



Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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WEEKLY OBSERVER

AUGUST 30, 2006

ISSUE 1154

Tucson And Phoenix Mayors Come Out Opposing Prop. 107



Tucson Mayor Bob Walkup

TUCSON - Tucson Mayor Bob Walkup and Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon both announced their opposition to Proposition 107, which would prohibit G/L marriages and bar governments from offering benefits and marriage-like legal status to unmarried couples, wire services reported.

Gordon, a Democrat said Prop. 107 would hamper city governments' ability to attract unmarried persons as employees. Phoenix, Tucson and a number of other city governments offer benefits to some unmarried couples. "Many cities and private employers, have made the business decision to cover (unmarried persons), in the absence of a spouse. That makes employers (and cities) more competitive in a very competitive job market," said Gordon in a statement. "This is

nothing more than an overreaching proposal that would limit individual rights and push government further into the personal lives of us all," he said.

Walkup, a Republican, said a statewide constitutional G/L marriage ban would intrude on local governments. "Tucson has a strong history of local governance. We decided that we wanted a domestic partner registry for those people who need it," said Mayor Walkup. "What we don't need is a group in Phoenix dictating to us how to operate our affairs."

In 2003, Tucson was the first municipality in Arizona to offer a domestic partner registry and by June of this year there were 438 couples registered.



Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon

G/L Domestic Violence 'Invisible Epidemic'

SAN FRANCISCO - Even after his shins were bruised from kicking, his scalp bloodied from getting slammed against a door and his neck splashed with fingerprint-shaped bruises, Patrick Letellier heard from friends that the injuries inflicted by his lover were nothing more than rough "sex play," reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

Back then, there were no shelters for battered men. And police were often not inclined to get involved in household disputes involving same-sex couples. "I got really good at hiding things and wore long pants and long-sleeve shirts," said Letellier, a 43-year-old journalist from San Francisco. Nearly 20 years later, as Gays and Lesbians have achieved greater recognition, so too has the darker side of same-sex relationships. After years of fighting what one service provider called an "invisible epidemic," lawmakers and government agencies are taking steps to abandon the assumption that spousal abuse does not occur in couples who share the same gender.

The California Legislature is considering a law requiring Gays and Lesbians who register as domestic partners to pay \$23 toward domestic violence programs specifically aimed at same-sex couples. If it passes as expected, the measure would be the first of its kind in the nation. The proposed fee mirrors a similar surcharge on California marriage licenses that funds battered women's shelters and other domestic violence services. The measure also would require the state to train law enforcement and social service agencies on Gay domestic violence, and to make sure that Gay representatives are included on committees that dispense domestic violence grants.

In New York state, where same-sex couples do not have domestic partner or civil union status, advocates are pushing a bill to dedicate money for domestic violence programs that serve a Gay clientele. They also want to win same-sex couples access to family courts that are accustomed to dealing with domestic disputes, which would make

it easier for battered Gays to obtain restraining orders against their abusers, said Clarence Patton, acting executive director of the New York-based National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs.

In the absence of government mandates, a growing network of nonprofit agencies that specialize in same-sex domestic violence has sprung up in cities like Boston, Columbus, Ohio, Houston, Kansas City and Tucson (Wingspan Anti-Violence Project, online: wingspan.org/content/WAVP.php, phone: (520) 624-0348 or (800) 553-9387). Meanwhile, many police departments have started training officers to know how to respond to Gay or Lesbian victims.

A 2003 survey by Patton's organization of 10 U.S. cities and Toronto reported 6,523 cases of same-sex domestic violence, including six homicides. That was a 13 percent increase from the year before, but the number is assumed to represent a fraction of the true number of incidents.

Like many victims, it took years for Letellier to summon the courage to recognize himself as a victim of domestic violence. "It's not supposed to happen to men - or it doesn't happen to men - is still the thinking about it," he said.

Matthew Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, said tales like Letellier's show that police and government officials are not alone in their tendency to minimize or misunderstand domestic violence when it occurs in Gay relationships. Since many Gay men and Lesbians already feel not accepted by society, seeking help for a problem they may be doubly ashamed of is especially difficult, he said.

"There is enormous stigma attached to all domestic violence, but if you are a Gay man and want to talk about it with friends, they will say, 'Why didn't you hit him back?' or 'How come you can't protect yourself?' Foreman said. "And since women are perceived

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New Law Protects California's LGBT From Bias In State Programs

California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger added to his mixed record on Gay rights by signing a bill Tuesday (Aug. 29) protecting Gay and Transgender people from discrimination in state programs, advocate.com reported. The Nondiscrimination in State Programs and Activities Act, sponsored by state senator Sheila Kuehl, an out Gay Democrat from Santa Monica, bans discrimination in state-operated or state-funded programs on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

The bill, which faced strong opposition from conservative religious groups, will protect all Califor-

nians who utilize services such as food stamps, financial aid, and police and fire protection. "I am very grateful to the governor for signing [the bill], which will extend equal nondiscrimination protections to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Californians who depend on our state's vital programs and services," said Kuehl. The nonprofit advocacy group Equality California also supported the nondiscrimination bill.

While Schwarzenegger showed a willingness to support Gay rights in Tuesday's decision, in September 2005 he vetoed a legislature-approved bill that would have legalized same-sex marriage in California.

Victory Fund Promotes Record Number Of LGBT Candidates

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, an LGBT political action committee, announced Thursday (Aug. 24) its support of 13 new candidates in local races across the nation, reported advocate.com. The new endorsements bring the total number of candidates the fund is supporting this election year to 77, more than it ever has before.

"More and more qualified LGBT candidates are stepping up to serve their communities, and we are proud to help them add their voices to the American political debate," Chuck Wolfe, the fund's president and CEO, said in a written statement. The Victory Fund aims to put at least one out Gay or Lesbian lawmaker in every state legislature in America, and wins in this summer's primaries bode to put it closer to that goal.

Fund-endorsed candidates celebrated breakthrough wins in Oklahoma and Missouri, and Alabama's Patricia Todd is defending her 59-vote victory in July's primary

runoff against a challenge from some members of that state's Democratic establishment.

The fund's newly endorsed Democratic candidates are Paula Aboud for Arizona state Senate, district 28; Benjamin Cruz for lieutenant governor of Guam; Bevan Duffy for San Francisco Board of Supervisors, district 8; Charles Eader for Bedminster, N.J., township committee; Alexis Gorriaran for Rhode Island state Senate, district 5; Ken Keechl for Broward County Commission, district 4; Anthony McCarthy for Maryland House of Delegates, district 44; Maggie McIntosh for Maryland House of Delegates, district 43; Doug Milliken for Arapahoe County, Colo., treasurer; Ed Murray for Washington State Senate, district 43; Mary Washington for Maryland House of Delegates, district 43. The fund endorsed one Republican, Devin Slayton, for Arizona's House of Representatives, district 11, and one candidate with no party affiliation, Rudy Serra, for Detroit judgeship district 36.

UPDATE

Turnabout For TIHAN Sept. 3

TUCSON - Come see your favorite bartenders and staff in drag at this year's Turnabout for TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network).

The theme is "Viva Las Vegas." So wear your glamorous attire and support TIHAN at the Double Tree Hotel, 445 S Alvernon Way, on Sunday, September 3. Doors open at 5:30 pm and the show starts at 7 pm. Tickets cost \$15 and include hors d'oeuvres.

For tickets or more information, call (520) 299-6647 or go online to tihan.org.

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.

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.

Rainbow Families To Meet Sept. 10

TUCSON - Rainbow Families is a monthly social group for LGBT and Allied people who have children or are interested in starting families. Rainbow Families will be having a potluck bar-b-que and picnic on Sunday, Sept. 10, 4 - 6:00 p.m. at Reid Park, Ramada 4.

Kids can play on the big playground near the ramada. They can also play frisbee or kickball or jump rope, or just enjoy an afternoon in the grass under the tall trees near the lake. Dogs are welcome on leashes. The dog training area is near the ramada, and there is also an off-leash fenced area nearby in the park. The Cramers, who are sponsoring this month's event, will provide water and charcoal, as well as hot dogs (kosher and chicken), along with ketchup, mustard, relish and buns. You are asked to bring something to share: salad, chips, fruit, dessert, juice boxes or sodas.

Please RSVP by E-mailing Cathy at Wingspan, cathy@wingspan.org or calling (520) 624-1779 and let them know what you will bring.

New Local LGBT Social Group In Beginning Stages Looking For Interested People At Formation Meeting Sept. 10

Come and help us form a new GLBT Social Group. We are looking for 12 persons (6 men & 6 women), to form the committee for the group. First meeting will be at Rainbow Planet Coffee Shop on 4th Ave., Sunday 9/10/06, at 2:00 P.M., please be prompt. We look forward to seeing you. Lillian Woodhouse

AIDSWalk Tucson 2006 - Take A Step

TUCSON - Take a step onto the beautiful University of Arizona Campus Mall for the 18th Annual AIDS WALK 2006, October 8.

For this year's event, organizers have pumped up the energy with a new location, new date, and new activities. Join the fight against HIV/AIDS by supporting those in the community living with or affected by HIV and AIDS, preventing the spread of HIV, and remembering those we've lost to HIV/AIDS. You can help. Participate in the 10K fun run or 5K walk and raise donations to support the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation. This year marks the 25th

anniversary since the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced its first warning of the disease later to be known as AIDS. Over the past 25 years, many strides have been made to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS but much more is needed to be done. Anne Maley, Executive Director, SAAF, commented, "Southern Arizona is experiencing a growing need for our services at a time when we are experiencing cuts in government funding. I encourage everyone to join AIDS WALK 2006 and help us increase awareness and the much needed resources to continue providing high quality services to people living with HIV/AIDS in Pima County and southern Arizona."

Help stop this global epidemic and support those living with HIV/AIDS while helping prevent new infections by participating in AIDS WALK 2006. Anne Maley added, "One hundred percent of donations raised will stay in Southern Arizona to support critical services for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS and to fund prevention programs for people at risk for HIV." AIDS WALK 2006 promises to be fun, festive, and a day of awareness. We have activities for youth, plenty of great food, live music including a live mini concert following the event, Quilt opening ceremony, and more! Information about the event is being added daily, so check out aidswalktucson.com or contact (520) 791-WALK (9255) for the latest info. Be ready to gather your friends and family to take a step forward in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

One Of Two DP Initiatives Pulled From Colorado Ballot

DENVER - One of two Colorado proposals that would allow same-sex couples to register as domestic partners was withdrawn from the November ballot Tuesday (Aug. 22) because backers said the other proposal would accomplish the same goal, reported the Associated Press on advocate.com. Coloradans for Fairness pulled Amendment 45, which would have changed the state constitution to give registered domestic partners some of the same rights as married couples.

Still on the ballot is Referendum I, which would put domestic partnerships into state law rather than into the constitution. It was placed on the ballot by the legislature.

Coloradans for Fairness gathered signatures to place their proposal on the ballot partly to counter another measure that would have barred any government in Colorado from recognizing any relationship similar to marriage. Backers of the anti-domestic partnership proposal failed to gather enough signatures to win a spot on the ballot. "The simple question before voters this fall is whether we will provide basic legal rights for such things as hospital visitation, end-of-life decisions, inheritance of property," said Sean Duffy, executive director of Coloradans for Fairness, which gathered more than 140,000 signatures for its proposal. "That's the choice Referendum I gives us." He said Coloradans for Fairness offered its proposal to show that Referendum I would not allow same-sex marriage but provide committed Gay couples with legal rights they lack now. The move leaves seven initiatives and seven referenda on the November ballot, including two dealing with same-sex relationships: Referendum I and Amendment 43, which would amend the state constitution to define marriage as a union between one man and one woman.

Calling all responsible and energetic volunteers!



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

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

SAAF

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Office Hours: 9a.m.-6p.m.
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Observer on the World Wide Web :
www.tucsonobserver.com
E-Mail: info@tucsonobserver.com

EDITOR/PUBLISHER:

Bob Ellis

ARTS & GRAPHICS:

Gary Clark

MANAGING EDITOR:

Mark Kerr

Special Events Photos:

Bill Morrow

Amanda Irvine

Horoscope:

Charlene Lichtenstein

Contributing Columnists

MARK R. KERR - LEE THORN

JERRY DIAZ

*

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of my gross income generated by members & friends of the Gay & Lesbian Community will be donated to local AIDS service organizations.

Dean Groth, CRS, GRI
Vice President
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dgroth@longrealty.com

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COMMENTARY . . . by Dr. Ivy Schwarz**Reject Proposition 107**

Proponents of Proposition 107, the so-called protect marriage amendment, would have you believe that they only want to ban gay marriage. But the consequences of this amendment go much further. As a doctor who has worked in this community for 22 years, I believe that the initiative will ultimately undermine our health and our values. Please let me explain how.

Employees of the city of Tucson, Pima County, and the Sunnyside, Amphitheater and Tucson Unified school districts will lose their domestic partner health insurance and family leave benefits.

Families that lose their health benefits would no longer be able to see their family doctor and would end up in emergency rooms. Some would wait until their condition is so severe that it would be much more difficult and costly to treat them.

Domestic violence protections for unmarried couples of any sexual orientation could be ruled unconstitutional. This has happened in Ohio and Utah, where similar amendments have passed.

Domestic partners and their families could be denied the right to make the most personal of decisions about their loved ones – decisions regarding the provision or refusal of medical care, organ donation and funeral arrangements. They could be denied the right to visit their sick or dying loved ones in the hospital, currently guaranteed by Tucson's Domestic Partner Registry.

Not all children have a married mother and father to provide for them.

Domestic partnerships ensure that children have access to health insurance.

Many seniors live in "domestic partnerships" as a way to maintain their Social Security and pension benefits, which they would lose if they were to remarry.

Local control will suffer. This initiative will rob cities and counties of their ability to govern themselves.

Private employees whose health insurance is a domestic partner benefit could be jeopardized, especially companies that do business with the government.

Public opinion supports equity and fairness. A 2005 statewide survey found that 61 percent of Arizonans oppose taking away domestic partner benefits such as health insurance and 63 percent believe that it makes no sense to change the Arizona constitution when Gay marriage is already illegal in Arizona.

The Pima County Pediatric Society, the Arizona Public Health Association and the Arizona Psychological Association have passed resolutions against the proposed amendment. Similarly, the American Psychological Association, the American Psychiatric Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics all have publicly stated their support of legal recognition of all families.

As a doctor, I have taken care of patients who have waited too long to seek care. I have seen women put their broken bodies and lives back together after domestic violence. I have sat with terminally ill patients

and their families as they made difficult medical decisions.

As a doctor, I have sworn to "do no harm," and as a human being, I believe in the values of kindness, compassion and care: for our families, our neighbors, our entire community.

Let's protect the health of Arizonans and stand up for our values. Please reject Proposition 107 in November.

(This oped piece was reprinted from the Aug. 28 edition of the Arizona Daily Star.)

Final Accused In Araujo Killing Sentenced

HAYWARD, California - The long road to justice for murdered Transgendered teen Gwen Araujo finally came to an end Friday (Aug. 25) with the sentencing of the fourth man involved in her slaying in 2002, reported 365Gay.com. Jaron Nabors, 23, who pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter shortly after his arrest in exchange for testimony against the three other accused, was sentenced to 11 years in prison on Friday.

In an impact statement Araujo's mother, Sylvia Guerrero, looked directly at Nabors and said that as he faced prison she and her family were living in a prison of their own. "When my daughter died, a part of me died, too, and the pain in my heart will never go away," she said. Before the sentence was delivered Nabors turned to Guerrero and said that he was sorry to have been a part of the killing. "I know that my words offer nowhere near a sense of consolation. I do not forgive myself. I do not see how I ever can," Nabors said.

In January Michael Magidson, 25, and Jose Merel, 26, were sentenced to years to life in prison - the mandatory sentence for second-degree murder. The third man, Jason Cazares, 26, who pleaded no contest to manslaughter, was sentenced to six years. The convictions and sentences came at the end of a second trial. The first ended in a mistrial in 2004 when

jurors were unable to reach agreement on whether to find the men guilty of first or second degree murder.

Seventeen year old Araujo was beaten, battered with a shovel and then strangled to death in October 2002 after the men, with whom she had had sex, discovered she was biologically male. Her body was found in a shallow grave several days later. The defense claimed Araujo provoked the attack by not telling her male companions she was still biologically male. The use of the so-called Gay panic defense at their trials leading the California Assembly passed legislation to limit the use of the controversial defense strategy. The bill is named in Araujo's memory and is still before the Senate.

Last month politicians, district attorneys, law enforcement officers, and the families of hate-crime victims met in San Francisco to discuss ways of blocking the use of the so-called Gay panic defense. A number of states, including California have have crime law covering Gays, Lesbians and the Transgendered, but attempts to pass a federal law have never succeeded. "It's the end of the court process, but there's still a lot of healing to be done," said Gloria Allred, the Los Angeles attorney who has spoken for Araujo's family throughout the long ordeal. "It's been heartbreaking. It continues to be very painful for them."



IBT'S UPCOMING EVENTS



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Join the Wet Party 11PM til Close

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2PM til 7PM Patio Bar is Open and Beer Bust
Karaoke with Michael D. and Gay Idol Winners 9PM

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Designer Underwear Nite 8PM til Close

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"Spykes" Promo Party

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@ 9pm

Saturday Sept. 2nd:
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LABOR DAY:
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Sex Toy Results In Bomb Charge

CHICAGO - A sex toy popular among Gay men has landed a Chicago area man in jail facing charges that could see him sent to prison for up to three years, reported 365Gay.com. Mardin Amin, 29, was going through security at O'Hare Airport, with his mother, on route to Turkey for a holiday to see relatives, when a security guard began going through his backpack.

The female guard pulled a small black plastic device out of the backpack and asked Amin what it was. What happened next depends on who you ask. Amin says that he said in a low voice, so that his mother could not hear, that it was a penis pump. The guard says that he whispered it was a

bomb. She called for backup, and Amin was whisked away to jail. He's charged with felony disorderly conduct.

In court, Amin's lawyer called it a misunderstanding. "He told her it's a pump," attorney Eileen O'Neill-Burke told a Cook County judge. "He's standing with his mother. Of course he's not going to shout this out." The guard, however, testified that she clearly heard the word "bomb" and the prosecutor told the court that Amin also told a second guard he had a bomb when questioned about the device. Judge Gerald Winieck ruled there was enough evidence for the case to proceed and agreed to allow Amin out on bail.

First Civil Union In The Country Has Split Up

BRATTLEBORO, Vermont - A Lesbian couple joined in the first legally recognized same-sex civil union in the country has officially split up. Carolyn Conrad and Kathleen Peterson, both of Brattleboro, Vt., entered a civil union shortly after midnight on July 1, 2000, the day Vermont's first-of-its-kind state law went into effect, reported the Associated Press on advocate.com.

Conrad, 35, filed to end the union in October and later obtained a restraining order against her partner, saying Peterson punched a hole in the wall during an argument and threatened to harm a friend. A judge granted the request for a dissolution Wednesday (Aug. 23). "It's a heartbreaking situation for any couple," Conrad told

the Brattleboro Reformer newspaper. The couple had been in a relationship for five years before Vermont began offering same-sex couples the state-level rights and benefits of marriage.

Beth Robinson, chairwoman of the Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force, said the union's end shows that the state's civil union law is working. "One of the goals was to create a mechanism to protect people in a relationship and create a mechanism to help people dissolve relationships," she said. "Same-sex relationships are no different than heterosexual relationships. Sometimes they last, sometimes they don't." More than 7,500 civil unions have been formed in Vermont since the end of 2004, and 78 have been dissolved.

Second New Yorker Found Naked, Strangled

NEW YORK - Police in suburban Westchester County are working with New York City police to determine if the murders of two high profile men were committed by the same person, reported 365Gay.com. The latest victim was David Webb, 44, found naked and strangled in the living room of his Westchester home by a housemate. Webb was the chef at the Benjamin Hotel, one of New York City's most exclusive inns.

The killing bears an eerie resemblance to the murder of Martin Barreto, 49. Barreto's body was found in the bedroom of the million-dollar Greenwich Village apartment of a cousin. Barreto also had been

strangled. His nude body was found in a bed and a condom wrapper was discovered on the floor. The New York Daily News reported that police believe the assailant may have been someone Barreto met on the Internet for sex or a former lover. Police in Westchester also are examining Webb's computer. Barreto had been an aide to Mayor Rudy Giuliani and was the director of a Manhattan public relations firm.

Police from the two districts compared notes Friday on the slayings but declined to say if there was any new evidence, or if they had been able to link the murders to the same assailant.

Barbie Lesbian Art Results In Threatened Lawsuit

SAO PAULO, Brazil - An art exhibit in a small Brazilian town showing Barbie in intimate poses with another female has draw the ire of toy make Mattel. The company says it artist Karin Schwarz doesn't remove the exhibit it will go to court, according to a Sao Paulo newspaper, reported 365Gay.com. Schwarz, though, isn't backing down. "Barbie is exploited by Mattel. She wears a bikini, she shows off her belly, has big breasts, and even has a boyfriend," she told the Jornal de Sao Paulo newspaper.

Her exhibit, called "Amazing Girls," is on display at a bar in the town of Curitiba. A Brazilian spokesperson for Mattel said that "Barbie is a very proper lady and she is not happy about being portrayed as something that she

isn't."

But Barbie is no friend of conservative Christians either. Earlier this year Concerned Women for America accused the doll, who is now 46, of promoting gender confusion among children. According to the group the Barbie Web site doll asks children their sex, providing three choices "girl", "boy", "I don't know." Batman owner DC Comics ordered a New York gallery last year to remove an exhibit showed the superhero embracing and kissing sidekick Robin. The works of artist Mark Chamberlain had been on display at the Kathleen Cullen Fine Arts Gallery on West 26th Street. DC ordered the company to turn over all renderings in its possession.

Hillary Clinton Accused Of Tying Up AIDS Bill To Further Presidential Aspirations

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) is holding up renewal of the Ryan White Act, the law which funds most HIV/AIDS campaigns across the country, and some health care workers in the field suggest that her expected presidential bid may have something to do with it, reported 365Gay.com. Clinton has said she is opposed to the renewal bill because it would reduce grants in New York State, but the Washington Post reports the measure would also cut federal spending in California, Florida and Illinois, states she would need to win if she seeks the presidency.



"If you look at the states she has to carry to become president - California, New York, Illinois, Florida - those would be the hardest hit if the formula were changed," Charles Grant, founder of AbsoluteCare Medical Center Inc., the largest private HIV/AIDS medical center in Georgia told the Post. Under the renewal money lost by the four states would be funneled to areas such as the South where AIDS particularly among African American men has seen a dramatic increase.

"It is with sadness that I learn about your efforts to block" the law's reauthorization.

In a reply Clinton acknowledged the rapid increase in HIV cases among Black men but noted that the way the White renewal is written it "would have a devastating impact on New York". Her position has gained support from AIDS in the four large states adversely affected. New York's Gay Men's Health Crisis says it "fully supports Senator Clinton's position on the current bill," and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation says the current bill "is a problem."

"I must share with you the bewilderment of African Americans throughout the country who cannot understand why you are taking this stand against opening the door to more equitable funding that will chiefly benefit people of color," said Harry C. Alford, chief executive of the National Black Chamber of Commerce, in a letter to Clinton obtained by the Post.

Currently the White Act funding is based on the number of patients with AIDS while the new funding formula would, in effect, distribute funding based on the number of patients with HIV or AIDS.

Miss Gay Arizona-America 2007



Newly crowned Miss Gay Arizona-America 2007 Mikaila Kay

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LABOR DAY/JUNGLE PARTY WEEKEND

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1
5 - 7 pm -- Hot Snacks

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2
11 am - 2 pm -- BUCKY'S OMELETTES

9:00 pm to Closing **JUNGLE PARTY**
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Yard Dog Cowboy On The Rodeo Trail

Study: Herpes Cases Declining



TUCSON - On August 4-6, Jeff Schoeder, the Yard Dog Cowboy, participated in the Los Angeles Gay Rodeo. He took 2nd place in Pole Bending, two 2nd places in Barrell racing and 4th place in Steer Decorating.

On August 18-20, Jeff participated in the ZIA Regional Rodeo in Albuquerque. He placed 1st in the wild drag race, and 5th in pole bending. Jeff is sponsored by the Yard Dog Saloon. He will be in the Las Vegas Rodeo in October. Congratulations Jeff.

CHICAGO - Nearly 25 years after a news magazine declared that an epidemic of genital herpes threatened to undo the sexual revolution, a new study finds an encouraging decline in the percentage of people infected with the herpes virus, 365Gay.com reported.

of spreading it to others. Condoms can help lower the risk of transmission, although they're not foolproof. Infected people are contagious even without symptoms.

The study was funded by the CDC. A previous CDC report in 1997 found a 30 percent increase in herpes infection since the late 1970s.

"This new data really reverses the trend," said study co-author Francis Lee of Emory University.

Back in 1982, a Time cover story headlined "The New Scarlet Letter" sounded an alarm that seems almost quaint now compared to concern over another sexually transmitted lifetime infection, the AIDS virus. The new study shows a 19 percent drop since 1994 in the percentage of Americans ages 14 to 49 testing positive for herpes type 2, the most common cause of the recurring painful sores of genital herpes. The declines were especially pronounced among young people.

Dr. Kenneth Fife of the Indiana University School of Medicine, who was not involved in the study, noted that rates of infection are still disproportionately high among women and blacks. The study found 42 percent of blacks tested positive for herpes type 2, a decline of only 4 percent since 1994. "Maybe we've finally gotten through to the young people that they need to change their behavior," Fife said. "We still see plenty of genital herpes. There are adolescents who are becoming infected."

The findings, appearing in the Journal of the American Medical Association, represent biological evidence of a decrease in risky sexual behavior among adolescents, said lead author Dr. Fujie Xu of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

LGBT School Bill Passes California Assembly

"Overall, this is good news. There is a decrease occurring among all youth, males and females, and in all racial groups," Xu said. "That's very encouraging."

SACRAMENTO, California - Legislation banning materials and activities in California schools that are discriminatory towards the state's LGBT community or portray Gays in a negative light was passed late Monday afternoon (Aug. 21) in the Assembly, reported 365Gay.com.

But herpes is still uncomfortably common. Despite the decline, blood tests of more than 11,000 people found 11 percent of men and 23 percent of women carry the genital herpes, or type 2, virus. Among people in their 20s, the infection rate was almost 11 percent. Ironically, the rates have dropped back to about where they were when Time ran its cover story, said study co-author Dr. Stuart Berman of the CDC. "If it was a scarlet letter then, I don't know what you call it now and there's more HIV around," Berman said. Herpes greatly increases the chances of infection with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

The measure passed 47 - 31 after a lengthy, often heated debate. The bill was a watered down version of one that would also have mandated the teaching of LGBT history and current affairs in schools throughout California. The curriculum provisions were struck out two weeks ago at the request of the bill's author, Sen. Sheila Kuehl (D-Los Angeles), after Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger threatened to veto it. By that point the original measure had passed the Senate. The new version returns to the upper house which is expected to approve it. But whether the governor will sign it is not yet known.

"It's still an epidemic," said Dr. Tom Chernes of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, who was not involved with the study. "The fact that there's a trend downward should not be construed by anybody that herpes is under control."

Conservative Christian groups are lobbying Schwarzenegger to veto the bill. A spokesperson for the governor did not immediately return calls, but in the past Schwarzenegger has said he's reluctant to have the state "micro-manage" local schools. California already requires that African Americans, native peoples, Mexicans, Asians and Pacific Islanders be included in textbook descriptions of "the economic, political and social development of California and the United States of America, with particular emphasis on portraying the role of these groups in contemporary society."

In addition, 56 percent of men and 60 percent of women tested positive for the oral herpes virus, type 1, which is best known as the culprit behind cold sores, but can spread to the genitals through oral sex. Type 1 may be causing more genital infections in some groups, such as college students, Xu and Berman said.

"We're just the latest community to come along and say, 'Look, we're now the targets, we need protection,'" said Kuehl. The Assembly vote was mainly

Herpes can be treated with antiviral drugs, which can help prevent flare-ups and reduce the risk

Continued on Page Eight

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Phelps Clan Protests Meade's Rainbow Flag

MEADE, Kansas - From the balcony off the honeymoon suite of his Lakeway Hotel bed and breakfast, J.R. Knight blared Starship's "Nothing's Going to Stop Us Now," reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. Nearby, in the Lakeway's parking lot, a car's bumper sticker read, "Kansas: As bigoted as you think," which is a play on the state's "As big as you think" motto.

And townspeople in tiny Meade, gathered Sunday morning on downtown corners with their video cameras to watch a protest by the notoriously anti-Gay Rev. Fred Phelps and members of his Topeka-based church. A 12-year-old boy's gift to his parents - a brightly colored rainbow flag that he said reminded him of Kansas and "The Wizard of Oz" - has spawned one of the biggest controversies to hit the tiny town in a long time.

Phelps's group picketed the hotel because of the flag and five local churches for not doing enough to keep it from flying in their town. On Sunday (Aug. 27), Meade Police Chief Loren Borger, his colleagues, and 16 troopers from the Kansas Highway Patrol kept an eye on protests over the rainbow banner that J.R. and Robin Knight decided to fly on the flagpole in front of their business, the Lakeway Hotel.

Robin Knight said she and her husband didn't put the flag up to make a political statement but rather because "it has pretty colors, it's bright, it's summery."

Soon after the flag went up, the local newspaper ran a picture of the banner on its front page, noting its significance in the Gay community.

Afterward, someone threw two bricks at the bed and breakfast, one of which broke through a window and destroyed two neon signs. When someone cut the flag down, the Knights ordered two more and said they'll buy even more if they have to. Two local boys, force-marched by their father, later admitted to the deed and apologized to J.R. Knight.

On Sunday, as the daughter of Westboro Baptist Church founder Fred Phelps protested with 10 of her 11 children, three brothers, and two sisters, onlookers shook their heads at the spectacle. "It's just not right," said Suzan Seybert, a 30-year resident of the southwest Kansas community, as she watched Shirley Phelps-Roper's children chanting about Gays burning in hell. "I think it's despicable to start to teach your children at such a young age the word hate. It's just the worst thing you can do."

Mike Thompson, who teaches a class at Colby Community College on the sociology of discrimination, brought some of his students to see the protests. Among them was Kati Near, who grew up in Meade. "I think a lot of people think we're all just a bunch of bigots," Near said, adding that she was embarrassed by what was going on in her hometown.

Robin Knight said this month that the anger spawned by the colorful flag has strengthened the family's resolve to keep the banner flying, noting that caving in to the pressure would send the wrong message to their son. "It's our business," she said. "It shouldn't be dictated by other people."



J.R. and Robin Knight, owners of the Lakeway Hotel that has become the center of a controversy because they elected to fly a Rainbow Flag in front of their business.

The Lakeway Hotel Bed and Breakfast in Meade Kansas.

The flag is still waving and the owners are adamant to keep it that way.



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Let me ask you something... Since when is bigotry a moral virtue?

Back in 1906, a leading American theologian published a best-selling book justifying discrimination against African Americans, saying they were creatures of uncontrollable "sensuality." Similar racist theories were spouted by politicians like the notorious "Pitchfork" Ben Tillman who toured the country under the banner, "Negro equality in politics means social equality, mongrelization, hellfire and damnation!" Belief in the innate immorality of black people, buttressed by selected scriptural references, formed the basis for slavery, segregation and lynchings.

Now come the homophobes, spouting the same hate-filled rhetoric about a different minority group. "Homosexuality is immoral, unscriptural and unhealthy," we are told. It is a "sin," like theft and drunkenness, according to Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott.

The Pitchfork Tillmans of today warn that the "homosexual lobby" wants to bring about the destruction of the American family. Just like their racist antecedents, they are trying to whip up hatred and intolerance in order to build public support for anti-gay laws.

Sure, they can try to hide behind morality, but we all know a bigot when we see one. Think about it.

Ira Glasser
Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union
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A counter protester across the street from the Phelps Clan

Ruling Finds Retaliation At Fire Department In Minneapolis



Fire Chief Bonnie Bleskachek

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota - A civil rights investigation found probable cause that Fire Chief Bonnie Bleskachek retaliated against a male firefighter and denied him advancement opportunities, reported the Associated Press. It also found evidence the department gave preferential treatment to women, especially Lesbians.

The 23-page ruling, signed by interim civil rights director Michael Browne, stems from a 2003 complaint filed by Elondo Wright, who claimed he was retaliated against after he displaced a female firefighter who was friendly with Bleskachek's Lesbian partner. The finding is the latest trouble for Bleskachek, who went on leave in March while the city investigates allegations that she unfairly influenced the careers of others. The city recently doubled the amount it was spending on that investigation, from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Separate lawsuits are also pending against Bleskachek, alleging she mixed romantic relations with her professional life. Bleskachek is the first Lesbian in the nation to lead a big-city fire department. Wright's complaint centered on the personal and professional relationship between Capt. Mary Maresca and Bleskachek. "Armed with the additional latitude her personal and intimate relationship with then-Battalion Chief Bleskachek provided, the investigation shows that Captain Maresca was able to behave in ways that complainant believed were demeaning and humiliating without apparent consequence and accountability," the ruling said.

In 2002, Wright was reassigned to Maresca's crew at his request. In doing so, he displaced a female firefighter who knew Maresca socially. After hearing of the change, Maresca called Wright a "home wrecker," a remark she characterized as "humorous," the ruling said. The ruling found probable cause that Wright was retaliated against in a job review and denied promotional opportunities. It found no probable cause to support his claims of a hostile work environment and retaliation based on his participation in a lawsuit.

But, the ruling said "females, and especially women who are either Lesbians or socialize with Lesbians, are likely to receive preferential treatment in the Minneapolis Fire Department." "I'm sure that the Fire Department and I will be able to work this out," Wright said. "And if we're not, we will pursue litigation." Assistant City Attorney Joel Fussy said the matter remains an open charge of discrimination. If a resolution isn't reached, a public hearing will be held before a three-member panel of the city's Commission on Civil Rights.

Maresca and Bleskachek have been friends since 1996. They began dating in 2004, according to the ruling. The ruling faults Bleskachek, then a battalion chief, for the handling of Wright's job evaluation in December 2003. Capt. Mark Olson said he was told by Bleskachek to give Wright non-passing grades for his work on jobs above his grade, called "riding out of grade." Such opportunities allow firefighters to receive training in a higher position and receive higher pay. Olson told Bleskachek he was uncomfortable with giving Wright the marks because he had not seen him perform the work. By the time of his job review, Wright complained that he had seen Bleskachek and Maresca engage in "inappropriate and intimate conduct ... at the firehouse." Bleskachek's "interference" with Olson's evaluation of Wright is a departure from the department's norms, the ruling said. In addition, the ruling said Maresca subjected Wright to late-evening training sessions and other activities that are considered humiliating. The investigation found that Wright not only performed his duties satisfactorily, but received the highest score on the spring 2004 promotional exams. Despite that, he wasn't promoted until January 2006.

LGBT School Bill Passes California Assembly

Continued from Page Six

along party lines. "Anti-Gay and LGBT school harassment occurs every day in our public schools," said Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez (D- Los Angeles). "This says our schools are going to have a curriculum that is biased-free." Republicans accused Nunez and Kuehl of trying to advance a "homosexual agenda". "This is a predatory bill," said Assemblyman Jay LaSuer (R-La Mesa). "It prays on the innocence of children on a lifestyle that is unacceptable." LaSuer called on Schwarzenegger to reject the bill if it reaches his desk. The Republican governor has had a mixed record on LGBT issues. He came to office promoting himself as a moderate, signing several LGBT rights bills, and angering conservatives. But he lost Gay support when he vetoed the marriage bill.



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National Tennis Center Renamed For Billie Jean King



Tennis Icon Billie Jen King

NEW YORK - Billie Jean King made quite a name for herself on and off the court, all around the globe, reported the Associated Press. On opening night (Aug. 28) at the U.S. Open, the tennis world took care of that for her. King, a winner of 39 career Grand Slam titles, was honored Monday night when the home of the U.S. Open was renamed the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center. The champion in singles, doubles and mixed doubles made an equally – if not more important mark – as a pioneer for the equality of women.

In addition to 67 singles win on tour, King earned a monumental victory for women's rights by beating Bobby Riggs in the 1973 "Battles of the

Sexes" match at the Houston Astrodome. The importance of that event was felt around the world. King was responsible for organizing the Women's Tennis Association, a union that lobbied for equality in tennis.

"My mom, Betty Moffitt, always told me to follow the Shakespeare saying, 'To thine own self be true,'" said King, as she became emotional on the court while her mother cried in the stands. "I hope to continue to always do that." Her mother never saw her play at the U.S. Open but she sat courtside Monday night when King was lauded by such tennis luminaries as Chris Evert, Venus Williams, John McEnroe, and Jimmy Connors – who like King were champions at New York's Grand Slam.

Also on hand to commemorate the dedication of the 46 1/2-acre public parks facility to King were New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and former Mayor David Dinkins. Diana Ross sang "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" before introducing King to the crowd inside a packed Arthur Ashe Stadium.

McEnroe, who said he first met King as a teenager at the home of friend Mary Carillo – a former player and TV commentator – had a different take on King's trailblazing efforts and her win over Riggs. "I was a 14-year-old, male-chauvinist kid that hoped that Bobby Riggs would kick her (butt)," McEnroe said. "But now that I am a father of four little girls, I have to say for the record I'm glad Billie Jean King won. I don't think it's a stretch to

say that Billie Jean King is the single most important person in the history of women's sports."

Evert credited King with guiding her throughout her playing career and in personal matters. She even served up advice when Evert broke off her youthful engagement to Jimmy Connors. "Billie Jean was the biggest single influence in my life outside of my family," Evert said. "She's been my mentor for 35 years. She sees beyond the box."

Arlen Kantarian, the USTA chief executive of professional tennis, said it was an easy decision to honor King this way. "Billie Jean King is a great champion, but she's used her success to do a lot more than impact the sport," Kantarian said. "She's impacted society. There are thousands of kids who have benefited. "She's an American hero."

King, a product of the Los Angeles public parks system, emphasized that although the tennis center now bears her name, it is still a public parks facility that is open to everyone, every day of the year. "My house is your house. This is our house," she said.



Alabama Democrats Reinstate Lesbian Candidate's Win



Patricia Todd

MONTGOMERY, Alabama - Patricia Todd was reinstated Saturday (Aug. 26) as the Democratic Party's nominee for a seat in the Alabama Legislature, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. The Alabama Democratic Party Executive Committee voted 95-87 to reject the ruling of a subcommittee two days ago that had voted to disqualify Todd.

Todd beat Gaynell Hendricks in the primary. But Hendricks' mother-in-law filed an appeal filed with the Democratic Party claiming that Todd timed the filing of her campaign finance report with the Secretary of State's office shortly before the deadline to keep voters from learning she was supported by the Victory Fund, a Washington DC-based organization that helps the campaigns LGBT candidates. Todd received \$25,000 contribution from the Victory Fund. The complaint also alleged that Todd made payment of nearly \$13,000 to two primary opponents who later endorsed her in the runoff against Hendricks.

On Thursday (Aug. 24) a party committee discounted the original complaint against Todd - instead ruling in a 5 - 0 decision that she had violated a party regulation that finance reports be filed five days before a primary with the party chair five days before the primary election. The committee, however, also found that Hendricks also had failed to file with the chair in time and counted her out of the race too. In fact, no candidate in the state has followed the rule since 1988. Observers said the dispute between the two Democrats had more to do with race than sexuality. Todd is lesbian and white. Hendricks is straight and black. Some key Democrats in Alabama were alleged to have wanted Todd out because of her color.

Party chairman Joe Turnham said that the key factor in Saturday's decision to overturn the committee ruling was that no candidate had followed the disclosure rule for nearly 20 years. "I am relieved this is over so I can get to work helping the people of my district," Todd said after the meeting. There is no Republican running for the seat which means Todd will become the first lesbian to sit in the Alabama legislature.

"Finally, the voters have prevailed," said Victory Fund president Chuck Wolfe. "We are enormously proud of the courage and tenacity Patricia showed throughout this ordeal, and equally proud of her supporters in Alabama and beyond who stood by her unflinchingly."

The executive committee was under considerable pressure to reinstate Todd. The Birmingham News editorialized Saturday that the state Democratic Party seemed to have a "death wish," calling the effort to strip Todd of her nomination, "the dumbest thing Alabama Democrats have done since 1986." That year the party nullified the primary win of its gubernatorial nominee and installed another candidate.

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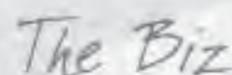
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Campuses Rated On 'LGBT Point Average'

NEW YORK - In an age when colleges live and die by their rankings, a new focus for campus assessment is emerging: Gay-friendliness, reported the Boston Globe. The Advocate has published a 389-page book listing the 100 schools it says offer the best discrimination protection, most friendly climate and most extensive campus services for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) students.

MIT, for instance, is cited for having one of the nation's oldest Gay and Lesbian student groups and for early on including sexual orientation and gender identity in its nondiscrimination policy, yielding what the book, The Advocate College Guide for LGBT Students, calls a high "Gay point average."

"It is a welcoming place," said Natalija Jovanovic, a graduate engineering student at MIT and president of the Rainbow Coffee House, a social group. "Because (this school is) so technically oriented, if you are good at what you do, nothing else matters. Transistors and chemical compounds don't care what you do with your free time."

The book arrives as surveys show that more Gay and Lesbian students are coming out at younger ages, often in high school - putting the climate of a college campus at the forefront of more students' minds as they decide where to enroll. Since 1992, the Princeton Review has ranked the 20 schools it considers the most and the least "Gay community accepted." This year, the review ranked New York University as most Gay friendly and Notre Dame as most inhospitable.

Bruce Steele, editor of the Advocate, whose sister company, Alyson Books, published the new guide, points out that the Review's Gay-friendly rankings are based on student opinion, while his guide is based on quantifiable data. Harriet Brand, spokeswoman for the Review, argued that Princeton's survey of 115,000 students is more compelling because students offer a more accurate, ground-level gauge of a campus' climate.

Gay and Lesbian activists and student leaders said the Advocate's book is a welcome addition to the online rumor mill that has tended to inform high school students' decisions about Gay-friendliness. "I would have definitely liked having a book like this," said Abigail Francis, 29, project coordinator of MIT's Lesbian Bisexual Gay and Transgender Services, a position the university funded for the first time last year.

The book does not assign individual rankings, but identified a top 20. The rankings are calculated on a "Gay point average," which looks at 20 factors, including whether a school offers: A resource center for LGBT students. A variety of LGBT studies courses. Scholarships specifically for LGBT students LGBT social events. Procedures for reporting LGBT harassment.

Steele said he hopes to expand the list in coming years to include more schools. But for now, "what matters is that schools are now going to compete to see who is the most Gay-friendly," he said. "They change because they have to keep up."

Pending G/L Marriage Amendment, Lack Of Partner Benefits Drives "Superstar" Prof From Wisconsin

MADISON, Wisconsin - Fears of a Gay "brain drain" over Wisconsin's pending vote on banning same-sex marriage, and the lack of partner benefits for Gay employees of state institutions, may be starting to come to fruition, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. Rob Carpick, an associate professor of engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison researcher who has won millions of dollars in grants for his research in the field of nanotechnology, is leaving for the more Gay-friendly University of Pennsylvania.

He takes with him the funding - some \$3.4 million in grants from the National Science Foundation, branches of the U.S. military and private companies since 2000. "After six and one-half years of working very hard, I found it's problematic to work in an environment where you are not treated equally," Carpick, 37, told The Associated Press. "Fortunately there are other entities that are more enlightened than the state of Wisconsin on this issue and the University of Pennsylvania is one of them."

Caprick married his his long-time partner Carlos Chan in Canada in 2003. The marriage is not recognized in Wisconsin and the couple is not eligible for spousal benefits. To get health insurance Chan, a chef, took a menial job at the university. At the University of Pennsylvania Caprick will be able to get domestic partner benefits and Chan will be able to open a small restaurant and not worry about health insurance.

The loss of Caprick is a blow to the University of Wisconsin. It is trying

to build a reputation in nanotechnology. "Rob is one of our young superstars," Michael Corradini, chair of the engineering physics department told the AP. Carpick is the latest in a series of faculty members who have left the school because they cannot get partner benefits. UW-Madison Provost Patrick Farrell told the AP that top scholars will not consider working at the university because of the policy. Last year Republicans stripped out of the budget a proposal by Gov Jim Doyle to provide domestic partner benefits to University of Wisconsin employees. Six Lesbian state workers seeking family benefits for their partners subsequently filed suit. The case is still before the courts.

In November voters will be asked to approve an amendment to the state constitution which would ban same-sex marriage and civil unions and could, opponents believe, be used to block domestic partner benefits for Gay and non-Gay non-married couples. Business leaders and trade unions are opposed to the measure. Earlier this month Wisconsin's travel industry - one of the state's biggest businesses - said it fears it could suffer millions of dollars in losses if the amendment is passed. The state's biggest unions also have announced their opposition. The unions include those representing teachers, public sector employees and prison guards. The AFSCME alone represents 44,000 public service and health-care workers in Wisconsin. The unions believe that by potentially controlling who may receive benefits the state would be removing their right to bargain.



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Lily Tomlin Slams Anti-G/L Laws



Lily Tomlin

SYDNEY, Australia - Lily Tomlin has criticized the United States and Australian governments over their opposition to same-sex marriage, saying everyone should have the right to wed, reported AAP. The openly-Gay Hollywood veteran, 66, has been with her female partner, Jane Wagner, a writer and producer, for 35 years.

While she and Wagner have no plans to marry, Tomlin feels all people should have the choice. U.S. President George W Bush and Australian Prime Minister John

Howard have both spoken out against same-sex marriage, and the Federal Government recently quashed ACT legislation allowing homosexuals to create civil unions.

"I am happy for anybody who wants to get married and I think they should have every right to," Tomlin said. "It is an aggressively negative rejection," she said of the governments' responses to the issue. "You have had an amendment here against same sex marriage. We have, too, in many of the states (in the United States) and I expect it will get more."

Tomlin, most recently known for her role as Deborah Fiderer in the Emmy-award winning political drama The West Wing, suggests the Gay community could even create an alternative arrangement to marriage. "It would be a profound thing if it was done (same-sex marriage was legislated for) because, basically, in the eyes of most people, it is a religious fundamental issue," she said. "I am not a religious person and to me it is a kind of imitation of straight society. If anything, we could be more forward thinking and we could maybe create something different." Tomlin is in Australia for her first comedy tour but will perform only two shows - Sydney's State Theatre on Aug. 30 and the Melbourne Arts Centre on Sept. 2.

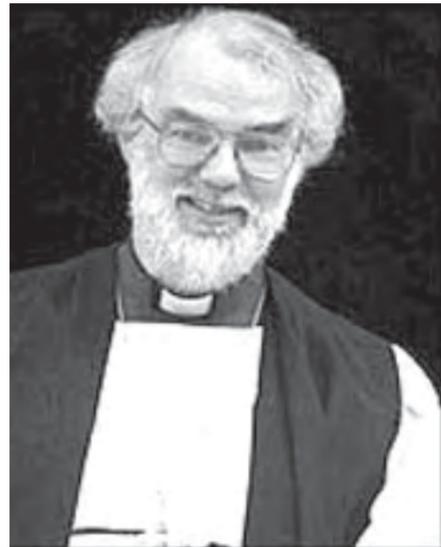
G/L Must Change, Says Archbishop

LONDON - The archbishop of Canterbury has told homosexuals that they need to change their behavior if they are to be welcomed into the church, The Sunday Telegraph (UK) reported. Rowan Williams has distanced himself from his one-time support of same-sex relationships and stressed that the tradition and teaching of the Church has in no way been altered by the Anglican Communion's consecration of its first openly homosexual bishop.

The declaration by the archbishop - rebutting the idea that homosexuals should be included in the church unconditionally - marks a significant development in the church's crisis over homosexuals. According to liberal and homosexual campaigners, it confirmed their fears that the archbishop has become increasingly conservative - and sparked accusations that he has performed an "astonishing" U-turn over the homosexual issue. Liberals who had previously hailed his appointment said they are dismayed that he appears to have turned his back on an agenda that he previously championed.

However, the archbishop's comments have received strong support from traditionalists. The Rev Rod Thomas, a spokesman for the evangelical pressure group Reform, said: "There is no doubt that he is distancing himself from the views that he has previously expressed. He's right to want to see people converted. The fact that he's saying this is a hugely welcome development." The revelations came in a newspaper interview in which the archbishop denied that it was time for the church to accept homosexual relationships, suggesting that it should be welcoming rather than inclusive. "I don't believe inclusion is a value in itself. Welcome is. We don't say 'Come in and we ask no questions'. I do believe conversion means conversion of habits, behaviours, ideas, emotions," he told a Dutch journalist.

"Ethics is not a matter of a set of abstract rules, it is a matter of living



Archbishop Rowan Williams

the mind of Christ. That applies to sexual ethics." At the same time he tried to distance himself from a controversial essay he wrote 20 years ago, in which he defended same-sex love. "That was when I was a professor, to stimulate debate," he claimed. "It did not generate much support and a lot of criticism - quite fairly on a number of points." The archbishop said that he was determined to preserve the unity of the church from being destroyed by the warring factions in the Gay crisis. He said he has backed a resolution which says that homosexual practice is incompatible with the Bible.

The Rev Giles Goddard, the chairman of Inclusive Church, said the archbishop's comments revealed an "astonishing" change in his position. He added: "The implication is that there is no justification in scripture for the welcome of Lesbian and Gay people. It appears that he has moved into the conservative camp." Chris Bryant, a Labour MP, said that many people would feel betrayed by the archbishop's comments. "The Church of England wouldn't survive without Gay clergy in inner cities. "People will feel this is a huge betrayal. Rowan has refashioned the Church of England into a narrow-minded, conservative sect."

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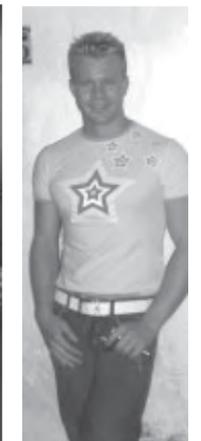
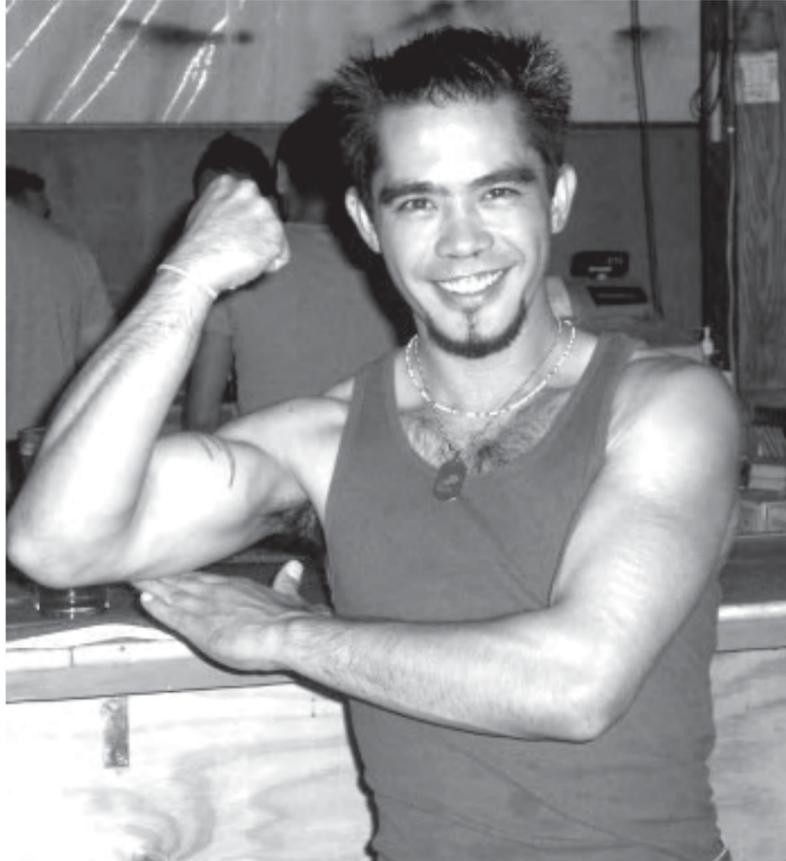
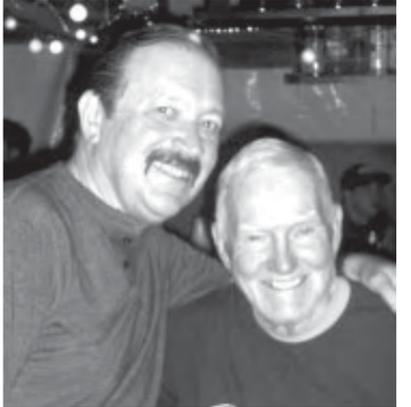
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Luminaries



POLITICS 2006

by Mark R. Kerr

CD-8, The Marriage Protection Act And Proposition 107

On Tuesday, Sept. 12, political eyes across the nation will be watching the results from Arizona's Congressional District 8 (CD-8) primary election, rated by political pundits and prognosticators as one of the competitive races to watch, to see whom the voters will decide as to be the respective party nominees in the race to succeed outgoing Gay Republican Congressman, Jim Kolbe, who announced late in 2005 that he would not be seeking another term in the U.S. House of Representatives. With the prospect of an open seat and the first, real competitive election in this District for the past twenty years and probably the last for a while, this vote will be a crucial one, not just for the constituents of CD-8 but nationally as this seat has been ranked as one that could shift the balance of power and control in the U.S. House.

Recent polling conducted by Margaret Kenski of Arizona Opinion for Wick Communications of voters that in the Republican contests, former state Representative Randy Graf is leading with 36% of the 300 voters (high propensity - voting in both the 2002 and 2004 primary elections) surveyed. State Representative Steve Huffman is garnering 13%, and former Republican National Committeemember, Mike Hellon is third with 10% of those who responded. There are two other candidates on the Republican ballot, Mike Antenori, Mike Jenkins and each only getting 1% of those surveyed. Thirty-eight percent said they were undecided. In the race for the Democratic nomination, former state Senator Gabrielle Giffords is leading the pack of six candidates, with 45% of the 300 voters (high propensity - voting in both the 2002 and 2004 primary elections) surveyed. Former television news anchor, "Patty Weiss," is second with 27% and former veteran Jeff Latas, third with 6%. There are three other candidates on the Democratic ballot, TUSD School Board Member Alex Rodriguez, Bill Johnson and Francine Shacter, each receiving 1% or less in the survey. Twenty percent said they were undecided.

Baring any unforeseen circumstances, a major scandal, political skulduggery, candidate withdrawal or the once-in-a-lifetime election upset, indications (polling and fund raising - federal campaign finance reports (fec.gov) are that this race is boiling down to three candidates for the Republican and Democratic contests. So where do these candidates stand on important issues of concern to the Arizona LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) community, such as the proposed federal constitution amendment entitled the Marriage Protection Act (MPA), and Proposition 107 (also known as the Protect Marriage Arizona amendment)?

On the Republican side, according to the homophobic Center for Arizona Policy's candidate questionnaire, both Randy Graf and Steve Huffman expressed support for the MPA, which would define "marriage" as between a man and a woman and make civil unions and domestic partnerships illegal while Mike Hellon expressed his opposition. Each of the three did not respond to the questionnaire from the Arizona Republic, the Phoenix daily newspaper which covered both the federal and state attempts to amend the respective Constitutions. Since both of these proposals, as well as many other anti-LGBT bills, came from Republicans (GOP), with the blessing of their supreme leader, Karl Rove, would you expect any pertinent, relevant or credible opposition from their minions in Congress when it comes to their

LGBT constituents and their rights?

Meanwhile for the Democrats, Giffords, "Patty Weiss" and Latas did submit responses to the Arizona Republic questionnaire and answered the question covering the issue.

Latas expressed his opposition to both proposals, stating: "Equal rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are the heart of our democratic society. I am against discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, or sexual identity. I believe that if the government chooses to recognize and reward unions between two people for tax or survivorship benefits, it should do so regardless of the gender of the two people involved. George W. Bush's recent call on the Senate to hold an immediate vote on the Federal Marriage Amendment was a ploy to pander to the religious right and attack freedom.

"This amendment proposed to deny marriage rights to Gay and Lesbian Americans. It also proposed to add language to our Constitution that could even strip such Americans of the right to civil unions, domestic partnerships and other legal protections. While the Senate leadership is 'unable' to debate the promising field of stem cell research, which saved my son's life, they find the time to try to write bigotry into our Constitution. This is unacceptable. Gay marriage doesn't pose any threat to my marriage of over 26 years, or to any other heterosexual marriage. I oppose: Legislation that would ban same-sex marriage or civil unions. The so-called 'Protect Marriage Arizona Amendment' ballot initiative. Federal legislation that would regulate marriage, traditionally a responsibility of the state. Laws and regulations that restrict the right of committed same-sex couples to adopt children, visit partners in the hospital, inherit property, and other rights of married couples."

"Patty Weiss" responded: "Marriage is an institution that is revered in America, and as such, it is a very emotional issue. I believe every church has the right to define marriage by its own rules. But our nation's government cannot discriminate based on religious belief. It's a 14th Amendment issue, a natural extension of equal protection under the law. If the U.S. Supreme Court fails to recognize that, I would support federal legislation recognizing civil unions. It is fundamentally unfair that a person in a committed relationship cannot receive health insurance and survivor's benefits or even visit their loved one in a hospital room."

Gabrielle Giffords said "I do not support the 'Protecting Marriage' amendment. This initiative would take benefits away from law-abiding Arizona families and elderly people living together simply because these 'domestic partners' are not legally married. Under the proposed amendment, health benefits, insurance benefits, hospital visitation rights, bereavement rights and domestic violence protection for these Arizonans will all be eliminated. I believe in ensuring rights - not taking them away. I do not support the proposed federal amendment to the U.S. Constitution. I believe that our Constitution should be a vehicle to enshrine the rights of the people, not to take them away. As a member of Congress I will work to assure that all Americans have full access to the civil rights that are clearly spelled out in the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Nothing in the Constitution allows Congress or any other body of government to deny basic human rights based on race, religion, gender

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or sexual orientation. Congress must not make any law that creates a separate, unequal set of laws for any specific population."

DP Bill Sparks Personal Attacks In California's Statehouse

SACRAMENTO, California - Debate over a bill that would let registered domestic partners in California file joint state tax returns devolved into a shouting match as state lawmakers in Sacramento accused each other of intolerance and one Republican said his Gay colleagues live a deviant lifestyle, reported the Associated Press on advocate.com. Discussion of the bill Wednesday (Aug. 23) began to heat up when Republican assemblyman Jay La Suer called the measure "part of the homosexual agenda." He said it would negatively affect California's children by teaching them "that this is an acceptable lifestyle."

Assemblyman Lloyd Levine, a Democrat, countered that "the real homosexual agenda is simple equality and freedom from discrimination." He said the bill would move California closer to that goal. Existing state law allows married couples to file joint or separate tax returns. The bill, sponsored by state senator Carole Migden, a Democrat who is one of six openly Gay members of the legislature, would extend that same right to registered domestic partners. California bans same-sex marriage but allows same-sex couples to register domestic partnerships, state-recognized unions conferring most of the same state-level legal rights as marriage, such as access to family benefits at work and the ability to adopt children as a couple. The debate took a personal turn when Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg, a Democrat, said she felt personally offended by La Suer's remarks, telling him he was "castigating me and mine."

After La Suer argued that he had every right to disagree with Goldberg's lifestyle, efforts to bring the discussion back to the specifics of the bill were thwarted by an outburst from Assemblyman Dennis Mountjoy, a Republican. "What you seek in society is acceptance," he said to Goldberg, addressing his comments to her and the other two openly Gay members of the assembly. "But your lifestyle is abnormal. It is sexually deviant." The Democrats immediately broke for a caucus meeting, an apparent effort to cool the rhetoric. When the session resumed, Mountjoy apologized if he had personally offended anyone, saying his remarks were an effort to defend his values and principles.

The bill, which had previously

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TUCSON, ARIZONA

passed the state senate, later was approved by a 44-28 vote, largely along party lines. It now returns to the senate for a final vote. Migden's bill was one of several Gay rights measures getting attention Wednesday (Aug. 23). The other bills are designed to promote tolerance and to prohibit discrimination against or negative portrayals of Gay people, Bisexuals, and transsexuals within public schools and organizations that receive government funding.

James Dobson, chairman of the conservative Christian group Focus on the Family, urged listeners of his daily radio broadcast to call and e-mail Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger demanding a veto of four other bills that relate to Gay and Lesbian issues. Dobson described those bills as having the potential to prohibit critical or biblically based discussion of homosexuality in various parts of the public sector. "If these bills are signed into law, who knows what the liberal courts in California will be able to make out of this in the years to come?" Dobson said in a statement. "There goes the next generation of children straight into the arms of the homosexual activist community." A spokeswoman for Schwarzenegger, Margita Thompson, said the governor signs and vetoes legislation "based on what is in the best interest of Californians. The governor believes all Californians are entitled to full protection under the law."

British Football Joins Rights Group To Fight Homophobia

MANCHESTER, United Kingdom - The British take their football seriously and they don't suffer bad games or players lightly, often pelting them with loud barrages of insults, frequently homophobic in nature, reported 365Gay.com. Players aren't much better, regularly berating fellow players or members of opposing teams with anti-Gay slurs.

Earlier this year the football league cautioned players and teams that homophobia was inappropriate. It was a plea that fell mostly on deaf ears. But now one team is doing something about homophobia. Manchester City is teaming up with British LGBT rights group Stonewall to not only fight homophobia but also attract Gay fans and players. The team is the first sports enterprise in the UK, possibly the world to pay a Gay civil rights group for advice. The exact

figure has not been released but is reported to be in the four figures range. The program Manchester City is joining is called Diversity Champions which already has scored successful results in working with mayor corporations in Britain.

"Manchester City should be congratulated for putting their head above the parapet and moving into the 21st century," said Stonewall leader Ben Summerskill. Summerskill said that in the next few weeks Manchester City will meet with the Diversity Champions team to set goals for the football club. They include fan education, recruitment and marketing. He called it a win win situation for both Gays and clubs, pointing out that a Gay-friendly environment would attract more straight fans- particularly families put off by the current homophobic taunts that blight games.

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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

Forced Schooling

by Lee Thorn

Our beloved Governor of Arizona, the generally practical and levelheaded Janet Napolitano, is pushing a strikingly dumb idea, forcing everybody to stay in school until the age of 18.

There are lots of practical problems with the notion of force-feeding education beyond the onset of beard growth, but I'd like to begin with an objection that I trust the world will happily leave to me alone. My objection is that it just isn't fair. By the time you reach sixteen you know whether you're getting anything useful out of school. That being the case, forcing sixteen and seventeen year-olds to attend school after they've decided they're not benefiting from it smacks of "involuntary servitude." You're making kids serve time when they haven't committed a crime.

I can hear the choruses of, "Children don't have full adult rights" and "We're going it for their own good." Those arguments are legally sound at present, but I'd advocate an expansion of the rights of minors, an expansion of their rights to the point at which they comport with ordinary ideas of what's fair.

As for the practical side, do we actually believe that these academic detainees are going to be soaking up knowledge because they're forced to? Take someone during what is normally the most rebellious years of our lives, put him someplace he doesn't want to be, and just sit back and watch the learning process blossom. Sure.

The probability is that these detainees are going to be disruptive and that their disruptiveness is going to make it harder for the real students to learn and harder for the teachers to teach. It's going to create not only a less productive but a less pleasant environment. And that's as it should be! The detainees ought to be disruptive. I'd sure as hell be disruptive if I were being held against my will in an institution that I didn't feel was serving my interests.

The governor's proposal seems to rest on the assumption that the only meaningful thing for a youth between the ages of 16 and 18 to be doing is academic work. To simply state the assumption should suffice to expose its absurdity. To simply state it is to reveal the sad absence of meaningful alternatives to what passes for education in our country. Why can't there be jobs for this age group? How about those mythical jobs that Americans won't do?

Why can't there be apprenticeship programs? Why can't there be any number of non-academic learning experiences and public service opportunities? As a society, we've decided to give this age group two pitiful alternatives, schools offering what's generally acknowledged to be poor quality education and the street corner. The street corner generates a youth culture of frightful barbarity because youth lacks the life experience required to moderate our species' desperate tendency to conform. The ethos of all youth cultures is, "Conform or die." The way out of this desert is not to enforce one of the sorry existing alternatives. The way out is to create many more and better alternatives.

Plumping the student population up with detainees who don't want to be there, in addition to being disruptive, will take resources away from students who want to learn and will serve as a disincentive for schools to compete for students. When you tell a school system, "We're going to give you these unruly students who'll have to remain with you no matter how poorly you perform," you're discouraging the system from improving performance

and making itself attractive to students.

A radio program about the governor's proposal brought something to my attention that I'd bet few Arizonans are aware of. It seems that under current law you don't have to wait until you're 16 to drop out of school. You can drop out at 14 if you have parental approval and a job. The part about having a job got my attention. What's that about? What if I'm 14 and I have an enormous trust fund which will protect me from ever needing either an education or a job? Do I still need a job to get out of school? Has the State of Arizona adopted the quasi-religious role of enforcing our Protestant work ethic?

Our American system has us going to school so we can learn enough to get a job and then working until we retire or drop dead. The ancient Greeks sent their sons to school to find interesting things to do because they had slaves to do all the jobs. We modern Americans need more job choices and non-job choices for young people. We need more than the dreary alternatives of academic detention and the hyper-conformity of the street.

(Thorn welcome 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.)

'Invisible Epidemic'
Continued from Page One

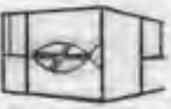
to always be the victim of domestic violence in heterosexual situations, there is a stereotype of, 'How could two women be living in a domestic violence situation?'

Susan Holt, who runs the domestic violence program at The Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center said the program serves 400 clients a month, including batterers and their victims. Yet Holt still feels she's fighting "an invisible epidemic," noting that Los Angeles County has 150 abuse prevention programs geared toward heterosexuals, compared to a handful designed for Gay men and Lesbians nationwide. She recalled an abused client who had to attend a court-ordered batterer's intervention program because he was physically bigger than his partner and therefore assumed to be the aggressor. Because there was not a program for Gay men near where he lived, the client went to a program for straight men and tried to pretend his partner was a woman. After the truth came out, he was followed out of the meeting and beaten by two other group members.

After coming to terms with his own experience and writing a book on Gay domestic violence, Letellier said he was gratified to see California officials taking the problem seriously. He has counseled other survivors, men and women, Gay and straight, and been impressed to find how much they have in common. "Domestic violence, on some level, is so amazingly unoriginal," he said. "It's so the same everywhere, so painfully the same."



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Non Bar Calendar

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
 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Join Merlin and Lee for an evening of Charades. Come out and totally enjoy putting your acting/miming and pantomime skills to the test. For directions and reservations [(a limited space event, please plan ahead and phone early)], place a telephone call to Lee and Merlin, your gracious yet competitive emcees and moderators, at 207-5336.

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

Saturday, September 2nd
 #1 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed:

7:30a.m. Join Robert for a morning of Volleyball. This is played for fun, and you'll get to know some nice guys as you play. Two great ways to work on your game! For details and directions, please call Robert at 400-1376.

#2 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. We invite you to join us for our monthly Pot Luck Dinner and to get to know the members of MSN. It's a nice, safe setting in which to cruise an array of hot dishes, meet new men, and greet friends. Reservations are not necessary. Bring your favorite dish to share. If you don't cook, bring restaurant, deli, or grocery pre-cooked food. Call Steve at 745-0304 for location and directions.

Sunday, September 3rd
 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:30p.m. Thom hosts Dinner Out at one of Tucson's Ultra-Fabulous Buffets. Price is usually under \$10 bucks. For reservations and directions, please contact Thom at 623-2941, or e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com by the Event Sunday at Noon to facilitate reservations. There is nothing like a buffet with men to find everything you have been craving!

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

Monday, September 4.
 Tucson Prime Timers Lunch -12:30 p.m., The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

Tuesday, September 5
 The Great Gay (Male) Reading Group meets at 7:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St. For September 5, the group will be discussing K.M. Soehlein's "The World Of Normal Boys" and for October 3rd Shyam Selvadurai's "Funny Boy". For more information call Doug, 529-0014.

#1Men'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.

#2 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Peruse our newest MSN Event! Join the Gay Reading Group to discover the joys of reading for pleasure and enlightenment. You may find that there is absolutely nothing like going to bed with a good book—or a friend who's read one. Call Doug at 529-0014 and remember: It's best to read before somebody reads you!

Wednesday, September 6th
 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Canasta hosted by Bruce 743-3890 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, September 7th
 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.

Friday, September 8th
 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00 p.m. Lloyd hosts a word for word fun evening of Scrabble. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Lloyd at 792-8537. If you're loquacious, erudite, or a wordsmith; this man's game just may be a triple word score for you!

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

Saturday, September 9
 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. Call your host Marvin at 745-0304. New recruits are always welcome and beginners are tutored to develop their gay Hollywood movie serial killer instincts!

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

Sunday, September 10
 #1Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: Noon About As Gay As It Gets! Join Marvin and Steve for Queer Duck The Movie and meet said duck, his boyfriend Openly Gator, and their pals Oscar Wildcat and Bi-Polar Bear. This is a limited space event, so please call 745-0304 to reserve your seat. Celebrity cartoon voices include: Conan O'Brien, Tim Curry, Bruce Vilanch, and David Duchovny. Come and meet Queer Duck: He Can't Even Fly Straight!

#2Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:30p.m. Thom hosts Dinner Out at one of Tucson's Ultra-Fabulous Buffets. Price is usually under \$10 bucks. For reservations and directions, please contact Thom at 623-2941, or e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com by the Event Sunday at Noon to facilitate reservations. There is nothing like a buffet with men to find everything you have been

craving!

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

Monday, September 11.
 Tucson Prime Timers Lunch - 12:30 p.m., The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

Tuesday, September 12th
 #1Men'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.

#2Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. A "whistful" evening of Bridge with host Terry at 577-3545. Please plan and call ahead for an evening of fun, and challenge your skills or learn new ones. And when your Bridge partner excuses himself to go to the bathroom, at least then you will know what he has in his hand!

Wednesday, September 13th
 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Canasta! Hosted by Marvin 745-0304 MSN Canasta is played every Wednesday at 7pm, but check back here for the host du soir. If you are a nervous first timer, you will find printed rules of play, and guys eager to get you up and in the action as you learn the game!

Thursday, September 14th
 #1Men'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.

#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.

Friday, September 15.
 Tucson Prime Timers Cocktails - 5:30 p.m. Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Saturday, September 16
 #1 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:30a.m. Join Robert for a morning of Volleyball. This is played for fun, and you'll get to know some nice guys as you play. Two great ways to work on your game! For details and directions please call Robert at 400-1376.

#2 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 5:30p.m. Wingspan Dinner! Dress code is Speedo to Tuxedo, and MSN has 2 tables for the event this year. Contact Curt at 877-9161 to reserve your seat at the MSN subsidized price of \$50. This year's Keynote speaker is former mayor of Tempe, and President of GLAAD, Neil Giuliano. Dinner is served, community awards are bestowed, drinks are to be had, and dancing to LeeAnne Savage rounds out this always emotional and amazing event.

#3Men'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. Call your host Jack at 887-3736. New recruits are always welcome and beginners are tutored to develop their gay Hollywood movie serial killer instincts!



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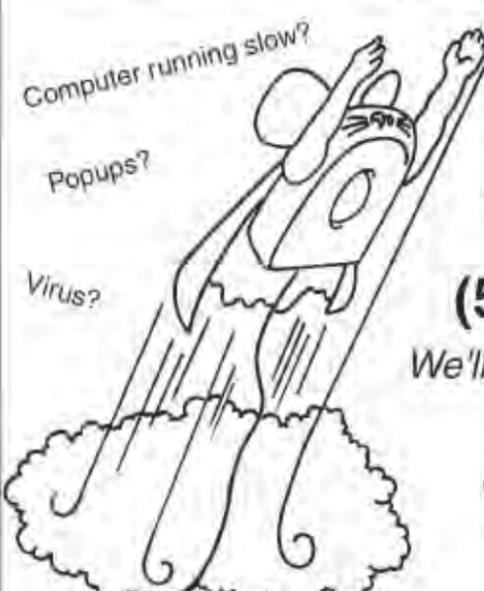
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There has been far too much tumult in the world. It is very easy to blame it all on retro Pluto but that excuse is fast disappearing. Wilde Pluto redirects this September and forms a sterling aspect to Saturn. No more excuses comrades. Let's get our act on the road and get rolling.

ARIES (MAR. 21 - APR. 20)
 World events have had a personal impact on your life. Maybe you had to change travel plans, maybe you changed your global view. Whatever overturned your craft, proud Ram, pick yourself up, dust yourself off and try, try again in September. You have learned a few tricks in your travails. Will you be content to keep them up your sleeve or will you try them on for size?

TAURUS (APR. 21 - MAY 21)
 September is the month when you can safely bite off more than you can chew. There is something deep, dark and delicious that not only catches your eye but can become an obsession. Anyone we know? Queer Bulls are prepared to jump without a net and risk becoming just another pile of ground beef as Pluto redirects. Take a leap of faith. No pain no gain, lover.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
 As tedious or as stressful as relationships can be, all the pieces will fall into place as Pluto redirects. Pink Twins see more clearly, accept even the most egregious faults and help to create a partnership that is stronger and more stable. And if you are on the prowl, use your considerable charms to snag a real charmer. Oh if it were only that easy!

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
 There will be something about your work schedule that will change. And by change I mean something dramatic and transformative. Don't be afraid, pink Crab. It is all good. Embrace change and make your move while others are still scratching their heads. You will also feel more energetic and robust health-wise. So also embrace other things besides change. Hint hint.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)
 Your creativity will soar this September. Pluto redirects and makes you more in tune with your Gay muse. Make music, create a masterpiece and just have fun. There may even be a little romance in the mix. Proud Lions who have struggled with severe artistic blockage will suddenly spurt their great ideas like a fountain. Watch where you spray, buster!

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)
 Tackle a long delayed large home improvement project or residential move this September with the help of Pluto. Queer Virgins are well positioned to envision the big picture as well as focus down on the most miniscule details. Nothing gets by you. So make your home your pink palace. Domestic bliss is yours for the taking. Take it before it fizzes.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)
 There is something quite powerful in the way you express yourself this September. Gay Libras are usually very diplomatic and charming and now, with the help of Pluto, you can also be very astonishing and compelling. Wow. So will you take your ideas to the world, or even to the street? Or will you waste your genius on idle chit chat and gossip? Hmm let's take a bet.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)
 Money is honey and September is the month to spread it all over your toast. Put your financial genius to the test by seeking the best advice and making some careful investments. Pluto creates some opportunities that have some dramatic impact on your fiscal future. Is an early, lucrative retirement in the stars? Or is it in your dreams?

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)
 You are a shooting star in the cosmos this September. Just what is it about Gay Archers that make them so compelling, so dramatic and so transformative? Whatever it is, bottle and sell it while you have their attention. Give all your seemingly tired and well discussed ideas one more try. You are a force with whom to be reckoned. Bring on a day of reckoning.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)
 No one gets something over on you this September. Pink Caps are on their game and seem to know other's motivations before they have a chance to strike. Brilliant! Don't waste this genius on small petty grievances. Look at the bigger picture and put your talents to work for the greater community good. Yes there is still something for you in it: Peace of mind. Bah humbug!

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)
 While you don't think that you know any powerful friends, you discover that you know many influential folks this September. And with a little effort, you meet quite a few more. Aqueerians should use this time to expand their social circles and join new, influential groups. There is also a chance for romance. If you find yourself in a pickle, let's hope that it is a sweet gherkin.

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MAR. 20)
 Although you may feel that you are working too hard for too little reward, you may find that September is a break through month for you professionally. Guppies should not give up the fight. All that you have been working for will soon pan out. Barriers can fall and those that deserves gets. Ah, but do you really know what you want?

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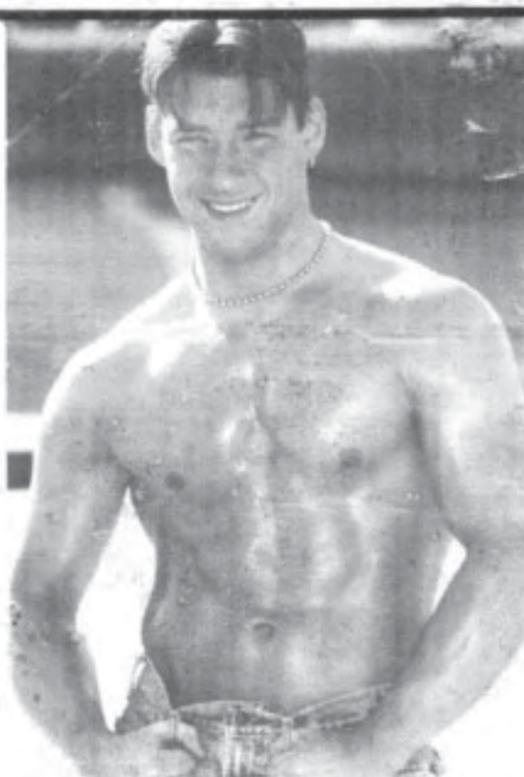
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Voters Oust Commissioners Who Tried To Criminalize Gays And Lesbians

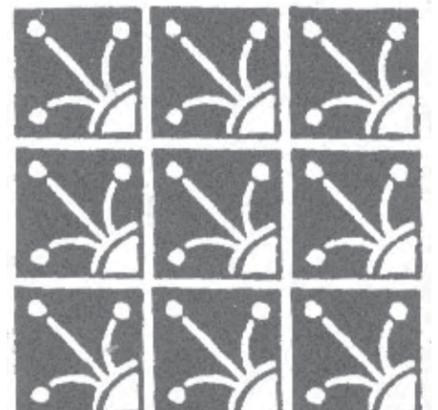
NASHVILLE, Tennessee - Voters in rural Rhea County have turned their backs on five commissioners who voted to make homosexuality a criminal offense, 365Gay.com reported. In elections for the county commission two other commissioners did not seek re-election while four others were returned.

But, for most voters the issue was the 2004 vote on homosexuality that many believed made the community a national laughing stock. In a unanimous vote the county commissioners passed a motion asking its state representatives to introduce legislation to allow it to lay charges against anyone who is Gay and who resides, stays or enters the county. Until the issue came up Rhea's only claim to fame was the adverse notoriety it got as the scene of the "Scopes Monkey Trial". In 1925, high school teacher John T. Scopes was convicted of teaching evolution and

fined \$100. The conviction was later overturned.

When the vote on homosexuality came up there was no discussion - just a vote. But less than a week later, after the story became front page headlines across the country some commissioners moved to have issue reopened. They said they thought they were voting for the power to stop same-sex couples from marrying and nothing more.

The vote was overturned but the fiasco left a sour taste in the mouths of voters - compounded by the excuse that commissioners didn't know what they were voting for. One of those voted out of office was Harold Fisher who had been a commissioner for 20 years and was chairman of the body.



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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. Game Night with Dan 5-7pm and 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. 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.

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 4-11 pm. Nightly dinner specials. Hot new jazz duo "Sunnyatta" 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 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.

August 30 - September 10

Arizona Repertory Theatre present Neil Simon's "Biloxi Blues" 7:30 p.m. Marroney Theatre. 621-1152. Follow naive Eugene Jerome through his hilarious and touching experiences at boot camp in Biloxi Miss.

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.

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

Arts and Entertainment

Continued

September 11 thru October 1

The Invisible Theatre presents "Rounding Third" by Richard Dresser. One's never wrong and the other's always right...a recipe for fireworks...just what happens in a riotously funny play about two mismatched little league coaches and their tumultuous baseball season which begs the age-old question of what's really important - is it whether you win, or is it really how you play the game? 1400 N. First Avenue (at Drachman). \$22 - \$25 per person. Call 882-9721 for reservations and information.

October 10 thru 15

A Nederland Broadway In Tucson presentation "The Ten Tenors" - a new musical force to be reckoned with. They have been seen by 77 million people on 3 continents selling out shows and winning hearts with their unmistakable charm, camaraderie and vocal prowess in opera. Pop, rock and more. Since their debut in 2001, the classically trained all-Australian singing sensation has enjoyed a relentless touring schedule. From arias to ABBA, their unique style is an unparalleled fusion of artistry,

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

IBT's - "Fire and Dance" Anniversary Party. Happy Hour Buffet 5-9 p.m. \$2.00 drinks 5-10 p.m. (Excludes top shelf) and Finlandia Specials 10:00 p.m. til closing.

VENTURE-N - Labor Day Weekend begins with Hot Snacks being served from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

WOODY'S - Labor Day Weekend kicks off here with White Elephant Door Give-aways from 8:00 p.m. until closing. DJ Jeff on the Patio from 9 to close.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

HOWL AT THE MOON - 9:00 p.m. a special show for Mikaila Kay to help send the new Miss Gay Arizona to the Nationals!

VENTURE-N - Bucky is serving his 'world famous' omelettes from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Jungle Party. 9:00 p.m. to closing. Costume Contest, Prizes and Jello Shots. Great prizes.

WOODY'S - UofA Tailgate Party 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Watch the game on the 6' TV scree. Munch on complimentary hot dogs and chips. Live Jazz on the patio and Steak BBQ 6-8 p.m. Join the Wet Party 11:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. on the Patio.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

WOODY'S - Brunch/Beer Bust/Patio Bar/Burger BBQ/Karaoke at 9:00 and a big Post-Turnabout Party.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 - LABOR DAY !!!

IBT'S - "Monday Morning Madness" - Opening at 10:00 a.m. with a free Breakfast Buffet. 11:00 a.m. it's showtime with Bunny FuFu and then Karaoke on the Patio starting at 1:00 p.m.

VENTURE-N - Holiday Barbecue served from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

WOODY'S - After the madness, enjoy the community Bar-B-Que 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. Patio Bar is open and Beer Bust. Karaoke with Michael D. and Gay Idol Winners 9:00 p.m.

YARD DOG SALOON - Bar-B-Que Pork Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

WOODY'S - Designer Underwear Nite 8:00 p.m. til closing.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

HOWL AT THE MOON - 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Silver Coyote Ballroom Dance. \$2.00 Cover. Easy listening swing, Ballroom, Golden Oldies - just a fun afternoon of dancing!

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

WOODY'S - Welcome Back Students Party and Spyks Promo Party.

SATURDAY, SEPT EMBER 16

HOWL AT THE MOON - CD Release Party for Amber Gaia

SATURDAY, SEPT EMBER 23

HOWL AT THE MOON - TMI is here playing classic rock, blues and more.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

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

NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

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

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

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

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 (GPGCLCC) P.O. BOX 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2097. E-mail: webmaster@gpgclcc.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 panelists available. General meetings monthly on the 1st Mondays at 7pm; Dezerz Girlz (MTF Support) meets 2nd Mondays at 7pm; Dezerz Boyz (FTM Support) meets 3rd Tuesdays at 7pm. Also serving partners, youth, intersex, service providers and allies. Call (520)624-1779 x26 for more info.

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

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

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

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

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

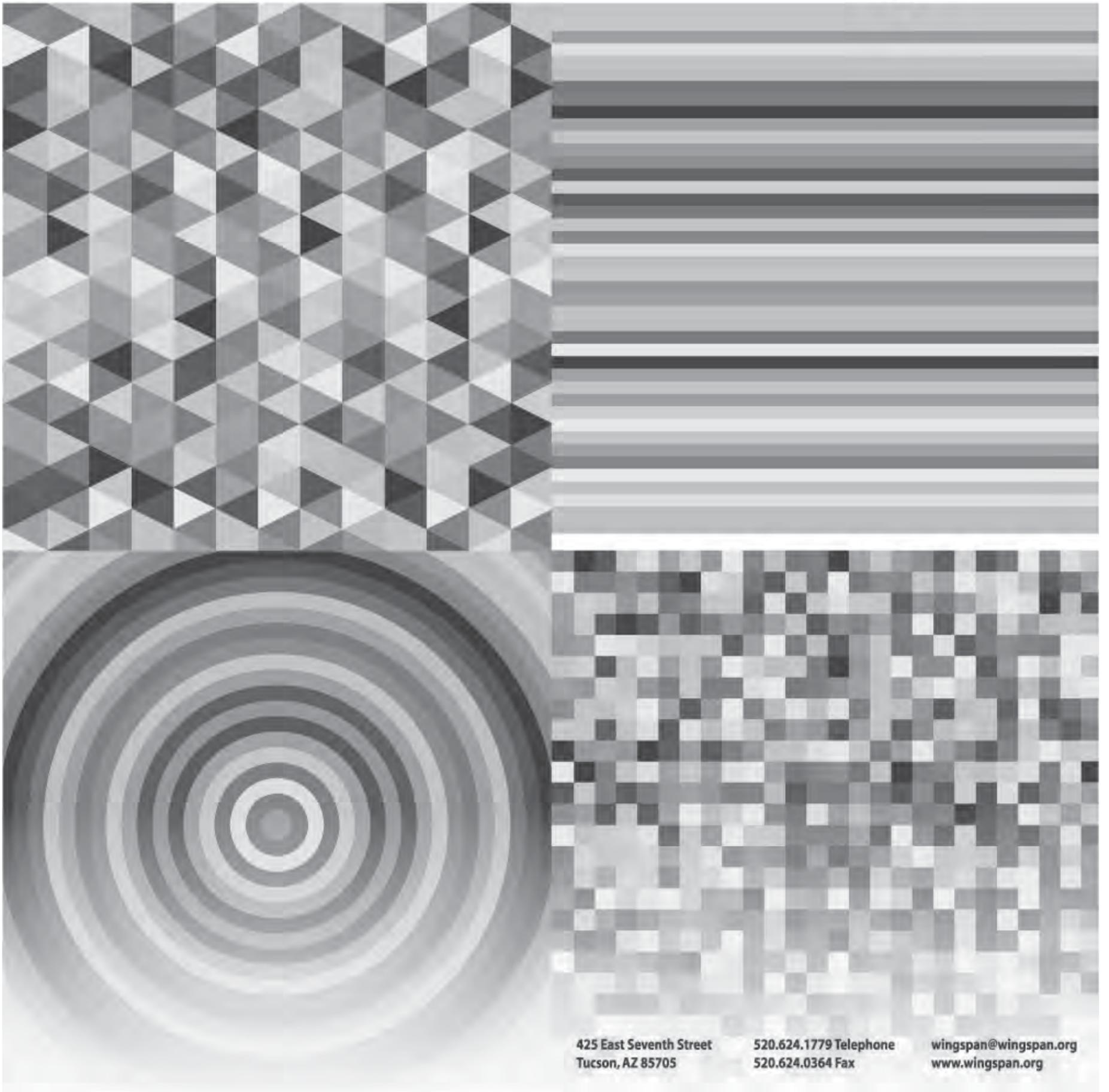
Southern Arizona's
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual,
and Transgender
Community Center

9th Annual Benefit Dinner
16 September 2006
Tucson Convention Center
Tucson, Arizona

For tickets call 520-624-1779.



Diversity is Unity



425 East Seventh Street
Tucson, AZ 85705

520.624.1779 Telephone
520.624.0364 Fax

wingspan@wingspan.org
www.wingspan.org