Mustafa Salim, a spokesperson for Rainbow for Life, told IRIN. "We know for certain that those killed were targeted because of their sexual preferences."

Iraq's small LGBT community is mostly closeted. Homosexuality was a crime under the regime of Saddam Hussein and there has been no improvement since the US led invasion. Last month prominent Shiite cleric Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani called for death to Gays. The partner and family of a Gay Canadian peace activist who was kidnapped in Iraq kept his sexuality a closely guarded secret until after he was freed in a military raid. James Loney was kidnapped in Baghdad along with fellow Canadian Harmeet Sooden, Briton Norm Kember and American Tom Fox, whose bullet-ridden body was found last month. Loney's sexuality was revealed only on his return to Canada when he was greeted at the airport by partner Dan Hunt. It is estimated as many as 50 people a day are kidnapped in Iraq with ransom demands of up to $100,000 for each. If the demands are not met the victims are killed. Doctors, artists and journalists have also been the frequent target of kidnappers, IRIN reported. A dusk to dawn curfew has done little to stop the attacks.

Nigeria Toughens Criminalization Of L/G Marriage Bill

ABUJA - A proposed law that would impose a prison sentence on same-sex couples who marry has been toughened by the Nigerian Senate to include anyone who attends a Gay wedding or is a member of any LGBT organization, reported 365Gay.com. The marriage ban was proposed by President Olusegun Obasanjo and is likely to pass easily, received first reading in the Senate. It would impose a five year sentence on any same-couple who marries or goes abroad to marry. It also bans same-sex couples from living together, wed or not, outlaws adoption by Gays and goes so far as to make it a criminal offense to be a member of a Gay club, social organization or LGBT civil rights group. The legislation would also impose a prison term on anyone who attends a same-sex union, witnesses a union or celebrates a ceremony involving Gay or Lesbian couples. The bill would include foreigners living in Nigeria - a move that has humanitarian aid organizations concerned.

Gay or Lesbian aid workers who go to Nigeria from countries where same-sex marriage is legal would have their passports scrutinized for any indication of their sexuality or marital status. The ban on membership in Gay organizations has raised concerns by human rights groups. The bill also says that publicity or any public display of "same-sex amorous relationships" including those depicted in the electronic or print media physically, directly, indirectly or otherwise are prohibited under penalty of imprisonment in Nigeria.

The legislation is regarded as the most repressive Gay measure in the world. Last month, before the additional prohibitions were included, and in advance of a state visit to the US by President Obasanjo human rights organizations called for the bill's withdrawal. In an open letter to Obasanjo the groups, including the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission and Human Rights Watch, said the proposed law contravenes international law, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and undermines Nigeria's struggle to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Desert Voices Spring Concert April 29 - 30

TUCSON - Desert Voices, Tucson's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Straight chorus, will explore the rich spectrum of gender definition in their upcoming concert, "A Many-Gendered Fling," Saturday, Apr. 29, 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Apr. 30, 2 p.m at the Dunbar Auditorium, 325 W. 2nd Ave., at the corner of Second Street and Main Ave.

"A Many Gendered Fling" opens with Stomp Your Foot a classic Copeland piece in which, "Ladies love their fine amusement, putting patches in a quilt, but men prefer to bend their shoulder to something that will stand when built."

Desert Voices shatters these stereotypes with a musical exploration of gender in their "Fling," including a hysterical Gender Polka, a few wicked parodies and "The Promise of Living," by Copeland. Featuring four brand new originals from local rock star Namoli Brennet, a hysterical Gender Polka, and a few wicked parodies, A Many Gendered Fling is a show that's sure to please!

Tickets are $15 in advance, $12 for students and seniors ($18 at the door). To purchase tickets please contact our office at (520) 791-9662 or visit us on the web at www.desertvoices.org. Tickets are also available at Antigones and from any chorus member.

LGBT Foes Increase Pressure On Ford

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A conservative Christian group has joined the boycott against Ford Motor Company and says it intends to lobby the beleaguered firm's investors, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

The Fort Lauderdale-based Center for Reclaiming America for Christ claims to have 800,000 members across the country. This week it joined a boycott led by the American Family Association in demanding the automaker stop funding the LGBT media and supporting Gay causes. The CRAC brings to 20 the number of groups involved in the boycott. In announcing it was joining the action the organization said it is distributing a petition to its members and expects to present it to shareholders at Ford's annual meeting May 11.

"If Ford wishes to disregard its values-oriented clientele, then the company should be prepared to do without our hard earned dollars," said Gary Cass, Executive Director for the Center. "Each of our purchases is like casting 'dollar votes' for the types of companies we want to support. Unfortunately for Ford's dealers, employees, and stockholders, Ford Motor Company is no longer worthy of our support."

After postponing the boycott last year the AFA reinstated it last month accusing the company of reneging on a promise to end its associations with LGBT organizations. The CRAC said that it expects to have collected at least 50,000 names on its petition and will attempt to have it entered into the minutes of the Ford's annual meeting. It would be the second anti-Gay measure to come before shareholders this year.

An investor named Robert Hurley of Alton, IL will introduce a motion to drop protections for LGBT workers from the company's human resources regulations. The company had fought the motion but Alton took the issue to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission which ruled the automaker must put the resolution to a shareholder vote.

Pope Uses Easter To Attack L/G Families

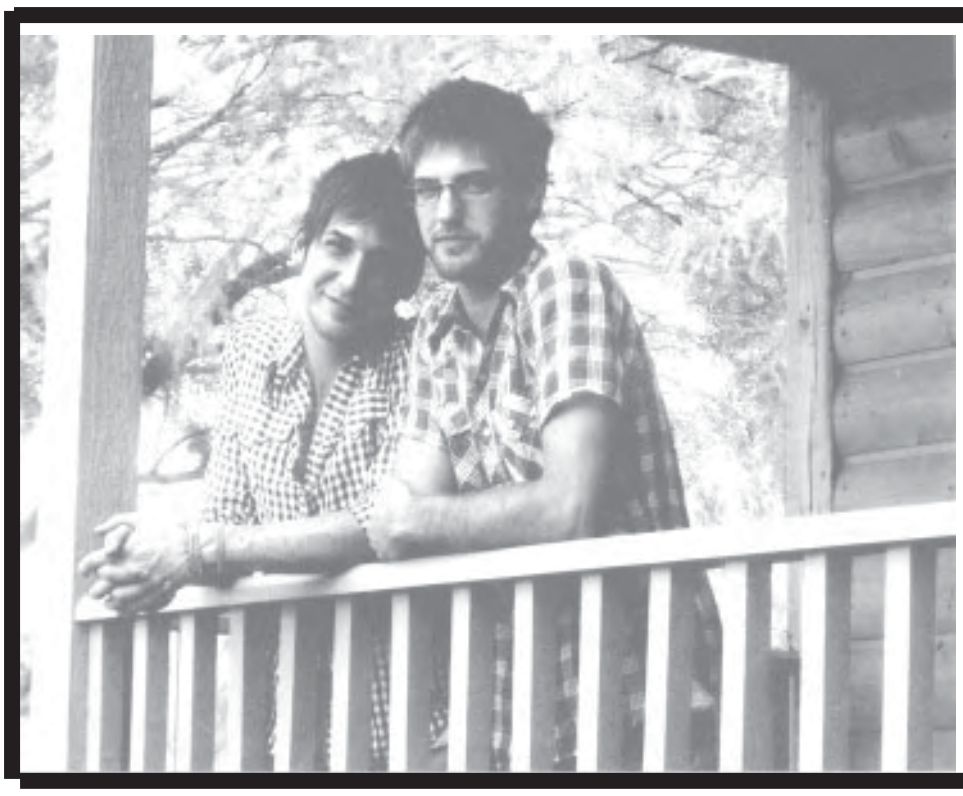
VATICAN CITY - In marking the Stations of the Cross during Good Friday (Apr. 14) observances in Rome Pope Benedict XVI called for the "filth" the surrounds society to be cleansed and said the world is in the grip of "a diabolical pride aimed at eliminating the family".

"Lord, we have lost our sense of sin," he said. "Today a slick campaign of propaganda is spreading an inane apologia of evil, a senseless cult of Satan, a mindless desire for transgression, a dishonest and frivolous freedom, exalting impulsiveness, immorality and selfishness as if they were new heights of sophistication."

Although the Pontiff did not specifically name same-sex relationships the message was clear, less than a week after Italian voters elected a leftist government committed to recognizing Gay and Lesbian couples. In a much publicized event less than two weeks before the election the pope used a meeting with the conservative coalition to launch an attack on the leftists for their support of a domestic partner law. "Attempts to make [marriage] juridically equivalent to radically different forms of unions which in reality harm it and contribute to its destabilization," the pope declared. Papal attacks on same-sex couples are not new. although Friday's was the harshest to date. Benedict's predecessor John Paul II condemned Spain and Canada's moves to legalize Gay marriage and Britain's civil partnerships.

Six weeks after he became pope, Benedict made his first public statement on same-sex marriage. Calling same-sex unions "pseudo-matrimony" the pope said: "The various forms of the dissolution of matrimony today, like free unions, trial marriages and going up to pseudo-matrimonies by people of the same sex, are rather expressions of an anarchic freedom that wrongly passes for true freedom of man." Although was his first public comment on same-sex marriage since becoming Pope, Benedict had long history of attacking same-sex unions.

As Cardinal Ratzinger he was the Vatican's most outspoken opponent of Gay marriage. He was the author of the a 2003 Vatican directive to priests around the world calling for a proactive stand to stop governments from legalizing same-sex marriage and for a repeal of those those already on the books that give rights, including adoption, to Gay couples. The 12 page document called on Catholic bishops and lawmakers to oppose the legalization of same-sex unions. Last November the Vatican released it long-awaited document directing seminaries to reject Gays a prospective priests.



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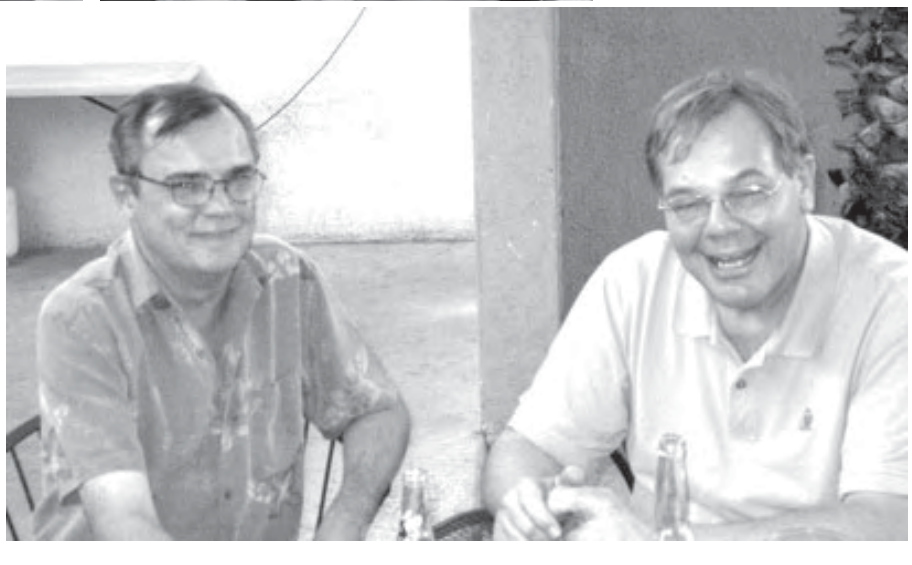

NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

Intelligence

by Lee Thorn

This week's column is dedicated to readers who need immediate and drastic relief from news and views about the immigration mess and the Iraq mess. Don't feel guilty. We'll have plenty of time and occasions to get back to both those messes.

But let's take a little break and think about what we like to pretend is the defining characteristic of our species – intelligence. I got to thinking about the subject lately because of all the recent discussions, talk quite naturally stimulated by our burgeoning new knowledge of genetics, about how very similar our DNA is to that of monkeys. It turns out that the differences are much smaller than scientists had ever imagined.

That made a contrarian like myself start wondering about the enormous differences within our species. Is it possible that the genetic differences within one species could be greater than the differences between species? And might there be more than one way to measure the concept of "greater" in this context?

What if you spent all your leisure time either solving very difficult problems in physics or translating Latin and Greek classics into English? What if 99.9% of your species didn't have the intellectual equipment necessary to solve your physics problems no matter how much training you gave them in physics? What if 99.9% of your species didn't have the aesthetic equipment necessary to respond to your classics no matter how much training you gave them in languages? My question is this: Given the enormous similarities we have with monkeys and the enormous dissimilarities hypothesized above, could it be possible that some of your species have more in common with monkeys than they do with you? I'm certainly not ready to make that argument. The whole notion of intelligence confuses me as much as it intrigues me.

When people first started talking about measuring intelligence they did it in terms of what kind of trivial problems children could solve at various ages. If a nine-year-old could solve problems that most kids couldn't solve until they were twelve, he was more intelligent than average. This line of thinking led to the IQ test, which essentially measure how fast you can solve trivial problems. But when we use the word "intelligence" in everyday speech we don't necessarily limit it to trivial problems. How could we measure the ability to think slowly and solve non-trivial problems? Is there any reason to believe that quick thinkers are also deep thinkers?

Here's a cute little problem you'll never see on an IQ test: Draw three rows of dots, one row above another such that you end up with a square of dots with one in the middle. Now, without ever lifting your pencil from the page, connect all the dots using four straight lines. I found this connect-the-dots puzzle in a science magazine for kids when I was in seventh grade. Since then I've tried in on hundreds of college students, giving them all the time they wanted, without having a single one solve it. My understanding is that the very few people who can solve the problem generally find their solution in less than a minute. Again, do the vast majority of people who cannot solve this problem have more in common with monkeys than they do with the very few people who solve it in less than a minute?

An eminent biographer of Victorians, Lytton Strachey, once defined intelligence as the ability to produce a good summary. Notice that this definition completely ignores the issue of problem solving, trivial or otherwise. What we do when we summarize is choose some things as being more important than others. We keep as many of the important things as space and time permit and we let the rest go. Intelligence, for Strachey, comes down to the ability to recognize what's important.

And that brings us to the relationship, if indeed there is one, between intelligence and values. Can it ever make sense to say, "He's very intelligent, but his values are all screwed up?" I've overheard conversations in which such an assertion was countered with something like, "You don't really mean 'intelligent.' You mean he's 'clever.'"

If values are somehow a part of intelligence, we surely must take note of the enormous gap between values held within our species. Many of us are perfectly satisfied on every level with the simple accumulation of cool stuff. We live by the slogan, "Whoever dies with the most toys wins." A few of us are utterly contemptuous of stuff and live for sensual, intellectual, and/or aesthetic pleasures that are not essentially dependant on stuff. In response to the prevailing slogan, this group says, "Wins what?"

The astute reader will have noticed that I've come to the end of my space without even broaching the question of what relevance creativity might have on conceptions of intelligence.

[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.]

Student Arrested In Duke Rape Faces D.C. Gay Bashing Charge

DURHAM - One of two Duke University students charged Tuesday (Apr. 18) with raping a female dancer also is accused of an attack on a gay man in Washington D.C., reported 365Gay.com. University lacrosse players Collin Finnerty and Reade Seligmann were arrested early Tuesday and charged with first degree rape, first degree sexual offense and kidnapping. Bond for each was set at $400,000.

Finnerty, of Garden City, N.Y, is already facing an assault charge in Washington D.C., the Durham Herald-Sun reported on Tuesday (Apr. 18). The charge stems from an incident on Nov 5 in which a gay man was attacked by three men in the Georgetown area of the district. The victim in his report to police said that the three assailants hurled homophobic remarks while they beat him. He suffered a cut lip and multiple bruises. Finnerty did not enter a plea in the case and was ordered to perform 25 hours of community service in Washington. He also entered a District of Columbia diversity program and his lawyer said he understood the assault charge would be dismissed when he returns to court on Sept. 25.

Finnerty and Seligmann, both 20, were charged in the rape case following a grand jury indictment. The rape allegations have galvanized Durham. A 27-year-old black woman and mother of two children, told police she was attacked March 13 by three white men in a bathroom at a party held by the lacrosse team. The racially charged allegations have led to near daily protest rallies. The school canceled the highly ranked team's season and accepted the resignation of coach Mike Pressler after the release of a vulgar and graphic e-mail that was sent by a team member shortly after the alleged assault.

DNA tests failed to connect any of the 46 team members tested to the alleged victim but a medical examination of the woman found injuries consistent with rape.

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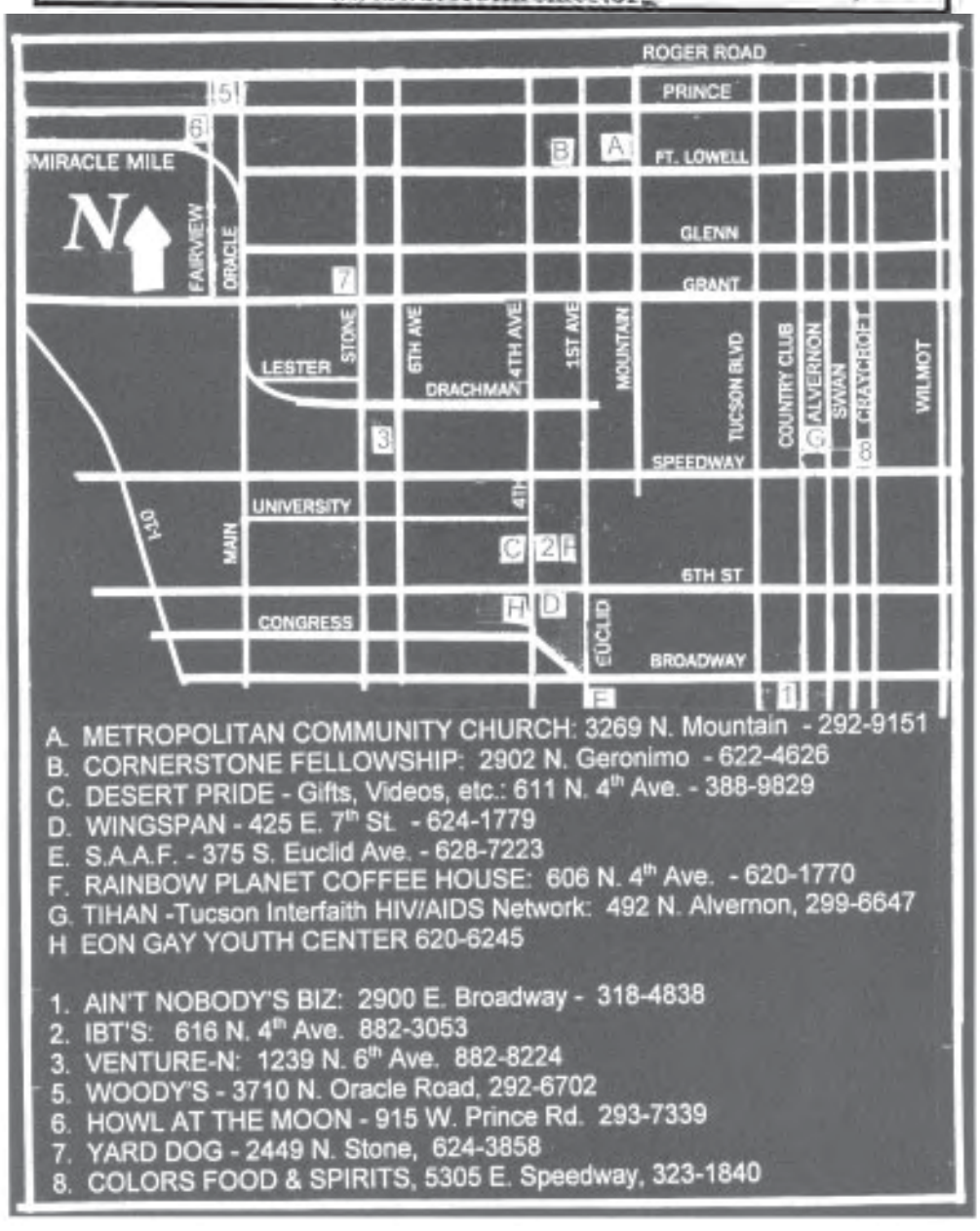

Non Bar Calendar

Wednesday, April 19
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Canasta! Hosted by Jack at 887-3736 MSN Canasta is played every Wednesday at 7pm, but check back here for the host du soir. If you are a nervous first timer, you will find printed rules of play, and guys eager to get you up and in the action as you learn the game!

Thursday, April 20
#1Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Coffee Night on Fabulous 4th Avenue at Rainbow Planet, the Premier Central Tucson GLBT owned and operated purveyor of stimulating caffeine enhanced beverages, delicious comestibles, WIFI energy, and safe social intercourse. Just show up to join in this no host cavalcade of queer conversation.

#2Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: Call now for tomorrow's Pizza Night Lloyd 792-8537 or e-mail dflatlloyd@highstream.net for info, reservations, directions, enlightenment, and incredible satisfaction!

Friday, April 21
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. It's PIZZA NIGHT starring your host Lloyd and 4 types of pizza! (Lloyd is the one without the cheese.) Featuring salacious salad, bubbly sodas, and spunky desserts for only $5 Dollars! It's the MSN Ganga of the Month! HEY! Did you contact Lloyd yesterday to let him know that you are coming??? And did you request a pizza flavor or vegetarian pie??? Good! Now you won't have to get ahold of him late and beg or make a scene! Also included are a few game table set-ups for our inveterate gamers.

Tucson Prime Timers, Cocktails, 5:30 p.m., Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Saturday, April 22
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m.
Shuffle over for Floating Pinochle every Saturday of the month except for first Saturday Monthly Pot Luck. Contact tonight's dreamy but taken host Marvin at 745-0304. New recruits are always welcome and beginners are tutored to develop their gay serial killer instincts!

Sunday, April 23
#1Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 12:30p.m. Tanque Verde Guest Ranch Brunch hosted by Lloyd. If you were efficient and got engraved onto Lloyd's List by sending in your check by last Tuesday, then saddle up and get yourself out to the east end of Speedway by midday today! What a place! What a meal! What a host!

#2 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:00p.m. Thom hosts Dinner Out at one of Tucson's Ultra-Fabulous Buffets. Price is usually under $10 bucks. For reservations and directions, please contact Thom at 623-2941, or e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com by the Event Sunday at Noon to facilitate reservations. There is nothing like a buffet with men to find everything you have been craving!

Tucson Prime Timers, Brunch, Noon, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Monday, April 24
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Newsletter and Movie Night! Once a month, the men of MSN get together to help get their newsletter in the mail. Requiring very little effort, this is a great way of socializing, and also a great way to find out what'sup for next month's Calendar a whole 3 days earlier than the average MSN member. The movie shown after the newsletter is put to bed this month is the 2005 gay spoof MATRIMONIUM. Bruce is hosting this event, and you can contact him at 743-3890 for info and directions.

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

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

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3rd Stop:

Woody's
3710 N. Oracle Road
Wednesday March 15, 2006
Time: 7 pm – 10 pm

4th Stop:

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

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

Tuesday, April 25
#1Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:45p.m. Cheap Movie Night at The Crossroads Movie Theatres Grant and Swan. We will vote on the movie to see and see it together. If there are dissenting votes, at least we will be in the same building together. For more than competent info, contact MSN and Southern Arizona's Premier Cheap Movie Expert: Danny at 349-5295.

#2Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. A Circle Of Men by Tom Sayler-Brown Are you looking for an opportunity to connect with men at a deeper level? A Circle Of Men meets every Tuesday evening. Please call Tom at 591-2828 for info and directions.

#3 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Play Bridge hosted this evening by Michael at 326-3555. Bridge nights are generally featured on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, but please check the calendar and phone the host to confirm date, time, location, and emcee. Lay your cards on the table for a "whist" full evening of Bridge! And remember: Bridge is like sex; because if you don't have a good partner, you better have a good hand!

Wednesday, April 26
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Canasta! Hosted by Merlin at 207-5336. MSN Canasta is played every Wednesday at 7pm, but check back here for the host du soir. If you are a nervous first timer, you will find printed rules of play, and guys eager to get you up and in the action as you learn the game!

Thursday, April 27
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Coffee Night on Fabulous 4th Avenue at Rainbow Planet, the Premier Central Tucson GLBT owned and operated purveyor of stimulating caffeine enhanced beverages, delicious comestibles, WIFI energy, and safe social intercourse. Just show up to join in this no host cavalcade of queer conversation.

Friday, April 28
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed: It's a social experiment! 10:00 a.m. Join Tom and the Sunrise Scientists for a Bagel Brunch and the second installment of his 2 hour Lecture series from Einstein's Relativity and the Quantum Revolution: Modern Physics for Non-Scientists. Monthly 2-hour meetings will finish this 12 hour course in 6 months. Please contact Tom at 744-9036 for reservations and directions.

Tucson Prime Timers, Cocktails, 5:30 p.m., Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Saturday, April 29
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Shuffle over for Floating Pinochle every Saturday of the month except for first Saturday Monthly Pot Luck. New recruits are always welcome and beginners are tutored to develop their gay serial killer instincts! Phone host Steve at 644-2076 for location, driving directions, and info.

Sunday, April 30
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:00p.m. Thom hosts Dinner Out at one of Tucson's Ultra-Fabulous Buffets. Price is usually under $10 bucks. For reservations and directions, please contact Thom at 623-2941, or e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com by the Event Sunday at Noon to facilitate reserva

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HOROSCOPES

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Chatty Mercury squares feisty Mars and trines stern Saturn. That means that while we know what we are talking about we may be as subtle as a sledgehammer. Diplomacy just ain't in the stars now. So what? And what's it to you bud?

ARIES (MAR. 21 - APR. 20)
Bossy Gay Rams think they are in charge of their domestic agenda but the house will vote you down at every turn now. Instead of forcing your opinions, it is more effective to offer a mild observation and then wait while others think about it. While you are waiting - go out, have fun and let it all hang out. By the time you crawl home, you won't care what is decided.

TAURUS (APR. 21 - MAY 21)
Mercury goes on an uncontrollable rampage. Even idle thoughts and musings can burst you into trouble. You might listen to the wrong advice and be swayed by an evil someone whispering in your ear. Turn off the static queer Bull and retreat into a safe haven. Don't be tempted to reveal all or even a small tidbit. Loose lips sink ships, or something like that.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
As you gather all your compadres this week, take note of how the range of discussion eventually comes back to money. And primarily yours. Pink Twins are bon vivants and can't resist spreading their largess around (among other things) But as you lavish your pals with all sorts of goodies, ask yourself "Will it be reciprocated?" Hmm. Better ask for a receipt.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
If you yearn for a bit more attention, prepare to get much more than you bargained for. Gay Crabs find every little move is examined and reviewed by a cadre of the powerful few. This is great if you are angling for position among the top dogs but not so hot if your dreams veer to more private personal pastimes. Maybe the position is just top doggie style?

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)
All you want is a bit of press, some recognition for a job well done. But it is not in the stars now proud Lion. Those wielding the power (at this particular time) are not listening despite all your prescient strategies and your cassandra-like prowess. You are cast as second string in an orchestra of firsts. Tell them to go pluck themselves and just bide your time.

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)
Who flipped your switch, queer Virgin? As the weeks progress you become more socially suave. Your repartee is filled with charming sexual innuendos that make you especially attractive in certain circles. But don't waste all this oomph in once place. The lesson to be learned now is how much icing to be spread on a particular piece of cheese or beef cake.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)
What area of your life do you see as your greatest opportunity for success? The choices veer from deeper personal relationships to grand scale professional accomplishment. The temptation is to try to have it all but it will be a tough balancing act. Proud Libras might benefit from a bit of sage advice from a few close friends. Get a stable sample from the stable.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)
It is hard to reign yourself in. The urge is to drop everything, leave a bunch of unfinished projects and escape to parts unknown. But your conscience tells you otherwise. Proud Scorps feel to much responsibility to just toss their reputation for hard work away. Tether your spirit this week. You can do it. Is it mind over matter? Does it really matter?

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)
Your creativity hits a high note. Will it come out sharp or flat? And does it really matter? Play your beautiful music with verve, gusto and moxie. If you are stuck in time, expect some breakthroughs. But as with anything, moderation saves the day. Gay Archers can go over the top and blend their various notes into an overpoweringly dangerous cocktail. (Any one we know?)

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)
Home and family issues dominate your world. But wouldn't you rather play the dominator rather than the dominated? Relationships require your attention and need to be fit into the context of a balanced happy home environment. Pink Caps need to call 'em as they see 'em and draw a line in the sand. We are not building democracies here.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)
Complaining will get you nowhere this week ... or any other week for that matter. Aqueerians are privy to a bit of background chatter around the office and try to piece a certain scenario together. Avoid the temptation to do that. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing. Events are still unfolding and may not take the course you now imagine. Take a long lunch instead.

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MAR. 20)
Guppies feel battered and fried as the weeks progress. Maybe it's because there is so much fun stuff to do that you try to do it all. As nice as that sounds, it is impractical and wasteful. Plan your jollies with an eye towards a balance between affordability and joy index. That falls somewhere between teas with auntie and playing auntie with a bunch of teases.

Ending the violence.

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

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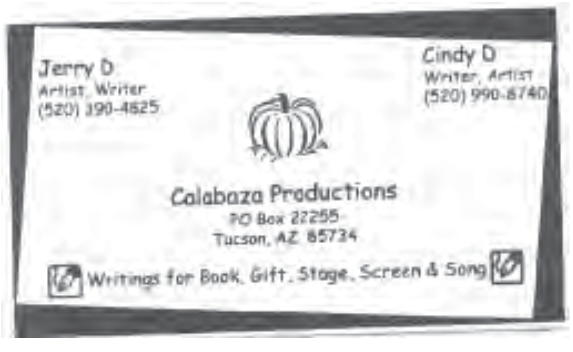

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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

sunday

COLORS - Open 11am - 11pm Champagne Brunch 11am - 2pm with choice of complimentary mimosa, Bloody Mary or Screwdriver. Happy Hour 4-7pm $3 Skyy Cocktails, $2.50 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 Bar open 2pm-close. Yard games on the grass. Beer Bust 16oz $1 2-7pm. $2.50 Sirloin or Chicken Burgers w/sides 5-9pm. Karaoke with Michael D. 9pm-close. .DJ Jeff on the Patio 9pm. 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. 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. 2-Step Lesssons at 7:30 with Amanda on the 1st & 3rd Fridays. 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 performs a comedy about a mobster and his girl friend. 3110 E. Ft. Lowell. 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. 3:00 p.m. Sundays. 326-6800.

Now playing thru April 29
"All My Sons" presented by the Pima Community College Theatre Arts Department. Arthur Miller's classic drama set in post-World War II America. 7:30 p.m. Thursdays thru Saturdays. 2:00 p.m. Sundays. PCC Center for the Arts, 2202 W. Anklam Road. Tickets $5 - $10. Info: 206-6986.

Now playing thru *April 30*
"Black Coffee" at Live Theatre Workshop. 327-4242 5317 E. Speedway. 7:30 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays 3:00 p.m. Sundays. $13 - $16.

Now playing thru May 6
"Tuesdays With Morrie" Arizona Theatre Company. Temple of Music and Art. 622-2823.

Now playing thru May 27
Gaslight Theatre presents "The Three Musketeers", at 7010 E. Broadway. Show times are 7:00 p.m. Tuesdays - Thursdays; 7:00 and 9:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 3:00 and 7:00 p.m. Sundays. 886-9428. $15.95 general admission.

Arts and Entertainment

Continued

April 20 Thru April 30
90th Annual Pima County Fair. Fair Grounds Houghton Road South of I-10. Adults $7.00. Each day packed with all kinds of entertainment. Check their website at www.pimacountyfair.com or call (520)762-FAIR.

April 20 Thru April 30
Borderlands Theater presents "Conjunto" at Leo Rich Theatre (Tucson Convention Center 260 S. Church Ave.). Reservations (520)882-7406

April 21
Desert Diamond Casino, I-19 & Pima Mine Road, Exit 80 (7 minutes South of Tucson). Presenting Paul Rodriguez. TicketMaster 321-1000

May 4
Desert Diamond Casino, I-19 & Pima Mine Road, Exit 80 (7 minutes South of Tucson). Presenting Cheap Trick. TicketMaster 321-1000

May 9 - 14
"Les Misérables" The world's most popular musical playing at Tucson Music Hall. Ticketmaster or TCC Ticket Office. 321-1000.

May 11
Desert Diamond Casino, I-19 & Pima Mine Road, Exit 80 (7 minutes South of Tucson). Presenting The Go Go's. TicketMaster 321-1000.

May 12
Desert Diamond Casino, I-19 & Pima Mine Road, Exit 80 (7 minutes South of Tucson). Presenting Tanya Tucker. TicketMaster 321-1000.

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19
WOODY'S - 'Sarong Underwear Party'

THURSDAY, APRIL 20
HOWL AT THE MOON - Karaoke with Debbie starts at 8:00 p.m.

IBT'S - 2nd Annual Prom Party here tonight from 10:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m. closing. Drink specials, prizes and more! Dress up in your best prom attire. The winner will get dinner and a night at the downtown Arizona Hotel plus $100 cash!

VENTURE-N - Steak Nite is back! The original and yum yum good. Bring your favorite meat or buy a steak here. They'll cook it and provide the side dishes. Only $6.00

FRIDAY, APRIL 21
WOODY'S - Taurus / Aires Birthday Party.

SATURDAY, APRIL 22
HOWL AT THE MOON - Ellas de Noche Show with special guest DJ Michelle. Drag Show starts at 9:00 p.m.

WOODY'S - "Earth First" Green Party - Register to Win a Bicycle!

SUNDAY, APRIL 23
WOODY'S - Drag Bingo at 8:00 p.m.. Hosted by Stella Virgin and Janee Starr. Great prizes and fun.

YARD DOG SALOON - The Yard Dog Cowboys are hosting a Beer Bust with Brats and Kraut from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. today. Come on by and say Hi.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26
WOODY'S - ER Underwear Nite. We provide your hospital gown, you provide the underwear. Shot specials provided by your Dr. Bartenders.

FRI-SAT-SUN, MAY 5-6-7
VENTURE-N - Cinco De Mayo Extravaganza. Watch for details.

FRIDAY, MAY 5
HOWL AT THE MOON - Cinco de Mayo Party!!! $2.00 Mexican Beers all night. Triple C Night - Country, Cumbia, and Corrido.

SATURDAY, MAY 13
HOWL AT THE MOON - TMI is back playing your favorite classic rock hits from the 70s & 80s. Don't miss them!

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 call298-6727, 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 Wednesdays 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

The new MAN TO MAN INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY is meeting about honoring the spiritual side of ourselves. It is the men's social/erotic group that offers passionate friendships, fun activities, and real tantric sex education. Call Marc 881-4582 in advance Check it out. We meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 7-9pm. Potluck dinner. Donation.

‘Tip’ Leads To Lesbian Air Force Nurse’s DADT Discharge

Major Margaret Witt PHOTO: Seattle Times

SEATTLE - For 19 years Major Margaret Witt served the Air Force with distinction. She served in the Persian Gulf, received medals, and was featured in a recruitment flyer for the Air Force Nurse Corps, reported 365Gay.com. But after commanders received an anonymous tip in 2004 that she is a Lesbian and in a long-term relationship the military began an investigation that led to her discharge under ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ the military’s ban on Gays serving openly.

Witt has began a lawsuit to get back her job. The suit, filed on by the ACLU on her behalf, charges the military acted unconstitutionally and seeks an injunction reversing the discharge. ‘Don’t ask, don’t tell’ requires that a commander receive “credible evidence” that a service member is Lesbian or Gay before beginning an investigation. “Unfortunately, however, the definition of ‘credible evidence’ is determined by the command,” Steve Ralls, a spokesperson for the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network told 365Gay.com. “SLDN has represented numerous service members who were investigated based on questionable information, including anonymous emails and accusations made by individuals who were clearly untrustworthy,” Ralls said.

“‘Don’t ask, don’t tell’ has become an effective weapon in the armed forces, where rumor, innuendo and hearsay can mean the end of an otherwise promising career. Witt joined the Air Force in 1986. She served in the Persian Gulf and in 2003 was awarded an Air Force Commendation Medal for her action in saving the life of a Department of Defense employee who had collapsed aboard a government-chartered flight from Bahrain. In 1993, she was selected to be the “poster child” for the Air Force Nurse Corps recruitment flyer. Most recently she was a flight nurse and operating room nurse assigned to McChord Air Force Base near Tacoma, Washington.

Margaret Witt

It was while at McChord that her commanding officer began an investigation into her private life after receiving “a tip” from an unidentified source that Witt was in a relationship with another woman, a fact she does not deny. In November 2004, Major Witt was placed on unpaid leave and told she could no longer participate in any military duties, pending formal separation proceedings. In March 2006, the Air Force informed Major Witt that she was being administratively discharged on grounds of homosexual conduct.

“I joined the Air Force because I wanted to serve my country. I have loved being in the military - my fellow airmen have been my family. I am proud of my career and want to continue doing my job,” said Witt. “Wounded people never asked me about my sexual orientation. They were just glad to see me there,” she added. “Major Margaret Witt has been an exemplary member of the military with a distinguished record of service. To discharge her simply because of her sexual orientation is unfair and does not make our military stronger,” said ACLU of Washington Executive Director Kathleen Taylor.

In a previous ACLU case, Lobsenz represented Army Sgt. Perry Watkins, who challenged his dismissal from the military for being Gay. In 1989, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled that, as a matter of fairness, the Army could not discharge Watkins. Twelve Lesbian and Gay former members of the military are involved in a federal suit in Boston seeking reinstatement. Represented by SLDN oral arguments were held last July and a decision is pending.

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