Observing Tucson And The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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WEEKLY OBSERVER | MAY 10, 2006 | ISSUE 1138

'Desperate Tucson Icons' Help Raise Record Sum In SAAF-Jell-O Benefit

by Anne Maley, Executive Director - Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation - SAAF

Wow! Thanks to our amazing community, the 19th Annual Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza raised over $38,500 for the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation - Reno would be so proud. This year's wrestling teams did an outstanding job of raising funds for SAAF, bringing in a total (thus far) of $15,048, the most wrestlers have ever raised at a Jell-O Wrestling event. So again this year, Jell-O Wrestling set a fundraising record!

We have many, many people to thank. Putting on an event like this is a team effort in so many ways. The crowd in attendance was incredibly supportive and enthusiastic, and once again everyone did open their hearts and gave and gave for those infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS in our community. It is in large part due to community fundraising efforts like the Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza that SAAF is able to continue to provide its critical programs and services for our community.

We owe a huge thank you to Dave Huff and Frank Schepis and the staff of Woody's for hosting this famous event. Their generosity and commitment to this cause are truly outstanding. We were thrilled to have the amazing Lucinda Holliday running the show along with Ajia Simone, Janee Starr and Diana Flair. All four were extraordinary hostesses, keeping the crowd entertained and keeping the fun flowing right up until the end. We thank

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LGBT Veterans Honored

PALM SPRINGS - LGBT members of the military who have given their lives in the service of their country were honored Saturday at the nation's only LGBT veterans memorial, 365Gay.com reported.

Several hundred people gathered at Desert Memorial Park in Cathedral City for the service.

This was the fifth annual memorial service at the monument. A color guard carrying the flags of all branches of the armed services, as well as a rainbow flag; marched to the monument.

A wreath was laid and 21 white doves were released as a bugler played "Taps."

Among the dignitaries was Gay vet and the president of the Palm Springs Veterans for Peace Tom Swann who had led the effort to have the monument built.

"Our critics say the Gay veterans and Jewish veteran memorials in this cemetery divide us," he said. "We say that you can be unique and celebrate diversity and still be united."

"Today we remember men and women who fought for their country knowing their country was not ready for them to fully reveal who they are," said Cathedral City Councilman Paul Marchand, one of the speakers.

With 26 bases statewide, California is home to approximately 137,000 Gay and Lesbian veterans – the most of any other state.

Nationwide there are more than 1 million LGBT veterans. Currently some 65,000 Gays, Lesbians and Transgendered people are serving in the military despite "don't ask, don't tell" the ban on Gays serving openly.

Efforts are underway in the courts and in Congress to overturn the prohibition. One-hundred-and-fifteen members have signed on as co-sponsors of a bill put forward last year by Congressman Marty Meehan (D-MA).

Last month a federal judge in Boston dismissed a constitutional challenge to "don't ask, don't tell", the ban on Gays serving openly in the military. A similar suit is underway in California.

G/L Marriage Ban 'Low Priority' For Most Voters

WASHINGTON, D.C. - New polls show that using same-sex marriage as a wedge issue may not work for Republicans in this fall's mid term election, 365Gay.com reported. A Peter D. Hart poll shows that a proposed amendment to ban same-sex marriage is at the bottom of voter concerns. Surveys taken for the major networks show that immigration reform and rising gas prices are key concerns.

Only conservative religious groups seem focused on the proposed amendment - and they are threatening to desert the GOP for not passing the measure. The Hart survey, taken for the Human Rights Campaign last month, before immigration reform and gas prices hit the headlines, and released Friday (May 5) shows that only 18 percent of perspective voters felt the marriage issue should be a priority for Congress.

The poll showed that the top concerns were affordable health care (55 percent), dealing with Iraq (55 percent), passing new ethics/lobbying laws (25 percent) and passing an amendment banning flag burning (20 percent). "The Federal Marriage Amendment consistently ranks dead last on a list of voters priorities but that won't stop Congress from using this discriminatory amendment as a political ploy going into the elections," Jay Brown, Human Rights Campaign spokesperson told 365Gay.com. "It's critical that fair-minded voters speak out," said Brown. "Our polling shows that when voters move on these issues, it's toward fairness, not away from it. It's critical to make that point clear to Congress."

Opposition to the proposed amendment was strongest among Democrats. Sixty-one percent of respondents who identified as Democrats oppose the amendment, while 49 percent of independents and 20 percent of Republicans oppose it. Despite calls for the amendment by Catholic Church leaders a majority of Catholic voters say states should make their own marriage laws - 53 - 37 percent. The Hart poll also found growing support for some form of legal recognition for same-sex couples with 25 percent supporting marriage, 40 percent for civil unions and 33 percent believing there should be no legal recognition.

Play Safe!

UPDATE

TIHAN Volunteer Training May 20

TUCSON - The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) will conduct Volunteer Training, Saturday, May 20, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., at Mosaic United Methodist Church, 3434 E 22nd St.

Volunteer Training will address questions about HIV/AIDS and give volunteers new ideas about what they can do to help. Interactive and informative, the training is available to all who want to learn more about HIV/AIDS, gain understanding of and sensitivity to those living with HIV/AIDS and people interested in TIHAN volunteer opportunities. Subjects covered include HIV/AIDS 101, stigma and stereotyping, living with HIV/AIDS, interfaith responses to HIV/AIDS, and an introduction to TIHAN programs. We encourage all ages, including seniors, University students and high school age teens, to participate.

Pre-registration is required by May 18, and there is a $20 materials fee for training. Full and partial scholarships are available. Lunch is provided. For further information about Volunteer Training, or to register, contact the TIHAN office, (520) 299-6647.

Deadline For TIHAN Baseball Benefit Poster June 1

TUCSON - The Seventh Tucson Baseball Benefit at TEP Park at the Tucson Sidewinders Pacific Coast League poster contest to advertise the fund raising event is underway with entries due June 1.

Posters should include the following: "Dave Locke presents the Seventh Annual Baseball Benefit, July 9, Tucson Electric Park. Cost: $30 Per Person. Portion of the Proceeds from this years event to benefit TIHAN. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. For $30.00 you receive a Suite right behind home plate, with a buffet of Hamburgers, Hot dogs, Chips, Soda, Cookies in the suite, with a cash bar outside the Suite."

Proposed posters must be submitted by 5 p.m., June 1, and sent to Dave Locke, 1635 N. Craycroft, #210, Tucson, AZ 85712.

CARD ADS IN THE RESOURCE SECTION OF THE OBSERVER GET RESULTS

Arizona Together Uniting In Voice Against PMAA May 13

TUCSON - Saturday, May 13, 2 p.m., at Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2331 E. Adams, the LGBT community, allies, and Tucson-area progressive Christian leaders, will come together to stand with a united voice against the proposed amendment to the state constitution that would take away all domestic partnerships in Arizona,

Now is the time to say "Enough!" to mean-spirited religious rhetoric and "Yes!" to love. Please join us in a celebration and blessing of the LGBT community and in united opposition of this hateful proposal. Reveille and Lisa Otey will offer special music. Powerful speakers will share their stories, including the Rev. Susan Anderson-Smith from St. Philips Episcopal Church and Sam Lenox, choir director at St. Odilia Catholic Church. We will also share communion, do a lot of spirited singing, and follow it all up with a "Justice is Our Just Desserts!" dessert party.

Organized by members of the Faith Committee formed to work with Arizona Together. For more information contact Carol Brorsen, csbrorsen@hotmail.com, or the Rev. Briget Nicolson, (520) 622-7664.

New Support Group Forming

TUCSON - Most of us have one or more core issues which surface repeatedly over the course of our lives. These issues are usually rooted in deep unexpressed fears. Core issues either cause all sorts of problems, or present many opportunities for transformation. When you choose to look at your core issues as an opportunity, you are much more likely to transform your fears into learning tools which can lead to a better life.

S.H.A.R.E, meeting Monday evenings, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St., beginning May 15, is a new self healing group that will explore and address core issues (shame, abandonment, control or trust) that individuals experience as a result of long held or ongoing trauma. The group will share positive thought and tools such as self evaluation, shared discussion, guest speakers, journaling, bodywork, nutrition, meditation, peer to peer counseling/motivation and group activities (golf, hiking, cycling, events) to strengthen and empower each other to create a life of joy and purpose.

Although conceptually created to deal with the core issues that face individuals who might participate in A.A., Al-anon, C.O.D.A., N.A. or O.A., S.H.A.R.E is not a traditional 12 step program based upon the principals of "powerlessness" or "unmanageability." S.H.A.R.E has no affiliation with any religion, sect or any one type of spirituality and welcomes all GLBT individuals. For more information contact Lee Bucyk, leepoffaith@comcast.net.

Forum On DP Benefits For State Employees, May 16

TUCSON - A community forum, sponsored by UA OUTReach, in collaboration with Wingspan, will be held at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St., Tuesday, May 16, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., to discuss domestic partner benefits for Arizona state employees.

Among the topics of discussion will be forming a coalition of LGBT and straight Arizona employees (and their partners) who work at state organizations, such as the state universities, the Arizona Department of Corrections, the Arizona Department of Health Services, Arizona Department of Economic Security, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

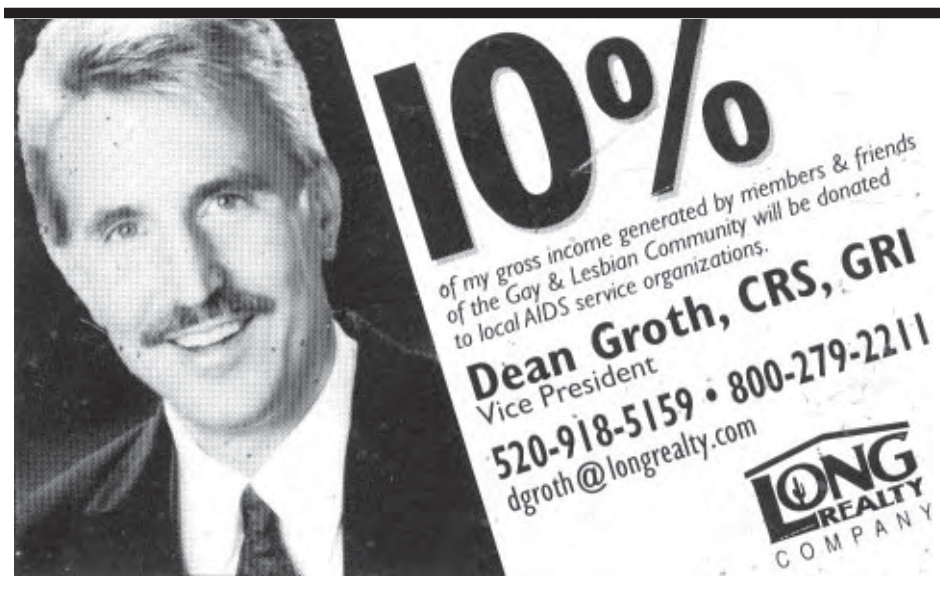
For more information about the forum, E-mail OUTReach at: out@email.arizona.edu.

Bishop Turned Back On LGBT Catholics, Priest Says

MESA - A Catholic priest who took a leave of absence in January, citing health-related and "other" reasons, says in a letter to newspapers that Bishop Thomas Olmsted has turned his back on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Catholics, the Arizona Republic reported. "I refuse to serve as a priest in a church environment that is increasingly sending a false and destructive message that my LGBT brothers and sisters and I are little more than immature, defective sex addicts," said the Rev. Chris Carpenter, former pastor of Christ the King parish in Mesa.

Carpenter was one of nine priests who signed an ecumenical statement of support for Gay people in January 2003. Seventeen months later, Olmsted required the signers to revoke their support. That move, Carpenter said, alienated Gay people and those involved in ministry to them. He points out that only three of the original nine signers remain in active ministry.

Two are pastors, the Revs. Scott Brubaker of St. Bridget in Mesa and Ray Ritari of St. Matthew in Phoenix. The third, the Rev. Vernon Meyer, is Sunday associate at St. Patrick in Scottsdale and founder of the new Arizona Center for Theological Studies. Of the other five, one is permanently suspended for refusing to remove his name from the declaration. One is deceased, one priest is on leave and two are suspended for unrelated reasons.



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Informing the Community
The Observer

'Reveille Pride' Spring Concert, May 19 - 21

TUCSON - Reveille, Tucson's premier Gay men's chorus will be proudly performing some of their most frequently requested songs, songs that uniquely capture the Gay experience in "Reveille Pride," May 19-21, Steve Eller Dance Theater, on the Mall at the University of Arizona (across from McKale Center).

Some of the songs to be performed, that give Reveille an opportunity to show their pride at being vital members of the LGBT community for over 11 years include, Judy Garland's "Over the Rainbow," an anthem for the Gay culture, "Secret Love" that speaks to the great strides towards equality that have been made since Doris Day recorded it back in the 50's, and "The Boy From Ipanema" offering a taste of the chorus' recent trip to Brazil are just a few of the songs that will be performed with special choreography.

The curtain will rise at 8 p.m., May 19-20, and a 3 p.m., matinee performance, Sunday, May 21. Tickets are $15 in advance, $18 at the door, and are available at Antigone Books, or online at reveillegmc.com.

Gay Candidates Shut Out As New Episcopal Church Elects New Bishop

SAN FRANCISCO - The Episcopal Diocese of California averted another churchwide showdown over the role of Gays in their denomination when delegates rejected three openly Gay candidates for bishop Saturday (May 6), the Associated Press reported on 365Gay.com. The diocese chose the Rt. Rev. Mark Handley Andrus of Birmingham, Ala., on the third ballot to replace the retiring Rev. William Swing. None of the Gay candidates received more than a handful of votes.

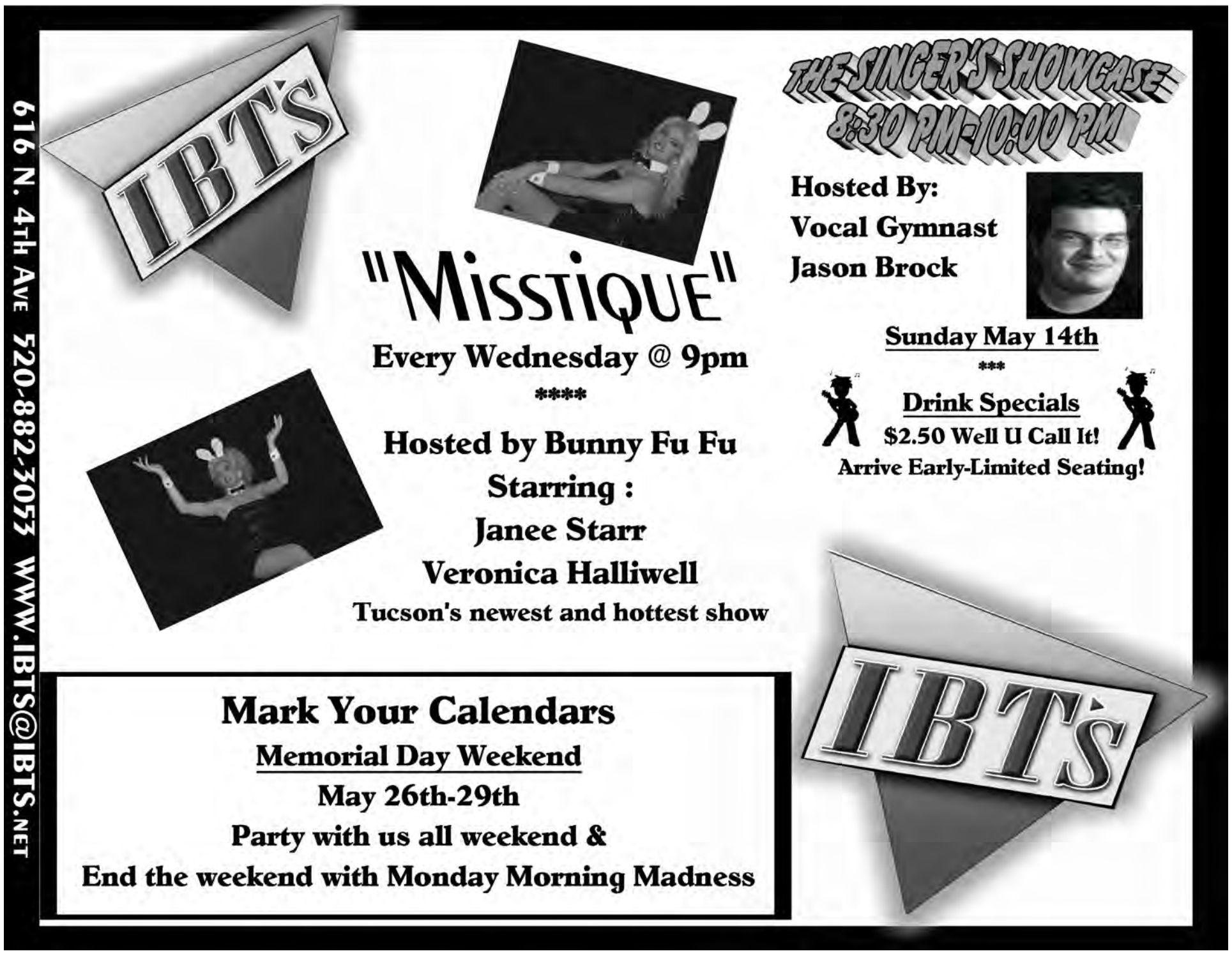
The packed Grace Cathedral erupted with cheering and applause when the announcement was made. The vote was closely watched by Episcopalians across the nation and their fellow Anglicans worldwide, who have been struggling to remain unified despite deep differences over Gay clergy. The 77 million-member Anglican Communion, represented in the United States by the Episcopal Church, is still reeling from the 2003 election of the first openly Gay Episcopal bishop - V. Gene Robinson of New Hampshire.

Some observers predicted Californians would elect a second Gay bishop to force the church to resolve its position on Gay clergy. Episcopalians differ over whether the Bible permits ordaining Gays but agreed that choosing a second leader in a same-sex relationship would severely damage the global church. In 2004, Anglican leaders trying to keep the church from splitting asked the U.S. church for a temporary moratorium on electing Gay bishops. Those supporting a greater role for Gays and Lesbians believe it is unfair to ask them to wait, and they question whether any reconciliation can occur when opposing sides have such conflicting views of Scripture.

Andrus emerged as the favorite among clergy delegates in the first ballot and quickly drew the support of lay voters in subsequent ballots. After four hours, he ended up with 72 percent of the clergy vote and about 55 percent of the lay vote. The openly Gay candidates were the Rev. Canon Michael Barlowe of San Francisco, the Very Rev. Robert Taylor of Seattle and the Rev. Bonnie Perry of Chicago. Perry withdrew her candidacy before the final vote. All three have same-sex partners.

Andrus, who has served as bishop suffragan in the Diocese of Alabama since 2001, received his master's of divinity in 1987 from the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Va. He is married and has two college-age daughters. In a statement to California Episcopalians prior to his election, he said he found them "people of passion and energy, commitment, faith and humor. You are able to appreciate yourselves, and be self-critical, both rare qualities." Nearly 600 delegates gathered for the election.

The Anglican Communion is made up of religious bodies that trace their roots to the Church of England. The Communion is led by the archbishop of Canterbury. Before he is installed as bishop, Andrus must get approval from the denomination's top legislative body, the General Convention, which is set to meet June 13-21 in Columbus, Ohio. Delegates have a long history of deferring to dioceses' choice of leader.



Record Sum Raised In Jell-O Wrestling Benefit For SAAF

(Continued from Page One)

them for the gift of their time, and for their ongoing dedication to people living with HIV/AIDS.

This year's wrestler teams were hugely entertaining. The series of matches began with "Little Bo-Peep and Her Horny Little Sheep," and other themed matches included Chrissy and Janet from Three's Company, Gilligan and Ginger fighting over the Professor, Brokeback Mountain Cowboys, and "The Ultimate Smackdown" with Referee Joe Roos stepping into the pit for the final match. Our top two fundraisers this year were Joe Roos at $5,036 and Waco Starr who raised $2,135. Best Costume/Theme prize was won by Nick Nieskes and Chris Davis as Batman and Robin.

Big thanks go to Joe Roos who returned this year as the referee to keep all the wrestlers safe and happy! And Bob Fischella who was our trusty "hoser-off-er" again this year! We thank Robin Stancliff for donating her photographic services to make sure we have a visual record of all of the fun we had. The Gay Men's Health Project hosted a tasty barbeque–thank you to all of them for working the hot grill all day long, as well as selling their colorful Jell-O Shots to the crowds. Our resident Jell-O making experts again whipped together the 350 gallons of gelatin - this year in a sprightly shade of Leaf Green. Thank you to Dave Locke, Willie Gradillas and their team of volunteers who, as always, made the Jell-O with awesome precision and efficiency, finishing this year in record time. Thanks also go to La Cocina Restaurant, for donating the Jell-O and dye.

We were honored this year to receive outstanding event sponsorship contributions from the following businesses: 9 to 5 Auto Detail, Centra Realty, Tim Brown of Farmers Insurance, Arizona Chicken Café, Southern Comfort, Cibola Vista Resort, Eric Cuestas-Thompson Feng Shui Design, HomeVestors-Catalina Valley Properties, IONAZ and N'Touch Magazines, KXCI Radio, The Observer, Pride on Parade, Reveille Gay Men's Chorus, Sonoran Glass Art Academy, Speedway Veterinary Hospital, Stand Firm Personal Training, The Historic Y, The Tucson GLBT Chamber of Commerce, Whitespace Design and Dean Groth of Long Realty who underwrote one of the Top Fundraising Wrestler prizes.

The Reno Gannon Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza has become a landmark in the community and would not exist without the dedication of the long-time committee of Eddie Gallego, Willie Gradillas, Dave Huff, Harry Lewis, Dave Locke, Natalie Perry, Frank Schepis, Helga Wocherl and Peter Sitig. New members joined the committee this year to help the event succeed. They are: Chris Davis, Charles Adams and Lee Rosenberg. The Jell-O magic could not happen without them and we are so grateful to them.

We had a wonderful range of items to auction this year, and we want to express our appreciation for the businesses and individuals who donated so generously. We hope our community will help us thank them for their contributions by patronizing these businesses that donate such gifts; without them we simply could not be successful. In addition, we had a terrific raffle prize donated by John Swain and Heath Howe, of a week's stay at the Pueblo Bonito Condos in Mazatlan Mexico plus $250 in cash. The winner of the raffle donated the prize back to SAAF to be auctioned off, and we raised an additional $2,500 for the stay, a tremendous bonus!

As always, we had a great group of loyal volunteers on the scene to help everything run smoothly. SAAF could not host such a great event without their help. Thanks to the staff and board of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation as well for their dedication. Special recognition goes to Angela Putman for her assistance with our remarkable website, www.jello-wrestling.org which now displays our final totals from the event. And of course, special thanks to The Observer for covering the event and helping us with advertising!

We also want to mention that there are Jell-O 2006 t-shirts still available. If you haven't bought yours yet, hurry before they run out. These shirts are a wonderful way to commemorate and remember this incredible event. Contact SAAF, (520) 628-7223 or by email at events@saaf.org to get one while they last!

To EVERYONE who made this day so successful and enjoyable, our heartfelt thanks and gratitude go out to you. It is with your love and support that great things happen to create and sustain a healthier community.

More photos on Page Ten and Eleven.

In Their Own Words

Martina Navratilova

"He does not consider homosexuals to be 100 per cent human beings. I know I cannot change his opinion but I did think he was more liberal than this." - Martina Navratilova said of Czech President Vaclav Klaus in an interview with the Agence France Press, Monday, May 8 in Prague, preparing for her first tournament in her native country since she left for the U.S. in 1975. Navratilova became a naturalized American citizen in 1981.

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Local Activist Couple To Legally Wed In Canada

Cathy Busha and Kristen Fela

TUCSON - The Observer is pleased to announce that Kristen Felan and Cathy Busha will be married in Vancouver, British Columbia on May 23, which is also Cathy's 35th birthday. For Cathy Busha and Kristen Felan, the magic began almost 5 years ago, when they met at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force conference, "Creating Change," in Milwaukee, WI. The couple has been creating change ever since.

At the time they met, Kristen was a staff person for the Arizona Human Rights Fund in Phoenix. Cathy was a staff member at Wingspan, Southern Arizona's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Community Center (wingspan.org). After dating long distance between Phoenix and Tucson for a year, luckily for everyone, Kristen moved down the I-10 from Valley of the Sun to the Old Pueblo.

Kristen and Cathy are both graduating Friday, May 12 from Arizona State University with their Master's of Social Work degrees. Cathy, who is one of the graduation speakers, will continue working as Director of Programs at Wingspan. Kristen will begin working for Child Protective Services as a child welfare worker. Next year, Cathy and Kristen plan on adding a human baby to their family of four dogs and two cats. Cathy hails from Lancaster, PA, while Kristen grew up in Vancouver, Washington. The day after graduation, Kristen and Cathy will pack their car and, with tin cans dragging behind them, leave the three digit temperatures of the Old Pueblo to get legally married in Canada. On the drive to B.C., the couple will camp in Joshua Tree National Park, Redwood National Forest, Beverly Beach in Oregon, and sleep two nights in a yurt on the beach in Big Sur.

The wedding will be a simple, morning outdoor ceremony in the woods behind the Inn Penzance, a gay-owned B&B in North Vancouver, with about 20 of their close friends and family. The ceremony will include traditions from Cathy's German heritage, and Kristen's Mexican and Italian heritage. Wedding attendees will stand a circle with the couple, and each attendee will share a wish, blessing, or special story for the couple. Kristen will wear a beautiful black and white retro dress and simple black heels, while Cathy will sport a fitted black and gray striped shirt tucked into to sharp, black pants finished with a pair of Fluevogs. The couple will be surrounded by arrangements of candles and daisies, their favorite flower. The ceremony will be officiated by Canadian marriage commissioner, Maureen Hunter. Friends and family will toast the couple with mimosas, while they enjoy bagels, fresh smoked salmon, capers, a mix of cheeses, and local berries on a flourless chocolate ganache torte. Music will be a mix of the couple's favorite love songs including "Perfect" by Doria Roberts, "At Last" by Etta James, "The Luckiest" by Ben Folds, and "The Times They are A-Changin' " by Bob Dylan. The wedding party will gather in the evening to continue the partying with dinner in Chinatown.

The couple will celebrate their new nuptials on a week-long cruise to the Inside Passage of Alaska, which will include whale-watching, swimming in the heated pool on deck, a train ride through the wilderness surrounding Skagway, and shopping in Juneau. Kristen and Cathy are registered at honeyluna.com. Given the vague legal status of same-sex marriage, many people have asked what "married" means to Kristen and Cathy. The couple believes that getting married is about standing with their community and pledging their love and continued support to one another. That promise will, in turn, make the community and the institution of marriage stronger for everyone.

For their Tucson friends and family who were unable to attend the ceremony in Canada, the couple will host a reception in Tucson at the end of June. Cathy and Kristen will be checking "married" on all forms, and will continue their activism for LGBT liberation. They look forward to the day when the United States finally honors its credo of liberty and justice for all, and will legally honor their vows. The couple would like to thank their families of origin and families of choice for their continued love and support, and would also like to thank all the LGBT and allied activists who have come before them to make their special day possible.

London To Host Euro-Pride

LONDON - The city has been tapped to host Europe's biggest LGBT pride celebration this summer, reported 365Gay.com. EuroPride 2006 is expected to draw more than a half-million people to the British capital. The two week event which begins on June 17 will feature a Gay film festival, a music and theater showcase and wind up with a march through central London.

The parade will set off along Oxford Street and end at Trafalgar Square where a rally will be staged. "It promises to be the biggest Gay and Lesbian festival London has ever seen," said EuroPride London organizer Jason Pollock.

Having EuroPride will help boost London's tourism industry which has lagged after last year's terrorist attack on the subway system. "Gay and Lesbian visitors are very important to London's visitor economy and this summer's EuroPride events will showcase London as a top Gay-friendly destination," London tourism czar James Bidwell told the BBC. EuroPride is held in a different city each year. Last year it was held in Oslo.

Play Safe!

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Iraqi Police Kill Boy, 14, Over Gay Sex

BAGHDAD - A 14-year-old boy has been shot by Iraqi police officers for the apparent crime of being Gay, the Independent of London reported on the PlanetOut Network. According to his neighbors in Baghdad's al-Dura district, Ahmed Khalil was shot at point-blank range after a scuffle with the police.

Ali Hili, an exiled Gay Iraqi who is Middle East affairs spokesman for the London Gay rights group OutRage! said, "According to a neighbor, who witnessed Ahmed's execution from his bedroom window, four uniformed police officers arrived at Ahmed's house in a four-wheel-drive police pick-up truck. The neighbor saw the police drag Ahmed out of the house and shoot him at point-blank range, pumping two bullets into his head and several more bullets into the rest of his body." Hili claimed that Ahmed was a "victim of poverty" and apparently killed by "fundamentalist elements in the Iraqi police." It is believed Ahmed slept with men for money to support his poverty-stricken family. They have since fled the area. Hili is coordinator of a U.K. group consisting of more than 30 Iraqi Gay exiles. They are in contact with an underground network of Gay people in Baghdad and other cities.

Human rights groups have condemned the murder, which is part of a pattern of anti-Gay killings in Iraq, rights groups say. Rainbow for Life, an Iraqi Gay group, has blamed the killing spree on the Badr Corps, the military arm of the Iranian-backed Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, the country's most powerful Shiite Muslim group. A Rainbow spokesman told IRIN, "We know for certain that those killed were targeted because of their sexual preferences." Homosexuality is considered sinful in Islamic countries, but an anti-Gay edict issued by the Shiite Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani in October has unleashed what amounts to a pogrom against Gay men and Lesbians, Gay Iraqis say.

Health Officials Propose Routine HIV Testing

ATLANTA - Testing for the AIDS virus could become part of routine physical exams for adults and teens if doctors follow new U.S. guidelines expected to be issued by this summer. Federal health officials say they'd like HIV testing to be as common as a cholesterol check, reported the Associated Press on the PlanetOut Network. The guidelines for voluntary testing would apply to every American ages 13 to 64, according to the proposed plan by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

One-quarter of the 1 million Americans with the AIDS virus don't know they are infected, and that group is most responsible for HIV's spread, CDC officials said. "We need to expand access to HIV testing dramatically by making it a routine part of medical care," said the agency's Dr. Kevin Fenton. CDC officials first disclosed the plans at a scientific conference in February. Last week, they said the guidelines should be released in June or July. The recommendations aren't legally binding, but they influence what doctors do and what health insurance programs cover.

Currently, the CDC recommends routine testing for those at high risk for catching the virus, such as IV drug users and Gay men, and for hospitals and certain other institutions serving areas where HIV is common. Under the new guidelines, patients would be tested for HIV as part of a standard battery of tests they receive when they go for urgent or emergency care, or even during a routine physical. Patients wouldn't get tested every year: Repeated, annual testing would only be recommended only for those at high-risk. There would be no consent form specifically for the HIV test; it would be covered in a clinic or hospital's standard care consent form. Patients would be allowed to decline the testing.

Standardizing HIV testing should reduce the stigma as well as transmission, CDC officials said. Nearly half of new HIV infections are discovered when doctors are trying to diagnose an illness in a patient who has come for care, they noted. The American Medical Association supports the proposed recommendations, said Dr. Nancy Nielsen, a Buffalo, N.Y.-based physician who is speaker of the AMA's House of Delegates.

Some doctor's offices will face challenges implementing the recommendations, she added. For example, they should not give a positive HIV test result over the phone and would have to provide or arrange for counseling. But the benefits of reducing the spread of HIV far outweigh the logistical challenges, said Nielsen, an infectious disease specialist. "I'm so happy the CDC is recommending this," she said. "HIV is an infectious disease and it should be treated like any other infectious disease. The fact that it has been treated so differently, I think, in some ways has contributed to the stigma."

Some patients' advocates have voiced concern that the recommendations do not include pre-test counseling and sufficient informed consent. At many HIV testing sites, patients sit through a counseling session to explain the procedure before any blood is drawn. Many centers also require a patient to give "informed consent," indicating they understand the risks and benefits of the test. The new recommendations, as currently drafted, do not require pre-test counseling. They call for post-test counseling to be offered only to patients who test positive. CDC officials say they understand advocates' concerns, and are optimistic physicians will follow the recommendations carefully. "Doctors should be explicit that 'You're going to be tested,' " said Dr. Tim Mastro, acting director of the CDC's division of HIV/AIDS prevention.

Informing The Community

Commanders Turn Blind Eye To Homophobia, Report Says

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A disproportionate number of military commanders perpetrate or witness anti-Gay harassment in the U.S. military when compared to a civilian population a study released Tuesday (May 2) says, reported 365Gay.com. The study also found that reported incidents of some forms of perceived sexual-orientation-based harassment were lower in the military than in the general population.

The research was conducted by Professor Bonnie Moradi of the Psychology Department at University of Florida, and was commissioned by the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military, a think tank at the University of California, Santa Barbara. It appears in the current issue of the journal "Military Psychology." Moradi compared data obtained in a year 2000 Defense Department survey of anti-Gay harassment to parallel incidents in the civilian population.

The military poll had surveyed over 71,000 active duty service members from 38 randomly selected installations and found that 80 percent had heard offensive speech, including derogatory names and jokes, targeted at Gays during the previous year, and 5 percent had witnessed a violent, anti-Gay assault.

Moradi and her associates examined whether the high incidence of anti-Gay harassment reflected similar patterns in the general population or might instead be attributable to norms or policies that were specific to military culture. Dr. Moradi modeled a poll after the military survey and conducted it using a civilian sample of 196 young adults, all drawn from a college in the American south, whose demographic profile roughly matched the military sample. The answers were then compared.

The study found that, compared to civilian respondents, a greater proportion of military respondents who reported a harassment incident indicated that a senior person perpetrated the harassment. Among the civilians who reported witnessing a harassment incident, 7 percent indicated that a person of authority committed such abuse, while among military respondents who reported witnessing an incident, 15 percent of respondents claimed a supervisor or commander had done so. Nine percent of civilians who witnessed anti-Gay harassment reported that a person of authority had also witnessed the incident, while 25 percent, or nearly three times the proportion, of military witnesses indicated the same.

Dr. Moradi found that the pattern was reversed when it came to the general incidence of some forms of reported anti-Gay harassment. Although participants in the civilian and military surveys reported witnessing about the same amount of violent anti-Gay assaults, military respondents reported lower levels of offensive speech and gestures aimed at those perceived to be Gay or Lesbian than civilian participants. One possible reason for the discrepancy between the responses of military and civilian participants, she said, is the prospect of underreporting of sexual-orientation-based harassment by military respondents.

Since the survey relied on self-reporting and thus on the recognition by service members that an incident is, in fact, "harassment," ambiguity about the targets of abuse can result in underreporting. Gays and Lesbians are prohibited by law from revealing their sexual orientation; thus offensive speech, gestures or actions aimed against them could go unrecognized by their peers as sexual-orientation-based. Additionally, to the extent that anti-Gay harassment is normalized in military culture, anti-Gay epithets or abuse may be considered a routine part of socialization rather than as harassment, Moradi said.

Dr. Aaron Belkin, director of the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military said the new study confirmed the results of prior research which found a link between the legal codification of anti-Gay sentiment and a permissive attitude among the leadership toward harassment. "Until official policy stops targeting Gays," he said, "it will be difficult for commanders to crack down on anti-Gay harassment. The institution simply cannot make a serious dent in the rate of abuse as long is it continues to fire people simply for saying they are Gay."

Since 1993, the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network has answered more than 7,300 calls for help. "Anti-Gay harassment remains a daily reality for our men and women in uniform," C. Dixon Osburn, executive director of SLDN, said. Osburn attributed the problem to a lack of will among senior military brass. "Pentagon leaders have failed to implement their Anti-Harassment Action Plan and have openly acknowledged that they have no plans to more aggressively enforce measures to protect service members from anti-Gay harassment," he said.

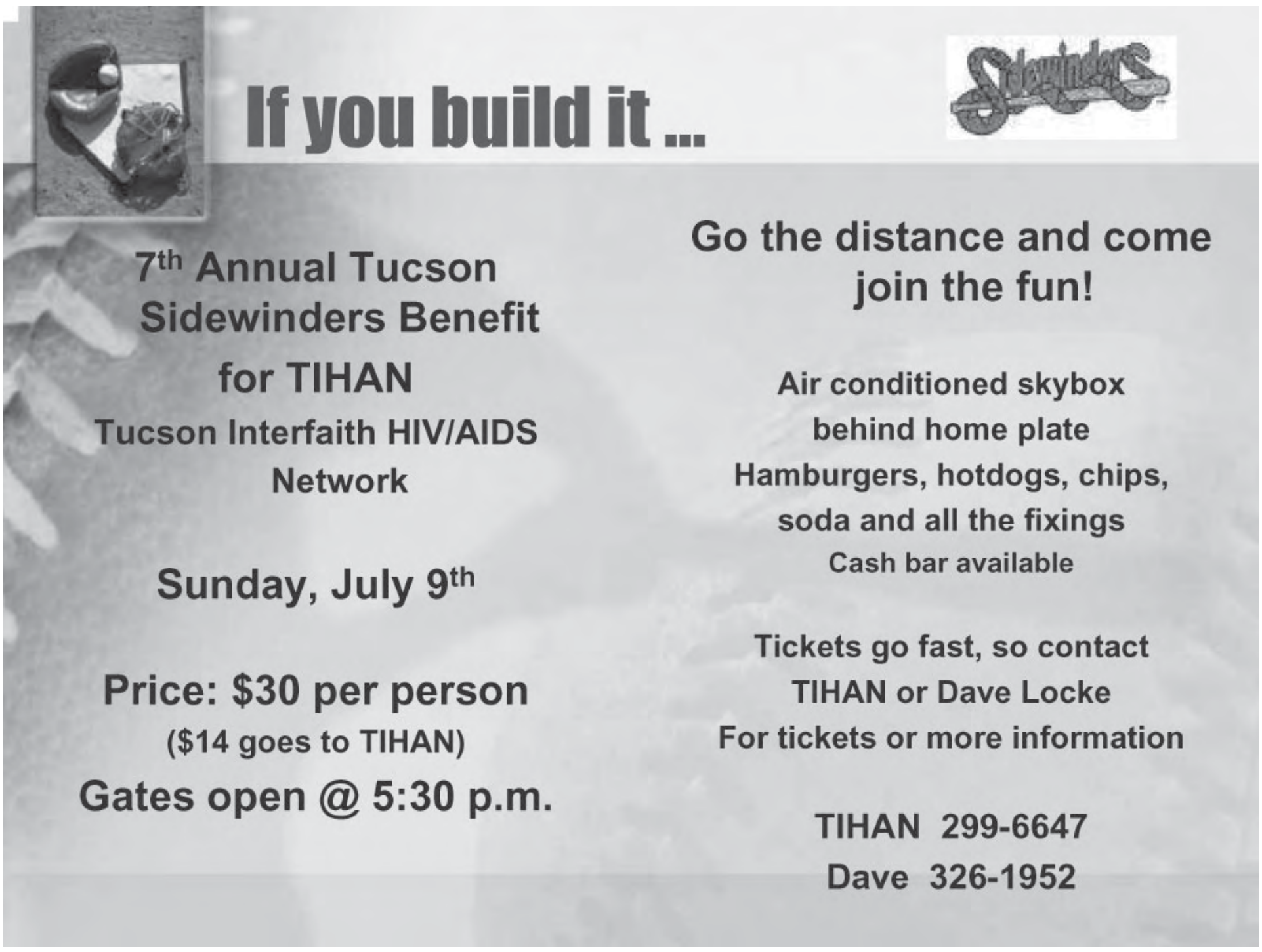
New Theory On Lesbian Origins

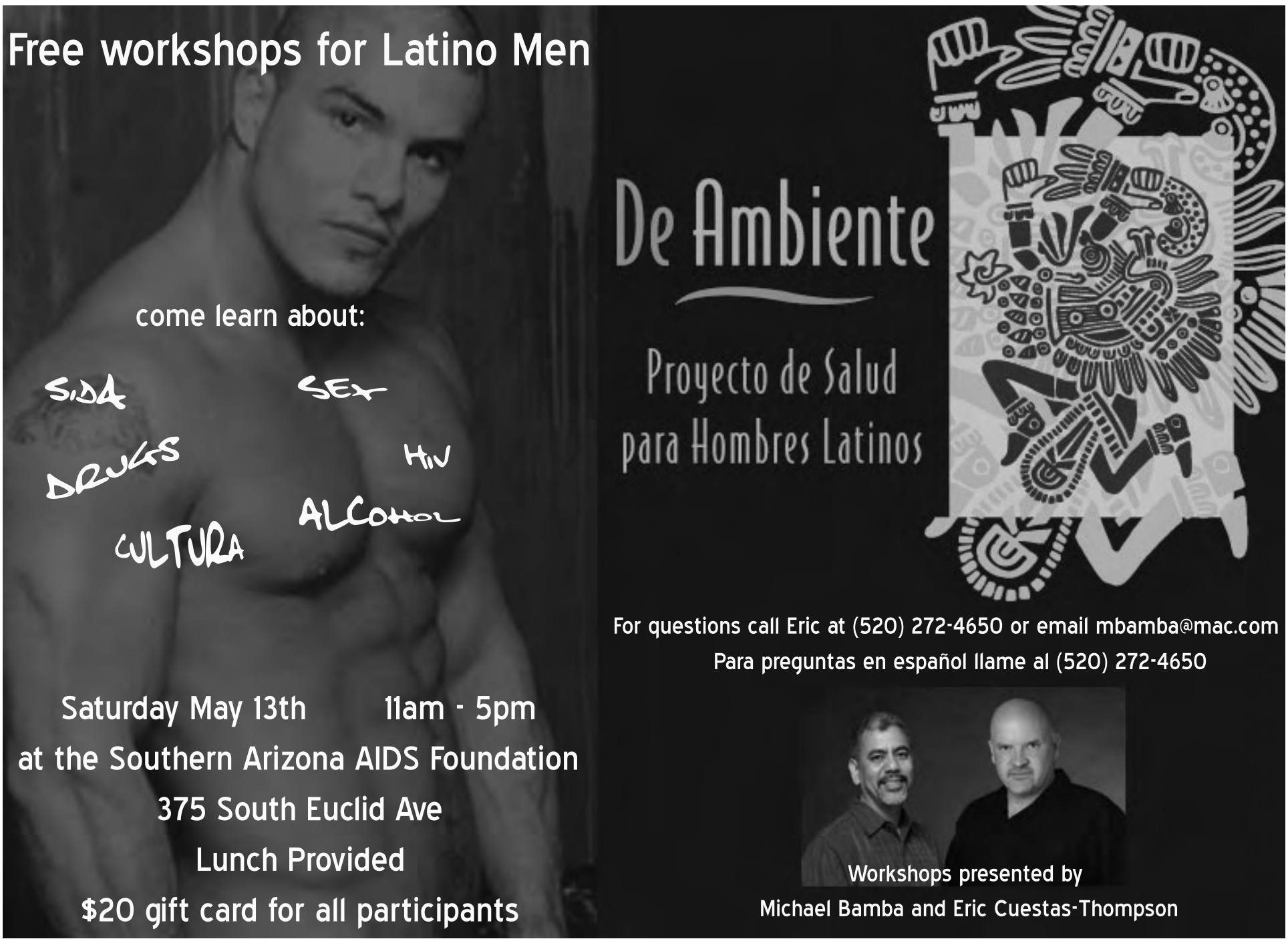
NEW YORK - The brains of Lesbian women respond to sexual hormones differently from heterosexual women, according to a new analysis, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. The Lesbians' brains reacted somewhat like those of straight men, a team of Swedish researchers reports in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

It's a finding that adds weight to the idea that homosexuality has a physical underpinning and is not learned behavior. The researchers also found that the similarities between the response of Lesbians and straight men were not as strong as between homosexual men and straight women.

"It shows sexual orientation may very well have a different basis between men and women ... this is not just a mirror image situation," said Sandra Witelson, an expert on brain anatomy and sexual orientation at the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine at McMaster University in Ontario, Canada. "The important thing is to be open to the likely situation that there are biological factors that contribute to sexual orientation," added Witelson, who was not part of the research team.

The research team led by Ivanka Savic at the Stockholm Brain Institute compared the brain reactions of volunteers who sniffed chemicals derived from male and female sex hormones. These chemicals are thought to be pheromones – molecules known to trigger responses such as defense and sex in many animals.





Hate Crimes Bill Dropped

Senator Ted Kennedy

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Legislation that would have included crimes against Gays and Lesbians in federal hate crime laws has been dropped in the Senate, reported 365Gay.com. Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-MA) has been trying to get the measure passed since 1999. This session he tacked it onto a national sex offender bill.

The sex offender registry bill has been tied up in the Senate for months as Kennedy fought to have the hate crime provision passed. He pulled the amendment allowing the sex offender bill to pass unanimously after Republicans threatened to block passage of the sex offender legislation pin the blame on "liberal Democrats" and Gay activists.

Kennedy vowed to once again introduce the legislation in the next session. "Congress can't ignore the problem," he said. "They send the poisonous message that some Americans deserve to be victimized solely because of who they are."

A House version of the hate crime bill passed the House earlier this year, as an amendment to the Children's Safety and Violent Crimes Reduction Act. The hate crime provision, which would have included Gays, Lesbians and the Transgendered was later stripped out of the bill. The bill would have allowed the Department of Justice to assist local authorities in investigating and prosecuting cases in which violence occurs.

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

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Dean Replaces LGBT Leader

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean has abruptly changed leaders for the party's LGBT outreach efforts, and the ousted man's partner believes the shakeup was an act of political retaliation, reported the PlanetOut Network. Dean fired LGBT outreach adviser Donald Hitchcock, whose partner, Paul Yandura, recently wrote a letter urging LGBT donors to rethink supporting Democrats until they get tougher on Gay rights.

In a statement Wednesday afternoon (May 3), the DNC announced that the ex-Vermont governor had appointed Brian Bond, former head of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, as executive director of the party's Gay & Lesbian Leadership Council. The announcement did not mention Hitchcock, who had held the post for nearly a year.

DNC spokesman Damien LaVera refused to comment on Hitchcock, saying, "The governor decided we needed a change, so we hired a proven leader." Hitchcock declined to comment on the matter, telling the Washington Blade he may consult an attorney about his termination. Yandura told the PlanetOut Network that Hitchcock was escorted from DNC headquarters Tuesday (May 2) after refusing to resign. Yandura, who runs a progressive political consulting firm in Washington, D.C., believes the action was a result of an Apr. 20 letter he sent to Gay activists and donors.

"All progressives need to be asking how much has the DNC budgeted to counter the anti-Gay ballot initiatives in the states. We also all need to know why the DNC and our Democratic leaders continue to allow

DNC Chairman Howard Dean

the Republicans to use our families and friends as pawns to win elections," Yandura wrote. "We need answers to these questions. Until we get them my advice is don't give any more money to the Dems." Asked if he believed Hitchcock's termination was retaliatory, Yandura said, "If it feels like a duck and looks like a duck, it usually is." "I asked hard questions, and I think that's fair," Yandura said. "My questions come from wanting to help Democrats win. But I think we can win while being true to ourselves." "I'm not asking Howard Dean to endorse Gay marriage overnight," Yandura said. "But I don't think ignoring the wedge-issue strategy (over Gay marriage) is the way to win."

Brian Bond led the Victory Fund from 1996 to 2003 in its efforts to raise money to help elect LGBT candidates to public office. According to the Blade, Bond was considering an offer to head up the National Stonewall Democrats until Dean approached him. John Marble, spokesman for the Stonewall Democrats, would not discuss Bond or the Hitchcock firing. He told the PlanetOut Network, "This presents the DNC with a great opportunity to present their plan to voters on what they're going to do now for LGBT Americans."

POLITICS 2006

by Mark R. Kerr

'To Sign Or Not To Sign?'

Less than two months remain for groups, organizations, committed volunteers and those paid circulars to gather signatures of registered Arizona voters on their respective petitions for initiatives, referendums and proposed constitutional amendments for the state's general election ballot.

Under Arizona law, Friday, July 6 is the deadline for submission of the paperwork and petitions in which for referendums and initiatives, a minimum of 122,612 valid signatures are required of registered Arizona voters, and 183,917 for proposed constitutional amendments, to place measures before the voters for the Tuesday, November 7 Arizona election ballot.

Submitted petitions are just not accepted at "face value," they are reviewed by the Arizona Secretary of State and the Recorder's offices in each of the state's 15 counties under guidelines set down by state law to verify that the signatures collected are valid, of actual voters on the registration rolls and whether these measures have achieved the minimum threshold needed to be placed on the ballot.

With that, proponents usually try to obtain the minimum signature requirement plus 50% (a total of 183,918 in reality for initiatives and referendums, and 275,875 for proposed state constitutional amendments) to have a "cushion" against the possibility of some signatures being invalid.

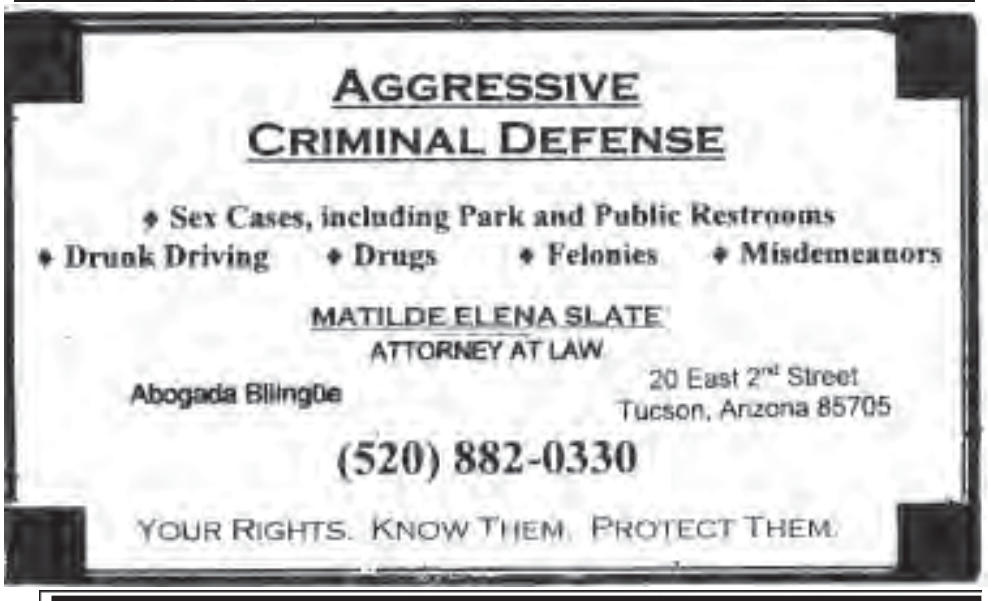
If groups don't submit at least this amount for review, also known as "150%," they most likely, won't be placed on the ballot, either through the review or a challenge made by opponents of the proposed measures.

Fifteen petitions for initiatives and referendums and seven proposed amendments for Arizona's constitution are currently being circulated on issues and subjects ranging from banning smoking, raising the minimum wage, taxation, humane treatment of animals to the inhumane treatment of a certain segment of Arizona's population, also known as the Protect Marriage Arizona amendment (PMAA).

Recently, there had been reports that the petition effort to place the PMAA was perhaps in trouble and that proponents, Protect Marriage Arizona (in reality the Center for Arizona Policy) isn't getting the signatures they need to place the PMAA on the November general election ballot.

Don't count on it, if all indications, according to their web sites and E-mails, the effort may have been "jump started," as it was in Illinois, in which groups and organizations, were able to file the 150% for an initiative there, despite prior reports to the contrary, to be placed on their general election ballot dealing with the subject of banning same-sex marriage, civil unions and domestic partnerships. Plus, in newspaper accounts, the CAP has admitted that they have paid circulators as well gathering signatures for the PMAA petition, something many of these other ongoing efforts, in Arizona and across the United States on this issue and others, have used or are currently using.

So if you are approached to sign a petition for a proposal, read it first, carefully, before affixing your name to it because the rush to gather those needed signatures is ongoing, with the pace quickening due to the impending deadline. One should never just "sign on the dotted line," since you could be signing your life away.



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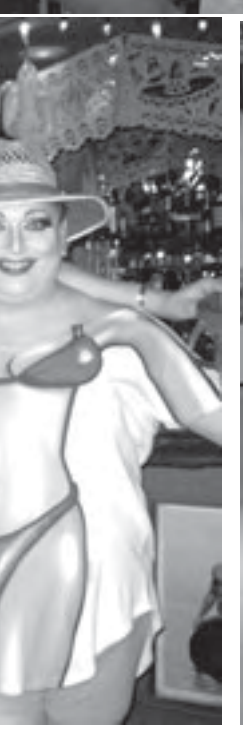

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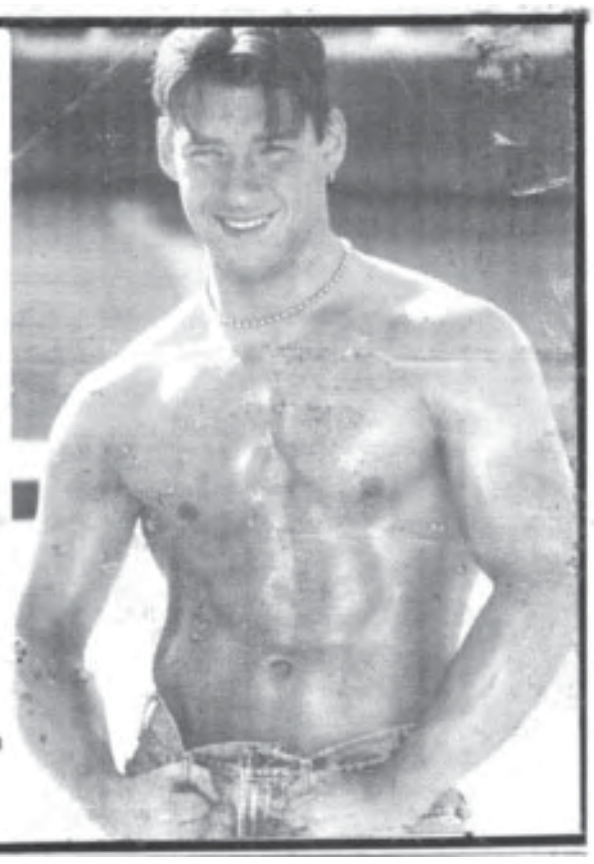

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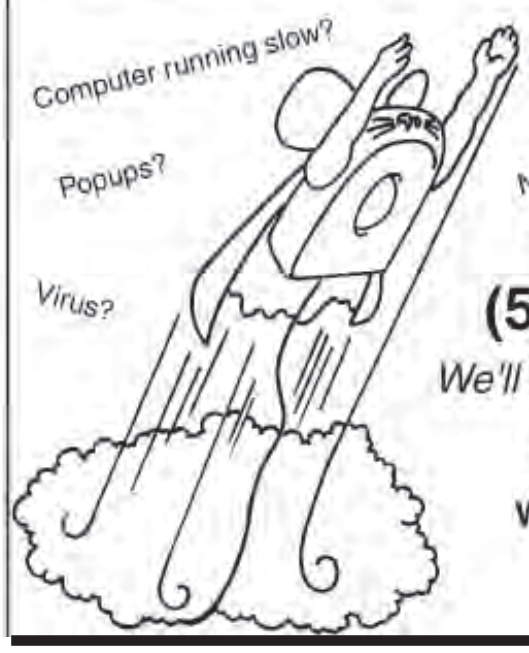

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Lesbian Moms Part Of New Target Groups For Mother's Day Cards

BROOKLYN - One greeting shows a high-heeled, blond woman wearing an apron over her long dress watching her baby as she sweeps the kitchen floor with a smile, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. Another card depicts a woman with her hair pulled into a tight bun, the sleeves of her frilly dress rolled up as she scrubs behind the ears of a child in a wash tub. Happy Mother's Day! - 1930s style.

American Greetings Corp., Hallmark Corp. and other card makers are saying goodbye to the nostalgic - and very domesticated - messages of greeting cards past as they expand their products to reflect the various, modern images of motherhood. In recent years, cards for expecting mothers, girlfriends, Lesbian partners and even ex-mothers-in-law have been added to the racks alongside traditional ones from children to their mothers. The motivation is not just cultural for the multimillion-dollar companies competing to stay relevant in the age of online greetings: women buy more paper cards than any other demographic.

"When aprons and cook stoves were how women saw themselves as defined, they were on cards. Today, many mothers see themselves as hip, sophisticated career women, good friends bonded by motherhood or super soccer mom - those women are reflected on cards," said Rachel Bolton, a spokeswoman for Kansas City, Mo.-based Hallmark, the nation's largest card company.

American Greetings, based in the Cleveland suburb of Brooklyn, also has seen its Mother's Day line evolve over its 100 years. The company's first cards for the holiday date back to the 1920s and for several decades after that had cartoonlike portrayals of women wearing dresses, aprons and heels while cleaning, cooking or serving their families in other ways. Many of the early greetings had male-oriented messages such as one that says, "If there were no dads around, we wouldn't have Mother's Day."

"Even when it was about her it was still about him," said Tina Benavides, vice president of American Greetings' creative division. "We'd get letters about this now."

Angela Thompson, Mother's Day program manager at American Greetings, said the company studies how consumers talk, dress and decorate their homes to make sure greetings are current. Hallmark does similar market research, Bolton said. Thompson said one of the new trends for the May holiday is cards for expectant mothers that show stylishly dressed "baby bumps" inspired by pregnancy being fashionable right now in Hollywood. A pregnant belly pictured on a card is an example of the images being used now that would have been taboo just a few years ago. "We've seen a huge boom over the last couple of years where celebrity motherhood is big," she said.

Ellen Garbarino, a marketing professor at Case Western Reserve University who studies body images in advertising, said the card industry is always ahead of the curve in adapting products to reflect the times, mostly because it can cheaply produce new lines and also "because their job is to express the emotional mood of a wide array of people."

Cards from the archives are like paper time capsules: Hallmark's greetings from the 1920s were printed in black and white and artists often hand-painted flowers to add color. Messages were almost always serious in tone, said Jeff Smith, a historian and archivist for the company. Humor was introduced by both companies in the 1930s - many of American Greetings' cards contain jokes about spanking children. The 1960s brought more pop art-oriented images such as little girls with giant eyes and big hair.

Cards today reflect the diversity of modern women. Scrapbook-inspired cards with hand-attached embellishments like ribbon and buttons often carry family centered messages for the stay-at-home mom. One card from American Greetings line this year shows a black woman in professional clothes racing past a cityscape holding coffee and carrying a designer handbag. It's one of several that focuses on the independent, working mother. There are cards with neutral messages that could be given to a mother figure, a girlfriend or Gay or Lesbian partners. Cards from the 1940s had special folds for tucking away cash so moms could treat themselves. Today's greetings have slotted squares for plastic gift cards. Both companies say that while images have evolved greatly, the point has relatively remained unchanged.

"There's always a line that communicates appreciation, a line that acknowledges all the hard work," Smith said. "It's not just the nurturing that mom provides, which is important. It's also a real concerted effort to legitimize all the little things that often go unnoticed but without them everything would just come crashing down around our ears."

Chicago Gay Games Fires Its Leader

CHICAGO - Organizers of Gay Games VII have fired the event's executive director only 10 weeks before the games begin, reported the PlanetOut Network. The board of directors named Christee Snell as managing director to replace Brian McGuinness, who had been in charge for about a year.

As executive director of the Chicago Area Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, Snell was active in efforts to bring the July 15-22 games to the Windy City, the Chicago Tribune reported; she is also a member of the games' board. Controversy around the event began when the city was selected to replace Montreal as host after talks with Canadian organizers fell through in 2004. Organizers in Montreal have since created a competing event, the Outgames, which will run July 26-Aug. 5.

Another difficulty erupted earlier this year when some residents of the Chicago suburb of Crystal Lake unsuccessfully sought to block a rowing competition there. Kevin Boyer, the spokesman for the games, defended the leadership change. "Of course the board understood people would look at this and criticize us, but the board felt this was the best course of action for the games."

Boyer said the organizers decided to implement a project-manager structure to enhance collaboration. "Clearly it appears we have taken some dramatic steps," he said. "It's normal to conclude that these steps were taken because something awful has happened. But that is not the case." "We feel like we did it on a position of strength," Boyer said, asserting that this Gay Games is in "significantly better shape than any other Gay games." The organization behind the games has accumulated $800,000 and signed more than 200 sponsors and about 11,000 participants, Boyer said.

NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

Dear Janet -

by Lee Thorn

Governor Napolitano sent me a letter asking for my policy suggestions. A postcard was enclosed with boxes that could be checked to indicate my big issues. The postcard made me suspect that I might not be the only person she sent the letter to, but I'm still flattered to have been asked.

My first suggestion would be that any politician who says that the illegal immigration problem can be solved by a wall on the border should be tarred and feathered and run out of town on a rail. I don't want to interfere with the free speech of politicians. I'd let them finish talking while I was heating up the tar. But any politician who makes such a claim is both lying to his audience and insulting its intelligence.

As anyone who's willing to give the matter two second's of thought will conclude, there are five fatal problems with walls on borders: you can go under them, over them, through them, to the left of them, and to the right of them. And even the stupidest politician in the world knows that, as long as substantial economic opportunity exists on one side of the wall that doesn't exist on the other, all five of these flaws will be exploited to the max.

On the other hand, my dear Gov, if you want to end illegal immigration to Arizona without spending significant money, all you need is a law that puts anyone who hires an illegal immigrants in jail for six months. The law would have to be one of "strict liability." That means no excuses based on ignorance or good intentions or anything else: you hire an illegal and you do six months.

The reader may wonder if we have enough jail space for all the Arizonans who hire illegals. We don't, and we wouldn't need it. Long before the first hundred Arizona employers actually started serving time the problem of illegal immigration would be over. Why? Simply because Arizona employers would find Arizona jail time an unacceptably unpleasant experience and illegals aren't crossing our border in search of better tacos.

So why isn't this simple cheap solution ever going to be used? Because employers want a permanent underclass that they can exploit. And where is it all going? My I suggest that we all cast a glance at the underclasses of "guest workers" in Germany and France? Do we want to build our future on the exploitation of a permanent underclass? If so there'll be a price to pay. Unfortunately, the employers who caused the problem won't be around to pay it; they'll likely be retired to gated expatriate communities in Mexico.

My second suggestion to the governor concerns the state's laudable practice of subsidizing health insurance for small businesses and the self-employed. This is a great program in theory, but in practice an older self-employed worker, with the state subsidy, still has to pay about $500 a month for his coverage. Now Governor, I'm sure your heart is in the right place, but with all due respect $500 a month is nothing less than obscene. You ought to tax everything that moves and tax it as much as it takes to bring that figure down to between $50 and $100 per month. If your tenure in office accomplished only that, your place in history would be secure.

Thirdly, I'd suggest that the governor forget about "stepping up...efforts to combat the growing trafficking in deadly methamphetamines." For the last hundred years or so, every time American governments have stepped up their efforts to combat a drug problem the problem has gotten significantly worse. There's a rather obvious and well-known economic explanation for this phenomenon, but I'm not going to drag out that long dead horse and give it yet another beating here. The best thing the governor can do to combat meth and drugs generally is something called "benign neglect."

Lastly, in view of the fact that standardized testing has had the proven effect of both narrowing school curricula and diminishing their content, how about spending some of the state's surplus to find ways of measuring educational success that don't degrade education itself in the process? We know that standardized testing doesn't work and we know why it doesn't work ("teaching to the test"). Does that mean we should abandon the effort to find non-harmful methods to measure education, or does it mean that the need to find them is more urgent now than it's ever been?

[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.]

Microsoft Paid Gay Foe $1.57 Million

Ralph Reed

SEATTLE - Ralph Reed, conservative Republican strategist who's running for lieutenant governor of Georgia, has reported that Microsoft Corp. paid his public relations and lobbying firm $1.57 million over five years, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. In a financial disclosure statement filed in Georgia on Monday, the former head of the Christian Coalition said his firm, Century Strategies, received five payments ranging from $240,000 to more than $572,000 each year from 2001 to 2005.

A year ago, Microsoft severed ties with Reed. At the time, Microsoft spokeswoman Ginny Terzano said Reed's company had lobbied for Microsoft on international trade and competition issues. While declining to comment on his candidacy, Terzano said it would not be appropriate for the company to have a consultant on retainer who's seeking elective office at the same time.

The move came after liberal activists urged Microsoft to quit using Reed as a political consultant. The groups chastised Microsoft for pulling its support for a Washington state Gay rights bill it had backed in the past. A short time later, the company said it would support such legislation in the future, and did during this year's legislative session. In January, the Legislature passed a bill adding "sexual orientation" to a state law that bans discrimination in housing, employment and insurance.

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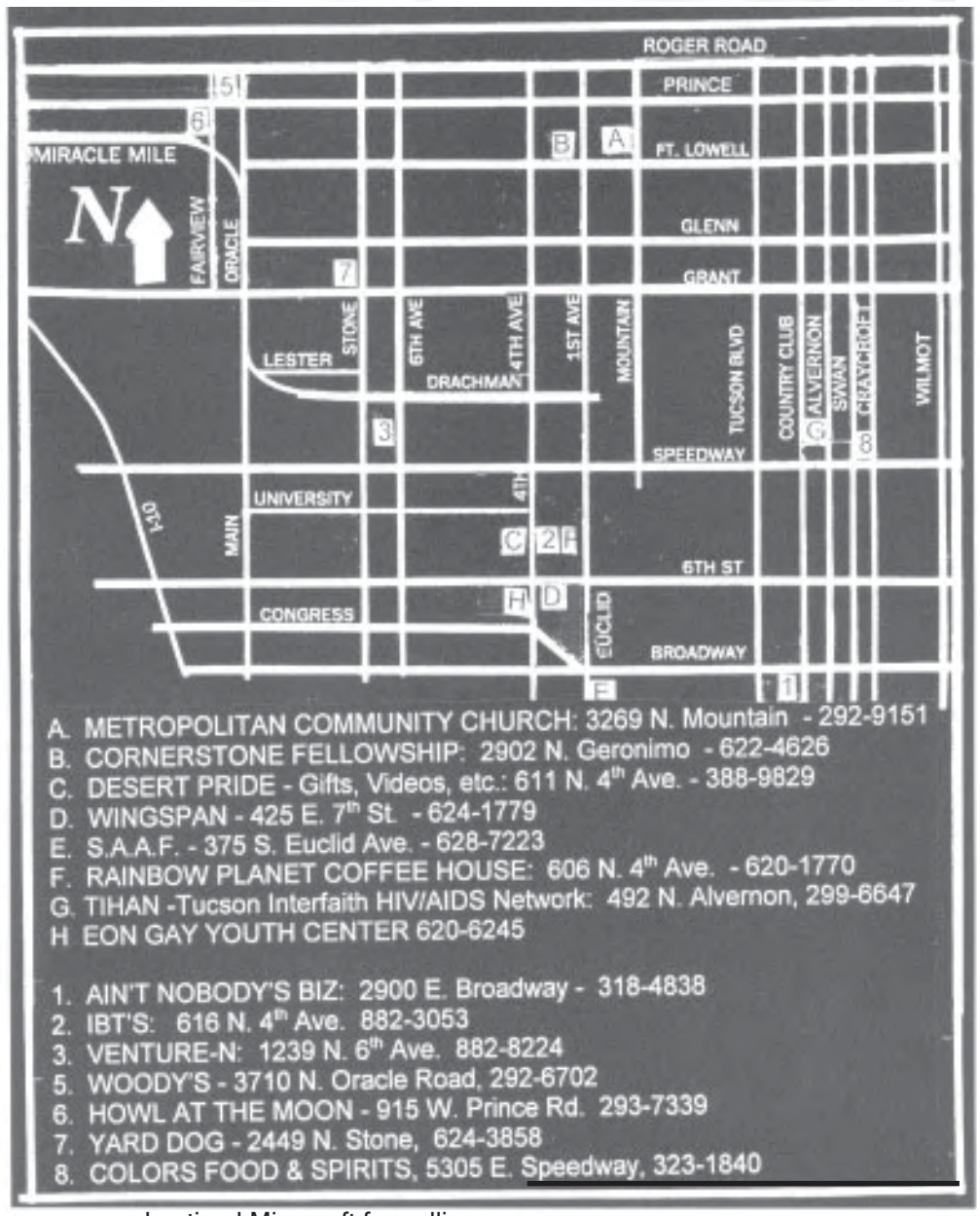

Non Bar Calendar

Wednesday, May 10
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00 p.m. 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, May 11
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Coffee Night at Rainbow Planet on Fabulous 4th, 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, May 12
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00 p.m. Lloyd hosts a word for word fun evening of Scrabble. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Lloyd at 792-8537. If you're loquacious, erudite, or a wordsmith; this man's game just may be a triple word score for you!

Tucson Prime Timers, Cocktails – 5:30 PM, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Saturday, May 13
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 MSN 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!

Tucson Prime Timers, Business Meeting – 11 a.m., Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St.

Sunday, May 14
#1Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 1:00p.m. Hors d'Oeuvres & a Movie at Dave's! Limited seating, so please call David now to Reserve your space…404-4039. Jack, I swear, it's…Brokeback Mountain

#2Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.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 homsepals@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, May 15
Tucson Prime Timers Lunch, Wildcat House, 12:30 p.m. 1800 N. Stone

Tuesday, May 16
Men'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.

Wednesday ,May 17
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Canasta! Hosted by Marvin at 745-0304. 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, May 18
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Coffee Night at Rainbow Planet on Fabulous 4th, 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, May 19
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 9:00a.m. to 6:00p.m. Create a successful social experiment by visiting a failed social experiment! Join the Driving Trip to Amazing Biosphere 2 with your successful host… Thom! *** No one will be allowed to return to the Outside World at any time during the drive!*** (Just kidding.) Call Thom at 623-2941 or e-mail Thom right now at this very instant for carpooling logistics and opt for the optional late lunch or early dinner at the A # 1 China Super A Buffet at 75 W. River Road after the return drive. Tour will include both the inside and outside of the facility. No host costs are only for entry fees and buffet. E-mail Thom at: thomsepals@yahoo.com

Tucson Prime Timers, Cocktails – 5:30 PM, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

May 19, 20, & 21
Reveille: Gay Men's Chorus of Tucson/ PRIDE Concert, University of Arizona / Steve Eller Dance Theater on University Mall. 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 20
#1 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 8:30a.m. Join Jack and Mike for a morning of Volleyball. This is played for fun, and you'll get to know some nice guys as you play. Two great ways to work on your game! For details and directions please call Mike and Jack at 881-5733.

#2 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.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, May 21
Miss Gay Tucson Pageant takes place tonight at 7:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Palo Verde, 4550 S. Palo Verde Rd. General admission tickets are $10 in advance, $12 at the door. They may be purchased from Bunny FuFu, the pageant sponsor, e-mail BunnyFuFuAZ@aol.com, or come by IBT's Wednesday or Saturday evenings after 8:30 where she will be performing.

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00 p.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, 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'S 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.

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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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Time: 7 pm – 10 pm

4th Stop:

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

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HOROSCOPES

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Venus and Mars make their move this week and set our hearts and minds aflutter. Grab what you can before it all flies away. Nothing succeeds like excess, comrade. Yippee!

ARIES (MAR. 21 - APR. 20)
Charming and debonair Gay Rams have much to recommend them this week. Not only are they a treat for the eyes, they also seem to know just what to do to charm the sweaty masses. Venus and Mercury turn on the pink spotlight and make you fiscally practical all at the same time. Ply your trade with chilled champagne or cold hard cash. The harder the better!

TAURUS (APR. 21 - MAY 21)
There are a myriad of new ways to make a splash. Queer Bulls have some fantastic ideas that launch their trail in new directions. But sitting and thinking about it won't get you where you need to be. Take action! You also have a secret admirer. Okay maybe not all that secret but certainly someone who is undercover. Perhaps we should keep them that way?

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
Often we are criticized for valuing form over substance, however this week brings a celebration of the superficial. Pink Twins are in their element! Grab your doodads and refurbish your appearance. Not only do you attract a bevy of new pals, you also convert a few old foes into fans. Venus and Mercury make their beauty marks. And isn't that what it's really all about?

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
If you have been eyeing that corner office, this is the week to make your move. Gay Crabs not only know who to ask and who to charm, they also know when to do it to achieve the greatest impact. Make friends in high places. The only caveat here is to not take on too much too soon. You may find that your appetite is too big for your stomach. Err and this is a problem?

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)
Proud Lions get the urge to scratch an itch this week. And it so happens that the itch occurs above the neck. You seem to hunger for more and more knowledge. Feast away! Not only will your quest result in personal achievement, it can also be used to make a mark in the corporate sphere. Are you too smart for your own good? Well, not just yet.

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)
Turn up the heat and see what (and who) cooks. Queer Virgins are ready for any action and try to take things to the outer limit this week. What will you fall into? Who will you attract? Stay tuned. Venus and Mercury rev up and charge you to become too big for your britches. Oh yeah baby! You are sexy, steamy and a bit over the top. Hey, whatever you prefer!

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)
Even the most erasable partners seem cuddly and lovable this week as Mercury and Venus highlight all types of relationships. It is as if a warm light is gently turned on in any harsh situation. Enjoy it while you can, proud Libra. Too too soon things fall back into routine and you will be back to washing your lover's dirty socks and reheating some old leftovers. No names please.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)
If pushing paperclips is up your alley, push them faster this week. It's time to tackle any detailed oriented project. Proud Scorps not only get more things done around the office, they also charm others into their service. Delegate as much as you can and don't waste time. When the clock strikes midnight you revert back into a drone with a moan.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)
Feeling luckier than usual? Even if you're not, this may be the week to buy a lottery ticket or try your hand at some low risk gamble. Gay Archers are naturally creative and inspiring and now, as Venus and Mercury make their moves, so should you. Maximize your potential before your vibrancy dissipates and you become just another hack with a hankering.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)
Pink Caps look around their living space and see more than just an old couch and a bunch of worn accoutrements. They imagine a palace! Upgrade and refresh with Venus and Mercury. Pour your creative energy into anything that brings you joy and relief from the drab oppression of your very existence. Hang a pink light in your grotto and dance, dance, dance!

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)
If you are filled with great ideas and pithy opinions, make it a point to release them to the farflung skies this week. They soar to new heights and have great impact. Aqueerians find that sharing what they have can multiply their rewards. Enlist a group of like minded folks and see what you can do to change the course of events. At very least, change your underwear. Ahem.

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MAR. 20)
A fire burns inside of you and you strive for greater beauty and harmony this week. You may find that while life is more costly than usual, it can also be filled with unique, extraordinary experiences, beautiful expensive objects and a high flying lifestyle. Whoopee!! Remember Guppie, life is more than just a bottle of beer and a bratwurst. Or is it?

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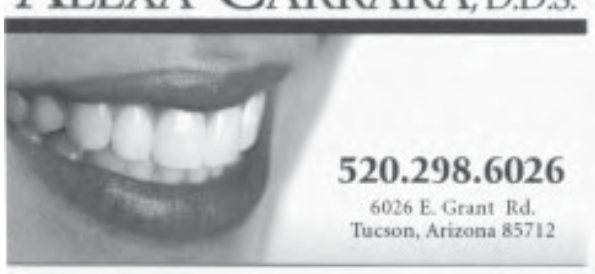

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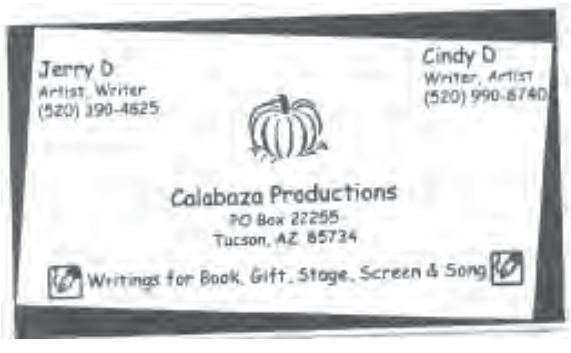

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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

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 11:00 am. $2 Smirnoff Sunday. Free Texas Hold-'Em Poker Tournaments at 1:00, 4:00, and 7:00 pm. 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. Monday Munchies 4 - 9 pm with reduced prices on appetizers - best deal in town! Free Texas Hold-'Em Poker Tournament at 6:30 pm. 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 -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 Martinis 4-8pm..

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. 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. Kitchen open 4-9pm. Women-only Texas Hold-Em Poker at 6:30 p.m. for women only.

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

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio 7pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Spaghetti Nite (2nd Tuesday every month $2.00).

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

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

wednesday

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3 Skyy cocktails, $2.50 Domestics and 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 - 9 pm. Free Texas Hold-'Em Poker Tournament at 6:30 pm for Women Only.

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 9am. Patio 7pm. 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 and 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 - 9 pm. 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 7pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Pool Tourney 7pm. $3 entry. Special prices for players. Steak Nite (3rd Thursday during summer). 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. Kitchen open 4 - 9 pm. Two-step lessons with Amanda every other Friday from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. DJ plays your favorite country dance songs 8:30 to midnight then dance mix 'til close. Kitchen open 9 pm - midnight for late night munchies.

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 7pm. Free Pool til 4pm.

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

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. Happy Hour 11 am - 8 pm, $2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, $3 sm pitchers, $5 lg pitchers. $4.00 Burger & Fries all day. DJ Johnny D playing the best mix in town. Check our ad for special events. Kitchen open 9 pm - 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.

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 and Entertainment

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.

Now playing thru June 18
Top Hat Theatre Club presents Noel Coward's "Present Laughter" At the theater 3110 E. Ft. Lowell at Country Club. 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 3:00 p.m. Sundays. For reservations call 326-6800.

Now playing thru June 11
"On Golden Pond" presented by Live Theatre Workshop, 5317 E.. Speedway.. 327-4242.
.

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

Arts and Entertainment

Continued

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.

May 20 - 21
Ballet Tucson performing "'A Midsummer's Night Dream" at Centennial Hall on ofA campus. 621-3341

Thursday, June 22
Desert Diamond Casino, I-19 & Pima Mine Road, Exit 80 (7 minutes South of Tucson). Presenting Styx. TicketMaster 321-1000.

Friday, June 16
Casino Del Sol AVA Amphitheater presents the Times Tour of Martina McBride. Ticketmaster 321-1000. I-19, exit Valencia West. 838-6700.

June 27
Desert Diamond Casino, I-19 & Pima Mine Road, Exit 80 (7 minutes South of Tucson). Presenting Styx. TicketMaster 321-1000.

June 29
Desert Diamond Casino, I-19 & Pima Mine Road, Exit 80 (7 minutes South of Tucson). Presenting America and Christopher Cross. TicketMaster 321-1000.

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

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

SATURDAY, MAY 13
HOWL AT THE MOON - TMI is back playing your favorite classic rock hits from the 70s & 80s. Show starts at 8:00 p.m. $5.00 Cover. This is a great band. Don't miss them!

WOODY'S - Surprise Party 8:00 p.m. to closing. You worked hard all year, pick up your reward at Woody's tonight!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17
WOODY'S - 5TH Annual TOGA Party. 8:00 p.m. til closing. Come in your own or let us decorate you. $1.00 off drinks for those in their Togas (excludes Schnapps and draught).

THURSDAY, MAY 18
VENTURE-N - The original Steak Nite! Steaks cut by Chef Howard from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Steak, salad & Baked Potatoes only $6.00.

FRIDAY, MAY 20
HOWL AT THE MOON - Motown Night - Groove to your favorites from Motown. DJ starts at 9:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 27
HOWL AT THE MOON - Latino Music with DJ Michelle starting at 9:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 3
HOWL AT THE MOON - National Capital Cities Pageants for Miss Desert States & Desert Diva, Preliminaries start at 8:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 10
HOWL AT THE MOON - Ellas de Noche drag show starting at 9:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 17
HOWL AT THE MOON - National Capital Cities Pageants for Miss Latina Arizona & Miss Latina Westtern Regional. Preliminaries at 8:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 24
HOWL AT THE MOON - Too Much Information (TMI) is back starting at 8:00 p.m. $5.00 Cover.

Play Safe!

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.

Heather Boa
Miss Gay Tucson 2006

Fairy Tail Productions
Proudly Presents...

Red & Wild!

Miss Gay Tucson America 2007 Pageant

An official preliminary to Miss Gay Arizona America 2007 in July 2006

Sunday May 21, 2006 / 7:00pm

Holiday Inn Palo Verde
4550 S Palo Verde Rd. Tucson

Amanda Bury
Miss Gay Arizona 2006

Janee Starr
Miss Gay Tucson
2003 & 2005

Lucinda Holliday
Miss Gay Arizona 1995

Tickets:
General Admission ONLY:
$10.00 in advance / $12.00 at door
Contact Bunny Fu Fu for more info!!!
520-304-3030 / BunnyFuFuAZ@aol.com

IBT's The Biz Pulse

Gay Men's Health Project

SavOn FLOWERS

Woody's

Yard Bar Saloon Tucson, AZ

LGBT Activists React To Cheney Interview, Book

Mary Cheney

WASHINGTON, D.C. - In an editorial published in Monday's (May 9) edition of The Washington Post, former Human Rights Campaign director Elizabeth Birch and her longtime partner, Hilary Rosen, applauded Mary Cheney, the Lesbian daughter of Vice President Dick Cheney, for taking a public stand against President Bush and his anti-Gay policies in her new book, Now It's My Turn: A Daughter's Chronicle of Political Life, reported advocate.com. "We had presumed that was the case but are certainly glad to hear it," Birch and Rosen wrote together. "We admit we have been tough on Cheney over the years. This week we've debated each other over the wrongs we feel her family and their allies have perpetrated on the Gay and Lesbian community and what the impact of her current activities will be."

Noting how the GOP has used Gay rights as a political wedge issue for many years, Birch and Rosen said that until the release of her book, Cheney had apparently "opted to be a loyal daughter" rather than stand up for her fellow Gay and Lesbian Americans. "Mary Cheney has not just stood by but actively worked as a paid campaign operative to reelect the Bush-Cheney-GOP ticket," they wrote. "So the resentment runs deep." "Yet we've concluded that at this moment in time, the past doesn't seem nearly as important as the future," Birch and Rosen continued. "And though the Gay movement deserves credit for much of the acceptance she is receiving, Mary's presence on the national stage–the daughter of the vice president of the United States discussing issues related to our lives–is most welcome and has the potential to be a transforming moment for all Americans."

Gay rights activist John Aravosis, who runs Americablog.com, wrote on his Web site that he agreed with that idea but said any editorial supporting Cheney may be premature. "The Cheneys," he wrote, "including Mary, need to do more than just point out that they love each other–they need to do something to help the millions of other Cheney-type families being threatened by Gay-bashing Republican politics."

It's great that Cheney has come out in support of Gay rights, he said, but what's important to note is that "Mary chose not to help her community when it mattered the most–when her father and his boss were trying to write our second-class citizenship in the U.S. Constitution. As Mary now concedes, no one forced her to sit back silently while her father's administration–her administration–dehumanized her own lover. George Bush offered her the chance to go public and defend her community. But Mary chose to sit back silently and do nothing."

Controversial Gay Soap Opera Grips Cuba

HAVANA - A TV soap opera is generating controversy on the streets of Cuba and attracting a record number of viewers. The reason? It is about what until now has been a taboo for Cuban TV: homosexuality, reported bbcnews.com. It seems to be the sole topic of conversation in the workplace and the neighbourhoods, even though many men insist angrily that they do not watch "that telenovela in which a married man 'discovers himself' through a sexual relationship with a male friend".

It is the first time that television in Cuba has dared to broach the subject. It never even screened Strawberries and Chocolate, a classic Cuban film about the marginalisation of Gay people. The soap - The Dark Side of the Moon - shows the problems a Bisexual man faces in today's Cuba, including his friends' revulsion and rejection by his parents. Yaser, the Bisexual character, says: "Everything I sacrificed myself for, I have lost."

His friend and partner tells him he understands. It is good for the people to be informed, so that youngsters are not tricked or trapped into that kind of thing, that homosexual thing. "I also lost the affection of my parents and siblings," he says. It is dialogue like this that is creating a stir across the island. The two men are not shown having any physical contact "so as to avoid offending viewers." However, some do feel offended, including members of a group of retired men who I spoke to in a Havana park. "I don't watch it. My wife does, but I don't like it because of the rude things they say," one says. Another says: "I cannot get used to it, because what we were taught when we were young was morally different."

A different view on the soap opera comes from Raimara Casas, who thinks it serves as a warning. "It is good for the people to be informed, so that youngsters are not tricked or trapped into that kind of thing, that homosexual thing," she says. There are also people like Maria Nora, who think The Dark Side of the Moon is important because "it shows an openness on this issue that is not even found in foreign soap operas".

Actor Rafael Lahaera

Actor Rafael Lahera, who plays Yaser, says that to broach "such a delicate subject in such a macho society" is an important step for Cuban TV. But playing the leading role has not been without problems. "People think I'm Gay," he says. And, he adds, he has been turned down for acting jobs because employers do not want a role to be played by a homosexual. Such discrimination is not unusual in Cuba, where in the 1960s and 70s homosexuals were sent to labor farms. Gays and Lesbians are socially isolated, the police harass transvestites and the government is refusing to authorize sex changes for transsexuals. Maybe this soap opera will contribute towards changing that.

Got A News Tip?
Call The
WEEKLY OBSERVER
(520) 622-7176
Or FAX Us At
(520) 792-8382