

# SEASON'S GREETINGS



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WEEKLY OBSERVER

DECEMBER 13, 2006

ISSUE 1169

## Ethics Committee: GOP Turned Blind Eye To Foley



Former Rep. Mark Foley



Rep. Dennis Hastert

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The House ethics committee reported Friday (Dec. 8) that Republican lawmakers (including Arizona Congressman Jim Kolbe) and aides failed to protect young male pages from former Rep. Mark Foley's improper advances, concluding an investigation into a scandal that convulsed Congress and contributed to the GOP defeat in last month's elections, the Associated Press reported on 365Gay.com.

The panel said it found no evidence that any current lawmakers or aides violated any rules. But it said it discovered a pattern of conduct among many "to remain willfully ignorant of the potential consequences" of the Florida Republican's conduct.

Foley hurriedly resigned his seat Sept. 29 after the existence of sexually explicit computer messages sent to teenage pages came to light. He quickly entered an alcoholic treatment program. But the scandal damaged Republicans politically, and raised questions about whether Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., or his aides had done enough to investigate reports of improper advances by Foley.

Florida authorities have opened a criminal investigation into whether Foley broke any laws related to his communications with the teens. Federal authorities are also investigating.

The report found that Hastert was likely told about Foley's e-mails by two Republican leaders last spring. Hastert has said he doesn't recall the conversations. But both Majority Leader John Boehner of Ohio and Rep. Tom Reynolds of New York have said they informed the speaker last spring. "The speaker's reported statement in response to Majority Leader Boehner that the matter 'has been taken care of' is some evidence that the speaker was aware of some concern regarding Rep. Foley's conduct" even prior to the

spring conversation, the report said.

The report was the result of numerous interviews conducted over nine weeks. Most of the witnesses answered question without being subpoenaed. Rep. Doc Hastings, R-Wash., and Howard Berman, D-Calif., the committee's leaders, said the report reflected the bipartisan conclusions of a four-member investigative panel. "This is not the jury-rigged result of a series of compromises but rather the right report on this subject," Berman said at a news conference in the Capitol.

Some of Foley's computer messages - not the most sexually explicit ones - came to light after the recipient's parents contacted Rep. Rodney Alexander, the Louisiana Republican who was the young man's sponsor in the page program. Apart from Alexander and his aides, the ethics committee said, "No one in the House who was involved in addressing Rep. Foley's conduct ... actually saw the e-mails. Several people were told about the e-mails and were asked to take action regarding them, including confronting Rep. Foley and telling him to stop," the report said. This report can be viewed online at [house.gov/ethics/Page\\_Report.pdf](http://house.gov/ethics/Page_Report.pdf).

## Lesbian Pension Battle To Be Shown At Sundance

PARK CITY, Utah - "Freeheld," a documentary film chronicling the fight of a dying police lieutenant to be able to leave her pension to her same-sex partner has been selected to be shown at next month's 25th Sundance Film Festival, reported [ukgaynews.com](http://ukgaynews.com).

Stricken with terminal cancer, Lt. Laurel Hester wanted to leave her pension benefits to her life partner Stacie Andree, so Stacie could afford to keep their house. Laurel was told last year by local 'Freeholders' in New

**Continued on Page Two**

## Ryan White Reauthorized

WASHINGTON, D.C. - President Bush has signed a compromise version of a bill to reauthorize funding for the Ryan White CARE Act, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. The program, since 1990, has provided critical care and treatment to low-income Americans living with HIV and AIDS.

The measure passed the House late Friday night (Dec. 8). The bill passed the Senate earlier in the week.

"This legislation focuses on life-saving and life-extending services and increased accountability, and will provide more flexibility to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to direct funding to areas of greatest need," the President said in a statement. "The Ryan White Care Act demonstrates the compassionate and generous spirit of America, and I look forward to signing this important

legislation into law."

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) had held up renewal of the act because, in its original form the reauthorization would have reduced federal grants to New York State. The measure also would have cut federal spending in California, Florida and Illinois. The money would have been redirected to rural states, mainly in the South. Clinton struck a deal with GOP leaders that would see a reduction in the cuts to the larger states while still giving more money to rural areas. The original bill would have seen New York State lose \$100 million and the other big states about \$70 million each. Clinton said 100,000 New Yorkers infected with HIV should not have been forced to suffer cuts in order to spread money elsewhere. Under the revised version New York will see \$8 million chopped.

## Canadian Lawmakers Rebuff Bid To Reconsider Same-Sex Marriage Law

OTTAWA, Canada - A motion to reopen the issue of same-sex marriage was quickly rejected by Canada's House of Commons Thursday (Dec. 7) leaving LGBT rights advocates jubilant and opponents accusing the minority Conservative government of betrayal, reported 365Gay.com. The House voted 175 - 123 to reject the motion that would have directed the government to prepare a bill to repeal the same-sex marriage law while at the same time allowing those marriages already conducted to stand and to permit civil unions. Among those voting against the motion were five members of Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper's own cabinet.

The defeat of the measure was not unexpected. Surveys of Members of Parliament leading up to the vote showed that a majority opposed reopening the issue after a series of legal experts advised it would mean using a section of the Constitution, called the notwithstanding clause, that allows the government to override sections of the Constitution. A number of MPs who oppose same-sex marriage voted against reopening the issue fearing that using the notwithstanding clause for the first time could set a dangerous precedent.

The majority of Canadians also opposed reopening the issue. A Strategic Counsel poll taken last week for the CTV television network and The Globe and Mail showed 58 percent of Canadians believe the marriage law should continue to include same-sex couples. Only 36 percent said it

should be repealed.

Prime Minister Harper maintained that the motion fulfilled a campaign promise, but when the motion came up for debate on Tuesday in the House Harper was visibly absent. So were most other MPs. There was barely a quorum in the House. At one point there were more pages than members. But while Harper may have been fulfilling a promise to his base, it has left it less than satisfied.

The socially conservative Campaign Life Coalition accused Harper of deserting the right. Spokesperson Mary Ellen Douglas said that the Prime Minister orchestrated the measure's defeat to put the issue to rest before an election expected before spring. Douglas said that instead of asking MPs if they wanted to reopen the debate Harper should have introduced a repeal bill. Her assessment that the wording of the motion and its subsequent defeat were planned to prevent the opposition Liberals from accusing the Tories of being bigots during the campaign may have been accurate. With polls showing most Canadians opposed to repealing Gay marriage and with the Conservatives slightly trailing the Liberals in public opinion polls, Harper must be seen as a moderate to win a majority government.

**DON'T DRINK  
AND DRIVE**

# UPDATE

## Celebrate Hanukkah Dec. 15 - 17

TUCSON - Celebrate Hanukkah on Dec. 15 at Congregation Chaverim (Third Friday). Potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m., followed by services at 7:30 p.m. Please RSVP since space is limited for the dinner.

Special Hanukkah Party: Celebrate with other LGBT Jews on Sunday night Dec. 17, at a private home.

RSVP and bring a friend to the above events, and get directions. E-mail [lgbtinfo@jfsa.org](mailto:lgbtinfo@jfsa.org), or call Rebecca Crow, (520) 299-3000 X217. For more information contact Edward Leven, (520) 299-3000, E-mail: [lgbtinfo@jfsa.org](mailto:lgbtinfo@jfsa.org), online at: [jewishtucson.org/lgbt](http://jewishtucson.org/lgbt).

## 'A Queer Carol' Ends Run This Weekend

TUCSON - This upcoming weekend is your last chance to come out and support Arizona's only LGBT theater company and the holiday production of A Queer Carol, by Joe Godfrey, Dec. 15-17.

Directed by Joe W. Marshall, the show puts a uniquely Gay twist on the Dickens classic and features Tucson's Black Cat Ajia Simone as the Ghost of Christmas Present. T

The show is at the newly renovated Hollywood Cabaret Theatre, 1501 N. Oracle. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door, and are available at Antigone Books (411 N. 4th Ave.). Friday, Dec. 15 - 8:00 p.m., (Wingspan Night & Cast Party), Saturday, Dec. 16 - 8:00 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 17 - 3:00 and 7:00 p.m. ...

## TIHAN Teddy Bear Raffle Continues

TUCSON - For only \$1, you can win a chance in the 2006 Christmas Rainbow Bears Benefit. Raffle tickets are now on sale for this chance to win one of seven life-size rainbow bears (stuffed animals of varying colors of the rainbow).

Seven community bars are displaying these beautiful stuffed bears and selling \$1 raffle tickets, and each will be raffling off their bear in drawings on Saturday, Dec. 23, 11:00 p.m. Proceeds from the raffle will benefit the holiday programs provided for children, adults, and families affected by HIV/AIDS sponsored by the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) and the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF).

Raffle tickets are available at Ain't Nobody's Biz, Colors, Howl at the Moon, IBT'S, Venture-N, Woody's, and Yard Dog, as well as at the offices of TIHAN and SAAF.

## City Of Phoenix Protects Transgender Employees

PHOENIX - After lobbying by the Arizona Human Rights Fund (AHRF), the City of Phoenix has expanded its employee non-discrimination policy to include gender identity/expression. Phoenix Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual employees have been protected since 1992 when the City Council amended its non-discrimination policy to include sexual orientation.

"This change will protect the safety and livelihood of many Phoenix employees," said AHRF Executive Director Barbara McCullough-Jones. "Not only will Transgender employees be protected from unfair treatment, all employees will be free from harassment based on gender stereotypes. The City of Phoenix has taken another step in valuing the diversity of its workforce."

With the anti-LGBT base activated during the so-called "Protect Marriage Arizona" campaign, AHRF and council members worked to clarify the existing statute instead of holding a public vote. On Nov. 30, City Manager Frank Fairbanks released a memo stating, "I want to make it clear, as the official approving authority...that the existing discrimination prohibition on gender and sexual orientation issues was intended to include and does not include Transgender and gender expression issues...So discrimination by employees on the basis of gender expression and Transgender issues is prohibited."

This makes Phoenix the third city in Arizona to protect Transgender employees from discrimination. Tempe and Tucson currently have comprehensive non-discrimination policies, while Pima County and state of Arizona have policies that cover only sexual orientation.

"We look forward to working with the City of Phoenix Equal Opportunity Department in order to ensure that this new directive is implemented," said McCullough-Jones. "Employees must be educated about how to adhere to this policy enhancement and how to file a grievance if necessary. With the continued leadership of Mayor Phil Gordon and Councilman Tom Simplot, I am confident those measures will be in place soon."

## Lesbian Pension Battle Continued from Page One

Jersey that it was not possible - they are not husband and wife. So, after spending a lifetime fighting for justice for other people, Laurel - a veteran New Jersey detective - launches a final battle for justice. And as the world knows, the gutsy cop won her battle against the local politicians on Jan. 21, 2006 - but then lost her battle against

## San Francisco Top LGBT Destination

WASHINGTON, D.C. - San Francisco was named the top "Gay-friendly" destination in a new survey of LGBT travelers conducted by the Travel Industry Association, the Associated Press reported on 365Gay.com. Following San Francisco on the list's top 10 were Key West, Fla.; New York City; Fire Island, which is part of Long Island in New York; Provincetown, Mass.; Los Angeles; Miami-South Beach, Fla.; Las Vegas; New Orleans, and Palm Springs-Palm Desert, Calif.

The national survey was conducted by the Travel Industry Association in partnership with Harris Interactive and Witeck-Combs Communications. Nearly half of Gay and Lesbian travelers said that whether a destination has a "Gay-friendly" reputation matters when they are making leisure travel choices. A place where "they can hold their partner's hand in public" without fear of harassment was cited as an example of something that more than half of Gay men and more than two-thirds of Gay women look for when they are choosing a destination, according to the survey.

Bob Witeck, CEO of Witeck-Combs Communications said the survey showed that Gay and Lesbian travelers are not looking for special treatment, but are simply "expecting consideration and equal respect given all customers."

Four out of 10 Gay and Lesbian travelers also said they consider a destination Gay-friendly if it "is known to be culturally welcoming and to support diversity" and Gay rights. Only a third of Gay men and 18 percent of Lesbians cited "Gay nightlife, Gay clubs and bars" among their top considerations for Gay friendliness. The national online survey was conducted among 2,020 self-identified Gay travelers 21 and older who have taken at least one leisure trip within the past 12 months.

The survey also polled 1,010 adults who self-identified as heterosexual and who also have taken at least one leisure trip in the past year. The heterosexual travelers were included as a way to compare the two groups. The survey found, for example, that Gay men tend to spend more on trips than lesbians and heterosexuals.



Laurel Hester and Stacie Andree

cancer less than a month later on Feb. 18. She was 49, and was a 23-year veteran of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office.

Documentary filmmaker Cynthia Wade filmed Lt. Hester's bitter fight against politicians to provide for the "lover of her life." Stacie. The documentary 'short' is to get its world premier at Sundance - and will have a total of five screenings. Titled "Freeheld", the film is one of eight from the United States selected in the short documentary category by Sundance - there are an additional four international titles. "This is fantastic news," said Ms. Wade on learning that her film had been selected. "We are madly trying to finish the film now, and trying to raise the final funds."

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## COMMENTARY . . .

### The Buck Just Stops

What, one has to wonder, would it take for the House ethics committee to hold a lawmaker or a staff member accountable?

A special investigative subcommittee convened to examine responses to Mark Foley's inappropriate contacts with congressional pages found "a significant number of instances where Members, officers or employees failed to exercise appropriate diligence and oversight." It found "a disconcerting unwillingness to take responsibility for resolving issues regarding Rep. Foley's conduct." And it found "a pattern of conduct . . . among many individuals to remain willfully ignorant of the potential consequences of former Representative Foley's conduct with respect to House pages."

The sum total of disciplinary actions the panel is recommending as a result? Zero.

In a report released yesterday (Dec. 8), the panel did a good job laying out the disturbing facts of the case: how the Florida Republican's inappropriate interest in pages manifested itself from his first days on the job and how lawmakers and staff failed to do nearly enough to find out about or fix the problem. It ably described the stakes involved: "The failure to exhaust all reasonable efforts to call attention to potential misconduct involving a Member and House page is not merely the exercise of poor judgment; it is a present danger to House pages and to the integrity of the institution of the House." Then, all too characteristically, the committee declined to hold even a single individual responsible for any misstep.

It's true, as the report said, that not "every error in judgment" is a violation of House rules. It's also true that those who failed to stop Mr. Foley weren't aware at the time of his most egregious conduct, the sexually explicit instant messages he sent to a former page. But if not every error in judgment is a violation, the ethics committee's approach seems to be that no error, however egregious, is.

The report chronicled errors of omission and commission — and episodes of inexplicable forgetfulness — that are widespread and bipartisan. It concluded that "the weight of the evidence" is that House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) was warned about Mr. Foley's "overly friendly" e-mails and that Mr. Hastert's chief of staff, Scott Palmer, his denials notwithstanding, had confronted Mr. Foley about his behavior years earlier. It described how Rep. Jim Kolbe (R-Ariz.) didn't respond forcefully enough when told by a former page in 2000 that Mr. Foley had sent the page a sexually graphic instant message; once the scandal broke and the page asked Mr. Kolbe what he should do if questioned by authorities, Mr. Kolbe told him that "it is best that you don't even bring this up."

The committee found that the e-mails were treated — by operatives on both sides — as a potential political issue, not as one of moral responsibility. Assessing the conduct of Majority Leader John A. Boehner (R-Ohio) and House campaign committee chairman Thomas M. Reynolds (R-N.Y.), the

panel found, "Like too many others, neither the Majority Leader nor Rep. Reynolds showed any curiosity regarding why a young former page would have been made uncomfortable by e-mails from Rep. Foley." And Democrats who obtained the e-mails, notably Democratic Caucus communications director Matt Miller, saw them as a political weapon, trying to sell the story to wary reporters.

The ethics committee concluded that none of this rose to the level of conduct that, in the words of the relevant rule, failed to reflect creditably on the House. This conclusion fails to reflect creditably on the ethics committee.

(The above was the editorial from the Dec. 9 edition of the Washington Post.)

### President's Order Does Not Rescind U.S. HIV Travel Ban, Group Says

NEW YORK CITY - Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) and Immigration Equality are wanting more details about President Bush's recent direction to the Secretaries of State and Homeland Security to "initiate a rule making that would propose a categorical waiver" for HIV-positive travelers to the United States, ukgaynews.com reported.

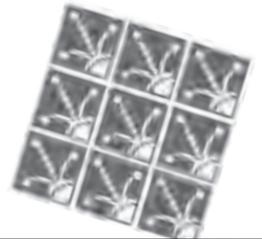
The U.S. has barred HIV-positive travelers and prospective immigrants from entering the country since 1987, a policy that was codified by an act of Congress in 1993. Waivers for short-term visits are available for HIV-positive travelers, but are not easy to come by. It is unclear how the waiver mentioned by President Bush would differ from current discretionary waivers under the authority of the Department of Justice.

"There's been a lot of speculation but not much specificity about the White House announcement," said Dr. Nancy Ordovery, assistant director of research and federal affairs at GMHC. "We don't know what it does, but we know what it doesn't do: it doesn't rescind an unjustifiable travel ban on people with HIV, it doesn't remove HIV as grounds for inadmissibility to the United States, and as far as we know,

it does not stop the practice of stamping people's passports with an indicator of their HIV status," she pointed out.

Adam Francoeur, policy coordinator for Immigration Equality, urged the LGBT and HIV/Aids communities to be cautious about praising the announcement. "We don't know enough, except that it doesn't go far enough. We encourage the administration to release the full details of the proposal sooner rather than later." The two organizations say they are looking forward to seeing the actual rule when it is released for public comment. "At that point we'll know what we're dealing with," said Francoeur.

Both GMHC and Immigration Equality stress that much more needs to be done. "HIV and AIDS must be removed as grounds for inadmissibility to the US," Ordovery said. "Twenty years of an indefensible and inhumane policy is enough."





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**LGBT Boomers Worried About Future**

WESTPORT, Connecticut - LGBT Baby Boomers are more worried than the general public about their financial stability and care as they approach their twilight years a new study shows, reported gfn.com. The survey, Out and Aging, was conducted by pollster Zogby International for MetLife and the Lesbian & Gay Aging Issues Network of the American Society on Aging. It is considered the first comprehensive study on LGBT aging concerns.

percent are afraid of not being able to care for themselves and 56% are concerned with being dependent on others. In addition only one in five people in the survey say they are unsure of who will take care of them when the need arises, though at least 75% expect to be caregivers for someone else. The researchers found that Gay men are more likely than Lesbians to be concerned with being alone (43 percent versus 36 percent), becoming sick or disabled (59 percent versus 50 percent) and losing the ability to care for themselves (76 percent versus 68 percent).

It found that both Gay men and Lesbians fear outliving their income in retirement, but that Lesbians were most worried. Sixty percent of women were concerned about their economic future while 55 percent of Gay men said they feared running out of money. The survey also found that more than a quarter of those polled fear discrimination as they age. Less than half expressed strong confidence that health care professionals will treat them with "dignity and respect." Yet, 40 percent said they believe being LGBT helped them prepare for aging.

The study found that the differences between men and women in the study group, as both caregivers and with respect to attitudes toward aging, are at variance with those in the general population. Roughly the same proportion of men and women in the LGBT group are caregivers. This is in contrast to findings in previous general population studies showing that between 25 percent and 44 percent of caregivers are men. In addition, men and women in the LGBT population perform roughly the same caregiving tasks, compared with men and women overall.

"The study indicates those in the LGBT community have concerns about growing older," said Sandra Timmermann, Ed.D., director of the MetLife Mature Market Institute. "This group reports a great deal of worry about who will care for them. Financial concerns are also an issue, for women slightly more than men. Planning for financial, legal and emotional support should be a high priority."

Men in this group are more likely to assist with personal care, whereas men in the general group are more likely to help with paperwork and paying bills. The survey also found that only 51 percent of all LGBT baby boomers, and women in particular, have yet to complete their will, living will or other similar legal directive, despite the fact that LGBT couples and families currently lack legal protection.

The study found that one in four respondents said they had provided care for an adult friend or family member in the last six months, compared with one in five in previous general population studies.

"The unique family structures and gender role differences among those in the LGBT community point to an added need for social support networks, housing solutions, financial planning and end-of-life decision-making for this group and for those in policy roles," said Kimberly D. Acquaviva, Ph.D., co-chair of the Lesbian and Gay Aging Issues Network of the American Society on Aging. The study involved 1,000 people who identified as Gay, Lesbian, bisexual or transsexual between the ages of 40 to 61.

The survey also found that 74

**Taking Break From HIV Drugs Doubles Risk Of Death**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - One of the largest-ever studies of HIV treatment has found that patients who temporarily stop taking their powerful medicines more than double their risk of dying, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. Many HIV patients have sought doctors' permission to periodically take a break from the tiresome regimen of AIDS-fighting drugs, which can cause incapacitating side effects. Several small studies have suggested "holidays" from medication might be OK for patients who appear to be doing well.

therapy about 94 per cent of the time.

The study started in January 2002 but enrolment was stopped in January 2006, when it became clear that more people in the intermittent-treatment group were dying. The numbers were small, however. Only three per cent of all the study participants died or developed AIDS-related illness. In the group that took drug holidays, 55 people died, compared to 30 in the group that stayed on their medication.

But the new study, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, suggests such a strategy can be dangerous: The rate of disease progression or death was more than twice as high in patients who took medications intermittently than in those who took them every day. However, many of the deaths were not related to AIDS, so it's not clear why the numbers varied, researchers said.

The leading causes of death in both groups included cancers, cardiovascular disease, substance abuse, and opportunistic diseases associated with AIDS. In the group that had interrupted drug therapy, another 65 people had non-fatal diseases like bacterial pneumonia, fungal infections and AIDS-related cancers. In the continuous group, 17 people had non-fatal infections.

The study involved nearly 5,500 patients in 33 countries. About half were assigned to continuously receive AIDS drugs. The others stopped the therapy when key immune system blood cells reached certain levels, and restarted when they fell below a threshold. The second group's treatment breaks varied, but on average they were taking drugs 33 per cent of the time. Patients in the first group were on

"Quite unexpectedly, our results show that interrupting therapy increases the risk of serious non-AIDS-related events," said Dr. Wafaa El-Sadr, one of the trial's co-chairs, in a prepared statement. He is a researcher at the Harlem Hospital Center in New York City. Fourteen of the researchers on the study have received consulting fees, advisory fees and other types of payments from pharmaceutical companies that make HIV medications, the journal reported.

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# Split For Celebrity Couple Lance & Reichen



Lance Bass with Reichen Lehmkuhl

LOS ANGELES, California - Lance Bass and Reichen Lehmkuhl have broken up, Bass' manager tells People magazine, reported 365Gay.com. Bass came out to People in July saying he'd decided to "speak my mind" because rumors about his sexuality were starting to affect his daily life. At the time he told the magazine that he and Amazing Race winner Reichen Lehmkuhl had been dating.

Rumors about the two had been circulating for weeks in gossip columns after the two were sighted in Provincetown and West Hollywood together. Lehmkuhl had been supportive of Bass going public. "I'm just really proud of Lance and the decision he made," he told People in the summer. "He did it all on his own and I just stood by and supported him. It's just been great."

The two were regularly seen together at functions. In August Bass watched on as Lehmkuhl and others

were feted by California Democrats at the legislature for being LGBT role models. Bass also was on hand for the release of Lehmkuhl's book 'Here's What We'll Say' Growing Up, Coming Out, and the U.S. Air Force Academy. But by fall cracks were beginning to appear in the relationship. Over the weekend Bass was spotted without Lehmkuhl at a party at Pure Nightclub in Las Vegas, prompting People to put the question to Bass' manager.

In addition to the book Lehmkuhl is trying to launch a career as an actor. Bass has been working on a sitcom pilot with fellow 'N Sync-er Joey Fatone loosely based on the band. Bass's character will be Gay. He also has a role in the upcoming comedy I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry. What or who cause the breakup is not known. People has been the publication of choice this year for celebrities wishing to come out. Neil Patrick Harris and "Grey's Anatomy" actor T.R. Knight both came out in People last month.

## 'Q' BRIEFS

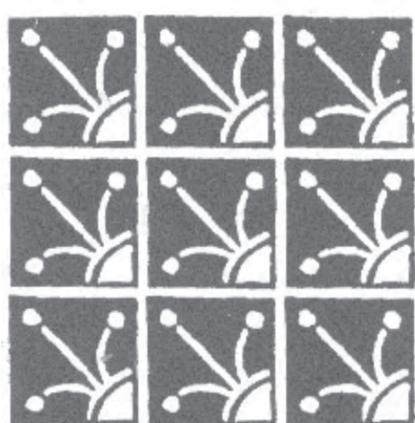
CHICAGO - A measure to remove limitations on where the kings and queens of drag can perform is on its way to the full Chicago city council. Clubs featuring female or male impersonators currently need a special permit, the same as for topless dancers, that limits them to certain areas of the city. Some council members say the restrictions need not apply to drag performers, who don't take off their clothes. ...

BURLINGTON, Vermont - Vermont's free monthly newspaper for the state's LGBT audience will fold after 21 years of publishing, according to Seven Days, a news Web site in Vermont. Burlington-based Mountain Pride Media board president Brian Cote told Seven Days that the decision to fold Out in the Mountains three weeks ago was emotional but necessary. The publisher will put on a fund-raiser to cover closing costs and payroll. ...

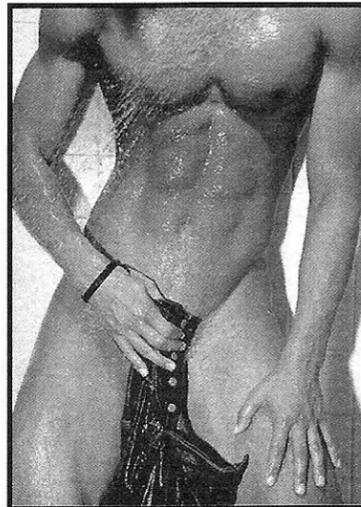
LOS ANGELES - A straight former police officer is suing the Los Angeles Police Department, alleging she was fired after she complained about discrimination by her Gay supervisors. Cindy S. Perez is alleging wrongful termination and sexual orientation discrimination in her suit and is asking for unspecified general and punitive damages. ...

LONDON - BBC Radio 4's soap opera The Archers is to feature the first "Gay wedding" in its 55-year

history. The civil partnership between Adam Macy and Ian Craig, played by Andrew Wincott and Stephen Kennedy, will take place in the episode broadcast on Dec. 14. The farmer and chef first kissed two-and-a-half years ago. But fans of the rural drama will hear Adam facing a potential family crisis on his big day when his stepfather, Brian Aldridge, threatens to stay away. Ian has already been through an ordeal with his family, having "come out" as homosexual to his father and brothers. Now the couple live in Lower Loxley, where the ceremony will take place. It will also emerge they are not the only people in the community hoping to be planning a wedding. The Archers is the world's longest-running soap opera on the radio and has been broadcast on weekdays since Jan. 1951.



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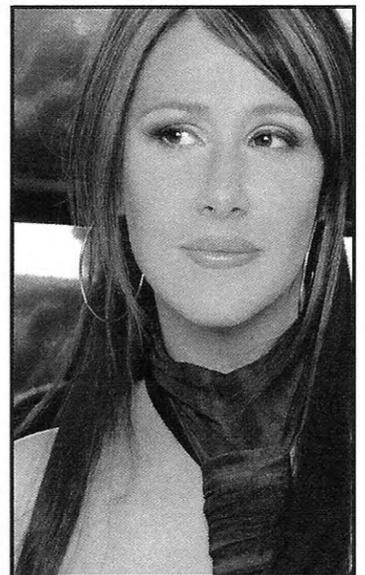


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## Across The 'Q' Globe

BELFAST, Northern Ireland - Two of Northern Ireland fractious political parties lost a motion condemning the British government's new LGBT equality law by the narrowest of margins - a tie vote. The motion spurred two hours of acrimonious, often homophobic debate in Northern Ireland's legislature Monday (Dec. 11). The legislation, passed by the Blair government is set to take effect on Jan. 1 in Northern Ireland, ahead of the rest of the UK. The DUP motion could not have altered that directly but could have been used to pressure London into delaying the measure. The DUP and the Unionist Party accused the government of ramming through the legislation and "holding only a two-month consultation." Sinn Fein Party equality spokesperson Caitriona Ruane accused the DUP of "whipping up homophobic sentiment with the motion." The vote was 39 to 39. Under the rules of the legislature a tie vote results in a defeat. The new law would bar discrimination against Gays in housing and employment. ...

LAGOS, Nigeria - Legislation being considered by Nigeria's House of Representatives would make it a criminal offense to associate with known homosexuals. The bill would make any meeting between two or more people where one is Gay a crime punishable up to five years behind bars. The legislation adds to the growing isolation of Gays and Lesbians in the African nation where sodomy is illegal. In northern Nigeria, which is under Islamic law, homosexuality can be punishable by death and in the rest of the country by long prison terms. Earlier this year Nigeria made it illegal for same-sex couples to go abroad to marry. When they return they

could be imprisoned for five years. Even attending a Gay wedding could result in imprisonment. The new bill has the support of Nigeria's Anglican Church which has been at the forefront of opposing Gay clergy in the denomination. Lawmakers say the bill is in reaction to South Africa's new law allowing same-sex couples to wed. ...

STOCKHOLM, Sweden - (Stockholm) The Swedish Lutheran Church announced Wednesday that as of Jan. same-sex couples will be able to have their unions blessed in any of its congregations throughout the country. Until 2000 it was the state religion and has 7.2 million members out of a total population of nine million. Individual priests may refuse to perform blessing ceremonies, but the congregation will be responsible for ensuring that a blessing is provided. ...

ADELAIDE, South Australia - The South Australia parliament passed legislation Thursday (Dec. 7) granting same-sex couples most of the state rights accorded to opposite-sex married couples. The bill passed 16 - 3 in the upper house, bringing South Australia in line with the country's other states. It covers property ownership, inheritance and hospital visitation rights. The legislation also recognizes two people living together in a non-sexual relationship. The gallery in the Legislative Council erupted in cheers and applause when the vote was announced. LGBT rights groups had campaigned for the legislation for six years.

## Conservatives Propose 'Equal Benefits' Bill For Gays, Siblings, And Others

COLUMBIA, Missouri - Proposed changes to Columbia's municipal benefits plan include a provision that would provide health insurance for Gay and Lesbian partners of city employees, reported the Columbia Tribune. The changes, included in a bill the Columbia City Council will review for the first time tomorrow, also would provide benefits for unmarried couples who sign a legal document claiming they are "domestic partners."

Margrace Buckler, the city's director of human resources, said the bill would make Columbia one of only a handful of Missouri cities to provide same-sex benefits to their employees. She said Kansas City and St. Louis already offer their employees such benefits. "In terms of benefits, it treats all our employees equally," Buckler said. The bill is the result of a recommendation earlier this year by members of the city's Employee Benefits Committee, who argued that the change to the health and dental plans of the city's more than 1,180 permanent employees would not cause a significant increase in the cost of the insurance. The city of Columbia is self-insured, which means the city underwrites its plan at its own risk.

Nationwide, several states and cities have begun offering benefits to same-sex and unmarried couples, according to Gay advocacy groups. In late 2004, BJC Healthcare - operator of Boone Hospital Center and one of Columbia's largest employers - announced it would offer same-sex benefits to its employees. More than half the nation's Fortune 500 companies offer domestic partners insurance under their medical plans, according to insure.com, an online trade journal.

The policy being considered by the city requires partners to meet a number of requirements before they are able to take advantage of the benefits. Like many private companies, the city's plan would require partners to have lived together for at least six months and be at least 18 years old. The bill also requires each person to sign an affidavit and pledge to reside with their partner "and share the common necessities of life."

Jim Windsor, a Columbia Water and Light employee who is also the chairman of the city benefits committee, said the new package would ensure that all city workers are treated fairly, regardless of whether they are Gay or heterosexual couples. "We've had employees ask for it," he said. "It seems like a reasonable thing to do in today's world. Not everybody's married, and not everybody's with the same sex." Gary Markenson, executive director of the Missouri Municipal League, said there does not appear to be a trend toward providing same-sex couples health insurance among Missouri municipalities. He also questioned whether some could take advantage of the provision by simply stating they are partners of city employees and reaping the benefits of the health insurance.

Buckler said that's not likely because workers and their partners will be required to provide utility bills or some other proof that they live together. It's unclear how many city employees would be affected by the change, though City Manager Bill Watkins estimated the number at "20 or 30."



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# More Romney Gay Doublespeak Surfaces



Gov. Mitt Romney

BOSTON - Gov. Mitt Romney's beliefs on Gay issues are under scrutiny after the re-emergence of a letter he wrote during his 1994 run for U.S. Senate in which he promised a Gay Republicans group he would be a stronger advocate for Gays than Sen. Edward Kennedy, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. Romney's views in the letter contrast with recent statements by the Massachusetts governor, who has emphasized his opposition to Gay marriage as he positions himself as a committed conservative in preparation for an expected 2008 run for the Republican presidential nomination.

The 1994 letter was written to the Log Cabin Club of Massachusetts, a Gay Republican group, when Romney was courting Gay voters during his unsuccessful campaign against Kennedy. Citing Kennedy's record of advocacy for Gays and Lesbians, Romney wrote, "For some voters, it might be enough to simply match my opponent's record in this area. But I believe we can and must do better. If we are to achieve the goals we share, we must make equality for Gays and Lesbians a mainstream concern."

A Gay-oriented Massachusetts newspaper, Bay Windows, has also released a transcript of a 1994 interview with Romney during the Senate race in which he pledged strong advocacy for the Gay community. During the same

interview, Romney said he opposed then-U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms' legislative amendment to ban federal funding for public schools that support homosexuality as a lifestyle alternative. "I don't think the federal government has any business dictating to local school boards what their curriculum or practices should be," Romney said, according to the transcript. "I think that's a dangerous precedent in general. I would have opposed that."

In the Log Cabin Club letter, Romney also said he supported President Clinton's "don't ask, don't tell" policy regarding Gays serving in the armed forces, describing it as "the first in a number of steps that will ultimately lead to Gays and Lesbians being able to serve openly and honestly in our nation's military."

Tony Perkins, president of the conservative Family Research Council, said Romney's comments were "quite disturbing." "This is going to create a lot of problems for Governor Romney," he told The New York Times in yesterday's editions. "He is going to have a hard time overcoming this." Noted conservative Paul Weyrich told The Times, "Unless he comes out with an abject repudiation of this, I think it makes him out to be a hypocrite."

In an e-mailed statement, Romney spokesman Eric Fehrstrom said as governor, Romney has never advocated changing the military's policy toward Gays and has consistently supported traditional values. Romney recently became a plaintiff

in a lawsuit to force the state Legislature to vote on a constitutional amendment that would reverse the state's landmark 2003 court ruling legalizing Gay marriage. State lawmakers have refused to vote on the amendment, which would kill it.

Arline Isaacson, co-chair of

the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, cautioned Gay and Lesbians against believing Romney's overtures in 1994, and said conservatives shouldn't trust him, either.



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**Dec. 14th Kenneth Blake**  
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# POLITICS 2006

by Mark R. Kerr

## A Date That Won't Live In Infamy

Friday, Dec. 8, marked the conclusion of the 109<sup>th</sup> Session of the U.S. Congress, ending 12 years of GOP (Garish Old Predators) rule. Sappy, sanguine farewell speeches, hugs - group and ambush style was the business of the day, not the nine spending bills for the federal government's budget for which the Republicans left, like "elephantine droppings" for the Democrats, when they take over both chambers in the 110<sup>th</sup> Session of the U.S. Congress in Jan. 2007.

On the same day, the House Ethics Committee released their report (online at: [house.gov/ethics/Page\\_Report.pdf](http://house.gov/ethics/Page_Report.pdf)) on former Republican Florida Congressman, Mark Foley and his interactions with male Congressional Pages. Entitled, "Investigation of Allegations Related to Improper Conduct Involving Members and Current or Former House Pages," Republican lawmakers, including Gay Arizona Congressman Jim Kolbe and aides, failed to protect young male pages, from former Rep. Mark Foley's improper advances but didn't violate House Code of Official Conduct or other rules and standards applicable to them.

In a statement issued Friday, Dec. 8, Kolbe responded to the House Ethics Committee report. "The report demonstrates that members of my office and I took prompt action in 2001 to address the complaint that was brought to our attention," Kolbe said in the statement. Questions about his actions weren't answered though. According to the report, Kolbe tried to suppress, sexually-explicit communications sent by Rep. Mark Foley to a House page Kolbe had sponsored the previous semester. The former page contends that he affixed the IM conversation to an email he sent to Kolbe, asking Kolbe to "take care of it." Soon thereafter, the former page received an e-mail from Foley, apologizing for "making him feel uncomfortable."

Later in the report, Kolbe denies that he knew the precise nature of the inappropriate communication. The page, "said that he had an email from Congressman Foley," according to Kolbe's deposition. "I did not see any communication that [the former page] had received, and as far as I know [my assistant] had not either." However, Kolbe's assistant Patrick Baugh notified him about the e-mail directly, according to the report. Whatever way the message was delivered, it was Baugh who contacted Foley's office to stop the messages. The matter did not arise again until after Foley resigned, when the former page called Kolbe on his cell phone for advice if the instant message were brought up by the ethics committee. Still later in the report's account of

Kolbe's involvement in the page scandal, it is stated that, according to the former page, Kolbe warned him, "it is bes[t] that you don't even bring this up with anybody... [T]here is no good that can come from it if you actually talk about this. The man [Foley] has resigned anyway."

When the committee asked Kolbe about this, he said he couldn't recall whether the page had contacted him or his assistant or whether it was by phone or email. What's more, he said he never knew the specifics of the young man's allegation against Foley, and "did not attempt to speculate." Kolbe's told the committee that "the page had already decided that he was not going to report the IM, and the he merely responded, 'That's your decision.'" The Washington Post caught wind of the page's story anyway, and soon after being contacted by a Post reporter about it, Kolbe called the page and left a message: "It looks like you did some talking." The former page denied to Kolbe being a source for the Post.

From 1995-2001, Kolbe served as a member of the Page Board, which was created in 1982 by the 97<sup>th</sup> Congress. Following the Speaker's Commission on Pages, the Page Board was established to "ensure that the Page Program is conducted in a manner that is consistent with the efficient functioning of the House and welfare of the pages." Each Page receives the Page Handbook that includes the policy on harassment which prohibits not only sexual harassment, but also harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin. Under the policy, any page who believes that he or she has been subjected to or has witnessed actions that violate the harassment policy are advised to promptly report the violation to his or her "direct supervisor, the next level supervisor, or any other management official with whom the employee feels comfortable discussing such issues."

In its conclusion, the report stated that "the incident involving the former Kolbe page and the handling of his communications from Rep. Foley presents a more difficult question. The Investigative Subcommittee deliberated extensively over whether the evidence supports a finding that Rep. Kolbe saw a copy of the sexually graphic instant message allegedly received by his former page, or whether, as Rep. Kolbe testified, he was only told by the former page that Rep. Foley had sent an e-mail or instant message that made the former page 'uncomfortable.' The Investigative Subcommittee found the former page to be credible and his testimony to be plausible, but given the absence of documentary evidence, the denial by Rep. Kolbe of having seen the

communication, and the possibility that the instant message could have been attached to an e-mail sent to Rep. Kolbe but not opened and read, the Investigative Subcommittee cannot definitely conclude whether Rep. Kolbe saw the instant message.

In the end, however, the Investigative Subcommittee did not consider the answer to the question of whether Rep. Kolbe actually saw the instant message sent by Rep. Foley to be dispositive in addressing the conduct of Rep. Kolbe and others in his office. If Rep. Kolbe was not shown the instant message, he should have asked for it. He knew that Rep. Foley was Gay, knew the communication made by the former page (who by this time was only a college freshman and was less than two years removed from the page program) uncomfortable, and recognized that the communication may have been sexual in nature. He also knew that he was being asked to confront another Member about the Member's conduct on a potentially extremely sensitive issue. In light of those facts, the Investigative Subcommittee believes that Rep. Kolbe should have asked for the instant message (if he did not already have it) in order to make sure that his response was the correct one. . . ."

Allegations made regarding Kolbe and his interaction with two, teenaged former House pages during a trip to the Grand Canyon in 1996

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were investigated by the Ethics Committee as well but according to their report, "in light of Rep. Kolbe's imminent retirement, as well as the preliminary federal inquiry," the Committee deferred any further action. The preliminary investigation, as of press time, is still ongoing, for which the Federal Election Commission (FEC) has been petitioned by Kolbe's campaign (sent Oct. 27, received Oct. 30) to use the remaining campaign funds to pay legal fees and expenses on the matter. Kolbe's FEC request can be viewed online at: [fec.gov/aos/2006/aor2006-35.pdf](http://fec.gov/aos/2006/aor2006-35.pdf).



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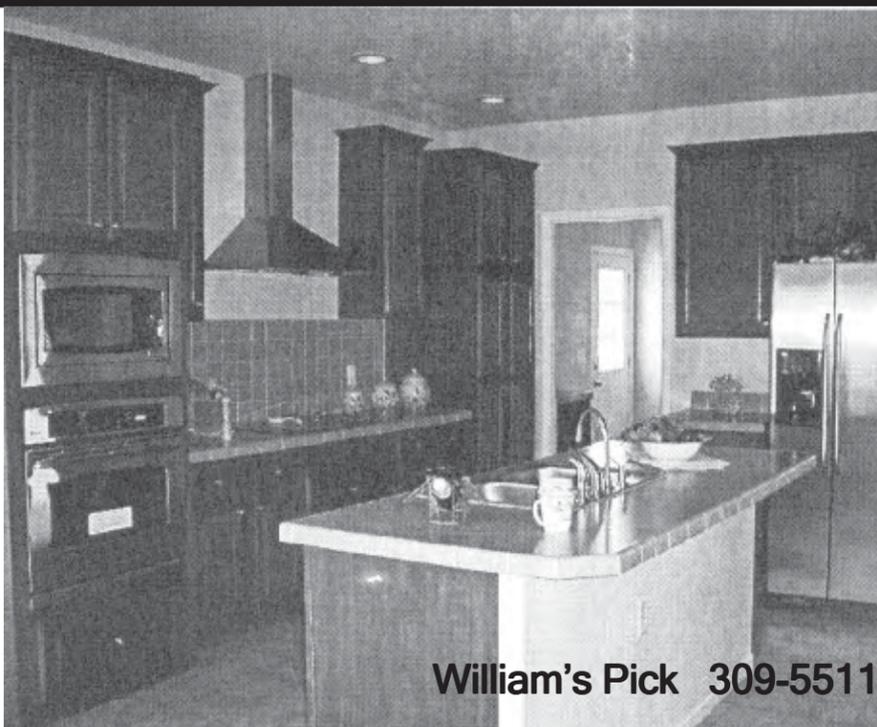
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# COMMENTARY...

## First-Of-Its-Kind Think Tank On Homophobia In Sports

By Helen Carroll

I had the privilege of participating in an event which will transform college athletics forever by taking initial steps to eradicate a prevalent, damaging, and discriminatory practice. The National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) co-hosted an inaugural Think Tank on Homophobia in Sport, the first event of its kind, of national experts and policymakers to address "negative recruiting," the practice of playing on irrational stereotypes to deter recruits from going to rival schools based on allegations that a rival coach or team members are Lesbian or Gay.

The Think Tank took place this fall in Indianapolis, Indiana at NCAA headquarters. Top sports leaders from across the country, including NCAA staff, athletic directors, coaches and athletes, conference commissioners, researchers, and coaching organization representatives, came together with a shared vision of eliminating negative recruiting. This group of key leaders explored solutions and developed concrete action steps to establish a positive environment for LGBT student-athletes and their teammates, as well as coaches and athletic directors, which will profoundly change the climate for all involved in collegiate sports.

As a former NCAA Athletic Director and National Championship Basketball Coach, I know firsthand the importance of addressing discrimination in college athletics. Putting an end to negative recruiting is critical not only to protect Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender players and coaches, but also to attract and retain the best, most qualified coaches. As long as any athlete or coach can be harmed by being tagged with the "Lesbian" or "Gay" label, the goal of achieving true equality in sports will

remain out of reach.

In 2007, NCLR will continue to work closely with the NCAA to develop effective strategies to overcome discriminatory behavior. The event couldn't have been more perfectly timed. Early next year, the NCAA will conduct its first-ever national campus climate survey—the beginning of a process of change that will transform the environment of intercollegiate athletics. Other initial steps include:

A subcommittee consisting of the NCAA, NCLR, and other participants will develop a "Best Recruiting Practices" paper initiating policy change and discouraging unethical practices based on negative recruiting.

Student athletes will report the outcome of the Think Tank to their national NCAA Student Advisory Committees.

The NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics will suggest an examination of NCAA legislation to identify any needed revisions to (omit-by-laws and) regulations to address discrimination issues.

The NCAA Coaching Academies and the National Association for Collegiate Women Athletic Administrators will include discussion of negative recruiting in their course curricula.

These and the many other sport conference meetings, NCAA committee management council actions, and college presidents involvement will go a long way toward changing the climate in sports to be more affirming and inclusive.

(Helen Carroll is the Sports Project Director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights).

## Buzz Briefs

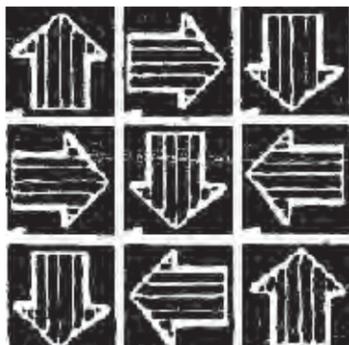
**BOSTON** - Gay Survivor winner Richard Hatch, who is serving a sentence of more than four years in prison for failing to pay taxes on his \$1 million prize, appealed his convictions Thursday (Dec. 7), reported the Associated Press on advocate.com. In the appeal Hatch contends that his trial judge prevented him from arguing that the show's producers struck a deal with him to pay his taxes if he won. ...

**NEW YORK CITY** - While daytime ratings are on the decline across the board, The View is enjoying its best-ever November sweeps ratings, according to Variety on advocate.com. The show, which added Rosie O'Donnell after giving Star Jones the boot three months ago, is number 4 in daytime ratings. With Rosie, the show has garnered its largest audience ever, 3.4 million viewers, a 15% increase from the same time period in 2005, Variety reports. The rumor that O'Donnell was going to leave the daytime talk show for other projects has been denied, but she did admit to speaking with Nip/Tuck in pursuit of extending her role on the show. ...

**LOS ANGELES** - The popular daytime soap Passions will add a few more characters to its zany lineup when the Scissor Sisters enter the story for two episodes, reported advocate.com. Starting February 8, the Sisters will make their acting debut, according to the band's Web site, by entering on a puff of smoke conjured by a young witch. According to the blog Towleroad, the band's photographer said the group appears

in Tabitha's living room and plays a tune before disappearing and then reappearing later in the show. ...

**UNITED NATIONS** - British actor Rupert Everett has been named December 1 as a special representative for the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), reported advocate.com. His tasks will include working to raise public awareness and encouraging the film industry and other media to participate more in the fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic. UNAIDS executive director Peter Piot noted Everett's existing work to spread AIDS awareness by taking part in several international conferences and working with non-governmental organizations. "I have lost loved ones to the epidemic, and I have seen with my own eyes the devastation that AIDS and AIDS-related discrimination brings," Everett said in a press release.



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# HODGE PODGE . . . . .



# Groups Mixed On Mary Cheney's Pregnancy



Mary Cheney and Heather Poe

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Conservative leaders voiced dismay Wednesday (Dec. 6) at news that Mary Cheney, the lesbian daughter of Dick Cheney, is pregnant, while a Gay rights group said the vice president faces "a lifetime of sleepless nights" for serving in an Administration that has opposed recognition of same-sex couples, reported the Associated Press on advocate.com.

Mary Cheney, 37, and her partner of 15 years, Heather Poe, 45, are expecting a baby in late spring, said Lea Anne McBride, a spokeswoman for the vice president. "The vice president and Mrs. Cheney are looking forward with eager anticipation" to the arrival of their sixth grandchild, McBride said. Mary Cheney was an aide to her father during the 2004 campaign and now is vice president for consumer advocacy at AOL. She and Poe moved from Colorado to Virginia a year ago to be closer to the Cheney family.

Family Pride, which advocates on behalf of Gay and Lesbian families, noted that Virginia last month became one of 27 states with a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage. "Unless they move to a handful of less restrictive states, Heather will never be able to have a legal relationship with her child," said Family Pride executive director Jennifer Chrisler. The couple "will quickly face the reality that no matter how loved their child will be...he or she will never have the same protections that other children born to heterosexual couples enjoy," Chrisler said. "Grandfather Cheney will no doubt face a lifetime of sleepless nights as he reflects on the irreparable harm he and his administration have done to the millions of American Gay and Lesbian parents and their children."

For years, Mary Cheney's openness about her sexual orientation had posed a dilemma for conservative activists who admire Dick Cheney's stance on many issues but consider homosexuality a sin.

Janice Crouse of Concerned Women for America described the pregnancy as "unconscionable." "It's very disappointing that a celebrity couple like this would deliberately bring into the world a child that will never have a father," said Crouse, a senior fellow at the group's think tank. "They are encouraging people who don't have the advantages they have." Crouse said there was no doubt that the news would, in conservatives' eyes, be damaging to the Bush administration, which already has been chided by some leaders on the Right for what they felt was half-hearted commitment to opposing abortion and Gay rights causes in this year's general election.

Carrie Gordon Earll, a policy analyst for the conservative Christian ministry Focus on the Family, expressed empathy for the Cheney family but depicted the newly announced pregnancy as unwise. "Just because you can conceive a child outside a one-woman, one-man marriage doesn't mean it's a good idea," said Earll. "Love can't replace a mother and a father."

The vice president's office declined to elaborate on the circumstances of Mary Cheney's pregnancy.

The news was welcomed by the president of the largest national Gay rights group, Joe Solmonese of the Human Rights Campaign. "Mary and Heather's decision to have a child is an example that families in America come in all different shapes and sizes," he said. "The bottom line is that a family is made up of love and commitment."

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Pin Ups	7	7	3717
Headpin Hussies	7	7	3600
FKD	5	9	3847
Monster Balls	5	9	3796
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# Conservative Jews Decide Gay Sex Wrong, But Gay Rabbis & Commitment Ceremonies OK.

NEW YORK CITY - Conservative Judaism has decided to permit the ordination of openly Gay rabbis and allow congregations to hold commitment ceremonies for same-sex couples, but at the same time upheld the traditional belief that homosexuality is wrong, reported 365Gay.com. The Committee on Jewish Law and Standards, which interprets religious law for Conservative Judaism made the divided ruling at a meeting Wednesday (Dec. 6).

The committee was considering five separate proposals on how the Conservative movement should deal with Gay issues. Two opinions upheld earlier prohibitions on homosexual activity, but the third endorsed commitment ceremonies and the ordination of Gay rabbis, while retaining the biblical ban on male sodomy. Two other opinions that were under consideration, which would have removed all restrictions on Gay activity, were declared "takanot", or substantial breaks from tradition that would require an absolute majority of the committee members for adoption.

The vote was widely anticipated as an indication of the movement's "big umbrella" approach to diverse practices within one movement. The last major Law Committee vote on Gay relationships came in 1992, when the panel voted 19-3, with one abstention, that Jewish law barred openly Gay students from enrolling in seminaries and prohibited rabbis from

officiating at Gay union ceremonies.

Reform Jews, as well as the smaller Reconstructionist branch of Judaism, settled the question years ago, allowing partnered Gays to become rabbis. The Orthodox movement bars Gays and women from ordination.

Rabbi Denise L. Eger of the predominantly LGBT Reform Congregation Kol Ami in Los Angeles called the decision a major breakthrough despite the ruling upholding the condemnation of Gay sex. "It allows individual congregations and rabbis to lead with their hearts," she told 365Gay.com. "What this will do is allow is Gay and Lesbian Conservative Jews to find a congregation which will welcome them. No, its the not the whole enchilada but its a start. Eger was the head of the Task Force on Gays and Lesbians in the Rabbinate for the Reform movement and a leading spokesperson for LGBT Jews across the country.

There are an estimated 750 North American synagogues in the United Synagogues of Conservative Judaism. It is unclear if any would break from the movement as a result of the ruling.

## More Details Emerge On OUT-Games Bankruptcy

MONTREAL, Quebec - Among the list of creditors owed money by the Outgames are Lesbian tennis great Martina Navratilova, an LGBT media company and the famed Cirque du Soleil, reported 365Gay.com.

Outgames has filed for bankruptcy protection giving it a 30-day breathing period to try to work out a deal with its creditors. Court documents show the games owes Navratilova about half of the nearly \$40,000 she was to have been paid to participate at the opening of the games and at human rights conference held in conjunction with the games at which she was a speaker.

OutMarketing of Albany, New York is owed \$6,000. The company handled the US public relations for the games. Cirque du Soleil is owed \$48,209.30 for its show during the opening ceremonies of the games. But the biggest corporate creditor is Marketing Signa Inc. which says it is owed \$217,872.15. The company was responsible for the merchandizing at the games. Canadian taxpayers are on the hook for about \$3.2 million. Outgames chief executive Louise Roy put \$153,462 on her

personal credit card. All but about \$4,500 has been paid. Canadian Olympic swimming champion Mark Tewksbury who also was connected with the games is still owed more than \$1,000. In all some 219 people and companies are owed money.

In September, after the games had ended, the organizers of the Gay sporting event boasted a \$200,000 surplus, but the province of Quebec sent in its own auditor who found a \$5 million deficit. The Outgames grew out of a dispute with the Federation of Gay Games. Montreal was to have hosted the more established Gay Games in 2006 but in a dispute over control and money the Montreal organizers pulled their bid and decided to host their own sporting event. The Federation later gave the 2006 Gay Games to Chicago, but that event also wound up in the red with a projected loss of about \$200,000. To offset the loss the Chicago organizers sold off many of the game's assets.

Unlike the Outgames the Gay Games relied solely on corporate sponsorships. The Outgames was projected to cost \$16.9 million dollars, of which 29% came from the federal and provincial governments, another 27% was to have come from registrations and the remaining 30% from sponsors and other sales. With two sets of games on last summer LGBT athletes had to chose where to go, diminishing the income from registrations and ticket sales. Money problems have plagued the Gay version of the Olympics from the start. The Gay Games also lost money at its four previous events—Vancouver in 1990, New York in 1994, Amsterdam in 1998 and Sydney in 2002.

The next Outgames will be held in Copenhagen in 2009 and the Gay Games will be in Cologne the following year. By scheduling the two sets of completing games a year apart organizers hope that in future the games will at least break

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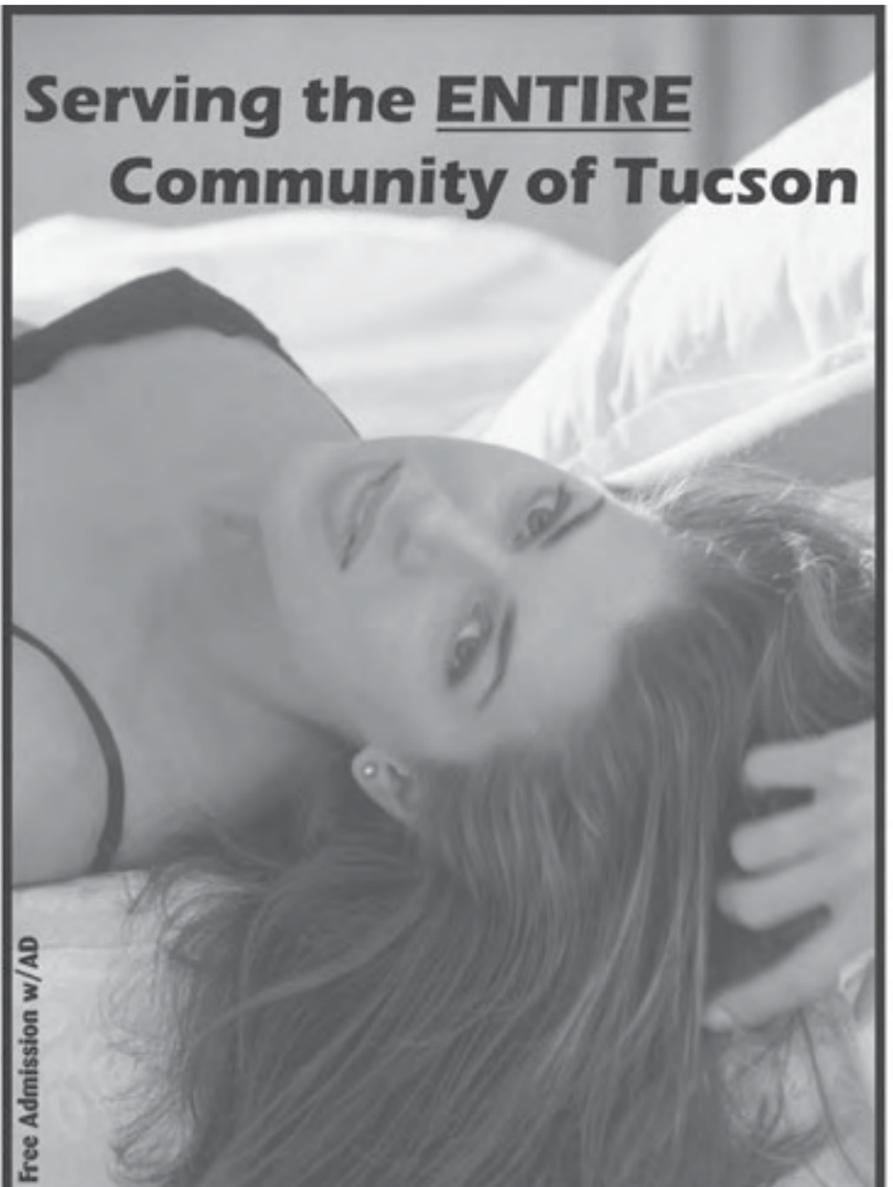


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**NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE**  
**Barbarism**

by Lee Thorn

I heard on the radio the other day that the California prison system is running at three times capacity. In other words, prison space designed to accommodate one prisoner now accommodates three. This isn't surprising in a state where you can go to prison for 20 years for stealing a piece of pizza. And I'm not talking about stealing a whole pizza, just a single piece. But that's another column and I've already written it.

I'm not going to say anything here about California sentencing lunacy or about cruel and unusual punishment. Generations of timorous judges have allowed the concept of cruel and unusual punishment to erode into its present meaninglessness.

What I want to address is the barbarity and inhumanity of stuffing people, or any living animal for that matter, into spaces resembling full sardine cans. I brought the subject up with two acquaintances, people I don't think of as particularly barbaric or inhumane, and I was surprised and disappointed by their responses. Their first response was that it wasn't a very interesting topic. When pressed for an opinion, they both said, "If they don't want to be in overcrowded prisons, they shouldn't have done their crimes." I guess that means that, if someone commits a crime, there's no degree of barbarism that can't be inflicted on him.

I don't think my respondents really believe that, but it seems to be what they're saying. But, taking them at their word, if it's okay to run prisons at three times capacity, is it okay to run them at six times capacity? How about 12 times capacity? At what point, if any, does it become not okay?

I'm wondering how I'd feel if I were imprisoned in something resembling California conditions. Bearing in mind that the vast majority of prisoners sooner or later return to free society, how are they going to feel about free society after their sardine experience? I can sum up how I think I'd feel in one short phrase: Someone is going to pay. And I'm about as mild mannered and easygoing as they come. So imagine what the sardinization of someone who's inclined to be grumpy to start with would do.

I don't feel that it's okay to treat anyone barbarously, but, for readers unfamiliar with prisons, here are some facts about their populations. They hold people who are as evil as people can be. They hold people who are innocent of any crime and who got convicted because our system of justice isn't perfect and never will be. They mostly hold people who have made a series of really dumb decisions and who are eventually going to start making much better decisions. Contrary to popular belief, most prison inmates do not go

back to prison. The popular belief that they do go back is due to a classic statistical mistake that's made by virtually every journalist who reports on the subject. (I'll be happy to explain the error to any budding statistician who writes or e-mails me about it.)

The solution to the current California lunacy/barbarity or whatever you want to call it is NOT to build more prisons. Build more prisons and they will come, the numskulls who steal a piece of pizza and get 20 years. The solution is to give everybody in prison a danger rating, a numerical score like your credit rating but one that, instead of reflecting how likely you are to pay off your mortgage, would reflect how likely you are to kill or physically hurt someone. You get the prisons to capacity by kicking out all the prisoners, that would be two-thirds of the entire current prison population, who have the lowest danger ratings, those least likely to kill or hurt someone. You keep the prisons running at capacity by kicking the prisoner with the lowest danger rating out every time you admit a new prisoner. Is that simple, cheap, fair and efficient or what?

I can hear the hardnoses screaming, "That would mean that some criminal might not be punished at all! What's fair about that?" Not at all. Everybody can still be punished because imprisonment isn't the only or even necessarily the most effective form of punishment. It's really best suited for people who are likely to hurt other people if they're not physically prevented from doing so.

As for punishments, there are fines, community service, removal of various privileges. If it didn't go so far as to cause permanent physical damage, how about a nice public flogging? "Barbaric" you say? Not, in my humble view, as barbaric as the present practices.

(Thorn welcomes comments, suggestions for future columns, and tips on local skulduggery that ought to be exposed. Write to Box 85571, Tucson, AZ 85754. E-mail: Doid3@aol.com.)

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# HOROSCOPES

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Saturn retrogrades for the next four months. Expect some fits and starts as we learn our lessons in baby steps. Start crawling and learn to pull yourself up from a squat.

**ARIES (MAR. 21 - APR. 20)**  
If you find yourself experiencing creative block, blame the drain on retro Saturn and hole up with a good book for the next few weeks. Expectations are high and your stress level may increase. Is there anything that a proud Ram can do to unleash the artistic forces of fun, frolic and festivity? Nothing comes to mind. The body, of course, is quite another thing.

**TAURUS (APR. 21 - MAY 21)**  
No matter how hard you try and get your house in order before the holidays, retro Saturn creates issues where there aren't any. Trying to tackle any domestic problem now will only result in frustration. What you see is not really what is happening. Can you keep your cool until the cool weather ebbs? You are usually fairly patient, queer Bull. Exercise it or haul yourself away.

**GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)**  
While you are usually able to make your point in a non-confrontational way, retro Saturn gives you lip with a bit of zip. Sometimes this is a good thing but there will be too many times that it can get you into trouble. Your opinions will not be appreciated the way you would prefer. So rather than say it as you see it, be prepared to grin and bear it. Or is it grin and bare it?

**CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)**  
Money may become tight with retro Saturn. Pink Crabs are cheap (errr practical) by nature and now you are especially worried about finances. There is not much to do but sit on it and save it. Even small risks may prove disappointing. Perhaps you will find a well endowed benefactor to cushion you through the tough times? You prefer

the pillow position anyway.

**LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)**  
Your self confidence undergoes an unwelcome stress test. Maybe this is because proud Lions are not above offering a pithy, unwelcome assessment of others on occasion. Turnabout is now fair play. Those with their noses out of joint are preparing to criticize you. If you find the chickens are coming home to roost, pull out the fry pan and the oil and just wait.

**VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)**  
Your intuition is not quite on target while Saturn retrogrades. Too bad, queer Virgin. You are apt to rely on past experiences and gut feelings to navigate you through the choppy waters. But your little boat will hit a sand barge. Take nothing for granted and consider the advice of others. When in doubt, do nothing and just wait. Ah, that should be easy for you!

**LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)**  
Your social responsibilities are just that - responsibilities. Although proud Libras are friendly and affable by nature, there is something in the air that makes you pine for a bit of solitude. Get away from the maddening crowd while Saturn retrogrades. Pulling back may even make you appear to be complicated, mysterious and intellectually attractive. I said "may."

**SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)**  
How can you derail your career in one easy step? That would be by ignoring the lessons that retro Saturn is offering you on the job. Despite current setbacks, all is not lost. Proud Scorps can rise to the level of their incompetence if they can keep their eye on the ultimate prize and not get waylaid by politics. Of course some Scorps love to get waylaid anyway they can!

**SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)**

Life is maniacally hectic and on the verge of getting completely out of control. As much as you pine for peace and quiet, escape is futile, Gay Archer. Retro Saturn insures that no matter where you run, you simply can't hide. Everything will be waiting for you whenever you return from wherever. So quit yer kvetching, face up to it, roll up your sleeves and get to work.

**CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)**  
Expect to receive a few unwanted love and life lessons while Saturn retrogrades, pink Cap. It seems as if you are wearing your heart on your sleeve. Not only does this increase your dry cleaning, bill it also causes some fits and starts on the path of true love. Of course we learn by hard experience. Maybe it will improve your technique? Then again maybe not.

**AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)**  
If you find that a certain relation ship hits a shoal, take a deep breath, grab an oar, readjust your sight and try, try again. Something that you have been sweeping under the rug begins to seep out. Handle it as best as you can. Aqueerians who are playing the field may find that their choice of grazing spots may be a bit thin now. Try to get in the thick of it.

**PISCES (FEB. 20 - MAR. 20)**  
Holiday cheer may bubble and froth in your office environment but that won't float you until New Years. Guppies begin to feel that no matter how much sweat equity they put in, it is more sweat than real equity. Alas, that may be true, but sitting back and hoping it away will not solve the problem. Retro Saturn sez be rough and ready. Sound familiar?

## A NOTE FROM MADAM LICHTENSTEIN TO HER LOYAL LESBIAN READERS:

It is never too early to plan your holiday gift giving. I know that for me, each year it gets harder and harder to find that perfect gift that the recipient is genuinely thrilled to receive. Granted, rainbow pantaloons are not for everybody. Nor are glow-in-the-dark nipple rings. But hey, someone must like them or they wouldn't manufacture them. And I have to admit, I have received a few gifts over the years that I have either re-gifted (yes I admit it!!) or donated to a worthy charity. (Note to self - many charities do not accept cheap pine furniture decorated with Streisand decals.)

Okay, so you've probably guessed by now - this is an absolutely shameless plug for my book HerScopes: A Guide to Astrology for Lesbians. But bear with me; It really does make an exemplary holiday gift - not only does it fit nicely into any size box, it can also be wedged into any stocking. My book continues to astound readers and publishers alike with its raunchy yet sensitive descriptions of each zodiac sign. An example from Sagittarius and her friendships:

Amazon Archers have many unusual and exotic bosom buddies from all over the world. She attracts the most exotic and eclectic crowd because she is so darned interested in everything and everyone beyond her own backyard. Angle for an invitation to any of her parties; it will be an international experience with wonderful and somewhat strange cuisine. (Avoid any hor d'ourves with fur..)

Sag gals are the life of any party and enjoy good gay camaraderie. You'll see them wearing the lampshade on their heads and knocking over the onion dip. They are also the one with the boisterous but lousy jokes and the loudest, proudest laugh. In a crowded room of quiet Virgos with cocktail napkins balanced carefully on their laps, the Sag girlfriend is the one with a cheese stick up her nose. Ho, ho, ho.... oops!

So not all is lost on the gift giving front. Save those "Lesbians In History" temporary tattoos for Valentines Day.

**ED NOTE: You can check with Antigone Books for a copy of the Madam's book. A GREAT GIFT IDEA.**

TUCSON DIRECTORY

The map shows a grid of streets. Major streets labeled include: ORACLE, STONE, SIXTH AVE, FOURTH AVE, FIRST AVE, MOUNTAIN, GRANT, CAMPBELL, TUCSON BLVD., COUNTRY CLUB, ALVERNOM, SWAN, CRAYCROFT, DRACHMAN, UNIVERSITY, SPEEDWAY, SIXTH ST., CONGRESS, and BROADWAY. A sign in the bottom right corner reads: **TAKE YOUR I.D. TO THE BARS It's The Law!**

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**WEEKLY OBSERVER**

Tuesday, December 19th  
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Hand and Foot hosted by Peter. Call for information at 881-8276.

Wednesday, December 20th  
#1Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Canasta at Lee and Merlin's. Phone for info: 207-5336.

#2 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed. Last day to call and reserve places for Xmas Din-Din. Call Lloyd at 792-8537.

Thursday, December 21st  
#1 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.

#2Men'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.

#3 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Newsletter and Movie Night! Once a month, the men of MSN get together to help get their newsletter in the mail. Requiring very little effort, this is a great way of socializing, and

# Non Bar Calendar

also a great way to find out all the dirt for next month's Calendar a whole 3 days earlier than the average MSN member. The movie, shown after the newsletter is put to bed for this month, is: "24 Nights". Arlan is hosting this event, and you can contact him at 323-7414 for info and directions.

Friday, December 22nd  
#1Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 9:30a.m. Sunrise Scientists! Call Tom for info 744-9036.

#2Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00 p.m. A word for word fun evening of Scrabble. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Lee and Merlin at 207-5336. If you're loquacious, erudite, or a wordsmith; this man's game just may be a triple word score for you!

Saturday, December 23rd  
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.

Sunday, December 24th  
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 3:00p.m. Thom hosts Dinner Out at one of Tucson's Ultra-Fabulous Buffets. Price is usually under \$10 bucks. For reservations and directions, please contact Thom at 623-2941, or e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com by the Event Sunday at Noon to facilitate reservations.

Monday, December 25th  
Men's Social Network Christmas Dinner at Lloyd's! If you made your

reservation by last Wednesday, the festivities begin at 1:00pm.

Tuesday, December 26th  
Men'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, December 27th  
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. 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, December 28th  
#1 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.

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Saturday, December 30th  
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Shuffle over for Floating Pinochle every Saturday of the month except for first Saturday Monthly Pot Luck. New recruits are always welcome and beginners are tutored to develop their gay Hollywood movie serial killer instincts! Phone host Steve at 644-2076 for location, driving directions, and info.

Sunday, December 31st  
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 3:00p.m. Thom hosts Dinner Out at one of Tucson's Ultra-Fabulous Buffets. Price is usually under \$10 bucks. For reservations and directions, please contact Thom at 623-2941, or e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com by the Event Sunday at Noon to facilitate reservations.



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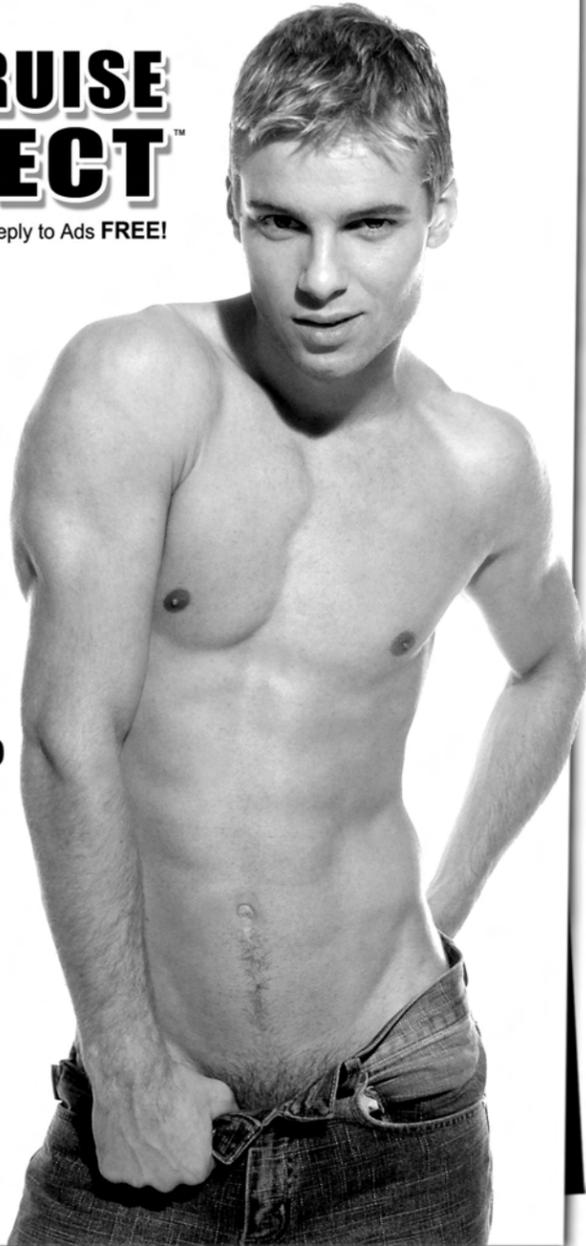
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# DAILY BAR CALENDAR

## SUNDAY

**COLORS** - Open 11m - 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)

**HOLLYWOOD** - Open 5:00pm. Happy Hour 5-7pm \$1.75 well, domestic bottles and draft.

**HOWL AT THE MOON** - Open at 10am. \$2.50 Smirnoff Vodkas all day. We've got the NFL Sunday Ticket - Watch your favorite NFL team here. \$1 Jumbo Dogs, \$2 Chili Dogs. Free Texas Hold-'Em Poker Tournaments at 4:00, and 7:00 pm. Ply for points and prizes - no cash involved.

**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.

**HOLLYWOOD** - Open 5pm. Happy Hour 5pm to 7pm. \$1.75 well, domestic bottles, draft.

**HOWL AT THE MOON** - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Kitchen open 4 - 9 pm. Watch Monday Night Football here! \$1 Jumbo Dogs, \$2 Chili Dogs. Domestic draft beer at happy hour prices all night.

**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. Nightly dinner specials.

**HOLLYWOOD** - Open 5pm. Happy Hour 5pm to 7pm. \$1.75 well, domestic bottles, draft. Karaoke 8pm-12am.

**HOWL AT THE MOON** - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Kitchen open 4-9pm. Free Texas Hold-Em Poker for women only at 6:30 p.m. Play for points and prizes - no cash involved. Great way to learn the game or sharpen your skills.

**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 (2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**HOLLYWOOD** - Open 5pm. Happy Hour 5pm to 7pm. \$1.75 well, domestic bottles, draft. Movie Night. First show 6pm, Second show 8pm with movie theatre popcorn and hot dogs.

**HOWL AT THE MOON** - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, Kitchen open 4 - 9 pm. Free Pool all day and night. Free Texas Hold-'Em Poker Tournament at 6:30 pm for Women Only and open tournaments at 7 and 10. Play for points & prizes - no cash involved. Great way to learn the game or sharpen your skills.

**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.

**HOLLYWOOD** - Open 5pm. Happy Hour 5pm to 7pm. \$1.75 well, domestic bottles, draft. Stnad-up Comedy Night - open mike 8-10p.m. Register 7pm. Prizes for winners.

**HOWL AT THE MOON** - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Kitchen open 4 - 9 pm. Karaoke with Rosemary at 8:30pm.

**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 4-10pm. 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.

**HOLLYWOOD** - Open 5pm. Happy Hour 5pm to 7pm. \$1.75 well, domestic bottles, draft. Two for One 9pm - 12am. With midnight specials.

**HOWL AT THE MOON** - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Kitchen open 4 - 9 pm. Free Two-Step lessons with Amanda every other Friday. Call 293-7339 for schedule. DJ Pat plays your favorite country dance songs 8:30 to close. Kitchen open 9 pm - midnight serving late night munchies menu.

**IBT's** - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, 9pm Hot Dance with DJ Mike Lopez outside on the patio and DJ Rayman 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-11pm, Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3 Skyy cocktails, \$2.50 Domestic and Well Full menu served 4-10pm. Nightly dinner specials. "Pacific Breeze performs 7-10pm.

**HOLLYWOOD** - Open 5pm. Happy Hour 5pm to 7pm. \$1.75 well, domestic bottles, draft.

**HOWL AT THE MOON** - Open at 11:00 am. Happy Hour 11 am - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Kitchen open 11am -9pm. \$2.50 capt. Morgan or Mailbu. Cheeseburger & Fries Special for \$4.50 all day. Best burgers around. Johnny D playing dance mix or ch3eck our ad for special events. Kitchen open 9pm to midnight serving late night munchies menu.

**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.

# BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

**COLORS** - Ziggy's "Pink" Elephant Party! 5:30 p.m. You must bring a \$25 "Non-Gender" gift to exchange and a \$5.00 donation for "Toys For Tots". Call 324-1840 for details and reservations.

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

**COLORS** - Guys & Dolls Show 10:00 p.m. starring Tucson's Queen of Comedy, Lucinda Holliday and special guest tonight, Kenneth Blake. Must be 21 to attend.

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

**HOWL AT THE MOON** - "The Bitches Are Back" Reunion Show with Kenneth Blake, Lucinda Holliday, Bunny FuFu and special (surprise) guests. Starts at 9:30 p.m. \$5.00 Cover.

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

**THE BIZ** - Party with the Biz Girlz plus meet and greet the new owners at their employee Holiday Party. Free pool and free food plus drink specials and giveaways!

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

**IBT'S** - 3<sup>RD</sup> Annual Jingle Ballz Party. 10:00 p.m. Enjoy drink specials, gift raffle and 'festive' bartenders in their underwear!

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

**HOWL AT THE MOON** - "Don We Now Our Gay Apparel" Show 9:00 p.m.

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY

**HOWL AT THE MOON** - Open at 5:00 p.m. for Christmas Day. Your bartender will be Michael - stop in for some holiday spirit.

**VENTURE-N** - Christmas Pot Luck - Sign up with Bartender.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

**HOWL AT THE MOON** - Make your plans now for New Year's Eve. Food, party favors, country DJ, champagne. More details later.

**VENTURE-N** - The ever-popular Balloon Busters Ball" and much more. Full details next week.

## Arts and Entertainment

### Now Playing thru December 17

Alternative Theatre Company presents "A Queer Carol" a Gay twist on the Charles Dickens classic. Directed by Joe Marshall and starring Ajia Simone as sthe Ghost of Christmas Present. Showtimes are Thursday-Saturday. Dec. 7-9 and 14-16 at 8:00 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 10 and Dec. 17 at 3:00 p.m. At the Hollywood Cabaret Theatre in the Plaza Hotel, 1601 N. Oracle Road. For tickets and information call 520-833-8246.

Live Theatre Workshop - All Together Theatre's production of Christopher Johnson and Michael Martinez's "The Pirate Queen Of The Caribbean" continues every Sunday at 1:00 p.m. through December 17. \$5.00- \$8.00. Call 327-0160 for reservations. 5317 E. Speedway.

### Now Playing thru December 20

"Ella", this swinging new musical starring Tony Award-nominee Tina Fabrique features the tale of jazz great Ella Fitzgerald's extraordinary life, as well as all of her greatest hits including "A Tisket, A Tasket". That Old Black Magic" and they Can't Take That Away From Me'. , among the 25 songs that are featured. The show plays on various days and times at the Temple of Music and Art, 330 S. Scott Ave. in downtown Tucson. Tickets \$51 & \$31.. Call 622-2823 or [www.arizonatheatre.com](http://www.arizonatheatre.com)

### Now Playing thru December 17

Borderlands Theatre presents "A Tucson Pastorela" an all-time favorite for the 11<sup>th</sup> year. This incredible and wacky adventures of the Shepherds, Sheep and Dog on their trek to Bethlehem to witness the birth of the Baby Jesus. Featuring sneaky Devils and shining Archangles in the new script by Toni Press-Coffman. Live waila music and piñatas for the little ones. Leo Rich Theater. Ca;; 520-882-7406 for times and ticket information.

### January 2 - 7

A Nederland Presentation: Broadway In Tucson "All Shook Up". 1-866-821-2929 or online [broadwayintucson.com](http://broadwayintucson.com)

### January 23 - 28

A Nederland Presentation: Broadway In Tucson "Altar Boyz". 1-866-821-2929 or online [broadwayintucson.com](http://broadwayintucson.com)

# NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

"CELEBRACION" Out & About The group is planning to go out for Thanksgiving brunch. Our plans are not yet complete, but if you would like some more information about this, please contact us at out-about@comcast.net, or leave a message at 520-615-9237. We will contact you, as soon as possible. Come and join us it will be fun.

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. 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:Tucsonpt@primetimersww.org)

#### TUCSON GAY INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

For Information on human service organizations, health and mental health services, financial and government assistance, emergency services such as food and shelter, education, etc. Call Information and Referral 881-1794 - 8 am - 5 pm M-F.

AIDS HOTLINE - 326-AIDS. Hours M-F, 9:00 am to 10:00 pm. Information, counseling, HIV-related services, Tucson.

GAY OR BI-SEXUAL MEN in relationships with women. Need friends you can talk to? Weekly support group meets Wednesdays 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Licensed psychologist facilitator. Call 745-6977 in Tucson for more information. Strictly confidential.

WINGSPAN - Tucson's Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Community Center, 425 E. 7th St., offers support groups / info line / social events / library / meeting space. Volunteer Opportunities. Board meetings every 2nd Thursday (open to all), 6:00 p.m. Information 624-1779.

GREATER PHOENIX GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (GPGLCC) P.O. BOX 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2097. E-mail: [webmaster@gpglcc.org](mailto:webmaster@gpglcc.org) or call (602)225-8444.

SOURCES UNLIMITED, a Lesbian & Gay referral service. Business and individual listings are free of charge. All information available to anyone just simply by asking. 322-5655. Leave message. [TucsonSources@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 or visit our website at [www.botop.com](http://www.botop.com) All are welcome to our general meetings/potlucks on the 2nd Friday of every month, at 3202 E. 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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](http://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, contact TEAM ARIZONA at their website: [teamarizona.org](http://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](http://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

Pride Weekend. 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](http://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.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> Mondays at 7pm; Dezer Girlz (MTF Support) meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays at 7pm; Dezer Boyz (FTM Support) meets 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://AAPSP.org) or e-mail: [AAPSP@aol.com](mailto: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.

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

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

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

REVEILLE GAY MEN'S CHORUS rehearses Thursday evenings 7-10pm at the Historic Y, corner of University Blvd. And 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. Join us!! Call 304-1758 for more info.

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

THE MAN TO MAN Social/erotic education club is the tantric men's group that offers passionate friendships, fun activities and real Tantric sex education. Marc 881-4582

LGBT Buddhist Meditation Group. Join us for two 20 minute silent sitting meditations, and reading from Buddhist Spiritual text and discussion. Bring a friend and a pillow or cushion. Takes place every Sunday from 10-11:30AM at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St. Donations accepted. Contact Maurice Grossman for more info. 323-2293.

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

MEN'S HIKING CLUB - A peer-run MEN's outdoor club for hiking, biking, camping, boating etc, is now up and running in the Tucson area. To join, go to [SAGE-Tucson-subscribe@yahoo.com](http://SAGE-Tucson-subscribe@yahoo.com). See you on the trails.

MEN'S KINK DISCUSSION GROUP (Open to all who identify as male and are 18 or older) meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at Desert Dominion, 3843 E. 37<sup>th</sup> Street, Tucson, AZ. (Map available at [www.desertdominion.org](http://www.desertdominion.org)) For those who are kinky or just curious. No fee, contributions are appreciated, but not required.

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

BROTHERS OF THE COMPASSIONATE WAY. Pagan spiritual group for gay, bisexual, transgendered men. Box 41623, Tucson, AZ 85717.

#### Informing The Community





ALTERNATIVE THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS



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