



Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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WEEKLY OBSERVER

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TIHAN Receives AGRA Grant From Rodeo Proceeds



TIHAN Executive Director Scott Blades, surrounded by Arizona Gay Rodeo Officials and Royalty, receives the \$7,571.78 'check'.

TUCSON - People living with HIV and AIDS in Southern Arizona will again benefit from the volunteer efforts of the Gay rodeo community.

Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) announced that it has received a \$7,571.78 grant award from the Arizona Gay Rodeo Association (AGRA).

The AGRA Road Runner Rodeo proceeds raised \$25,000 for five Arizona nonprofits, a record setting amount and the 20th anniversary of their rodeo.

Over the last 20 years, they have raised over \$300,000 for charity. TIHAN received the largest grant of the five non-profits for this year's event, and is also the only Southern Arizona based nonprofit to receive an award.

The grant comes from the proceeds of last January's very

successful AGRA rodeo held at the new Rawhide facility.

After the rodeo, AGRA members nominate worthy charities, and there is a long nomination and selection process, with a final vote of AGRA's membership determining the final disbursement of rodeo proceeds.

The membership chose to make TIHAN one of the five organizations receiving money from the rodeo. Contributions to non-profits are based on involvement with AGRA, support of the rodeo, and contributions to the LGBT community.

"We're grateful to the members of AGRA and the Gay rodeo community in Arizona," said Scott Blades, Executive Director of TIHAN. "These funds represent the hard work of AGRA volunteers and contestants at rodeo, and we're honored to be chosen to receive this grant."

G/L AFL-CIO Group Slams NGLCC For Wal-Mart Deal

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Jeremy Bishop, program director of Pride at Work slammed the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC) upon the announcement of the Chamber entering into partnership with Wal-Mart Stores, the nation's largest retailer, PageOneQ.com reported.

Bishop quoted from the NGLCC mission statement in a phone interview with PageOneQ. "The mission statement says it is committed 'to forming a broad-based coalition of LGBT owned and friendly businesses.' We're not exactly sure how Wal-Mart fits into the LGBT friendly business category," he said. "In fact, We're not sure how Wal-Mart fits into anything worker friendly.

Wal-Mart and the Chamber have announced a partnership which will include Wal-Mart sponsorship of the organization's events through the end of the year, as well as support of Chamber initiatives.

As part of the agreement, Dee Breazeale, a vice president of Sam's Club Jewelry, a subsidiary of Wal-Mart, will serve on the NGLCC's Corporate Advisory Council.

"We are honored to have Wal-Mart's support of the NGLCC. Our partnership will not only provide more opportunities for the NGLCC, but the business community as a whole," said NGLCC Co- Founder and President Justin Nelson in a statement released.

Continued on Page Four

Many Gays Felt Left Out At World AIDS Conference

TORONTO - When AIDS first crept into the public consciousness in the early 1980s, the victims of the terrifying new disease were mostly Gay men in North America and Europe, reported the Canadian Press. One after another they died, as partners and friends despaired of becoming infected themselves and wondered if the next of the innumerable funerals they attended would be their own.

But 25 years later, Gay men have found themselves relegated to the periphery of the HIV-AIDS pandemic, which has expanded exponentially into every continent and to every possible segment of humanity. The shift in focus from men who have sex with men (MSM) to women and children, and from western countries to Africa and other southern regions, was nowhere more apparent than at the weeklong International AIDS Conference, which wrapped up Friday (Aug. 18).

Few of the sessions dealt with issues of importance to the MSM community, said a number of Gay men at the conference - and that has left many of them resentful, angry or feeling left in the proverbial dust by those leading the public discourse about the disease.

"One thing I've heard people talk about is the lack of exposure at this conference on issues having to do with men who have sex with men," said Jerome Galea, who works in the global health program at the University of California at Los Angeles. "I got an e-mail from someone that I always see at conferences, who works in the public health department in California, and didn't come to this one," said Galea, a homosexual who is not HIV-positive. "And that was the question he asked me: 'Have you see the MSM stuff. It seems like it's just fading away.' I think people aren't coming because they're not seeing that," he said of the lack of sessions dedicated to homosexual, Bisexual and Transgender ed men.

Gabriel, a public health worker from Mexico who asked that his real name not be used, conceded he is angry that MSM-specific groups weren't among those that put together the Toronto conference, although Gays and Lesbians are involved in many advocacy organizations that attended the meeting under other banners. "I'm not saying that women are not important," said Gabriel, who is Gay. "But in Latin America, women have an HIV prevalence from one in 1,000 to 15 in 1,000. For Gay men it's 90 in 1,000 to 250 in 1,000. So it's not comparable. "There is a sense among many people that if you prioritize one group you are excluding another, but that's not true. There's only so much money for HIV treatment and prevention and you have to treat them equitably - not equally, but equitably." And Gabriel pointed out that women primarily get infected by having

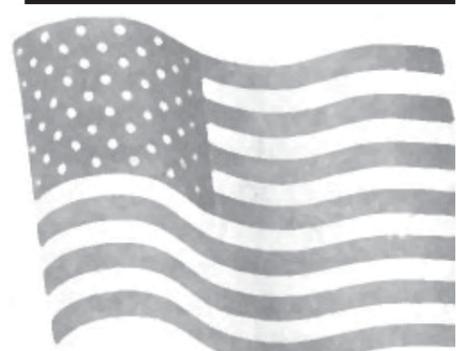
sex with men. "And nobody's talking about that. You have to talk about those who are transmitting it, and that's men. "What have you heard about men in this conference. I've heard about male circumcision - and that's it."

Franck DeRose, the Washington-based executive director of the global Condom Project, called it deplorable that there was no representation of the MSM community "inside the conference." "I'm not resentful. I'm a little bit disappointed actually," he said. "Am I surprised there's not something on MSM? Yes I am. I would think that we would be a little bit more progressive."

While acknowledging that Gay men were the most affected in the early days of the epidemic, conference co-chair Dr. Helene Gayle of Atlanta said that since then, HIV-AIDS has become much more diverse. "And so this has to be a conference that represents the totality of the epidemic," she said. "That may mean or that may feel like some issues don't get the attention that they may have gotten in further days, but there continues to be strong support for inclusion of Gay men and we'll continue to do that."

Benjamin Perkins, director of a Gay men's wellness center in Boston, said there's a danger that the International AIDS Conference, which will next take place in Mexico City in 2008, "lumps everybody into a group and denies the distinct differences that might exist." "I think we're here," he said of Gays. "I don't think we've ever left. Still, he said that with so many people infected elsewhere around the globe, "it would be unjust not to pay attention to those parts of the world."

Galea of UCLA agreed, saying that since the target of HIV has shifted so much towards women worldwide, it makes sense that the conference would follow. "When I look at where the epidemic is going, as a man who has sex with other men, I don't (feel) ... personally resentful," he said. "More and more women are getting infected. This has really helped me refocus on the face of HIV and AIDS right now. Frankly it's taken me outside of my box a little bit."



Labor Day,
Monday, Sept. 4

UPDATE

Scam Alert Targeting The Tucson LGBT Community

TUCSON - A year ago, someone was using Kent Burbank's name to procure money for himself. This is happening again and it is a scam. The caller is currently calling from Toronto, Canada and claiming that he (Kent) has been mugged or hurt and needs you to wire him money so that he can return to Tucson.

If you think that you have been a victim of fraud or have been called by this gentleman, please call the Wingspan Anti-Violence Project (AVP) at (520) 624-0348 or the Tucson Police Department (TPD) at (520) 791-4444.

Wingspan is asking that if you suspect the person who is calling you of this fraud, and are capable of recording your phone conversation, please do so and then contact the AVP. Wingspan is working closely with TPD to solve this crime.

While, on occasion during a phone-a-thon, you may be called by Wingspan and asked to make a donation, that donation will always go to "Wingspan" and never to an individual person like Kent. We are not currently conducting a phone-a-thon. The last phone-a-thon was in July. If you have been solicited for a donation and are unsure of the validity of the solicitor, please call our development office here at Wingspan at (520) 624-1779 before donating. Wingspan is incredibly grateful for the support of community members and we feel saddened that someone is taking advantage of that support.

Fusion 2006: A Community Health Expo, Aug. 28

TUCSON - The Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) is excited to announce Fusion 2006 and is happening Saturday, August 26, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., at the Tucson Convention Center, Meeting Hall, 260 S. Church Ave. The event fuses together the best of the PLUS (Positive Living for Us) weekends and the Men4Men Health Expos of the past into an energetic event for the whole community.

The event is free and open to the public. The event features workshops (including one by Wingspan), exhibits, demonstrations, food, and health screenings. You can spend an hour or all day. Experiential workshop topics in English and Spanish include substance abuse, mental health, sexual health, self-defense, women's sexuality, men's sexuality, holistic health, family planning, and more. The

topics are focused on mind, body, spirit and sexuality.

SAAF looks forward to seeing you on August 26. For more information, call SAAF (520) 628-7223, or visit the website at fusiontucson.org.

Stonewall Democrats Meeting August 28

TUCSON - The Southern Arizona Stonewall Democrats (SASD) will be holding their monthly meeting, Monday, Aug. 28, 6:30 p.m. at Colors Restaurant, 5305 E. Speedway.

SASD will be discussing the candidate ratings, volunteering and getting out the vote. This meeting is open to all members and those wishing to join. SASD in Tucson is membership driven. That means when there is work to be done, we need to call on our members for help. We'll be asking for volunteers for the upcoming elections. Perhaps you'd like to organize a walk or phone banking for your candidate? Maybe host a house party? Help register voters? What role will you play within SASD? There will be a cash bar and SASD will provide appetizers

For more information, call Becky Corran (520) 237-1399 or E-mail: sasdtucson@yahoo.com.

Wingspan Dinner 2006, Sept. 16

TUCSON - Join in supporting Wingspan's important mission and recognizing the individuals who help build a better LGBT community is Southern Arizona at Wingspan's annual dinner, Saturday, Sept. 16, 5:30pm - midnight, at the Tucson Convention Center, 260 South Church Ave.

The evening includes a keynote address by Neil Giuliano, President of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), and former Mayor of the City of Tempe. A dance with music by LeeAnne Savage will conclude the evening. ASL interpretation will be provided. Parking is free.

Tickets are: individual, \$95, reserved table of ten, \$950 with recognition as a table host. (\$50 is the value of goods and services provided and generally not tax-deductible) A limited number of scholarship tickets are available. Please contact Wingspan (520) 624-1779 for more details. For more information, go online to wingspan.org.

Alternative Theatre Co. Audition Call Aug. 26-29-31

TUCSON - The Alternative Theatre Company will be holding auditions for their upcoming production of "Jeffrey," Aug. 26, 29-31 at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St.

"Jeffrey," is the tale of a Gay actor/waiter, has sworn off sex after too many bouts with his partners about what is "safe" and what is not. Cast: 7 men, 1 woman: 8 total (ages 18 - 60).

Times for the cold read and prepared monologue auditions vary and interested parties need to call the director, Joe Marshall, (520) 245-9440 to set up the appointment time and date. Marshall requested that those interested forward a current resume and photo to: joemarshall@aol.com. All parts or roles are open, rehearsals will take place Sept. 1 - Oct. 14, with the curtain rising at the Beowulf Alley Theatre for the last two weekends in October.

Desert Coyotes Bowling League Starts Sept. 6

TUCSON - The Desert Coyotes, Tucson's LGBT and straight supportive bowling league will again hit the lanes starting their fall season, Wednesday, Sept. 6, 6 p.m. at Santa Cruz Lanes, 3665 S. 16th Ave.

On Sept. 6, an initial organizational meeting will take place at 6 p.m., with bowling to commence at 7 p.m. Teams consist of three people and skill is not important, just having fun and a good time is the only prerequisite.

For more information, contact Paul Katona, (520) 319-0890, or Dan "B.G." Diffie, (520) 404-3591.

Equality Advocates Hold Pray-In Against Prop. 107

PHOENIX - People in Arizona prayed Sunday (Aug. 20) for an anti-Gay measure to be booted off November's ballot. Proposition 107 would ban same-sex marriage in Arizona and stop legal recognition of domestic-partner benefits, the Associated Press reported on the PlanetOut Network.

Organized by Arizona Together, the measure's opponents gathered in churches Sunday in Tucson, Flagstaff, and Phoenix to join forces with people of faith. "How dare we live in a nation where, because of our sexuality, we are denied human rights?" asked a church member, the Rev. Mary Workman, 78, speaking at the First Christian Church in Tucson.

She and other opponents say the amendment discriminates against unmarried couples, denying them health insurance benefits, hospital visitations, and other legal rights granted them by many Arizona cities. They point out that same-sex marriage is already illegal in Arizona, and say the amendment is unconstitutional because it forces people to vote on two different issues at once.

On Aug. 10, a Maricopa County Superior Court judge ruled that the amendment is constitutional, a decision that opponents appealed a day later.



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For More Info contact Wendy 628-7223 or wascione@saaaf.org

SAAF

Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation



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New Federal Pension Law Includes Important Measures For G/L Couples

WASHINGTON, D.C. - President Bush on Thursday (Aug. 17) signed into law the Federal Pension Protection Act that contains two key provisions extending important financial protections to same-sex couples and other Americans who leave their retirement savings to non-spousal beneficiaries, reported 365Gay.com.

"For Gay couples and all Americans with non-spouse beneficiaries, death and taxes weren't only certain, but also times of great and unequal financial difficulty," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese who lobbied Congress to pass the measure. "Today marks an important day for fairness under the law in America," Solmonese said.

The legislation, with strong bipartisan support received final approval on Aug. 3.

The first provision allows the transfer of an individual's retirement plan benefits to a domestic partner or other non-spouse beneficiary including a sibling or parent when the individual dies.

Specifically, the surviving partner, or other non-spouse beneficiary, will now be able to transfer his or her deceased partner's retirement funds into an Individual Retirement Account and either draw down the benefits over a five-year period, or over his or her own life expectancy.

In the past, surviving same-sex partners or other non-spouse beneficiaries in similar situations were typically forced to withdraw the entire

amount as a lump sum and incur immediate tax charges. In addition, this action often bumped the survivor into a higher tax bracket because the withdrawal was counted as taxable income to the beneficiary.

The second provision, which addresses retirement plan hardship distributions, allows Gay couples, and others with non-spouse, non-dependent beneficiaries, similar access to laws that permit people to draw on their retirement funds in the case of a qualifying medical or financial emergency.

In the past, the federal law covered only the spouses or dependents of employees when it came to accessing retirement funds during an emergency.

"This bill provides much needed support for non-spousal beneficiaries and will have meaningful impact," said David Ratcliffe, National co-leader of Merrill Lynch's LGBT Professional Network, and Director of the firm's Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Management. "Specifically, passing these provisions means that when families are at their most vulnerable, they will have new options under the law that should alleviate some of the stresses that come in to play with the loss of a loved one," he said.

At the signing ceremony, Senator Gordon Smith (R-OR) said that the legislation takes an important step but more needs to be done. "There is a large group of Americans that are left behind in traditional

pension benefit models," he said. "We need to do better to keep these groups from falling through the cracks."

That was echoed by Congressman Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD). "We need to address the economic and legal barriers that affect many American families - from

providing equal access to family law, to equal opportunities in the workplace. All families need to be able to plan and save for their future," said Cardin.

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UPDATE

Four Indicted In N.M. Gay Beating

SANTA FE, New Mexico - Four people have been indicted by a grand jury in the July kidnapping and beating of an 18 year old Gay man, reported 365Gay.com. Two of the accused are minors who will be tried as adults and can now be named.

Charged with kidnapping, aggravated battery, conspiracy and false imprisonment are Cecily Gonzales, Leroy Segura, Uriah Smith and William York. The charges carry a hate crime enhancement, meaning if they are convicted the jury can add an extra year onto their sentences. The 18-year old victim and a female friend - their names have not been released for their own security - had gone to a party at a local home but when they tried to leave the four became verbally abusive. When they managed to get outside the group jumped them.

They were held and the Gay man was beaten by the suspects who said that they were going to beat him straight. The beatings continued throughout the night and into the next morning. The victim suffered bleeding on the brain and a concussion as well

as facial lacerations and bruising. He has since been released from an area hospital. The female who accompanied the 18 year old to the party also was held by the four assailants, the statement said. She was kicked in the face and suffered a broken nose.

A statement of probable cause, filed by the prosecutor in state District Court says York told police that he was told by Segura that the victim had tried to grab his butt. York said he had not felt a grope but was upset by what Segura had told him. The statement also says York told police that everyone at the party was making fun of the 18-year-old man because he was Gay and that he wanted to "scare [him] to make him straight and to get him to stop acting the way he was." The statement goes on to quote from an interview given to police by the minor male in the case where the youth said he, York and Segura tied down the victim, placed a torn T-shirt over his face, dragged him to a deserted field and began beating him. The juvenile, according to the prosecutor's statement, told police that he egged on York by using Spanish homophobic slurs.

China Gays Rebuff Websites

BEIJING - The saying 'if you build it they will come' has been resoundingly debunked by China's immense Gay population, reported 365Gay.com. The government created two "official" posting forums Web sites to disseminate information on HIV/AIDS and allow Chinese Gays to communicate with one another in a society where homosexuality is largely shunned.

The sites were developed and are maintained by the Center for Disease Prevention and Control. But after two months in service there are only 37 postings. The reason, the government concedes, is the fear that the government will use the sites to monitor what they are saying. A spokesperson for the Center says it has taken steps to ensure the postings are untraceable - something most computer experts say is impossible to guarantee. The government says that the only postings that are forbidding are "adult" images and ads for prostitution.

Gays have reason to be concerned. Until only a few years ago homosexuality was listed by the government as a "disorder" and Gays continually feel official repression. In

June, at the same time the "official" sites were going online the government was closing down popular Gay Web sites. All of the sites were forums where people could post information. One of the sites, tzGay.ful.cn received 100,000 hits per day. It was frequently used by people to discuss coming out. Another of the closed sides, chinaGay.ful.cn, disseminated information on safe-sex. Since it opened last February it had about 400,000 hits until it was blocked.

In May, a man used the internet to organize Gay parties was arrested and last year police raided and closed Beijing's first Gay film festival and cultural event. It is estimated there are 48 million Gays in China. The government has been criticized in the West for lagging in HIV/AIDS education. The Joint UN Program on HIV/AIDS, or UNAIDS, has warned that up to 10 million people in China could be infected by 2010 without more aggressive prevention measures. A report issued in March by China's Ministry of Health showed that only about 30 percent of the country's college students have a full understanding of HIV/AIDS.

G/L AFL-CIO Group Slams NGLCC For Wal-Mart Deal

Continued from Page One

In an interview with PageOneQ, Nelson defended the alliance by saying it would help "LGBT businesses and entrepreneurs be a part of the largest supply chain in the United States."

Bishop countered the benefits of the alliance saying his organization would rather the Chamber "Encourage the NGLCC to demand that Wal-Mart create 'friendly' practices, of say, paying their employees above poverty line wages, offering affordable health care, and when that is done, they could think about offering domestic partner benefits and dealing with the

massive class action lawsuit facing them regarding gender discrimination," he added.

The National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce describes itself as "the largest LGBT business development and economic advocacy organization in the world." Their website is here.

Pride at Work, a constituency group of the AFL-CIO, mobilizes mutual support between the organized Labor Movement and the LGBT Community around organizing for social and economic justice.

Long-Sought Rights Law, Quietly Accepted

OLYMPIA, Washington - More than two months after new civil rights protections for Gay men and Lesbians went into effect, Washington state officials have spent more time answering questions than launching investigations, reported the Associated Press on the PlanetOut Network.

That's fine with Marc Brenman, director of the state Human Rights Commission, who sees a wide-ranging education effort as a crucial service during the law's early days. "We're not hearing any howls of dismay from anyone," he said Wednesday in Olympia. "Everybody seems to have accepted the new statute in a good spirit and a cooperative spirit."

State lawmakers passed the Gay civil rights bill in January after nearly 30 years of failed attempts by several longtime legislative sponsors. The law, which took effect in early June, added a sexual orientation component to previous state bans on discrimination in housing, employment, insurance, and credit.

The Human Rights Commission has power to investigate such complaints, and may help cases enter mediation or move them to the state attorney general for legal action. So far, investigators have opened fewer than 10 cases under the Gay civil rights law, Brenman said. He declined to give details, but offered a few examples: Complaints from workers and a tenant alleging harassment because of their sexual orientation, with one employee claiming to have quit because of the treatment. Difficulties at a health club, with a transsexual alleging a membership had been canceled.

Along with a few formal

investigations, officials have fielded dozens of simpler queries. "I think we've gotten the inquiries we've expected to get: 'There's a transsexual employee transitioning in the workplace; what bathroom should she use?'" Brenman said.

Opponents of the law suggested there was little practical need for its protections in liberal-leaning Washington state, and some critics see a lack of headline-grabbing complaints as fuel for that argument. Instead, the Gay rights law could ultimately be used to sue religious organizations and to help advance the cause of same-sex marriage, said Gary Randall, president of the conservative Faith and Freedom Network.

The civil rights law does not include any protections similar to marriage, a fact that helps highlight the rights Gay and Lesbian people still lack, said Josh Friedes, advocacy director of Equal Rights Washington. But he noted that the civil rights law actually may have hurt Gays in the state Supreme Court's recent decision upholding a same-sex marriage ban — the majority's decision cited this year's approval of the bill as proof that Gay men and Lesbians are not a powerless underclass.

That reasoning has puzzled many observers, including Friedes. But he said the civil rights law has still been immensely valuable for Gay men and Lesbians. "In a lot of ways, what we have finally been given is our First Amendment rights," he said. "Now that we can finally talk about our partners at work, talk about our children, now people can understand the problems that we face."



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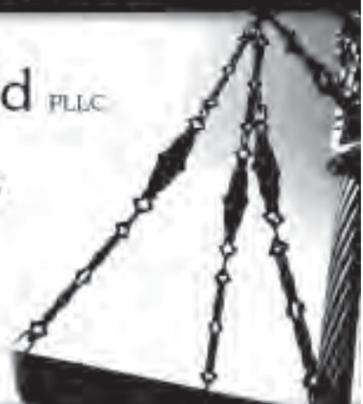
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Initiative Launched To Help Protect LGBT Foster Youth

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Two advocacy groups on Thursday (Aug. 17) announced a new initiative to help protect LGBT young people in child welfare systems across the country, reported 365Gay.com. Lambda Legal and the Child Welfare League of America hope a new publication will serve as a guide for helping the foster care systems to better meet the needs of Gay youth in their care.

Called "Out of the Margins" it is a compilation of the experiences of LGBTQ youth in care along with concrete solutions to end the problems they face in the foster care, juvenile justice, and homeless/transitional living systems. The information was gathered during 13 listening forums attended by over 500 people - including social workers, service providers, administrators, caregivers, and LGBT youth who are or were in care - from 22 states in 2003-2004.

"My foster family took away my clothes, called me a 'dyke,' and tried to remake me," said one teen quoted in the book. "When I was in foster care all my foster mom would do was taunt me," said another. A third teen quoted in the book said that after coming out to her foster family "I was told I was going to hell and forced to go to church with them. I became very closeted after that and didn't tell any other foster families I was a Lesbian. I was in 22 different homes; many of them were very religious." "It wasn't just the other kids at my group home who were calling me 'faggot.' It was the staff too. I had nowhere to turn for help," a boy told the authors.

It is impossible to know exactly how many LGBTQ youth are in care at any given time because the system is simply not a safe place for youth to be out Lambda Legal told 365Gay.com. "What is clear, however, is that LGBTQ youth are far more likely to experience abuse and neglect, including being thrown out, within their homes than their non-LGBTQ peers, leading to a disproportionate overrepresentation in the child welfare system," said Lambda spokesperson Jackie Yodashkin.

"Although we don't have good quantitative data on the exact numbers of these young people, there is a mountain of qualitative data showing that once in care, LGBTQ youth are re-victimized by the caregivers and professionals in their lives at alarming rates."

Earlier this year a youth corrections facility in Hawaii was ordered to improve conditions for

LGBT prisoners. In March a federal judge found that conditions at the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility are dangerous, that harassment is pervasive, and that the facility is "in a state of chaos."

In releasing "Out of the Margins" Lambda and the Child Welfare League said young LGBT people in foster care, corrections facilities and group homes face problems nationwide.

"We held listening forums in every region of the country and found that the needs of LGBTQ youth in care are by and large the same no matter where they live," said Rudy Estrada, Staff Attorney for Lambda Legal's Foster Care Project. "From large urban cities to small rural towns - not enough is being done to keep these young people safe."

This fall, the two groups will launch a free toolkit with a variety of handouts aimed at providing additional educational information specifically geared for the child welfare community, from foster parents, to LGBT youth in care, to social workers and beyond. In November, CWLA will host its annual Finding Better Ways Best Practices conference, and this year's will be entirely devoted to addressing the needs of LGBTQ youth and families involved with the country's foster care system. The conference, co-sponsored by Lambda, will take place in Nashville, TN.

"Out of the Margins" is available free of charge upon request or downloadable at lambdalegal.org or cwla.org.

California GOP Lawmakers Snub Gay Honorees

SACRAMENTO, California - Several California GOP lawmakers stormed off the Assembly floor in the state Capitol Monday (Aug. 14) during a ceremony to honor the achievements of six high-profile Gay Californians, Sacramento television station KXTV reported on advocate.com. The Legislature's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Caucus sponsored the first Pride Recognition Awards, a program members say is designed to recognize the accomplishments of people in various fields who happen to be Gay.

But approximately 10 Republicans either walked out or boycotted the event altogether. "Ladies and gentlemen, I rise to point out the ridiculousness of the exercise," said Assembly Republican leader George Plescia of San Diego. "We're wasting a lot of time; we have a lot of bills on the floor."

LGBT Characters All But Disappear From Network TV

LOS ANGELES - The number of LGBT characters on major network primetime shows continues to drop according to a study of the upcoming fall season, reported 365Gay.com. On returning shows there will be only three characters and one of them is deep in the closet.

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), the nation's LGBT media advocacy group, analyzed the 95 announced primetime comedies and dramas on the broadcast networks: ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, The CW and MyNetworkTV.

Out of a total 679 series regular lead or supporting characters, GLAAD counts only nine Gay or Lesbian characters - 1.3% - appearing on eight different scripted network programs.

There are an additional five semi-regular recurring characters announced for this year. There are currently no Bisexual or Transgender representations on any of the broadcast networks.

The exit of shows like NBC's Will & Grace, CBS' Out of Practice and ABC's Crumbs leaves many of the characterizations of Gays and Lesbians as minor or supporting players, said GLAAD President Neil G. Giuliano. In

addition, he noted, there is a lack of diversity among this season's characters, with seven out of nine representing Gay white men.

"In the last year, we've seen a tremendous amount of visibility on the big screen, reaching a large audience anxious to see our stories," said Giuliano. "The networks, though, are not tapping into this audience and are failing to represent the reality and diversity of their viewers and the world around them."

Teenager Andrew Van De Camp, played by Shawn Pyfrom, will be back on ABC's "Desperate Housewives". At NBC, Laura Innes reprises her role as Dr. Kerry Weaver on "ER" and Oscar Nunez is back as the closeted accountant Oscar on "The Office".

In new network shows CBS has one of the few Gay characters in a major recurring role: Kyle played by Sean Maguire, in "The Class".

ABC's "Brothers & Sisters" features a Gay man as a supporting character. The network also has a closeted Gay character in "Help Me Help You". MyNetworkTV's "Fashion House" has two Gay supporting characters."

It is a slightly better picture on so-called reality TV and on cable.

On the mainstream cable networks, GLAAD counts 25 LGBT series regular characters that will appear during the 2006-07 season, the same number as last year. Cable networks here! and Logo provide additional programming specifically for an LGBT audience. GLAAD has been monitoring the number and use of LGBT characters on television over the past 11 years. For the second year in a row, it also has examined race and gender, in addition to the sexual orientation.

In the 2006-07 season report it sound that ABC ranks highest in overall diversity while Fox ranks lowest.

"When you look at primetime's dismal lack of LGBT characters - combined with the continuing underrepresentation of people of color, Gay and straight alike - it's clear that the broadcast networks have a long way to go before they accurately reflect the diversity of their audience and our society," said Giuliano.

None of the networks has commented on the report.



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Navratilova To Get U.S. Open Lifetime Honor



Martina Navratilova said goodbye to Canada in winning style. The tennis legend and 24-year-old partner Nadia Petrova downed Cara Black and Anna-Lena Groenefeld 6-1, 6-2 on Monday (Aug. 21) in the doubles final of the \$1.34-million U.S. Rogers Cup In Montreal

NEW YORK - Martina Navratilova's retirement sendoff will include induction into the U.S. Open Court of Champions, reported the PlanetOut Network. She'll be inducted along with the late Don Budge, a two-time winner, in ceremonies at Arthur Ashe Stadium on Sept. 10 before the men's final. Navratilova, 49, announced this summer that she will retire again after the U.S. Open.

spend with my one and only. It takes away from my private life and is not enhancing it. "I love to play, but it's time to get on with my life."

Navratilova plans to play singles during the second week of the U.S. Open in the newly created Champions Invitational, which features players who were Grand Slam champions or finalists. But she said it depends on her cranky knees and how far she advances in doubles and mixed doubles in New York.

Last year, she reached the doubles semifinals of the U.S. Open with Anna-Lena Groenefeld. "I injured my good knee while I was rehabbing my bad one," she said. "I can't really run very well; it's not 100 percent. But I hope to play singles; it's getting better."

Navratilova has been busy endorsing the Visa Rainbow Card, promoting her new book, "Shape Your Self" and recently attended the Outgames in Montreal. "It's a full-time job," Navratilova said of the Rainbow Card, which returns money to the Gay community. "I think it's a great way for the Gay and lesbian community to get together and harness our economic power. Become more vocal about our rights."

Navratilova, who lives in Sarasota, Fla., would like to have her own tennis academy someday. "I'd like to see a slightly different breed of tennis player," Navratilova said. "A more complete human being. There are great hitters, but not great tennis players."

She'll join previous Court of Champion inductees Jimmy Connors, Margaret Court, Chris Evert, Steffi Graf, Billie Jean King, Jack Kramer, Rod Laver, Ivan Lendl, John McEnroe and Bill Tilden, who have a total of 231 Grand Slam titles. "It's excellent company," Navratilova said in a phone. She originally retired in 1994 with a record 167 singles titles, having spent 331 weeks ranked No. 1. Navratilova has specialized in doubles since her return in 2000, looking to add to her 58 Grand Slam titles.

Among her 15 U.S. Open titles, Navratilova won consecutive singles championships in 1983-84 and 1986-87. She'll play doubles with No. 6-ranked Nadia Petrova and mixed doubles with Bob Bryan, part of the top-ranked men's doubles team, at the U.S. Open that starts Aug. 28. "I've got some very good partners; I need to step up to the plate," Navratilova said.

She said her busy tennis schedule is leaving less time for other interests. "I need three of me," Navratilova said, laughing. "I have too many things going on business-wise. But most of all, my personal life is affected. There's not as much time to

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POLITICS 2006

by Mark R. Kerr

**To Those Poor, Threatened
Straight 'Married' Couples**

To those poor, oppressed, threatened straight 'married' couples that consist of a man and a woman, under Arizona law (A.R.S 25-101 and A.R.S 25-112), some questions:

As a "married" couple, have you been denied a bank loan to purchase a house, condominium, apartment, mobile home, R.V., trailer, etc., because of your relationship?

Is it problematic or impossible to get health, life, dental insurance for your spouse because of your "marriage?"

Can you not live under the same roof because of local, county, state and federal laws or due to the prejudice of a landlord, if you have to rent a place to call home?

Every year, on April 15, the nation's taxpayers file their respective 1040's, or requests for extensions. When that time comes, do you have to pay a higher tax rate because of your relationship and the subsequent deductions allowed to be taken under federal and state law given to your ability to file a joint tax return?

When that time comes, American citizens will retire and collect a pension, one part of which will be the Social Security benefits they've contributed to during their working career. Under the federal laws that the Social Security Administration, have you been denied benefits, such as for the surviving "spouse," or have them drastically reduced because you fell in love and got hitched after a certain age, all because you are "married?"

A Power of Attorney is defined as a legal instrument that is used to delegate legal authority to another for which the person who signs (executes) a Power of Attorney is called the Principal. This document gives legal authority to another person (called an Agent or Attorney-in-Fact) to make property, financial and other legal decisions for the Principal. Is it almost impossible, to have a Power of Attorney drawn up and recognized because of your "marital status?"

Laws dealing with domestic violence, child support or visitation of children, citing three that are on the respective books, not apply to you or your "married" spouse?

Have you ever been denied discounted rates for governmental facilities, such as parks and recreation, or programs offered because of your relationship as "man and wife?"

According to a 2004 Governmental Accountability Office report, there is 1,138 laws, regulations, rights and benefits given under the respective laws (federal, state or otherwise). Are you denied these rights and benefits, too numerous to list, because of your "marriage?" Does your offspring not receive the full-entitlements stated under the laws because of your "marriage?"

On the topics of adoption or becoming a foster parent, due to your "married" relationship, is it almost impossible or can you not adopt a child or open your home to children residing in a state children's programs?

Health inevitably plays a major part in one's life. Have you not

been told about the medical condition of your "married" spouse, not played a part in the medical decision making process or been denied hospital visitation rights to your "married" spouse for the reason of being "husband and wife?"

Death will eventually come into play to "bring down the curtain," on one's life. An important, legal document every individual must have drawn up, is a "last will in testament," dealing with finances and possessions. With that, can you not get a "last will in testament" drawn up, or hasn't been held up in court, because of your "marriage" as well as having your "spouse's" family taken all the possessions obtained during the "wedlock," even with a will drawn up, denying you everything due to the relationship of being "man and wife?"

If any of above written has been the case, please send me an E-mail at mrkerr@tucsonobserver.com, that lists your name, home (a snail mail address), a verifiable phone number (I will be calling to confirm), verifiable documentation showing that you are "married," and the case, incident or otherwise of the discrimination because you are "husband and wife."

**Saudis
Reportedly
Arrest 20 At
'Gay Wedding'**

LONDON - Saudi police are reported to have arrested 20 men at what officials say was a "Gay wedding" in the town of Jizan, reported 365Gay.com. The arrests were reported in the Al Watan newspaper. International human rights groups are attempting to confirm the report.

According to Al Watan 400 men were attending the event - some dressed as women. Police detained 250 people, later releasing all but 20 of them the paper reports. It also says that some of those arrested were using the drug khat.

Getting precise information out of Saudi Arabia is often a difficult procedure and accusations of homosexuality are frequently used to round up opponents of the government. Shari'a law, as interpreted and enforced in Saudi Arabia, allows sentences ranging from imprisonment and flogging to death for "deviant sexual behavior." In the past several years there have been a number of reported mass arrests at "Gay weddings" in various parts of the country, but little official information has been released on the outcomes of trials.

In April, 2005, 35 men were sentenced by a Saudi court to be flogged after they attended what has been described as a "Gay wedding". Whether the sentence was ever carried out is unknown. A month earlier a Gay couple was beaded in a public execution in the northern town of Arar, near the Iraq border. The pair had been convicted of killing a blackmailer. If they had been exposed as Gay they could have been executed anyway. In 2004 Saudi police raided another event described as a Gay wedding party for two African men from Chad at a hotel in the holy city of Medina. About 50 people were arrested.

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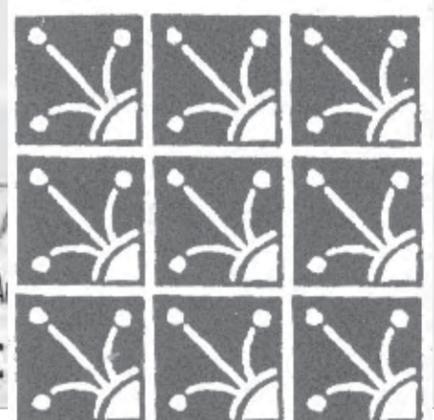


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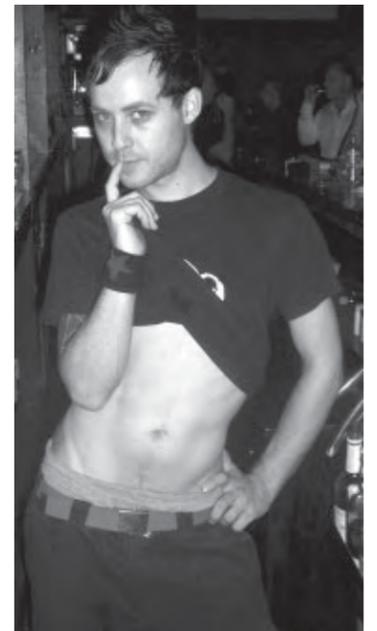


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Friends and Lovers



COMMENTARY . . . by Deb Price

Uncle Sam Gives Pension Break To 'Rest Of Us'

Designated beneficiary. Even abbreviated – DB – the term doesn't sound romantic. But for Gay couples, embracing the term has suddenly become one of the most loving things we can do. The rules governing 401(k) retirement plans are changing so that having designated a beneficiary carries huge financial advantages in the event of the plan holder's death or the illness of the DB.

So, if you're among the up to 50 percent of workers with 401(k) plans who've never filled out a DB form, Uncle Sam is giving you a big new incentive to quit stalling. The Pension Protection Act of 2006, signed by President Bush on Aug. 17, eases some of the tax discrimination those of us who are Gay face because our relationships aren't recognized under federal law.

But the incentive to designate a 401(k) beneficiary also just grew if you'd like to list a heterosexual partner, a relative or a friend because your DB will be able to inherit your savings without suffering a huge, immediate tax bite, and you can dip into your nest egg to help them in a qualified medical or financial emergency.

"This is a huge victory For Gay couples and all Americans with non-spouse beneficiaries, death and taxes weren't only certain but also times of great and unequal financial difficulty," says Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign, which spent four years working with key Republican and Democratic allies for the breakthrough. (HRC will host an online Q&A with a financial expert at 2 p.m. on Aug. 24 at hrc.org. Send questions in advance to pension@hrc.org.)

Married heterosexuals continue to get a huge special tax break: A surviving spouse can avoid paying any taxes on an inherited 401(k) until age 70.5.

Until now, anyone else who inherited a 401(k) had to pay taxes on the entire amount immediately. While the new law still gives married heterosexuals by far the most favorable treatment, it allows the rest of us to inherit a 401(k) as a DB and roll the money into a special individual retirement account (IRA).

We will then have two options: Drawing the inherited IRA down over five years, allowing the money to grow a bit and spreading out the tax hit. Or, opting to take out at least a certain percentage of the IRA as determined by government formula each year for the rest of our lives.

HRC provides this illustration: Amy earns \$30,000 a year. Her partner Sandy has \$162,000 in a 401(k) plan for their retirement and dies suddenly. Under the old rules, Amy had to take the money in one lump sum, bumping her into a 33 percent marginal tax bracket instead of her usual 15 percent bracket. Amy's federal tax bill zoomed from \$2,980 to \$49,360. Now, Amy could spread out the tax liability and allow the investment to grow.

Similarly, under the new rules, the rest of us can dip into our 401(k)s to help our DB. A worker will be able, for example, to use 401(k) funds to pay her sister's chemotherapy bills if the sister is her DB. Previously, a hardship withdrawal had to be for oneself, a heterosexual spouse, a child or a dependent.

The rest of us save for retirement – just like married heterosexuals. And the new pension law is a good first step toward ensuring that all Americans are offered equal tax incentives to be financially responsible.

[Deb Price is a columnist for the Detroit News from which this article is reprinted from their Aug. 21 edition.]

Criminal Probe Launched Into Failed Cincinnati Anti-LGBT Referendum

CINCINNATI, Ohio - A criminal investigation has begun into allegations of election fraud in connection with the collection of signatures on a referendum to repeal Cincinnati's LGBT rights ordinance, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. The probe was launched by the Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office.

Equal Rights Not Special Rights had collected thousands of names on petitions to have a repeal measure put to voters in November. But Tuesday (Aug. 15) when it emerged that many of the signatures were fake the group voluntarily withdrew the measure. More than 7,600 signatures that were validated by the Hamilton County Board of Elections last June but the phony names were discovered only during a second check before a challenge was to begin before the Board of Elections.

The challenge was filed by Citizens To Restore Fairness, a group formed to fight the referendum. Among the phony signatures were "Fidel Castro" and Cincinnati Reds owner "Bob Castellini." Citizens To Restore Fairness in seeking the challenge alleged that Equal Rights Not Special

Rights was systematic in its use of fraud and tampering of petitions to push the issue onto the fall ballot.

The Board of Elections was canceled when Prosecutor Joe Deters started his investigation.

City Council passed the ordinance in March adding Gays, Lesbians, and the Transgender ed to Cincinnati's human rights law covering employment and housing. The move followed a vote in 2004 repealing a restriction in the city charter that blocked Cincinnati from passing any LGBT rights laws. The charter had been amended 14 years ago after a similar Gay rights law was passed. Equal Rights Not Special Rights, which had orchestrated that amendment, immediately set out in March to overturn the new ordinance.



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GRAHAM - 306	Mindfulness 101		Sex Dream Interpretation*	BDSM: From Hot Sex To The Divine*	
GREENLEE- 307	Compliance Of HIV Meds	Hepatitis C	Ending FDA'S Ban On Gays Donating Blood	Roundtable: Future of Gay Men's Health	
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Lesbian Gang Attacks And Stabs Man In New York City

NEWARK, New Jersey - A group of lesbians attacked and stabbed a straight man in downtown New York City early Friday morning (Aug. 18) after the man apparently came on to one of the women. Wayne Buckle, 28, was allegedly whipped by belts and then stabbed with a steak knife by Patreese Johnson in retaliation for the unwanted advance, the New York Daily News reports on advocate.com.

one of the women yelled "She's my girl, and no one hits on my girl!" during the incident. Later, at the police station house, where the seven suspects were charged with gang assault and criminal possession of a weapon, another woman told the Daily News that Buckle "called us [homophobic slur] and he said he was going to f- us all." Said another: "He spit on us and threw a cigarette. This is a hate crime."

According to a police source,

Buckle was recovering at a local hospital in critical but stable condition.

Amazon Would Like To Know If You're LGBT

SEATTLE - As privacy issues continue to concern nearly everyone, Gay and Lesbian consumers in particular may be curious to know that the net's largest retailer, Amazon.com, would like to know more about you, reported gfn.com. In a recent report, the Seattle Post Intelligencer revealed Amazon is developing a system to gather and keep massive amounts of intimate information about its millions of shoppers, including their sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity and income.

Patty Smith told the paper.

Amazon's pending patent details how it could compile data from customers to create a profile of products that a person might want to buy. Such a database would include the gender, date of birth, interests, occupation, education, income level, residence, race and ethnicity of customers for Amazon's "gift clustering" program. "Even if a customer does not know demographic information or interests of a possible recipient, the system may be able to access such information from a user profile for the recipient, from past ordering patterns of the recipient, or from publicly accessible databases," the patent application said.

The 59 million active consumers who regularly shop Amazon already know the Web site suggests items to buy for returning customers based on previous purchases. Right now, customers willingly disclose some personal information on the site to create a "wish list" of desired products, and it is, in part, this type of feature that the new patent may be designed to protect.

Smith said Amazon has "no current plans" to implement such a system. "Not every company uses a patent it has in its name, but it may have a patent in portfolio," Smith said. "Who knows 10 years down the road or five years down the road? It might be good to implement. We want to protect our intellectual property."

The new program emerged in a detailed patent application with the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, disclosed last Thursday (Aug. 17). The Seattle-based company, however, said it has no immediate plan to implement such a program, and was quick to issue statements assuring customers that their information would be kept private. "Amazon is always careful how it uses customer data so the customer experience will be as good as it can be," Amazon.com spokeswoman

The patent disclosure comes at a time of heightened concerns over online security and a fresh reports of security breaches. AOL recently published a list of more than 650,000 user queries that revealed names, addresses and Social Security numbers, and the company apologized and removed the data. It is unknown how many copies of the sensitive information were made.

LGBT Activists Jailed For Protesting 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

NEW YORK - While staging a peaceful protest against the military's discriminatory recruiting practices, 11 young queer activists were arrested in separate incidents in Philadelphia and Minneapolis, reported advocate.com.

Serve plans on protesting in additional cities, including New York City, Austin, Chicago, and Oklahoma City. "Each city will be a little different," said Right to Serve codirector Jake Reitan. "This is an experiment in figuring out what happens when openly Gay people test the system."

The activists were part of the Souforce group—and Souforce's Right to Serve military equality program—which seeks LGBT equality through nonviolent resistance. Earlier in the summer the activists had attempted to enlist at National Guard centers but were rebuffed when they announced they were Gay. This week the activists returned to those recruitment centers and staged a sit-in. The Souforce protesters were joined by supporters, including straight allies and clergy. The potential enlistees were eventually jailed by local police.

The activists are fighting the 13-year-old federal "don't ask, don't tell" policy, which bars openly Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual people from serving in the armed forces. Right to

Douglas J. Newman, P.C.

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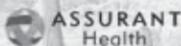


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Police Say Christian Coalition Leader Admits Molesting Girls

GRESHAM, Oregon - The longtime leader of the Oregon Christian Coalition and staunch opponent of Gay rights admits in a newly released police report that he sexually touched three underage girls years ago, despite denials of such behavior to a newspaper, reported the PlanetOut Network.

Lou Beres denied sexual-molestation allegations when the Oregonian newspaper first reported them in October. But a Gresham (Ore.) Police Department report released as part of a lawsuit said Beres "readily admitted sexually touching" one girl when she was 13 or 14 years old. Beres also acknowledged sexually touching a 16- or 17-year-old friend of his daughter in 1976 or 1977. Last fall, Beres said he would withdraw from public life while he fought the allegations. However, records show that he signed a \$50 check on the Oregon Christian Coalition checking account to renew the group's business registration with the state.

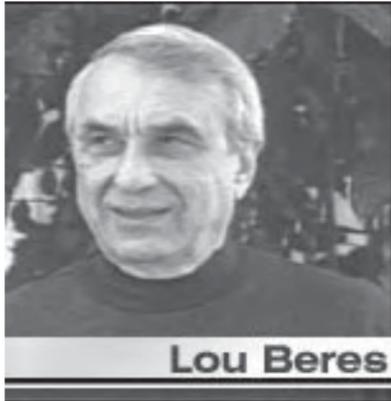
In March, Beres, 70, was sued in Multnomah County circuit court for \$2.1 million by a relative who said he molested her repeatedly between 1963 and 1966. Gresham police last fall investigated the allegations that Beres had molested underage family members. But Multnomah County District Attorney Michael Shrunck said the statute of limitations would prohibit any criminal charges because the allegations occurred so long ago.

The Oregonian said Beres did not return a phone call. His attorney, John Kaempf, told the newspaper the statements attributed to Beres by the police were not accurate. Beres told police that he had received counseling through his church and admitted his mistakes years ago, according to the Gresham police report. However, other relatives expressed concern to police that the abuse continued for several years through more than one generation of the family, according to the report.

In a telephone call with an investigator, Beres "made admissions to three separate victims at three different times," the police report said. "All involved underage females. The offenses ranged from kissing to touching the breast of an underage girl. Beres identified the victims as his sister-in-law and two friends of his daughters, said one of the investigators, according to Det. Lee Gosson of the Multnomah County Sheriff's Department. "It should be noted that Mr. Beres said his activities with the girls were in a playful fashion," Gosson said. "I told him that the acts were sexual, and he agreed."

Kaempf said that in addition to disputing the statements in the police report, Beres also denied the allegations in the lawsuit. A hearing is scheduled next month on a motion by Kaempf to dismiss the lawsuit. When asked about Beres's relationship with the Oregon Christian Coalition, Kaempf said Beres would ask the coalition to "file the necessary paperwork with the state to formalize Mr. Beres's resignation as its chairman."

Michele Combs, spokeswoman for the national office of the Christian Coalition, told The Oregonian that she would check on Beres' status with the group but failed to provide an answer and could not be reached by subsequent phone calls. The Oregon Christian Coalition shut its office last year and does not appear to have any paid staff. Tim Nashif of the anti-Gay Oregon Family Council said the



Lou Beres

coalition is "not doing anything" in the state as far as he can see. Nashif noted that Beres, once active in Republican politics, got almost no support when he tried to win a seat on the Republican National Committee.

Georgia Tech Ends Gay Hate-Speech Ban

ATLANTA - Following a lawsuit brought by social conservatives, Georgia Tech University agreed to remove parts of a speech code prohibiting students in on-campus housing from verbally injuring Gay and Lesbian classmates, among others, reported 365Gay.com. A U.S. District Court judge ordered the school to abide by the decision, which it made after being sued, with the help of a Christian law firm, by two students who claimed their right to free speech was being undermined by the code, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reports.

"Tech students now won't

TORONTO - HIV prevalence is set to skyrocket among Gay men in the Western world as they age, a University of Pittsburgh researcher said Thursday at the international AIDS conference in Toronto, advocate.com reported.

The Pittsburgh study, a review of papers published in journals, indicates that the number of new cases of HIV has been rising by about 1.9 percent each year since 2001, meaning that as Gay men as a group get older, more and more of them will become HIV-positive, Agence-France Presse reported. "Ongoing incidence rates at this level will yield very high HIV prevalence rates within each generation of Gay men," University of Pittsburgh researcher Ron Stall told AFP. Although only one in 12 Gay men age 20 was HIV-positive in

have to enter a zone of censorship when they walk on campus," David French, a lawyer for the Alliance Defense Fund, which has aided similar lawsuits around the country, told the paper. "They now have the same rights as every Georgian." The court order means the speech code is now under judicial supervision. If Georgia Tech wants to amend it in the next five years, it has to go back to court. The changes affect the on-campus housing speech code specifically and not the overall code of conduct governing students' behavior in general, Georgia Tech officials say, according to the Journal-Constitution.

Students Ruth Malhotra, a

Continued on Page Seventeen

Study Warns Of Skyrocketing HIV Rate

North America and Europe in 2001, Stall and other researchers project that the rate could rise to one in four by the time they turn 30. At age 60, the projections suggest that 58 percent of the men could be infected.

The numbers are more dire for Gay men of color. Four percent of them between the ages of 15 and 22 are currently infected, while 15 percent between the ages of 23 and 29 are infected. At an average 4 percent annual rate of increase in new infections, three-quarters of black Gay men who are now 23-29 will be HIV-positive by the time they are 50.

"It's not a new story; it has been repeated time and again in the literature in the past . . . an almost unbelievable incidence rate," Stall said to AFP. "African-American men who have sex with men suffer among the highest HIV prevalence rates of any risk group in the world." The report's findings only underscore the need for better ways of preventing HIV infection, instead of just treating its effects.

"HIV is still an incurable disease," Ronald Valdiserri, deputy director of the National Center for HIV at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, told AFP. "In the United States, 5 percent (of the budget for HIV) is spent on prevention." He added: "America is more interested on treating this disease than preventing it. We can't treat our way out of this epidemic, even as a rich country."

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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

Oh, Israel!

by Lee Thorn

Ever since 1967 I've been watching Israel defend herself with a combination of military muscularity and intelligence that often bordered on elegance. So now what happened? If the American adventure in Iraq is a fiasco, the latest Israeli war is a fiasco on steroids. Have they started taking their military advice from Don Rumsfeld?

Let's review: Israel gets attack by Hezbollah, "the party of God" - move over you Republicans, and virtually the entire world takes the view that Israel has the right to defend herself. Even people who don't like Israel say, "You go, girl. Do what you have to do."

So what does Israel do? First she declares the military objective, the very reasonable military objective, of degrading Hezbollah's capacity for firing missiles into Israel. But then, unbelievably, she proceeds to bombard southern Lebanon for three weeks, killing hundreds of civilians, turning world opinion against her, and not degrading Hezbollah's capacity for firing missiles into Israel one iota! In fact they are firing more, not less, into Israel at the end of the three weeks of slaughter.

With the military disaster complete, the Israeli politicians embark on a disastrous spin campaign. Maybe we didn't exactly degrade their capacity to fire missiles into Israel, but we really hurt them. That's like Bush saying we're winning the war in Iraq because they held an election there. The problem with the Israeli attempt to save face is that "hurting them" is too vague to be measured. What does it really mean? Did Israel succeed in offending Hezbollah sensibilities? On the other hand, degrading missile firing capacity, the originally announced intention of Israel, is the opposite of vague: you simply add up the missiles fired per day before the attempted degradation and add up the missiles fired per day after the attempted degradation. If the second sum isn't smaller than the first sum, you end up whistling Dixie with a largish portion of egg on your face. And if you've killed a thousand civilians in the process, that's not good.

Israel had a political window of opportunity to flood Lebanon with boots on the ground and seriously cripple Hezbollah. It would have cost them heavily in casualties, but it would also have degraded Hezbollah's capacities. Instead they chose indiscriminate and ineffective slaughter. That left Hezbollah in tact and Israel probably in the lowest world esteem it's ever experienced.

What were the Israeli politicians thinking? Maybe they were thinking that the Israeli electorate wouldn't tolerate a short war with high casualties. If that's true, it does not bode well for the long-term survival of that nation.

Maybe they were thinking that a UN force would come into southern Lebanon and keep Hezbollah from renewing the attack. For that to happen the UN force would need much more robust rules of engagement than such forces have had in past decades. In fact, several days into this cease fire the rules on engagement as well as the national composition of the proposed UN force are still being debated. In other words, in the unlikely event that the UN eventually comes up with a force

that is actually able to protect Israel from Hezbollah, that odd happenstance will be an outcome that cannot be credited to the foresight of Israeli politicians. It will be pure quirky unaccountable dumb luck.

Maybe they were thinking that bombing the hell out of Lebanese civilians would make those civilians quit supporting Hezbollah. Please, somebody tell me that they weren't thinking that. Even poor benighted Rummy couldn't have told them that. Remember what Hitler thought that bombing London would do to British resolve?

As long as I'm picking on Israeli politicians, how in the world did they decide to allow the Hezbollah buildup in southern Lebanon get to the staggering point that it got to? Were they simply snoozing? Had they adopted a hopeful view of the world?

The war and its aftermath of uncertainty has "redo" written all over it. I look for round two within three years, but then I'm an incurable optimist. Unfortunately, the hundreds of civilians who died pointlessly don't get to jump up and dust themselves off as they say, "It was all a big mistake."

[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.]

School Offers LGBT Counseling Degree

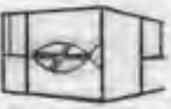
LOS ANGELES - Thanks to a revolutionary masters degree program, LGBT issues are reshaping the foundation of higher education at Antioch University Los Angeles., reported advocate.com. The 17-unit emphasis is the country's first LGBT specialization within a Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology program, organizers said.

Offered this fall, the core curriculum features five courses including "LGBT History and Mythology" and "Issues for Gender Variant Clients." Workshops on Bisexuality, Lesbian liberation, addiction recovery, youth, aging, and ancient shamanism are scheduled as well. The specialization's director, Douglas Sadownick, hails the curriculum as an LGBT milestone on both a collective and an individual level.

"The program is devoted to bringing LGBT-affirmative theory and practice to students of psychology who want to strengthen their LGBT identities and in working towards social justice wish to help further Gay and Lesbian empowerment, dignity, self-esteem, and healing in their Gay and Lesbian clientele," Sadownick said.

Charley Lang, an accomplished Antioch instructor who will teach a course in "LGBT Affirmative Psychotherapy," highlights the need for such a program. "Feelings of marginalization and fear (among LGBT people) are not the result of personal failings. Such feelings are the gender system itself at work. I see Antioch's new program as a courageous and essential step in this response process," Lang said.

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Georgia Tech
Continued from Page Sixteen

conservative Christian, and Orit Sklar, president of the Jewish student organization Hillel, filed suit this year claiming the speech code compromised their ability to espouse their anti-Gay and anti-feminist views, among other unpopular opinions. They complained that Georgia Tech, a public university, did not fund political or religious activities by students while allowing a

Gay group to operate on campus. A similar lawsuit recently forced Penn State University to alter its own speech code.



Non Bar Calendar

Wednesday, August 23

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

#2 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Triangle Tribe-A Men's Circle According to a recent study, very few people have as many close friends as they would like. Are you as connected with other men as you want to be? Do you get the support you need for issues in your life? Do you wish you had more meaningful friendships and relationships with other men? Join like-minded men at Wingspan to share feelings, thoughts and ideas in a safe, respectful space. For the same experience with both straight and gay men, join us at the regular Circle of Men meetings. Call Tom at 591-2828 for dates and times.

Thursday, August 24

#1 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: Noon Lead a Lunch Life for \$6.95 with Merlin and Lee at India Oven on Campbell Avenue. Did you call no later than last Monday? You should have! "I went to this restaurant that was set up like a big buffet in the shape of a Ouija board. You'd think about the kind of food you want, and the table would move across the floor to it." -Steven Wright

#2 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 food, WIFI energy, and safe social intercourse. Just show up to join in this no host cavalcade of queer conversation.

#3 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Play Bridge hosted this evening by Karol at 744-9017. Bridge nights are generally featured on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, but please check the calendar and phone the host to confirm date, time, location, and emcee. Lay your cards on the table for a "whist" full evening of Bridge! And remember: Bridge is like sex: if you don't have a good partner, you'd better have a good hand!

Friday, August 25

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00 p.m. Merlin and Lee host 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 Lee and Merlin at 207-5336. 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, August 26

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!

Sunday, August 27

Men'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, e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com by the Event Sunday at Noon to facilitate reservations. There is nothing like a buffet with men to find everything you have been craving!

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

Monday, August 28

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Newsletter and Movie Night! Once a month, the men of MSN get together to help get their newsletter in the mail. Requiring very little effort, this is a great way of socializing, and also a great way to find out all the dirt for next month's Calendar a whole 3 days earlier than the average MSN member. The movie shown after the newsletter is put to bed for this month is the 2000 Flick "Lost In The Pershing Point Hotel". Leslie Jordan (who played 'Brotherboy' in Sordid Lives) writes and stars in this film set in 1970's Atlanta. Arlan is hosting this event, and you can contact him at 323-7414 for info and directions.

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

Tuesday, August 29

#1 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:30p.m. Cheap Movie Night at The Crossroads Movie Theatres at Grant and Swan. We will vote on the movie to see and see it together. If there are dissenting votes, at least we will be in the same building together. For more than competent info, contact MSN'S and Southern Arizona's Premier Cheap Movie Expert: Danny at 349-5295.

#2 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. A Circle Of Men by Tom Saylor-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, August 30

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

Thursday, August 31

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

Friday, September 1

Tucson Prime Timers Cocktails - 5:30-7:00, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Sunday, September 3

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

Monday, September 4.

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

Friday, September 8.

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

Saturday, September 9

Tucson Prime Timers Business Meeting - 11:00 a.m., Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St.

Sunday, September 10

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

The original Men's Massage Group is a great way to meet men and have clean, safe, erotic fun. 4-6 p.m. give and receive non-professional massage for fun and relaxation. Call Marc in advance at 881-4582 for information and to sign up in advance. This group has been attended by men all over Arizona for 15 years. Small fee.

Monday, September 11.

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

Friday, September 15.

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

Sunday, September 17

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

Monday, September 18.

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

Colorado GOP In Damage Control After 'Gay Marriage Like Bestiality' Remark

DENVER - Just a day after Republican gubernatorial candidate Bob Beauprez announced his running mate would be Mesa County commissioner Janet Rowland the ticket is in "deep damage control" after Democrats released a transcript of a March TV interview in which Rowland compared same-sex marriage to bestiality, reported 365Gay.com. Appearing Mar. 17 on the PBS program "Colorado State of Mind," Rowland said homosexuality is an alternative lifestyle. "For some people, the alternative lifestyle is bestiality," she went on to say. "Do we allow a man to marry a sheep?"

She claimed in the interview not to be homophobic. "I have friends who are Gay, I've worked with people who are Gay, I have utmost respect for them," she said. But, she added, on the subject of marriage Gays and Lesbians should not be permitted to wed. "Some people have group sex," said said on the program. "Should we allow two men and three women to marry? Should we allow polygamy, with one man and five wives?"

Democrats say the interview shows the GOP ticket is too extreme for the state. The Democratic party choice for governor, Bill Ritter, demanded Beauprez drop Rowland. "This shows just how far to the right and out-of-touch the Beauprez-Rowland ticket really is," Ritter campaign manager Greg Kolomitz told the Associated Press. Kolomitz called Rowland's remarks "insensitive, close-minded, derogatory and crude" and demanded an apology. Over at the Beauprez camp, campaign manager John Marshall said Rowland had informed the GOP candidate about the interview before she was selected as his running mate. "We all say things we don't mean sometimes," Marshall said. "That's what happened."

It is not the first time the issue of bestiality has been brought up by Colorado Republicans. Last year at a press conference promoting a proposed amendment to ban same-sex marriage state Rep. Jim Welker (R-Loveland) also raised the comparison, calling the marriage issue "a line in the sand". "A year and a half ago a lady in India married her dog," Welker said, referring to the marriage of a 9-year-old girl who married a stray dog in 2003 as part of a ritual to ward off an evil spell.

Republican political analyst Katy Atkinson of Denver said it's difficult to measure what impact Rowland's comments will have on the race. She said it depends partly on whether key swing voters view Rowland's views as extreme. "Coloradans tend to not like or vote for anybody who is an extremist," she said. "If that comment is used to portray her and Bob Beauprez as extremist, that's a problem."

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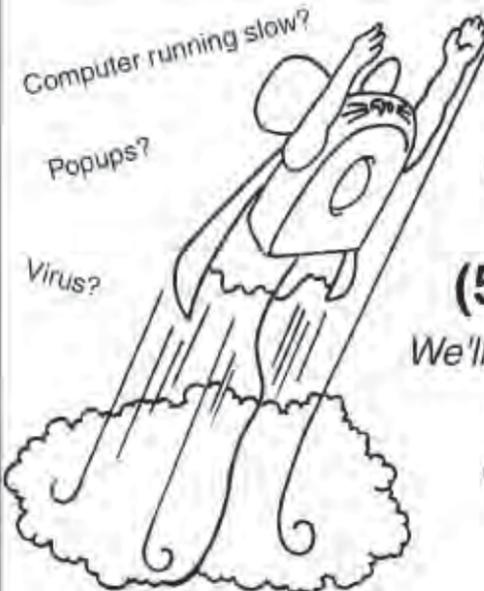
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There is something almost magical about the Sun's move into Virgo now. Perhaps it's because it rubs manic Mars and opposes volcanic Uranus. Our hopes and dreams can take off into the stratosphere.. or go off in an entirely different direction. Err better pack a map and leave a trail of breadcrumbs, kids.

ARIES (MAR. 21 - APR. 20)
If you think that the job will just bring another few weeks of the boring hum drum, you might want to pack drumsticks in your briefcase. Not only will you find yourself charging forward, sticks flying, you can also make a racket doing so. Proud Rams are at their pioneering best when the Sun pushes into Virgo. Go Out with a bang. Or with several, ahem.

TAURUS (APR. 21 - MAY 21)
Friends build the fun to a frenzy as Sun enters Virgo. Anything you do is taken to the Outer limits, goes overboard and becomes unmanageable. But you gain more through moderation. So what can a queer Bull do to tone it down without it flatlining the festivities? Put your creativity to the test and back it up with a gust of common sense. Don't make it a stale wind.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
Instead of blindly pursuing the corporate dream, turn your attentions to your homelife. Pink Twins can be charmed by the superficials and various dangling carrots - wealth, recognition, status. Alas, can your domestic sphere ever compete? Certainly! Remember that there are certain expensive trinkets that cannot be bartered or bought. Uh, no names please.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
Gay Crabs are as subtle as an anvil and now, Sun in Virgo pushes it off the roof. Got a few things on your mind? Say it, proud and queer, and the earth moves. That's fabulous if what you ask for is what you really want, but expect a pain in the patoot if you're just poking around. Mere thoughts can now transform a pebble of an idea into Mt. Everest. Get ready to climb, cousin.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)
Proud Lions are not thrifty souls. They like to enjoy life to it's full lusty (and expensive) extent. Well, Sun in Virgo now makes even tiny financial transactions hit the jackpot. A seed grows into a sequoia if you do your homework and ask advice. Put all this new found dough to good use. You don't mind being loved for your money, do you? Thought not.

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)
Sun in Virgo makes you a hot social commodity. Queer Virgins find that even their idle chit chat shakes the rafters. Even your appearance can be affected. All eyes are upon you as you make a strong fashion statement. Is "cheap and tawdry" the look you're looking for, charmer? Be careful not to make partners jealous or worse, embarrassed.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)
Avoid gazing into any crystal ball this week. That's because Gay Libras begin to feel lost, alone and unappreciated, especially at work. All you'll see are storm clouds and haze. Of course it's all in your head, but you may do some stupid little thing that causes less understanding folks to undermine your efforts. My advice; find a calm and quiet retreat and chill out.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)
Who is running this circus? Who's in charge? Sun in Virgo shines a light on friendships, social groups and mass movements. You ache to belong, proud Scorp. But does the group dynamic speak for you or are you just mouthing the words to get along? Reevaluate your social circle and either dance to their tune or seek a group that has a better music sense.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)
What do you want to be when you grow up besides retired? Gay Archers feel the need to review professional plans and personal goals and get them in sync. Although you ache to puts thought into action and set your course full speed ahead, hold off and wait. The landscape is shifting and you need to know where you want to be before you get going. Strive to be on top.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)
Sun in Virgo pushes you out into the world in a big way. Pink Caps are unstoppable and can seek knowledge and explore new vistas now. Your mind is open, expansive and moist with yearning to be learning. Don't let it dry up, cousin! But keep your best formed thoughts to yourself for the time being; "Loose lips sink ships." Well, at least it could get you a date.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)
Lie down on the couch and tell me all about it. Sun in Virgo detonates buried bombs that are blocking your success and happiness. This expensive psychological epiphany drags you through the hot coals but will be worth it ... eventually. Speaking of hot, Aqueerians sizzle and can catch anyone's eye. Shall we use that couch for more entertaining purposes?

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MAR. 20)
Sun in Virgo weighs your personal freedom with the obligations of a relationship. Guppies are ready to step into the boxing ring with partners to settle the score. However, there is a time for quiet discussion and a time for action. The problem is you won't know which time is appropriate for what this week. Err, how about calling it a draw and hanging up the gloves?

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Marvel Comics Maintains Policy of Explicit Labeling

NEW YORK - Joe Quesada, editor in chief of Marvel Comics, stated that no ongoing solo series starring Gay or Lesbian characters at Marvel Comics will go out without a "MAX" or "Explicit content" label, reports Gayleague.com on advocate.com.

Traditional Values Coalition for his "irresponsible" use of a children's character.

"The last thing we want to do is have everybody come down on the entire comic book industry," Quesada said, "and I do think it is ridiculous."

The comment was made on a panel at this year's Wizard World Chicago. Quesada apologized for the company's practice but said that the policy came about because of the amount of negative media attention Marvel received with their 2003 series featuring the Western character Rawhide Kid and his sexuality. He cited the appearance of Stan Lee on Crossfire, where the legendary comics icon was blasted by Andrea Lafferty of the

Quesada said he hopes for a positive change in the future and looks forward to a time when the political climate creates a less controversial environment for Gay and Lesbian characters in their own books, adding, "I hope it changes next week."

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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

COLORS - Open 11am - 11pm Champagne Brunch 11am - 2pm with choice of complimentary mimosa, Bloody Mary or Screwdriver. Happy Hour 4-7pm \$3 Skyy Cocktails, \$2.50 Domestic and well. Full menu served 2-10pm. Nightly dinner specials. Live music performed by Dickie Steed during Brunch (11:30-2:30)

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 7pm.

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. Patio Bar Opens 7pm

TUESDAY

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7 \$3 Skyy cocktails, \$2.50 Domestic and well. Full menus served until 10pm.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. Tequila Tuesday: \$2.00 well margaritas, 50¢ off call tequilas. 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. Patio Bar Opens 7pm.

WEDNESDAY

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3 Skyy cocktails, \$2.50 Domestic 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. Patio Bar Opens 7pm.

THURSDAY

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3 Skyy cocktails, \$2.50 Domestic 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 7pm.

FRIDAY

COLORS - Open 4pm-1am. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3 Skyy cocktails, \$2.50 Domestic and Well. Full menu served 4-11pm. Nightly Dinner Specials. 6:30-9:30pm. "Hot Jazz, Cool Martinis" with Susan Artemis and Craig Faltin. 10pm "Guys & Dolls" hosted by Lucinda Holliday. 21 and over.

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 7pm

SATURDAY

COLORS - Open 4pm-1am, Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3 Skyy cocktails, \$2.50 Domestic and Well Full menu served 4-11pm. Nightly dinner specials. Hot new jazz duo "Sunyatta" performs 7:00-10:00pm.

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. 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 7pm.

Arts and Entertainment

Now Playing thru August 27

Live Theatre workshop presents the comedy "See How They Run" directed by Stephen Frankfield. 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 3:00 p.m. Sundays. 5317 E/ Speedway/ Tickets are \$13-\$16. Call 327-4242 for reservations and more information.

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.

September 1

Casino Del Sol AVA Amphitheater presents Lynard Skynyrd. Ticketmaster 321-1000. I-19, exit Valencia West. 838-6700.

September 3

AVA Amphitheater at Casino Del Sol presents Bill Cosby. I-19 Exit, Valencia West.. 321-1000.

Arts and Entertainment

Continued

September 9 thru 30

Arizona Theatre Company (ATC) presents William Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" as part of Shakespeare for a New Generation, a national theater initiative sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts in cooperation with Arts Midwest. Directed by Jon Jory who directed last seasons elegant "Pride and Prejudice". ATC Box Office 520-622-2823

October 10 thru 15

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BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23

WOODY'S - Sarong Underwear or Not Party 8:00 to close. Drink specials for those who participate

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24

VENTURE-N - Steak Nite 6:00 p.m. til 8:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25

COLORS - Guys and Dolls show at 10:00 p.m. with Lucinda Holliday and Ajia Simone. 21 and over.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26

HOWL AT THE MOON - Native American Little League fund raiser with Tex-Mex band, drag shows and Raffles. Starts at 6:00 p.m.

IBT'S - Come on by and say goodbye to Jeff and Allen on their 1st night before moving to Seattle 8:00 p.m. until closing.

YARD DOG - Hawaiian Luau V. Hawaiian Dinner 6:00 p.m.; "Sonny" on stage 6:00 p.m. and Hawaiian Costume Contest 9:30 p.m. DJ "Dynasty" at 10:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

YARD DOG SALOON - Boo's Texas Hold-Em Poker tournament at 5:00 p.m. Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

MONDAY, AUGUSTS 28

WOODY'S - Karaoke with Michael D and the IonAZ Pre-Splash Bash/Bud Light Party.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29

WOODY'S - Frank's Rawhide Country Western music videos - Best Wrangler Butt Contest. Drink Specials. Check it out...

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

IBT'S - "Fire and Ice" Anniversary Party! Hppy Hour 5-9 p.m. \$2.00 drinks 5-10 p.m. (Excludes Top Shelf Liquor). Finlandia Specials 10 p.m. to close.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

VENTURE-N - Bucky's famous omelettes 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Jungle Party gets underway at 9:00 p.m until closing. Costume Contest at 11:00 p.m. Most original and best loincloth. Great Prizes. Jello Shots, drink specials, give-aways. Get your costumes ready.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 (Labor Day)

IBT's - "Monday Morning Madness" - Open at 10:00 a.m. 10a.m. Breakfast Buffet. 11:00 a.m. Showtime with Bunny FuFu. 1:00 p.m. Karaoke on the Patio

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

HOWL AT THE MOON - Phoenix AGRA here with Pussy LeHoot as your hostess. Mark your calendars now!

WOODY'S - "Wet Shorts" Party and Contest with David.



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

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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.**

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

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

YOUNG AND GAY?

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

The **TUCSON Chapter of PRIME TIMERS WORLDWIDE** invites Gay or Bisexual men and their admirers to join and share Prime Timers fellowship. We welcome mature men (and admirers) who wish to become involved with planned and future Prime Timers (TPT) activities. Meetings luncheons and dinners are held monthly. For dates, times and information call 298-6727, 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 (GPGCC) P.O. BOX 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2097. E-mail: webmaster@gpgcc.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, dances Tuesdays. from 6:30-9 p.m. at Cornerstone Fellowship Social Hall, 2902 N. Geronimo (Northwest of 1st Ave. and Glenn). No experience, no partner required! For more info contact David at 325-6739, or visit www.azgaydance.org

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 Street. 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 Wednesday 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 panels available. General meetings monthly on the 1st Mondays at 7pm; Dezer Girlz (MTF Support) meets 2nd Mondays at 7pm; Dezer 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)

GLSEN - Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network meets first Thursday of every month at 4:30pm at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th Street. 743-4800.

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.

REVELLE GAY MEN'S CHORUS rehearses Thursday evenings 7-10pm at the Historic Y, corner of University Blvd. And 5th Ave. Join us!! Call 304-1758 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 10-11:30AM at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St. Donations accepted. 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, AZ. (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. Check out our website at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/swot>. Bi-weekly daytime meetings, Saturdays at 10am and Sundays at 2pm. Contact John at 327-3135 for more info and upcoming dates.

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.



W E L C O M E
 TO *Fabulous*
LAS VEGAS
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10TH ANNUAL
**TURNABOUT
 FOR TIHAN**

Sunday, September 3rd
 Doors Open - 5:30 p.m. with
 Finger Food Hors d'oeuvres available
 Show Starts at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$15.00
 Available at Participating Bars

Doubletree Hotel
 445 S. Alvernon Way
 For more information, call 299-6647

