



Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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New Report Reveals Epidemic Of Homelessness Among LGBT Youth



WASHINGTON, DC - At a press conference on LGBT homelessness pictured above are L to R, Policy Institute report author Nicholas Ray, New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, Angelika Santiago and Councilman Alan Gerson.

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A new report, *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender youth: An epidemic of homelessness*, released today by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in collaboration with the National Coalition for the Homeless, reveals an epidemic of homelessness among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) youth.

According to statistics cited by the federally funded National Runaway Switchboard, 42 percent of homeless youth identify as Gay or Lesbian, which is grossly disproportionate given that approximately 3 to 5 percent of the U.S. population identifies as Gay or Lesbian. (Additional research has found that homeless youth also disproportionately identify as Bisexual or Transgender.) Based on these estimates, up to 8,400 of the 15,000 to 20,000 homeless youth estimated to live in New York City are LGBT. Nationwide, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, each year between 570,000 and 1.6 million youth are homeless or run away. This means that up to 672,000 of these youth are LGBT.

The report answers some basic questions, including why so many LGBT youth are becoming and remaining homeless. In addition, it addresses the harassment and violence that many of these youth experience in existing public shelter systems and summarizes research on critical problems affecting these youth, including mental health issues, substance abuse and risky sexual behavior. The report also analyzes the federal government's response to youth homelessness, including the specific impact on LGBT homeless youth of increased federal funding for faith-based service providers.

"The heartbreaking epidemic of homelessness among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender youth is both fueled and ignored by powerful forces

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N.J. Civil Unions May Soon Become Law

TRENTON, New Jersey - New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine said Monday (Dec. 18) that his legal team is reviewing the civil unions bill passed by the legislature and hopes to sign it late this week (ending Dec. 23), reported 365Gay.com. But Corzine said he already has some concerns about the legislation. Like laws involving marriage mayors are not obligated to conduct civil union ceremonies. Corzine said he is concerned some mayors will use the provision to refuse to unite gay couples.

Already a number of mayors have warned they won't take part in civil unions. Legal experts have told the governor that although mayors can refuse to perform ceremonies if they conduct marriages but refuse civil unions they could be prosecuted under the state's human rights law. Corzine said he still has concerns. Once Corzine signs the bill it will go into effect 60 days later.

Corzine had originally been expected to sign the bill last week (ending Dec. 16) which would have meant same-sex couples could exchange vows on Valentine's Day. But the governor in a surprise announcement said he wanted the bill examined by his legal advisors "to make sure that what we think we're getting is what we're getting."

The bill passed the New Jersey Legislature offers couples who register

most state benefits and protections currently available to opposite-sex couples, including the right to health insurance through a partner's employer. But it does not provide any of the benefits of marriage under federal law, and it still could cost same-sex couples more than marriage couples for health insurance. The bill also contains a provision establishing a commission that will investigate how civil unions fall short of marriage and report back to the legislature in six months.

LGBT rights groups in the state believe the legislation is a stepping stone to full marriage. Garden State Equality said it is confident same-sex couples will be able to marry in the state within two years. The legislation came about as a result of an October ruling by the New Jersey Supreme Court that same-sex couples should have access to the same rights and benefits as married couples. Whether to call those rights marriages, civil unions or something else was left up to lawmakers.

New Jersey Lawmakers Pass Transgender Rights Bill

TRENTON, New Jersey - The New Jersey state Legislature passed a bill that would make the Garden State the ninth in the nation to outlaw discrimination based on gender identity or expression. The bill now goes to Gov. Jon Corzine, who is expected to sign it.

"The legislation in New Jersey represents a huge civil rights victory for Transgender communities," Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, said in a statement. "I applaud the amazing efforts of the Gender Rights Advocacy Association of New Jersey, Garden State Equality, and local advocates who showed that when we stand up for what's right, we can win. While we celebrate that one-third of the US population is now covered, NCTE continues to fight for explicitly Transgender-inclusive protections on the federal level."

New Jersey's new law prohibits its discriminatory practices in employment, housing and public accommodations based on "gender identity or expression" - the legislative language that covers Transgender people. Once signed, the state will join California, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Minnesota, New Mexico and Rhode Island in legislating statewide Transgender-inclusive nondiscrimination protections. These state-level laws exist alongside similar Transgender-inclusive protections in the District of Columbia and in over 80 cities and counties.

LA NOCHE BEFORE CHRISTMAS

**Tis the night before Christmas
And all through the casa
Not a creature is stirring
Caramba! Que pasa?**

**The stockings are hanging con mucho cuidado
In hope that St. Nicholas will feel obligado
To leave a few cosas aqui y alli
For chico y chica (y something por me).**

**Los Ninos are snuggled all safe in their camas
Some in vestidos and some in pajamas
Their little cabezas all full of good things
They all esperando que Santa will bring.**

**Santa esta at the corner saloon
Mui borracho since midafternoon.
Mama is sitting beside la ventana
Shining her rolling pin para manaña**

**When Santa returns to his home zigzagedando
Lit up like the Star Spangled Banner cantando.
And Mama will send him to bed con a right
Merry Christmas a todos, y a todos good night!**

Author Unknown

MERRY CHRISTMAS

UPDATE

EON Helps LGBTQ Youth

TUCSON - Eon works to strengthen the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, queer, questioning (LGBTQQ), and straight ally youth community by creating social opportunities, providing information and support on health issues, advocating for LGBTQQ youth rights, and challenging society's perceptions of youth. Eon is a program of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, Pima County Health Department, and Wingspan. Our events and activities are free of charge and open to all youth aged 23 and under.

The Eon "Lounge" drop-in center, located in downtown Tucson, is a safe hangout space for youth 23 and under and includes a mini-library, computer stations, video games, and youth art. Please call (520) 620-6245 for directions. Before joining in program activities, youth must complete a 45-minute Eon orientation. New youth orientations are held on Wednesdays at 5:15 p.m. and on Saturdays at 2pm. The drop-in hours are: Sunday/Monday - closed, Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday - 3 - 8:00 p.m., Friday - 3 - 10:00 p.m. Saturday - 2 - 10:00 p.m.

Eon provides support to existing Gay/Straight Alliances (GSAs) and assist students in establishing new GSAs in their secondary schools. We also do presentations in classrooms and trainings with social service providers to educate them about LGBT issues. Eon hosts a monthly Sex Chat, a discussion and informational group designed to educate around the topic of safer sex. We are also able to offer an "HIV/STD 101" workshop to interested youth-focused groups in the community. Free and anonymous HIV Testing is offered at The Eon Lounge at least once a month. For more information, E-mail: youthprogram@wingspan.org, or call (520) 620-6245.

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.

Around The Old Pueblo

TUCSON - Wingspan, Tucson and Southern Arizona's LGBT Community Center will be open limited holiday hours: 11 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. on Monday Dec. 25, and Monday, Jan. 1. For more information, call (520) 624-1779 or go online to wingspan.org ...

TUCSON - PFLAG Tucson's next meeting will take place Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2007 at the offices of Residence Life in the El Portal Building on the University of Arizona campus on the northeast corner of 6th Street and Highland. Neil Schneider from Phoenix will speak about his coming-out process. Schneider's moving and compelling story are highly recommend. For more information, call (520) 360-3795 or E-mail: pflagtuc@pflagtucson.org. ...

TUCSON - The Men's Social Network is a non-profit organization of gay men in southern Arizona. Their goal is to provide an opportunity for men to socialize outside the setting of bars and nightclubs. They engage in numerous activities, in both large and small groups, that provide something for everyone and you do not have to be a member to attend any of the events. For more information, E-mail: stevepetermsn@yahoo.com.

'Talk Of The Town' January 4 - 14

TUCSON - Arizona Onstage Productions, for its first production for 2007 will be presenting "Talk of the Town," Jan. 4 - 14, 2007, at the Zuzi Theater, 738 N. 5th Avenue.

This highly acclaimed one-man tour-de-force written by Paul Bonin-Rodriguez tells the story of Johnny Hobson, a 15-year-old boy growing up in a small Texas town in the early 1990s. Obsessed with Princess Diana, the Judds and working at the local Dairy Queen, Johnny discovers conflict with the community and family because he "runs like a girl." Between cookin' up Belt Busters and Christian Steak Finger Baskets and dealing with the pressures from the community, his discovery of sexual identity and orientation is explored in this funny, touching and timely show that is "fall out of your chair laughing, reaching for a Kleenex the next moment, documentation of life affirmation" - Austin Chronicle. There's never a dull moment in Cedar Springs, Texas, as Johnny experiences encounters with Ladybird Johnson and her C.I.A. agents, zealous preachers who try to "make him right," school kids who taunt him for being a "sissy" and a set of ceramic head-bobbing poodles that help him find meaning to life as it is and the possibilities of change in the future

Tickets for the "Talk" are \$15 general admission, \$12 student/teacher/senior and for the special matinee performance, Friday, Jan. 12, \$6 for students and \$8 for adults. For tickets, call (520) 882-6574 or go online to arizonaonstage.org.

The PCPL GLBT Services Committee

TUCSON - The Pima County Public Library (PCPL) GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender) Services Committee was established in 1997 to better serve southern Arizona's GLBT library users. It seeks to fulfill this mission by creating exciting programs such as GLBT author visits, and through participation at various outreach events such as OUToberFEST and Tucson's annual Pride Parade.

On a daily basis the Committee reviews, orders and makes GLBT materials available for all PCPL users, regardless of age, location or sexual orientation. The Pima County Public Library's GLBT Services Committee is dedicated to upholding the library's Mission Statement as well as the Library Users Bill of Rights for all of our customers.

PCPL is one of the few public libraries in the country to have an established Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Services Committee. To contact the GLBT Services Committee, email us at: glbt.glbt@pima.gov. For more information, go online to: www.tppl.org/community/glbt/index.cfm.

What Is SAGA?

TUCSON - The Southern Arizona Gender Alliance (SAGA) is a program of Wingspan. SAGA provides educational, support, outreach, and other programs for Transgender, transsexual, and gender-variant people, as well as families, allies, service providers, employers, and others.

Since its in 1998, SAGA has sought to bring about a change in attitudes and perceptions of, as well as by, Transgender people. SAGA has delivered scores of public information panels and forums, established a network of supporting organizations throughout Tucson's human services community as well as civil rights and social justice organizations nationwide, and developed and presented unique educational symposiums for service providers, employers, and the public. SAGA has the reputation for consistent success and commitment, and we have become the primary resource on Transgender issues in the greater Southwest region.

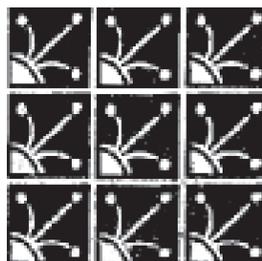
For more information, go online to saga.org, E-mail: info@sagatucson.org or call (520) 624-1779, ext. 26.

Prop. 107 Debriefing & Next Steps Discussion, Jan. 6

TUCSON - A debriefing and next steps discussion about Proposition 107 will take place, Saturday, Jan. 6, 2007, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Ward 6 Council Office, 3202 East 1st Street (one block south of Speedway Blvd and one block east of Country Club Road (behind the Rumrunner/Dish parking lot) in the former TPD Midtown substation building.

Bring yourselves, your energy, ideas and any leftover holiday snacks you want to unload.

To RSVP or for more information, E-mail: ischwartz3211@cox.net.



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Gay And Evangelical, Seeking Paths Of Acceptance

RALEIGH, N.C. - Justin Lee believes that the Virgin birth was real, that there is a heaven and a hell, that salvation comes through Christ alone and that he, the 29-year-old son of Southern Baptists, is an evangelical Christian, reported the New York Times. Just as he is certain about the tenets of his faith, Mr. Lee also knows he is Gay, that he did not choose it and cannot change it.

To many people, Mr. Lee is a walking contradiction, and most evangelicals and Gay people alike consider Christians like him horribly deluded about their faith. "I've gotten hate mail from both sides," said Mr. Lee, who runs Gaychristian.net, a Web site with 4,700 registered users that mostly attracts Gay evangelicals.

The difficulty some evangelicals have in coping with same-sex attraction was thrown into relief on Sunday when the pastor of a Denver megachurch, the Rev. Paul Barnes, resigned after confessing to having sex with men. Mr. Barnes said he had often cried himself to sleep, begging God to end his attraction to men.

His departure followed by only a few weeks that of the Rev. Ted Haggard, then the president of the National Association of Evangelicals and the pastor of a Colorado Springs megachurch, after a male prostitute said Mr. Haggard had had a relationship with him for three years.

Though he did not publicly admit to the relationship, in a letter to his congregation, Mr. Haggard said that he was "guilty of sexual immorality" and that he had struggled all his life with impulses he called "repulsive and dark."

While debates over homosexuality have upset many Christian and Jewish congregations, Gay evangelicals come from a tradition whose leaders have led the fight

against greater acceptance of homosexuals.

Gay evangelicals seem to have few paths carved out for them: they can leave religion behind; they can turn to theologically liberal congregations that often differ from the tradition they grew up in; or they can enter programs to try to change their behavior, even their orientation, through prayer and support.

But as Gay men and Lesbians grapple with their sexuality and an evangelical upbringing they cherish, some have come to accept both. And like other Christians who are trying to broaden the definition of evangelical to include other, though less charged, concerns like the environment and AIDS, Gay evangelicals are trying to expand the understanding of evangelical to include them, too.

"A lot of people are freaked out because their only exposure to evangelicalism was a bad one, and a lot ask, 'Why would you want to be part of a group that doesn't like you very much?'" Mr. Lee said. "But it's not about membership in groups. It's about what I believe. Just because some people who believe the same things I do aren't very loving doesn't mean I stop believing what I do."

The most well-known Gay evangelical may be the Rev. Mel White, a former seminary professor and ghostwriter for the Rev. Jerry Falwell. Mr. White, who came out publicly in 1993, helped found Soulforce, a group that challenges Christian denominations and other institutions regarding their stance on homosexuality.

But over the last 30 years, rather than push for change, Gay evangelicals have mostly created organizations where they are accepted.

Members of Evangelicals Con-

cerned, founded in 1975 by a therapist from New York, Ralph Blair, worship in cities including Denver, New York and Seattle. Web sites have emerged, like ChristianLesbians.com and Mr. Lee's Gaychristian.net, whose members include Gay people struggling with coming out, those who lead celibate lives and those in relationships.

Justin Cannon, 22, a seminarian who grew up in a conservative Episcopal parish in Michigan, started two Web sites, including an Internet dating site for Gay Christians.

"About 90 percent of the profiles say 'Looking for someone with whom I can share my faith and that it would be a central part of our relationship,'" Mr. Cannon said, "so not just a life partner but someone with whom they can connect spiritually."

But for most evangelicals, Gay men and Lesbians cannot truly be considered Christian, let alone evangelical.

"If by Gay evangelical is meant someone who claims both to abide by the authority of Scripture and to engage in a self-affirming manner in homosexual unions, then the concept Gay evangelical is a contradiction," Robert A. J. Gagnon, associate professor of New Testament at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, said in an e-mail message.

"Scripture clearly, pervasively, strongly, absolutely and counterculturally opposes all homosexual practice," Dr. Gagnon said. "I trust that Gay evangelicals would argue otherwise, but Christian proponents of homosexual practice have not made their case from Scripture."

In fact, both sides look to Scripture. The debate is largely over seven passages in the Bible about same-sex couplings. Mr. Gagnon and other traditionalists say those passages unequivocally condemn same-

sex couplings.

Those who advocate acceptance of Gay people assert that the passages have to do with acts in the context of idolatry, prostitution or violence. The Bible, they argue, says nothing about homosexuality as it is largely understood today as an enduring orientation, or about committed long-term, same-sex relationships.

For some Gay evangelicals, their faith in God helped them override the biblical restrictions people preached to them. One Lesbian who attends Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh said she grew up in a devout Southern Baptist family and still has what she calls the "faith of a child." When she figured out at 13 that she was Gay, she believed there must have been something wrong with the Bible for condemning her. "I always knew my own heart: that I loved the Lord, I loved Jesus, loved the church and felt the Spirit move through me when we sang," said the woman, who declined to be identified to protect her partner's privacy. "I felt that if God created me, how is that wrong?"

But most evangelicals struggle profoundly with reconciling their faith and homosexuality, and they write to people like Mr. Lee.

There is the 65-year-old minister who is a married father and Gay. There are the teenagers considering suicide because they have been taught that Gay people are an abomination. There are those who have tried the evangelical "ex-Gay" therapies and never became straight. Mr. Lee said he and his family, who live in Raleigh, have been through almost all of it. His faith was central to his life from an early age, he said. He got the nickname Godboy in high school. But because of his attraction to other boys, he wept at night and begged God to change him. He was

Continued on Page Four



Tucson's #1 Gay Club

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHRISTMAS WEEKEND

SUNDAY CHRISTMAS EVE

4PM-KARAOKE

5PM -FREE BBQ

10PM-18+ NIGHT

MONDAY CHRISTMAS DAY

2PM-BAR OPEN

9PM-DJ DAVE SANTORA

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5 pm - midnight clear



Tucson's GLBT Commission

TUCSON (ON) - Tucson's GLBT Commission's purpose foster conditions that promote the welfare of GLBT people of metropolitan Tucson, Arizona through education, advocacy and collaborative and advisory relationships with government, community organizations, businesses and individuals.

posted each month at both the City Hall and at the Wingspan Community Center a day or more before the monthly meeting of the commission. The Tucson Commission on Gay Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Issues complies with open meeting laws.

Originally formed in Nov. 1998 as a task force, became an independent city commission in July 1999, with the formal name the City of Tucson Commission on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Issues.

Under the state's open meetings law, the Commission cannot discuss or take other action on a matter raised at a meeting, unless that matter is on the posted agenda for discussion or action. However people may raise a matter to the Commission, and may request follow up attention from the Commission, including placement on a future agenda or follow up action from a subcommittee of the commission.

The purpose of the Commission, according to the city ordinance creating the body, is to:

Act as the official advisory body to the Mayor and City Council on GLBT issues.

GLBT Commission Co-Chairpersons are Al Whitehurst and Pam Liberty. Currently on the Commission are: Melissa (Mimi) Petro - Appointed by Mayor, Ana "Bertie" Lozano - Ward 1, Amanda Simpson - Ward 2, John-Peter Wilhite - Ward 3, Jean Baker - Ward 4, Kyle Ipson - Ward 5, Cindy Jordan - Ward 6, Pam Liberty - Member-at-Large, Michael Hutchins - Member-at-Large, Brenda Kazen - Member-at-Large, Al Whitehurst - Member-at-Large, Stephen Russell - Member-at-Large and Glenn Howell - Human Relations Commission Representative.

Respond in an effective and timely manner to GLBT issues that may arise in the City.

Examine local policies and practices in the areas of employment, business education, housing, social services, health and mental health and recreation as they affect or relate to GLBT people in the City and to recommend changes as appropriate.

For more information, go online to tucsonglbtcommission.org.

Review and make recommendations on proposed local, state and federal legislation affecting GLBT people.

Promote educational activities and events related to GLBT issues.

Conduct, promote, and facilitate community forums to educate the community about GLBT issues and concerns.

Collaborate with the Human Relations and other City Commissions, and serve as a liaison between the Mayor and Council and the education community regarding the needs and rights of the GLBT community and address other GLBT issues as requested by the Mayor and Council.

Commission meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the EOO Conference Room, 100 N. Stone, first floor. Meetings are open to the public and there will be a call to the audience at each meeting. Meeting agendas are



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TUCSON

Gay And Evangelical, Seeking Paths Of Acceptance

Continued from Page Three

certain God would, but when that did not happen, he said, it called everything into question.

liberal theologically for evangelicals. Yet those congregations whose preaching is familiar do not welcome Gay members, those evangelicals said.

He knew no one who was Gay who could help, and he could not turn to his church. So for a year, Mr. Lee went to the library almost every day with a notebook and the bright blue leather-bound Bible his parents had given him. He set up his Web site to tell his friends what he was learning through his readings, but e-mail rolled in from strangers, because, he says, other Gay evangelicals came to understand they were not alone. "I told them I don't have the answers," Mr. Lee said, "but we can pray together and see where God takes us."

Clyde Zuber, 49, and Martin Fowler, 55, remember sitting on the curb outside Lakeview Baptist Church in Grand Prairie, Tex., almost 20 years ago, Sunday after Sunday, reading the Bible together, after the pastor told them they were not welcome inside. The men met at a Dallas church and have been together 23 years. In Durham, N.C., they attend an Episcopal church and hold a Bible study for Gay evangelicals every Friday night at their home. "Our faith is the basis of our lives," said Mr. Fowler, a soft-spoken professor of philosophy. "It means that Jesus is the Lord of our household, that we resolve differences peacefully and through love."

But even when they accept themselves, Gay evangelicals often have difficulty finding a community. They are too Christian for many Gay people, with the evangelical rock they listen to and their talk of loving God. Mr. Lee plans to remain sexually abstinent until he is in a long-term, religiously blessed relationship, which would make him a curiosity in straight and Gay circles alike. Gay evangelicals seldom find churches that fit. Congregations and denominations that are open to Gay people are often too

Their lives seem a testament to all that is changing and all that holds fast among evangelicals. Their parents came to their commitment ceremony 20 years ago, their decision ultimately an act of loyalty to their sons, Mr. Zuber said. But Mr. Zuber's sister and brother-in-law in Virginia remain convinced that the couple is sinning. "They're worried we're going to hell," Mr. Zuber said. "They say, 'We love you, but we're concerned.'"

VENTURE-N
TUCSON'S ONLY MEN'S BAR
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COMING EVENTS
DEC. 24
SPECIALS
DOOR PRIZE
Drawing at Midnite--See bartender

DEC. 25
CHRISTMAS POTLUCK
Starts at 1 pm -- We do the meat.
BRING SIDE DISHES & DESSERTS
Sign-up with bartender

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Report On LGBT Homelessness

Continued from Page One

across the country, including many who cloak themselves in "family values," said Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "We salute New York City and its City Council for embracing these kids and responding with compassion and resources."

"This study illustrates that the challenges LGBT youth face can become so great that kids are left displaced and homeless. It is crucial that we provide the resources for connecting these young people with safe shelter, health care and educational services. The City Council is proud to have made the needs of LGBT homeless youth a priority, and we will continue our work to ensure these young people get the services they need," said New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn.

The report was released today at City Hall in acknowledgment of the New York City Council's leadership in addressing this issue. Since 2005, more than \$2 million has been granted to organizations in the city that provide a variety of vital services to homeless LGBT youth.

These organizations have developed model practice programs that can be replicated at shelters around the country. For example, the report includes a chapter written by Theresa Nolan, division director of the New York-based Green Chimneys, detailing the organization's model transitional living program. New York City has also funded two additional providers that work exclusively with LGBT homeless youth: the Ali Forney Center, headed by Executive Director Carl Siciliano, and Sylvia's Place, where Kate Barnhart is program director. This unprecedented level of funding specifically for helping to house and serve LGBT homeless youth came about through the determined leadership of Councilmembers Lew Fidler, Alan Gerson and Speaker Christine Quinn.

report include:

Family conflict, including conflict over a youth's sexual orientation or gender identity, is the primary cause for young people becoming homeless. In one study, 50 percent of Gay male teens who came out to their parents experienced a negative reaction and 26 percent of them were told they must leave home.

LGBT youth report experiencing discrimination, harassment and violence at shelters and service providers. For example, one facility in Michigan forced youth who identified as or were perceived as being LGBT to wear orange jumpsuits.

LGBT homeless youth are more likely to suffer from mental health issues and substance abuse than are their heterosexual peers, and are more likely to be victimized by sexual predators.

The report concludes with a series of state-, federal-, and practitioner-level policy recommendations that can help to curb this epidemic, including:

Establishing funding streams to provide housing options for all homeless youth and requiring that recipients of these funds are committed to the safe and appropriate treatment of LGBT homeless youth.

Permitting dedicated shelter and housing for LGBT youth.

Extending comprehensive health insurance and services through the age of 24 to all low-income youth via Medicaid.

Requiring all agencies that seek public funding and licensure to serve homeless youth to adopt nondiscrimination policies for LGBT youth.

Key findings revealed in the

Mandating LGBT aware-



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Gay Couple Beaten By Group At Steak House

SCOTTSDALE - Police are investigating a suspected hate crime reported by a Gay couple who said they were jumped by as many as seven men outside a Scottsdale restaurant near McDowell and Scottsdale roads, the Arizona Republic reported. As they held hands and began to leave Frasher's Steakhouse late Sunday (Dec. 17), Jean Rolland and Andrew Frost said they were beaten in the restaurant's entryway.

they're going to brag about it and tell their friends how tough they were," said Rolland, a native of France who lives part time in Scottsdale.

The Sunday-night incident was upsetting, he said, because no one from the restaurant said they saw anything, though the attack happened only a few feet from the front door. "It was creepy to me," said Frost, a Scottsdale resident. "I had blood pouring out of me, and I actually blacked out at one point."

Rolland and Frost said that, as they left the restaurant, two men headed into the eatery. One of the assailants called the couple a derogatory term. It was unclear whether any weapons were used in the attack. Frost was taken to Scottsdale Healthcare Osborn, where he was treated and released. Frost received several staples to treat a wound on his scalp and several stitches to seal other wounds on his face. Rolland suffered minor injuries.

Scottsdale police confirmed the assault about 8:00 p.m. at the restaurant at 2122 N. Scottsdale Road. George Frasher, owner of the restaurant, said he was shocked to hear about the attack, which started near the entrance before spilling out into the parking lot. Rolland and Frost brought the assault to the attention of the Arizona Human Rights Fund and Foundation. The organization, which has lobbied the Legislature for stricter penalties involving hate crimes, will follow the Scottsdale police investigation to determine if the attack was triggered by anti-Gay sentiments.

The men want to press charges against their attackers, none of whom had been arrested as of Monday afternoon (Dec. 18), according to Scottsdale police. "My only hope is that

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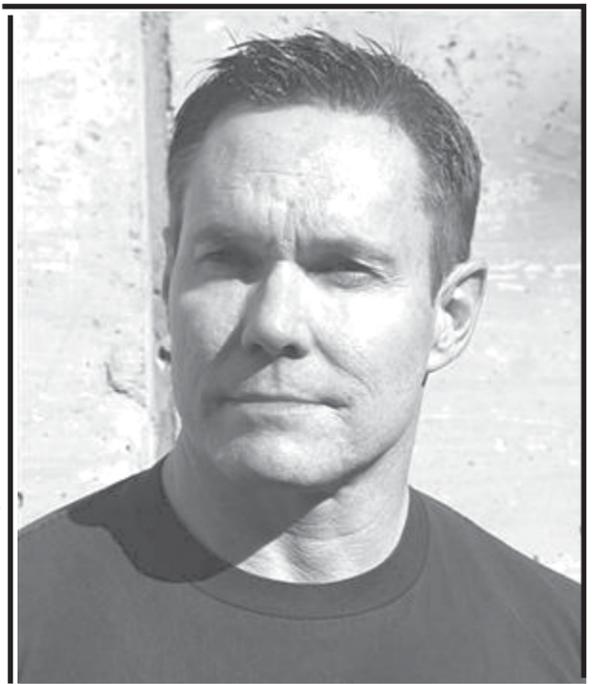


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Evangelist's Gay Escort Signs For Explicit Tell-All

NEW YORK CITY - Gay ex-escort Mike Jones has signed to write a sexually explicit memoir about his relationship with fallen evangelist Ted Haggard, reported the Miami Herald. "It's going to review my encounters with Ted and other people who are similar," Jones said in an interview. "It's not a book about bashing Ted at all. It's humanizing him as a person with feelings and emotions and desires. I'm going to be explicit as far as what happened in our encounters, but not to rip him apart or be mean to him. He's a man who has faults like all of us." Jones won't say how much the book deal is worth.



Gay Escort Mike Jones

Just before the November election, the muscular massage therapist went public and told the world that he had a three-year relationship with Haggard - married president of the 30-million member National Association of Evangelicals, a confidante of President Bush and a leader in the anti-Gay political movement. Haggard paid \$200 cash per session, "plus tips," said Jones, who said he also helped Haggard buy methamphetamine. At first, Haggard denied knowing Jones. Within days of the scandal breaking on Nov. 2, Haggard amended his story, saying that he had paid Jones only for a massage and that he did buy meth -

but that he had thrown it away, unused. Haggard soon resigned from all church leadership positions and publicly called himself "a deceiver and a liar."

Seven Stories Press plans to publish the still-untitled book in June. "It was Mike's courage and strength of conscience that ultimately led him to come forward about the hypocrisy of Haggard's life," publisher Dan Simon said in a news release. "We're proud to be publishing this important story from an articulate and brave man."

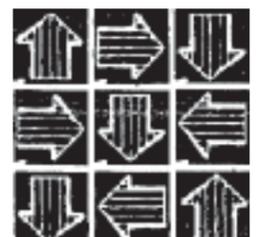
Van Smith Dies At 61

MARIANNA, Florida - Van Smith, the creative mind behind the costumes and makeup in John Waters's movies, died of a heart attack Dec. 5 at his home. Smith is credited with the creation in the 1970s of Divine, who set the standard for modern drag, reported advocate.com.

Mansfield and Clarabell the clown, according to the Los Angeles Times.

Born Walter Avant Smith Jr. in August 1945, he graduated in 1968 from the Maryland Institute College of Art and lived in Baltimore. According to the Los Angeles Times, he also was a fashion illustrator in New York, owned an antique store in Baltimore, and volunteered at an animal rescue in Florida.

"When we started in those days, drag queens were square," Waters told The New York Times in a phone interview. "They hated Divine; they wanted to be [1940s Miss America] Bess Myerson. And Divine would show up in a see-through miniskirt with a chain saw instead of a pocketbook." Waters and Smith worked together to achieve their films' iconic look starting with Pink Flamingo in 1972, starring the 300-pound Divine. Smith once said that Divine's look for the film was a cross between Jayne



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le you were enjoying November's tilt away from the far right, there's some more good news you may have missed: The world is steadily warming toward same-sex couples. Just two days ago, the U.K. celebrated the one-year anniversary of its civil partnership law, which legally recognizes same-sex couples. And in November, both Israel and South Africa (a very odd couple indeed) joined the Netherlands, Belgium, Canada and Spain in recognizing marriages between two women or two men. That brings to total number of nations that have done so to six, in as many years, with the Scandinavian countries now jockeying to see which will be next.

South Africa's move has been predicted for years in part because its post-apartheid constitution includes a clause banning discrimination based on sexual orientation. Still, it was thrilling when the South African parliament voted 230 to 41 in favor of the new law. Israel's situation was different, albeit instructive for those who believe marriage should be left to religions. Because Israel has no civil marriage—religious authorities administer their religions' marriage and divorce laws—inter-religious or non-religious couples are forced to fly elsewhere to marry, and afterwards to register their marriage with the state. That's what five Lesbian and Gay couples did, getting married in Canada—and on November 21, Israel's top court ruled that those marriages, too, being valid where performed, must be registered and treated as valid in Israel.

But full marriage, with use of the legally powerful but contentious M word, is just the tip of the iceberg. Around the world, almost all the developed countries recognize same-sex couples under some other name. All the Scandinavian countries have "registered partnership" laws, which are marriages without the magic word—and will almost certainly be upgrading to full marriage in the next few years. Other jurisdictions with such laws already on the books include most of

COMMENTARY . . .

A Bright Gay Future For Marriage

Australia, states in Argentina and Brazil, Croatia, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, New Zealand, Portugal, Slovenia, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

But wait, there's more. To our south, Mexico City just passed a civil unions law; the Mexican state of Coahuila is working on one as well. In September, Uruguay's senate passed a civil unions bill by 26 to 2; it's expected to sail through the house. The Colombian senate recently passed a civil unions bill. Ireland, where citizens favor civil unions by between 64 and 80 percent (depending on the poll), has a commission working on its bill.

So why has the U.S. lagged on legal recognition for two women or two men who want to care for each other in sickness and in health, for richer and for poorer, until death (or divorce) do them part? For several reasons. First, because we have the largest fundamentalist voting bloc outside the Muslim world. Second, because unlike much of the developed world—and unlike Europe through most of history—we have "either/or" marriage systems, with no intermediate legal recognition for couples who haven't taken formal vows. Third, and most important, because the U.S. isn't a single nation at all, in the sense that's true in, say, Australia or Spain. We're actually 50 tightly yoked nations, with 50 different sets of marriage laws. Although Massachusetts and Alabama are no more likely to agree on the finer points of marriage law than are

Denmark and Poland, American states' legal fates (and media coverage on social issues) are far more closely bound together.

And yet even here in the U.S., things are looking up. After marrying more than 8,000 same-sex couples, Massachusetts has more or less forgotten about the issue—although some parts of the state are immensely proud of going first, and furious about our outgoing governor's demagoguery in opposition. (Our new African American governor, Deval Patrick, is a firm marriage supporter. In the state legislature, marriage opponents keep losing their seats to marriage supporters; no marriage supporter has yet been defeated.) Legally, in Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey and New York, Boston marriages are presumed valid and would be upheld if they got to court. And New York's governor-elect Eliot Spitzer says he favors opening marriage to same-sex pairs—and will work to make that happen.

Once again, that's just the tip of the iceberg. Do you remember the national outcry just seven years ago when the Vermont Supreme Court ordered its legislature to come up with full equality for same-sex pairs, and the Green Mountain state invented the term "civil union"? New Jersey's court did the same this year—and there's been scarcely a peep about it nationwide. (In theory, the New Jersey legislature could gender-neutralize its marriage laws instead of expanding its civil unions statute, but I'm not holding my breath.) Both Connecticut and

California have capacious civil unions laws (California's is technically called "domestic partnership"), and Oregon will probably pass one this year. Sure, these are blue states—but they are still small nations, governing tens of millions of people.

Take California: with 36 million citizens and counting, it's more populous than Canada, and famously has the eighth-largest economy in the world. The Golden State's legislature will probably pass a marriage law again this year, which the Governor might veto yet again—or might not. What's more surprising: despite California's enormous conservative infrastructure—including the largest Mormon population outside Utah, a very active evangelical movement (including the parish of Rick Warren, author of *The Purpose-Driven Life*), Orange County and conservative rural and agricultural regions—this year, opponents could not even get enough signatures to put an anti-marriage amendment on the ballot.

Meanwhile, things look good in the purple states as well. Remember those anti-Gay constitutional amendments and statutes that you heard so much about a few years ago? Outside evangelical communities, support is fading like a late spring frost. Arizona shot down such a bill this November—the first time voters have done so, and a good sign for the future. Lessons from that campaign are being totted up carefully by LGBT activists and funders. And while seven other states passed anti-marriage constitutional amendments, the margins were much lower than those in 2004. South Dakota's amendment squeaked by with only 52 percent of the vote, and Colorado's got only 56—despite the fact that Colorado is home to Focus on the Family's long-established statewide anti-Gay machine. On average, this year's amendments passed with seven percent less of the vote—an astonishing drop in two years. Accord-

Continued on Page Nine



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POLITICS 2006

by Mark R. Kerr

Chapter 17

With the rejection of Proposition 107 by Arizona voters during the Nov. 7 general election, in addition to the preservation of medical and dental benefits for the domestic partners and their families of various governmental entities and businesses and Tucson's three-year-old, Domestic Partners Registry, Tucson's anti discrimination ordinance was saved as well.

Tucson's law is known under the formal title of the Human Relations Ordinance and is found in Tucson's Municipal Code, Chapter 17 and states that it is unlawful to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, familial status and marital status.

Approved by a unanimous vote of the Mayor and City Council on Feb. 7, 1977, Tucson became one of the first cities in the country to have an enforceable, anti discrimination ordinance on the books.

According to Ordinance, the City of Tucson Office of Equal Opportunity Programs (OEOP) is responsible for investigating complaints of discrimination within the city limits of Tucson in employment, public accommodation and housing.

Places of public accommodation, facilities, services, commodities or use offered to or enjoyed by the general public, housing providers operating in the sale or rental of housing, including but not limited to individual lessees, real estate agents/brokers, lending institutions and employers having 1-100 employees operating within city limits are covered under the Ordinance.

Private clubs and non-profit

religious organizations are not covered by the measure, as well as those protected classes that have remedies available under Federal law or Arizona law but individuals who have complaints based on gender identity, sexual orientation, ancestry, familial status (employment) or marital status may file a complaint with the OEOP from any size business within the Tucson city limits.

Any individual claiming to have been discriminated against in employment, housing or public accommodation in the city limits may file a complaint with the OEOP within 90 working days from the time of the alleged violation (180 calendar days for housing complaints). Complaint forms are available from the OEOP or can be downloaded from the OEOP website (tucsonaz.gov/eo/Chapter_17/chapter_17.html) on your computer.

A complaint form must be submitted in person or by mail since the OEOP does not accept confidential information via E-mail or over the internet. There is no fee for filing a complaint with the OEOP.

If the complaint meets the legal requirements, the OEOP will investigate and render written findings as to whether there is or is not reasonable cause to substantiate the charge.

The OEOP will make every effort to conciliate complaints and if conciliation fails and there is reasonable cause to substantiate the charge, the OEOP will refer the matter to the City Attorney's Office for prosecution in City Court.

For more information, call the OEOP at (520)791-4593 or go online to: tucsonaz.gov/eo/.

Columnist Claims Soy Products Reduces Penis Size, Makes Men Gay

NEW YORK CITY - A column on a conservative website World Net Daily claims that use of soy products leads to reduced penis size and higher rates of male homosexuality, rawstory.com reported.

In "A devil food is turning out kids into homosexuals," author James Rutz claims that soy raises human estrogen levels, causing the shifts. The hormone-link theory regarding homosexuality was abandoned by mainstream scientists in the 1980s, after studies found higher testosterone levels among Gay men as often as among heterosexuals. As The Atlantic reports:

In 1984 Heino Meyer-Bahlburg, a neurobiologist at Colum-

bia University, analyzed the results of twenty-seven studies undertaken to test the theory. According to Meyer-Bahlburg, a score of the studies in fact showed no difference between the testosterone or estrogen levels of homosexual and heterosexual men. Three studies did show that homosexuals had significantly lower levels of testosterone, but Meyer-Bahlburg believed that two of them were methodologically unsound and that the third was tainted by psychotropic drug use on the part of its subjects. Two studies actually reported higher levels of testosterone in homosexual men than in heterosexual men, and one unhelpfully showed the levels to be higher in Bisexuals than in either heterosexuals or homosexuals.



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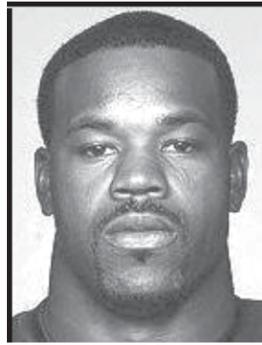


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Porter Fined \$10,000 For 'Fag' Comment



Joey Porter

Porter (left) for what the league called "vulgar, inexcusable statements" against Cleveland Browns tight end Kellen Winslow.

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania- The cost of calling a fellow NFL player a "fag" is \$10,000, reported outsports.com. That was the fine levied on Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker Joey

used that word freely, me growing up using it, I didn't think nothing of it like that," Porter said.

There have been other instances where NFL players made anti-Gay remarks, but those all occurred outside a game environment. In 2003, Detroit Lions President Matt Millen called Kansas City Chiefs wide receiver Johnny Morton a "faggot" after a game but was not reprimanded. He also "apologized if I offended anyone." The league told Billy Witz of the Los Angeles Daily News at the time that Millen apologized, was justly criticized for his outburst and a fine would have served no meaningful purpose. The NFL considered it an internal matter for the Lions.

This is Porter's second fine of the season. He was fined \$15,000 for remarks he made to an official during a game in Atlanta.

It is believed to be the first time the league has fined a player for making homophobic comments. The fracas started Dec. 7 after the Steelers beat the Browns, 27-7. Upset at what Porter thought was a Winslow cheap shot against a Steelers teammate, the brash linebacker said: "He's a fag. He tried to dap me up before the game. He's soft though. I don't pay attention to him. ... [the hit on the teammate] was late. That's what fags do. He's soft. He wanna be tough but he's really soft. He tried to give me a handshake before the game. He's not my friend, he don't know me. What you trying to shake my hand for? He talk too much and he hadn't done nothing. He threw a cheap shot. He's weak. He's for real weak. He's soft. He might want to play receiver because he don't want to play tight end. He's not gonna block nobody."

Porter had issued a non-apology apology, saying, "I apologize to anybody I offended on it. I didn't mean to offend nobody but Kellen Winslow. Pretty much, that's it about that." In trying to justify his use of language, Porter said it was a common word in his upbringing. "I guess how we

A man who doesn't advertise is like one who winks in the dark: he knows he's doing it, but nobody else does.

A Bright Gay Future For Marriage

Continued from Page Seven

ing to political scientists Patrick Egan and Kenneth Sherrill, who've just released a paper comparing support for the 2004 and 2006 amendments, that's in no small part because support for such amendments is dropping precipitously among non-evangelical voters—a good sign for most of the country (except the former Confederate states).

None of this is happening by itself: Gay and pro-Gay progressive funders have been carefully investing in these campaigns (including building an infrastructure for future battles), as well as in taking back state legislatures and congressional seats from the right—which will be especially important in 10 or 15 years, when it's time to repeal the amendments that have already been passed.

But the biggest news is this: American opinion keeps ticking steadily farther in favor of recognizing same-sex couples, a few points more each year. A November 2006 Fox News poll showed that, among likely voters, the nation was divided into thirds on marriage, civil unions or no recognition at all—30/30/32 (with 7 percent unsure). That's a real gain since Fox's March 2004 poll, when the spread was 20/33/40. Other polls show different numbers, but the same movement. And that steady upward tick has been consistent on all LGBT issues over the past 20 years. Trust me, you haven't seen opinions change this fast on any other social issue in your lifetime. Americans, like others all over the world, are slowly but steadily getting comfortable with their LGBT sisters, uncles, neighbors and coworkers—and becoming more and more willing to



by E. J. Graff

have the state recognize their bonds.

So I'm ready to put down \$100 on this proposition: Twenty years from today, most (maybe even all) of the United States—like so many of our neighbors to the north, south, east and west—will be celebrating and recognizing same-sex marriages. Anyone ready to pony up?

(E.J. Graff is a Brandeis Women's Studies Research Center resident scholar and the author of *What Is Marriage For? The Strange Social History of Our Most Intimate Institution*. This article is reprinted from tompaine.com.)

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COMMENTARY. . . .

Funny Hurts



by Jason Stuart

All I ever wanted to do was act and do stand up comedy. Since I discovered that being Gay was an issue to most folks one way or another, I feel compelled to take a stand when I see a group of my fellow human beings attacked. I was never the kind of man who could sit at a family dinner when a racist comment was made about any group. So if a racist joke were made, I would simply say, that's not ok with me. They would reply but you're not Black. Well, it's still not cool or funny.

So, I was saddened and offended at the crudeness, the lewdness, the brazen racism expressed by Michael Richards unloading his rage. Surely most comics have the skills to handle hecklers or distractions, from a large group of friends gathered for a surprise party at a comedy club where alcohol is routinely served. This should come as no surprise to any comic, and our tactics should be playful, to engage, and win over the noisy fuckers. It's part of our job.

To demean, an audience member with a vile, hateful diatribe, simply has no place in comedy. It's not even the word, it's who says it on our cultural landscape, in what context it is said, and most importantly the intent behind it. Nonetheless, I side with Oprah and think the word has too much meaning to be used in a public setting.

It is time for us all to stand up for an internal audit. What are we capable of? How many Mel Gibson and Michael Richards' moments have we witnessed in ourselves, both in and out of a comedy clubs?

As the NY Times stated on Dec. 3, "For some, the most important lesson, one which may show some progress toward racial tolerance, is that it is the man who first hurled the racial insult who appears more damaged this time, not the target of his epithet. Mr. (Dick) Gregory said his son told him a joke the other day: "What is worse than a white man calling a black man a nigger?" Mr. Gregory said, quoting his son. "Calling a white man Michael Richards." My hope is that Mr. Richards is able to turn this

negative situation around and make it a positive by supporting the community with his celebrity. My hope is that then, he'll no longer be the target of jokes, and all of us may be changed by the discussion his behavior ignited

I found myself in the lobby of the Laugh Factory after the news conference on November 27th and was asked to be of support to the owner Jamie Masada, who has had me work at his clubs for over 20 years as a headliner and always as an equal. After the press conference the New York Times asked me some questions. But the NY Times misquoted my words. So I wanted to set the record straight. LA Times Review - What I said was that, "about 25% of black comics have anti-Gay material in their act and just as many or more white comedians do the same. What are we doing about that?" Nothing... I spoke with Najee Ali, a civil rights activist and he responded by stating that he has been on the front lines to support all folks from prejudice.

So I turn to you, my community to start an enlarging dialogues on the social acceptability of Gay-bashing. I ask the question where do we draw the line? The current all-important discourse on racist speak is vital. How can we as Gay folks add to the crucial discourse centered now on racism? At a time when LGBTQ folks are scorned, do we not have to address the hate radiating from the Religious Right, and to all comics making us the "butt" of their homophobic fixations? We must ignite amongst Americans a desire to also dig deeper and address the hate. Most Americans have soul-searching to do in their comedy choices, on street corners, and middle school hallways, that are often not very funny either but painful to others.

I learned when I was 12 the word "fag" scraped on my locker with a nail. I saw it every day for 3 years in Jr. High School. I never said a word to a soul. It shredded my sense of who I was for almost 20 years, until I started speaking on college campuses on the power of being out in the workplace.

It is time for change and I for one intend to continue to be a part of it in my work and my life.

(Jason Stuart is an actor & comic is currently featured in the film "Coffee Date" and has appeared in over 100 films and TV shows, including his groundbreaking role as Damon's Wayan's Gay family therapist on ABC's, "My Wife & Kids". Recently he was seen on "George Lopez" and "House". He is one of the few openly Gay men to headline mainstream comedy clubs & college campuses and was proud to host the Millennium March on Washington.)



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Circumcision May Cut Risk Of HIV By Half

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Circumcising adult men may reduce by half their risk of getting the AIDS virus through heterosexual intercourse, the U.S. government announced Wednesday (Dec. 13), reported the Associated Press on the PlanetOut Network, as it shut down two studies in Africa testing the link. The National Institutes of Health closed the studies in Kenya and Uganda early, when safety monitors took a look at initial results and spotted the protection. The studies' uncircumcised men are being offered the chance to undergo the procedure.

The link between male circumcision and HIV prevention was noted as long ago as the late 1980s. The first major clinical trial, of 3,000 men in South Africa, found last year that circumcision cut the HIV risk by 60 percent. Still, many AIDS specialists had been awaiting the NIH's results as a final confirmation. "Male circumcision can lower both an individual's risk of infection, and hopefully the rate of HIV spread through the community," said AIDS expert Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

But it's not perfect protection, Fauci stressed. Men who become circumcised must not quit using condoms nor take other risks and circumcision offers no protection from HIV acquired through anal sex or injection drug use, he noted. "It's not a magic bullet, but a potentially important intervention," agreed Dr. Kevin De Cock of the World Health Organization.

Male circumcision is common at birth in the United States. But in sub-Saharan Africa, home to more than half of the world's almost 40 million HIV-infected people, there are large swaths of populations where male circumcision is rare. The WHO plans an international meeting early next year to discuss the studies' results and how to translate them into policies that promote safe male circumcision done by trained health workers with sterile equipment while teaching men that it won't make them invulnerable. If male circumcision were widely adopted, officials predicted that could help to avert tens of thousands of HIV infections in coming years; Fauci cited one model from South Africa that suggested possibly up to 2 million infections could be averted over a decade.

"This is tremendous news, and it could help millions of men while in turn reducing the risk faced by millions of women," said Paul Zeitz of the Global AIDS Alliance.

Why would male circumcision play a role? Cells in the foreskin of the penis are particularly susceptible to the HIV virus, Fauci explained. Also, the foreskin is more fragile than the tougher skin surrounding it, providing a surface that the virus could penetrate more easily. Researchers enrolled 2,784 HIV-negative men in Kisumu, Kenya, and 4,996 HIV-negative men in Rakai, Uganda, into the studies. Some were circumcised; others were just monitored. Over two years, 22 of the circumcised Kenyans became infected with HIV compared with 47 uncircumcised men, a 53 percent reduction. In Uganda, 22 circumcised men became infected vs. 43 of the uncircumcised, a 48 percent reduction.

The researchers are offering all of the studies' uncircumcised men the chance to undergo the procedure, and 80 percent of the uncircumcised Ugandans already have agreed, said lead researcher Ronald Gray of Johns Hopkins University. Side effects were rare, including some mostly mild infections that were easily treated. The rate of side effects was comparable to those seen in circumcised U.S. infants, said Robert Bailey of the University of Illinois at Chicago, who led the Kenyan trial.

A coalition of international medical experts and bioethicists who oppose circumcision generally denounced the National Institutes of Health endorsement of circumcision as a solution to the HIV/AIDS crisis as being irresponsible.

George Denniston, MD, President of the international group, Doctors Opposing Circumcision, says "The NIH suggestion is dangerous folly. Worse, the NIH plan will permit circumcised men to claim they are immune to HIV and engage in unsafe sex. In cultures where women are obliged to submit, this is a recipe for a human rights disaster to women on a massive scale. Safe-sex education and widespread availability of condoms are the only answers before a vaccine is developed."

Critics of the plan, which include the umbrella group International Coalition for Genital Integrity, note that traditional African cutting and scarring rituals, and even modern medical care, are both proven sources of HIV infection. Surgeries in villages where even clean water is a luxury are likely to prove risky. The coalition, which also opposes female genital mutilation, known as FGM, is also concerned that suggesting genital surgery is the solution to the AIDS crisis, "will sustain FGM or introduce it where it is unknown, at the same time as the World Health Organization has pronounced the practice 'genital torture,'" says Dan Bollinger, the group's spokesperson.

Judge Tosses Naked Suit

MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin - A federal judge has thrown out a civil rights lawsuit the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center filed after police last year shut down its production of "Naked Boys Singing," reported 365Gay.com. The center was seeking more than \$600,000 in damages, alleging constitutional violations of free speech and due process. U-S District Judge Charles Clevert dismissed the suit saying the center had failed to prove that the violations were part of a policy by the city.

Police shut down the show, at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, in August 2005 saying the center did not have a city theater license. But, the city later admitted it made a mistake. As a non profit facility the center is exempt from the license requirement. At the time of the bust police said that they began looking into show after evangelist Drew Heiss filed an open records request for a copy of the center's licenses to serve alcohol, show nude photos and have nude dancers. Proceeds from the production had been designated for various AIDS research groups and theater groups.

"Naked Boys Singing," is billed as a musical revue that "celebrates the splendors of male nudity in comedy, song and dance." It features six male actors who are in the buff for much of the performance.

The New York production of the show played for more than six years and was critically acclaimed. It has been translated into six languages and has played Sao Paulo Brazil, Sidney Australia, Rome, London, Paris, and has toured Norway. In 2004 the Atlanta production was shut down after police said the show bar in which it was playing didn't have an adult entertainment license. The charges were later dropped after mayor Shirley Franklin interceded. The same year a federal court has ordered the city of San Juan, Puerto Rico, to pay the Local producers of the Gay themed musical \$1.3 million in compensation for closing the campy musical a day before it was to open at the state-owned Tapia Theatre in 2003.

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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE Bravo, Tucson

by Lee Thorn

The city is going to do something intelligent and constructive. We ought to celebrate it. Tucson has long offered counseling instead of jail to women arrested for prostitution. The ARIZONA DAILY STAR reports that, starting in January, the same program will be offered to johns, the men who solicit cops posing as prostitutes for sex.

The city apparently wants to give this program a go in order to save the money it costs to prosecute and jail johns. A similar program in Phoenix saved that city \$96,000 just in jail costs in 2005. Imagine what Phoenix and/or Tucson could save if they/it quit arresting prostitutes and johns altogether.

The really good part of this deal is that it's going to save everybody big money, protect johns and their families from tons of embarrassment, prevent lots of unproductive marital discord, prevent divorces, and protect johns from losing their jobs or even their careers. All this is true for the simple reason that it's easier to conceal the fact that you've got to go to some counseling sessions than it is to conceal the fact that you've got to spend a couple weeks in jail.

So now that I've tipped my hat to the city for doing something really good, I'd like to go on to ask why we arrest prostitutes and johns in the first place. People used to argue that prostitutes and johns should be arrested to slow the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.

I guess that argument is no longer fashionable. Perhaps that's because there's little evidence to support it. Countries where prostitution is legal don't necessarily have higher rates of STDs than we do. The fact is that prostitutes and johns are arrested to satisfy the morality of people who believe that recreational sex is wrong and that recreational sex for sale is really, really wrong. I have no problem with that stance. If that's what you believe, don't hire a prostitute. But what gives you the right to shove your morality down everyone else's throat?

There are those who argue that prostitution exploits women, and that prostitutes themselves are in no position to be the judges of that question. How arresting them and putting them in jail lessens their exploitation has never been made quite clear to me. If the city ever feels like doing something positive for prostitutes, it could make prostitution legal, license it, tax it, and provide health care and health and life skills education to prostitutes. If it really wanted to be helpful, it could attempt to create alternative types of employment for them.

A perennial issue with Tucson prostitution is keeping it out of residential neighborhoods. The STAR article says, "Faced with increased police presence, much of the activity has moved off the main streets and into the heart of the neighborhood." Well, let's see, if increased police presence is forcing prostitution into the neighborhood, what might we possibly do to get it out of the neighborhoods? That's a tough one. We'll have to scratch our heads awhile about that.

Incidentally, I've always been amazed at how small the streetwalking areas of Tucson are and how little they've changed in the last 30 years. How about this for a constructive idea?

Having licensed and taxed the streetwalking part of the prostitution business, and with the small traditional venues already long established, why couldn't the city build on tradition and formalize boundaries for the streetwalking districts and then maintain a strong police presence in those areas? That would protect the prostitutes, the johns, the neighboring communities, and the

free-spending tourists who tend to frequent these colorful places.

Speaking of legalizing stuff that should never have been made illegal in the first place, I wonder what happened to the city of Denver, the town I grew up in. You may remember that a couple of years ago Denver decided to quit arresting people for possession of up to an ounce of marijuana. The moralists have long maintained that this would be the beginning of the end, the end of civilization itself. But I haven't seen any news reports on the dire consequences of marijuana legalization in Denver. I wonder if the city is still functioning, or has everyone repaired to mountain caves where they dress in animal skins and carry clubs around as they puff their weed?

But let's admit that the city of Tucson did good. It would be mean-spirited of me to carp about how much better it could do. We've got to keep our cultural context in mind. There have been thousands of books written on the question but, to the best of my knowledge, nobody has ever satisfactorily answered it: How did Americans ever get so hung up about sex?

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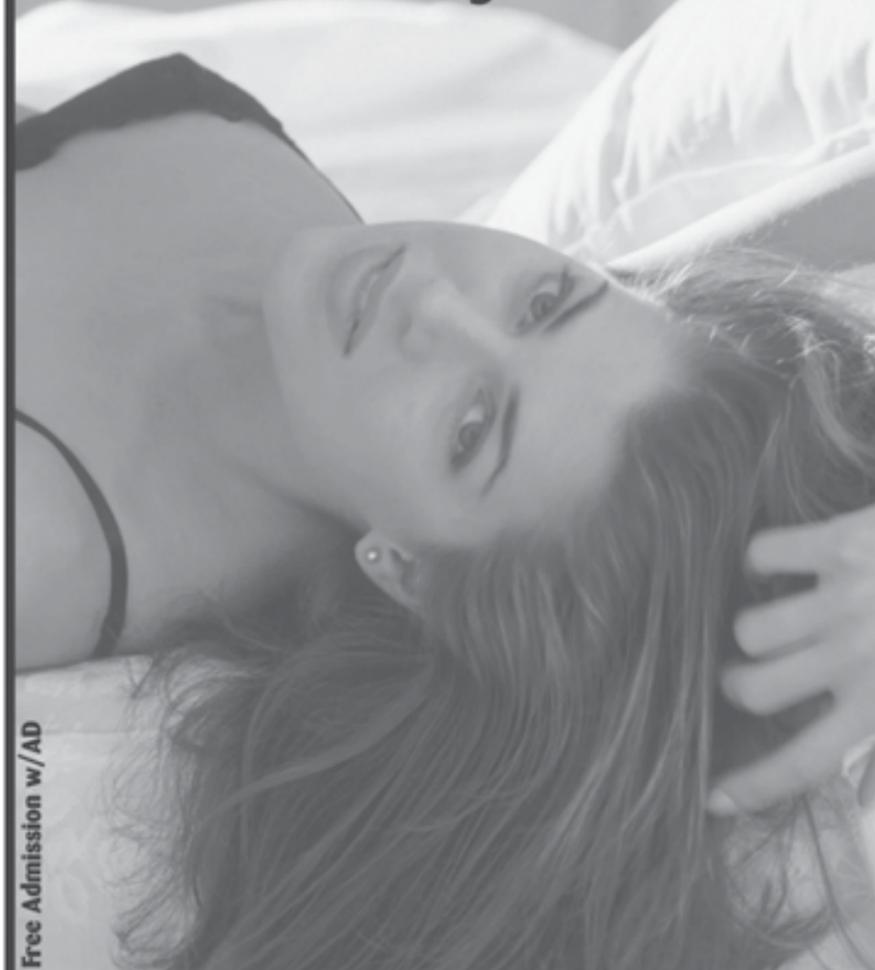
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Wednesday, December 20th
 #1 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Canasta at Lee and Merlin's. Phone for info: 207-5336.

#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.

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

#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 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

Non Bar Calendar

Nights". Arlan is hosting this event, and you can contact him at 323-7414 for info and directions.

Friday, December 22nd

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

#2 Men'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.

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

experience with both straight and gay men, join us at the regular Circle of Men meetings. Call Tom at 591-2828 for dates and times.

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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Bills Pose New Threats To LGBT Students

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah - Two Republican state lawmakers who proposed bills aimed at curtailing Gay-straight alliances in Utah schools in the last session only to seek them rejected say they will reintroduce the measures in the new session of the Legislature, reported 365Gay.com. But Chris Buttars and Rep. Aaron Tilton said their bills will be much the same as the previous ones.

Buttars' last bill would have imposed an outright ban on GSAs. On the Senate floor he said GSAs are a recruiting tool for Gays and are "tearing down the moral pillars of society." The measure died in the legislature. A longtime opponent of LGBT civil rights he has put forward in the past a long list of bills including one last session that would have barred cities and the state government from offering domestic partner benefits.

Tilton's last bill was gutted in committee. It would have prohibited "self-labeling in terms of sexual orientation." It also would have required parental approval for students to join any club that would "expose" students to LGBT topics.

There are approximately 14 GSAs in the state. In the mid-1990s, Salt Lake City School District was threatened with a federal lawsuit when it attempted to block the formation of a GSA in a local high school. In an attempt to avoid going to court it then cancelled all extracurricular clubs. The GSA was ultimately reinstated.

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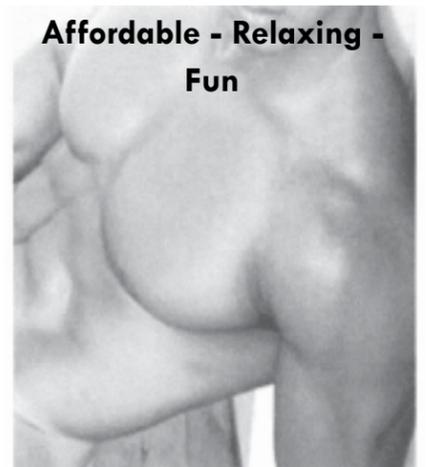
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Theresa Lee Health Center
332 S. Freeway
Tucson, AZ 85745
(520) 624-8272

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

DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-2am; \$2 Pitchers til 10pm and Rotating Shot Specials all night; Latin Music with live DJ at 9:30pm. Get ready!!! L Word Season 4 begins Jan. 7th at 8pm!

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

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-10pm; Drink what you want with ½ priced Happy Hour. Poke-Her Monday! Free card lessons 5pm. Free Texas Hold-'em Tourney at 6pm; Prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd Places. Happy Hour pricing & Free Food

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

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-10pm; Drink What You Want with ½ priced Happy Hour. Monthly Wine Tasting on 2nd Tuesday of every month at 5:30pm. Please RSVP by the first Monday of the Month. Wine bottles will be for sale after the tasting at a special discounted price.

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 (2nd Tuesday every month \$2.00).

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

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. 50¢ off any Top Shelf Tequila until 8pm. Beer Bust 4-8pm. Patio Bar Opens 7pm.

WEDNESDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-2am; Drink what You Want with ½ priced Happy Hour 3-8pm; 18 to Party, 21 to Drink! 18 & Over Night w/DJ Shorty at 9:30pm! Rotating Shot Specials all night.

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.

DECEMBER 20, 2006

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

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-2am; Drink What You Want with ½ priced Happy Hour 3-8pm; 'Thirsty Thursday' with Tori Steele & Friends! Drag show starts at 9:30pm with Tori Steele, Janee Starr, Diana Flair and weekly special guests. \$2 Pitchers and Rotating Shot Specials. Followed by a new Surprise guest DJ!

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

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-2am; Drink What You Want with ½ priced Happy Hour 3-8pm; Rotating weeks Latin or Hip Hop Music with DJ Shorty at 9:30pm. Rotating Shot Specials all night!

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 Faltn. 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 Raynman spinning club music inside. 9pm-2am.

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio open 7pm. Free Pool til 4pm.

WOODY'S - Open 10am. w/Special Happy Hour til-2pm \$1.50 well or domestic longnecks. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Patio Bar open 8-close. Party w/DJ Jeff 9-close.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. 50¢ off any Top Shelf Gin until 8pm. Beer Bust 4-8pm. Patio Bar Opens 7pm

SATURDAY

THE BIZ - \$1 Draught Beers until 10pm & \$4 Finlandia Vodka Red Bull drinks until 11pm; Dance Party with DJ Shorty at 9:30 mixing it up and playing what you want to hear!

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 21

THE BIZ - 9:30 p.m. Bob Voyage Party for Dreal! We're really going to miss this one, please join us as we say good-bye 'Biz Style!' Drag show with Tori Steele, Janee Starr, Diana Flair & Miss Leading.

IBT'S - 3RD 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

THE BIZ - Closed to give our staff a Holiday Break.

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

IBT's - Bar opens at 2:00 p.m. today. 9:00 p.m. DJ Dave Santora spinning on the dance floor.

VENTURE-N - Christmas Pot Luck - Sign up with Bartender. Starts at 1:00 p.m. They do the meat, you bring side dishes and desserts.

YARD DOG SALOON - Open Christmas Day at 6:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

THE BIZ - Closed to give our staff a Holiday Break.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

THE BIZ - New Year's Eve Bash! Help us bring the New Year in with a Bang! Champagne Toast & Balloon Drop at Midnight; Party Favors & Give-aways. Special Guest DJ to be announced.

HOLLYWOOD - New Years Eve Party with champagne, party favors, dessert bar and NO Cover!

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

IBT's - New Year Black and White Party. No Cover. 10:00 p.m. Dance Party with DJ Q spinning on the dance floor and DJ Mike Lopez spinning on the patio. Midnight - Champagne Toast, Balloon Drop and More!!! 21+ with ID.

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

WOODY'S - New Year's Eve Party with 80s pop star Tiffany and hypnotist Bradley Jay and Male GoGo Dancers. Limited tickets available \$25. Contact Woody's for tickets.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

THE BIZ - First Monthly Wine Tasting at 5:30 p.m. Featuring wines from the Sterling Vinter's Collection and BV Napa; Presented by Chris Chavez, Sommelier. Please RSVP by Monday, January 1st. Wine bottles will be available for sale after the tasting at a special discounted price.

Arts and Entertainment

January 2 - 7

A Nederland Presentation: Broadway In Tucson "All Shook Up". 1-866-821-2929 or online broadwayintucson.com

January 4 - 14

Arizona OnStage Productions, for it's first production for 2007 will be presenting "Talk Of The Town" at the Zuzi Theater, 738-N. 5th Avenue. Tickets for the production are \$15 general admission, \$12 student/teacher/senior and for the special matinee performance Friday Jan. 12 \$6.00 for students and \$8 for adults. For tickets and more information call (620)882-6574 or go online to arizonaonstage.org

January 23 - 28

A Nederland Presentation: Broadway In Tucson "Altar Boyz". 1-866-821-2929 or online broadwayintucson.com

March 20 - 25

A Nederland Presentation: Broadway In Tucson "Rent" 1-866-821-2929 or online 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. 22nd Street, Tucson.

YOUNG AND GAY?

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

The TUCSON Chapter of PRIME TIMERS WORLDWIDE invites Gay or Bisexual men and their admirers to join and share Prime Timers fellowship. We welcome mature men (and admirers) who wish to become involved with planned and future Prime Timers (TPT) activities. Meetings luncheons and dinners are held monthly. For dates, times and information call 298-6727, leave name and phone number. Tucsonpt@primetimersww.org

TUCSON GAY INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

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

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

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

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

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

SOURCES UNLIMITED, a Lesbian & Gay referral service. Business and individual listings are free of charge. All information available to anyone just simply by asking. 322-5655. Leave message. TucsonSources@aol.com

GET NAKED with TNTucson MEN! We're a social and recreational club. Have you ever longed to camp, swim, hike or play with others who enjoy the same, dropping all the masks and pretensions? We're for you! TNTucsonMEN@nethere.com, P.O. Box 12176, Tucson 85792 or call 514-9894

INNER WISDOM - Try hypnotherapy for pain relief, past life exploration and addiction release. Also available: Spiritual Counseling and Dream Interpretation. 579-9020

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO - a social club for bears and bigger, more robust

men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, Call the Bears Hotline (520)790-5775 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 or visit our website at www.botop.com All are welcome to our general meetings/potlucks on the 2nd Friday of every month, at 3202 E. 1st St. (the "Ward 6" Office Bldg.) Just south of Speedway & East of Country Club. PotLuck Dinner begins at 6:30 and the monthly meeting follows at 7:15 p.m.

LESBIAN AND GAY AL-ANON - Affected by someone's drinking? Meeting every Tuesday 8:45 to 9:45 p.m. at Lambda Center, 2940 E. Thomas, Phoenix. Ellie 581-8850 or Ronn 968-2384.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE GROUP - Outreach to Gay and Lesbian people in Arizona. Meets monthly. Write to P.O. Box 893, Phoenix, AZ 85001 or call Eddy Walters, (602)371-1102

CRONIES SOCIAL GROUP. A Social group for Gay men who enjoy the fellowship of their peers. Call Leo at 624-6768.

T-SQUARES Lesbian and Gay Square Dance Club, dances Tuesdays. from 6:30-9 p.m. at Cornerstone Fellowship Social Hall, 2902 N. Geronimo (Northwest of 1st Ave. and Glenn). No experience, no partner required! For more info contact David at 325-6739, or visit www.azgaydance.org

LIGHTNING LIGHTING will provide lighting for AIDS and related benefits at no charge. For more info call Adrienne at 889-7298.

COME EXPLORE YOUR SPIRITUALITY! St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church offers a variety of Gay and Lesbian groups and services for the spiritually minded. Come meet the Family! For more information call Debbie 579-9827 or David 323-7943.

LESBIAN/GAY WRITERS: Workshop at 7:00 p.m. third Wednesday of every month. Read and critique current projects. Network and support. For info call 325-4737.

DESERT VOICES, Tucson's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Straight Chorus, has been singing songs of pride, hope and laughter for 16 seasons. Check out our website at www.desertvoices.org, or call (520)791-9662 for information about upcoming concerts or how to join.

Join the LESBIAN & GAY PUBLIC AWARENESS PROJECT. In Tucson write Awareness Project, 3661 N. Campbell Ave. #365, Tucson, AZ 85719.

AA Meeting with HIV/AIDS focus, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., Wingspan Annex, 425 E. 7th Street. All alcoholics welcome.

MEN'S SOCIAL NETWORK: Social organization for men of all ages. Building an extended Gay family in Tucson. Monthly social potluck gatherings the first Saturday of each month and almost weekly social activities. Call 690-9565 for information and a newsletter. Check the Non-Bar Calendar in the Observer.

CARE TEAMS ARE AVAILABLE to offer support to people living with HIV/AIDS. The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network offers trained, compassionate and committed volunteers to provide services including friendly visits, light housekeeping, assistance with meals, shopping, errands, transportation and companionship for medical appointments, and respite care for primary care givers. No judgement or proselytizing - we are here to be of service. For information call Scott at 299-6647.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SPORTS TEAMS and updates on Gay Games, contact TEAM ARIZONA at their website: teamarizona.org

ARE YOU GAY OR BISEXUAL AND UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE? The Gay Young Men's Project is now looking for volunteers for the project. We need people who want to help create a positive social change for young Gay men as well as reduce the risk for HIV infection. For more information please call 628-7223.

THE MEN'S MASSAGE GROUP meets the 3rd Sunday of each month. It is a good way to meet other men of all ages, safely, and with the art of nurturing touch. There is a fee. You must sign up in advance to participate. Call Marc at 881-4582 for more information or sign up.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GLBT, Tucson's Gay and Lesbian business networking group holds regular meetings

the third Thursday of every month. Call 615-6436 for more info. www.tucsonglbtchamber.org

TUCSON PRIDE, INC. (Formerly Tucson Lesbian and Gay Alliance - TLGA) meets on the second Wednesday at 845 S. Craycroft Road at 6pm. Tucson Pride events: Pride Week, Gay West and

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

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 and request guidelines.

OUTLOUD! Tucson's premiere Local Lesbian and Gay Radio Show, broadcast every Sunday from 7-8 pm on 91.3 FM, Community Radio KXCI.

THEATER / DINNER / MOVIES / ETC! Nonsmoking Lesbian Network meets every month. If you'd like to meet women 50+ (flexible) and socialize in a smoke-free environment, please call or email: 888-8010 'til 9pm, or joycesmth1@aol.com. The group dines OUT! and attends shows, movies, comedy events, etc. Now in our 23rd year, 7th in Tucson.

SOUTHERN ARIZONA GENDER ALLIANCE (SAGA). The Southwest's largest transgender and gender-diversity advocacy organization. Speakers and panelists available. General meetings monthly on the 1st Mondays at 7pm; Dezerz Girlz (MTF Support) meets 2nd Mondays at 7pm; Dezerz Boyz (FTM Support) meets 3rd Tuesdays at 7pm. Also serving partners, youth, intersex, service providers and allies. Call (520)624-1779 x26 for more info.

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

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

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

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

AAPSP - ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY PROFESSIONALS: a confidential organization committed to providing support and networking for all Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual public safety

professionals in Arizona. Membership open to Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters, Probation, Parole and Corrections Officers and civilians working within these agencies. Website: AAPSP.org or e-mail: AAPSP@aol.com or call Dave (520)745-9059 (Tucson) or Kim (602)534-6219 (Phoenix)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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. See you on the trails.

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

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

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

Informing The Community



2006 CHRISTMAS RAINBOW BEARS BENEFIT

Benefiting SAAF and TIHAN



Benefiting Children, Individuals, and Families Affected by HIV/AIDS This Holiday Season!

Participating GLBT Host Bars: **Raffle Tickets \$1.00**

IBT's Colors The Biz Woody's Yard Dog Venture-N Howl at the Moon

Tickets available at SAAF, TIHAN, and these locations

One Life Size 2006 Christmas Rainbow Bear will be displayed and raffled on Saturday December 23, 2006 at 11 p.m. at all host bars. Visit all host bars for a chance at each bars raffle drawing to win more than one bear!

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