



Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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'Town Hall' About Taxes: Domestic Partner Filing Is About To Get Very Complicated

SACRAMENTO, California - It sounds so simple on paper: Grant California's registered domestic partners the right to file their income taxes as married couples, reported the San Jose Mercury News. The state's Franchise Tax Board is finding, however, that a landmark tax bill signed into law in September has created so many unanticipated complications that officials held a "town hall meeting" to explore the problems – and identify new ones.

It's expected to be first of several such meetings to clarify scores of issues that cross over tax law, family law and rules for retirement plans, touching on everything from mortgage deductions and retirement savings to alimony and how property is split up in a "divorce." All together, the law has created a tax tangle that some experts say hasn't been matched since the massive federal tax reform in 1986.

"This saga is only beginning rather than ending," said FTB attorney Pat Kusiak. "This is an evolving issue. It will be many years before issues are resolved, and they may need to be resolved by litigation."

Despite the raft of unanswered questions, however, the state's 80,000 registered domestic partners must start planning to file their 2007 state tax returns as if they were legally married – even though they can't do so when they pay Uncle Sam. Registered partners are generally defined as Gays of all ages, but heterosexual couples can qualify if one partner is older than 62. The tax agency's meeting drew more than three dozen FTB staffers, tax professionals, legislative aides, a software programmer and Gay and Lesbian advocates, plus others interacting via phone. Nearly four hours later, FTB staffers had filled at least 16 pages of poster-size pages with questions, issues and puzzles the Legislature and tax agency must try to solve.

To comply with the law, registered partners will need to calculate two versions of their federal 1040 form, which is the starting point for determining how much state tax they'll owe. Each will fill out the first 1040 the same as usual – typically as a single taxpayer – to calculate how much to pay Uncle Sam. Then they will fill out the second hypothetical 1040 as if they were married, either a joint return or as married filing separately. They'll use this 1040 as a jumping-off point to calculate what they owe the state as a married couple.

But things quickly can get sticky because it's much more complicated than just adding each partner's income and deductions together. For example, experts pointed out that

married couples can set aside a maximum of \$5,000 from their paychecks in a dependent-care account – but what happens if both partners did that? Similar issues could taint eligibility for saving in an IRA and affect how much capital losses a couple can deduct in a given year. Instead of simply picking up their adjusted gross income from their federal returns, domestic partners will face a thicket of revisions to derive a "magical, hypothetical" adjusted gross income figure as a married couple for state purposes.

"It's the most ridiculous thing I've heard," said Gregg Gamble, a tax software development analyst for Lacerte Software, an Intuit division in Dallas that sells software to tax pros. He jetted in from Dallas to push for quick action so software developers can begin sorting out the mess.

Though registered partners have until at least April 2008 before they must file their first tax returns as married couples, FTB staffers and tax professionals feel a sense of urgency. While the tax agency can iron out some problems, others will require action by the Legislature. Meanwhile, the clock is ticking on software developers like Gamble, who would like to see the Legislature take action no later than June 1.

But Berkeley tax practitioner Karen Stogdill, who attended the meeting with her registered partner, is bracing for the first round of questions from tax clients when tax-filing season kicks into gear in February. That's when she'll advise clients that she'll need tax information for both partners – even if they're not both clients – to calculate estimated tax payments and plan tax strategies for the year. Stogdill worries that software developers won't have answers in time to devise ways to incorporate the hypothetical federal tax return – leaving her to essentially do an extra return for each of the 150 affected Gay and Lesbian clients she serves. "I don't have another 150 hours" during tax season, Stogdill said. "Those are the hours I sleep."

In the end, registered partners are likely to face higher tax-preparation fees, said David Hatt, a Menlo Park enrolled agent licensed by the Internal Revenue Service to complete tax returns. Jokingly alluding to the expected backlash from affected clients, he asked if the FTB could add a line on the tax form so tax-preparation fees could be direct-deposited.

"No," said FTB attorney Kusiak, "but I encourage you to make sure your malpractice insurance is up to date."

HIV/AIDS: Facts & Figures

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Dec. 1, 2006, marked World AIDS Day, a time for people around the world to unite in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

Twenty-five years have passed since the first AIDS case was diagnosed – and the latest statistics in the United States are staggering:

Forty thousand people become infected with HIV every year in the United States.

HIV is the leading cause of death worldwide among those ages 15-59.

Among those living with AIDS in the United States, approximately one-third to one-half are either homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness.

HIV/AIDS is now the leading cause of death for African-American women age 25-34.

More than half of all Americans who received an HIV/AIDS diagnosis in 2004 were men who had sex with men. Nearly 20,000 men who had sex with men received a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS, accounting for 70 percent of all male adults and adolescents and 51 percent of all people receiving an HIV/AIDS diagnosis that year.

Men who had sex with men accounted for 70 percent of all estimated HIV infections among male adults and adolescents in 2004,* even though only about 5 to 7 percent of male adults and adolescents in the United States identify themselves as men who have sex with men.

HIV infections among men who have sex with men are on the rise.

The number of HIV diagnoses for men who had sex with men decreased during the 1980s and 1990s, but recent data show an increase in HIV diagnoses for this group. The number of HIV/AIDS diagnoses among men who had sex with men increased 8 percent from 2003 to 2004.

Men of color who have sex with men, particularly African-American men who have sex with men, are at particularly high risk. In June 2005, in five major U.S. cities (Baltimore, Los Angeles, New York City, Miami and San Francisco), 46 percent of African-American men who had sex with men were HIV-positive.

Of HIV infection cases reported in 2001 among men ages 13 to 19, 46 percent occurred in men who have sex with men.

Young men who have sex with men are increasingly unaware of their HIV status. In a recent study, 77 percent of those who tested HIV-positive mistakenly believed that they were not infected. Young African-American men who had sex with men were especially likely to be unaware of their infection – approximately nine out of 10 young African-American men who have sex with men, compared to six out of 10 young white men who have sex with men. Of the men who tested positive, most (74 percent) had previously tested negative for HIV infection, and 59 percent believed that they were at low or very low risk.

(Based on data from the 35 areas with long-term, confidential name-based HIV reporting. Sources: The Centers for Disease Control, Advocates for Youth, Kaiser Family Foundation, HRSA/Department of Health and Human Services.)

World AIDS Day Marked In Tucson

TUCSON (ON) - Through a series of activities, events and a Day With(Out)Art, the Old Pueblo marked World AIDS Day on Friday, Dec. 1.

Dinnerware Contemporary Arts marked a Day With(Out) Art. Works of art from artists Bill Mackey and Thomas A. Rossi were draped in black cloth.

David Aguirre, Dinnerware's executive director, wants to draw attention to the issue.

"It seems like nobody's talking about it enough. We thought we'd fill in that hole. We want to talk about it," Aguirre said in an interview for The Arizona Daily Star. "I think it's something that gets lost with all the recent political headlines, the Iraq stuff. We're missing some of the more important issues. We're not paying attention to AIDS. This is our little bit in the world to shed some light on the AIDS epidemic."

A Day With(Out) Art began in

1989 in conjunction with World AIDS Day in response to the AIDS crisis with more than 600 museums, galleries and other art institutions in the United States closed their doors, took art off walls and spent the day without art.

At the historic Fox Theater in downtown Tucson, speakers, information and an interfaith concert took place to mark the 25th anniversary of the first diagnosis of AIDS.

Organized by local AIDS service organizations, businesses and worldaidstucson.org, the event included performances by Namoli Brennet, Black Man Clay, and Mt. Calvary Choir. Keynote speaker, Dr. Alex Nava, University of Arizona.

Former U.S. Surgeon General Richard Carmona, who is now with the University of Arizona College of Public Health, spoke at the University of Arizona, College of Medicine, about his experience with health policy relating to HIV/AIDS.

UPDATE

Reveille's 'Holidays'

Dec. 8 - 10

TUCSON - "Holidays in the Old Pueblo" by Reveille Gay Men's Chorus, featuring the Misa Criolla by Argentinean composer Ariel Ramirez with guest musicians and international tenor Edgar Ramirez, will take place, Friday, Saturday (Dec. 8 - 9, 8 p.m.), and Sunday (Dec. 10, 3 p.m.), at Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2331 E. Adams St.

Tucson's premier Gay men's chorus will be proudly performing an adaptation by Linus Lerner for male voices, soloist and instruments of Ramirez' Misa Criolla with special guest, tenor Edgar Ramirez from Guadalajara, Mexico. Reveille is excited to share our music and holiday spirit in this concert that became a tradition for all families in Tucson. With the Misa Criolla and other compositions such as El Nacimiento, A La Nanita Nana and A Spanish Carol, Reveille will be honoring the Spanish community of Tucson as well as preparing for its international spring tour to Mexico City, Guadalajara and Puerto Vallarta. Also in the program there will be traditional holiday songs, interesting pieces by Eric Lane Barnes such as Christmas Cheer or Boogie Woogie Hanukah as well as the infamous cantata The Long Christmas Dinner by Larry Moore that sure will entertain the audience.

For the past 11 years, Reveille has continuously grown as a major force in the arts in Tucson and beyond our borders, reaching out to a greater community and becoming a nationally recognized men's chorus. From the streets and slums of Brazil, or the performances for ACSIDA in Mexico, to the heart of the Tucsonans, Reveille is able to teach the value and importance of diversity, tolerance and compassion through our music and help raise funds for important causes. Tickets are \$15 in advance through reveillegmc.com, by calling (520) 304-1758 or either purchasing from any chorus member or at Antigone Books, located at 411 N. 4th Ave. At the door, the evenings and day of the performances, tickets are \$18.

LGBT Hanukkah

Dec. 15 - 17

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

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

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

TKO Update

TUCSON - It is the season for giving and TKO (Tucson Knight Owls) has started their annual event. Last week's Update gave word of Toys for the Balboa Kids - new, un-wrapped toys for the Balboa Kids 6 - 12 years old.

As of this past Saturday, TKO are now selling their always popular "Dix on a Stick", (\$1.00 each), and they also started selling Christmas Stockings for \$1.00 each, to be hung around the Yard Dog Saloon. Also, there are two Christmas Trees on the patio and the club is selling ornamental Christmas balls for \$1, \$5 or \$10, each.

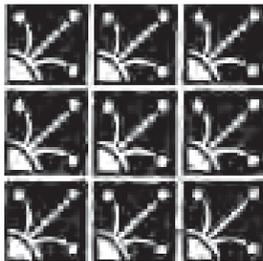
All of monies collected will go in support of TKO's money donation to TIHAN for their annual holiday dinners, gift certificate for TIHAN's family support benefit, and support of two different families out of the Balboa Neighborhood Center area, with dinners and gifts. Stop by and help support all or any of the above benefits, and give other a very merry Christmas.

Forum On Protection To LGBT Community Dec. 16

TUCSON - Defeating Proposition 107 was only the first step since LGBT people of all ages need to know about wills, powers of attorney, co-habitation agreements Senior Pride is sponsoring a community forum Saturday, Dec. 16, noon to 2:00 p.m. at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St.

Arizona does not provide protection to the LGBT community when it comes to ending relationships, ensuring domestic partners receive property when a partner dies without a will, or ensuring a domestic partner can make important medical and financial decisions when the other partner is unable to. Members of the LGBT community need to protect themselves with appropriate estate planning documents like wills, powers of attorney, and co-habitation agreements. Melissa Noshay Petro (Mimi), community member and local attorney, will be presenting information about important steps you can take to protect your loved ones.

For more information, call Pat Woelke, (520) 624-1779 or E-mail: pwoelke@wingspan.org.



AROUND THE OLD PUEBLO

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TUCSON - Desert Voices Veteran's Day Weekend concert, "Keep the Home Fires Burning," will be shown on Tucson Access Cable on the following dates: Friday 12/8, 11:30 a.m., Channel 73/98, Monday 12/11/2006, 3:00 p.m., Channel 73/98, Friday 12/15, 11:30 a.m., Channel 73/98, Monday 12/18, 3:00 p.m., Channel 73/98, Friday 12/22, 11:30 a.m., Channel 73/98, Monday 12/25, 3:00 p.m., Channel 73/98, Friday 12/29, 11:30 a.m., Channel 73/98.

TUCSON - Come support Arizona's only LGBT theater company and the holiday production of A Queer Carol, by Joe Godfrey, Dec. 8-10, 14-17. Directed by Joe W. Marshall, the show puts a uniquely Gay twist on the Dickens classic and features Tucson's Black Cat Ajia Simone as the Ghost of Christmas Present. The show opens Dec. 7 at the newly renovated Hollywood Cabaret Theatre, 1501 N. Oracle, with a special night on Dec. 15 to benefit Wingspan. After the benefit show, please join in as a special guest of Wingspan for a cast party at the Hollywood Bar. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door, and are available at Antigone Books (411 N. 4th Avenue) or by calling the Alternative Theatre Company at (520) 883-8246. A Queer Carol Performance dates: Friday, Dec. 8 - 8:00 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 9 - 8:00 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 10 - 3:00 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 14 - 8:00 p.m., Friday, Dec. 15 - 8:00 p.m., (Wingspan Night & Cast Party), Saturday, Dec. 16 - 8:00 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 17 - 3:00 and 7:00 p.m. ...

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). Under the coordination of volunteer David Manzanaras, seven community bars will be 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. ...

TUCSON - Boys R Us, Tucson premier, grassroots gender performance troupe will showcase their latest production, "Double Trouble," Dec. 8-9, 10:00 p.m., at Ain't Nobody's Biz, 2900 E. Broadway. Boys R Us bridges the gap between all areas of queer art by incorporating Drag Queens, Drag Kings, High Femmes, and all other types of gendered performance. Due to popular demand, Boys R Us decided to do a first; play two nights in a row at the same venue. Their last shows at the Biz had us turning away over 200 people at the door, so tickets are being sold in advance. Tickets are \$5 in advance, \$7 at the door.

Calling all responsible and energetic volunteers!



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

SAAF

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COMMENTARY . . . by Kevin Cathcart

Get The Message

We're sending Condoleezza Rice a World AIDS Day message. We're asking her to put an end to the U.S. State Department's discriminatory policy of not hiring people with HIV to serve in the Foreign Service. We've got the backing of many health experts and a petition signed by 17,000 people across the country asking Rice to change this policy. We hope she'll get the message.

Lambda Legal began the campaign to shed light on the State Department's discriminatory policy last summer after we filed our case on behalf of Lorenzo Taylor, who was turned away from the Foreign Service simply because he has HIV. For the record, Taylor is more than qualified to serve in the Foreign Service. He's fluent in three languages, has a decade of diplomatic work experience and easily passed the rigorous job-application process to fulfill the State Department's requirements. In April, we launched an online action campaign and took Lorenzo's story out into the streets at Pride celebrations throughout the country. Within a month we received more than 4,600 signatures, which we hand-delivered to the State Department.

Condoleezza Rice didn't get the message, so we ramped up the campaign. This time, along with the 17,000 signatures, we are delivering a letter to Rice signed by more than 40 prominent medical, scientific and HIV groups that have joined Lambda Legal's campaign. The letter calls the State Department's policy "grounded in assumptions about the frailty of people with HIV, without adjustment

for revolutionary medical advances over the past two decades." It also calls the exclusion of people with HIV backward and unsound. Groups signing on to the letter include the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA), the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS) and the American Academy of HIV Medicine.

The U.S. State Department implemented its blanket policy of not hiring anyone with HIV for the Foreign Service under President Ronald Reagan. That was more than two decades ago when we knew very little about the disease and when the treatments that were available were not always effective. Today people with HIV are living longer and healthier lives than ever. Lorenzo Taylor is in excellent health, and according to his treating physician needs medical monitoring only twice a year. The State Department's outdated position is further undercut by its own policy of allowing Foreign Service officers who test positive for HIV once they're already employed to stay in their jobs. In June, a panel of judges from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia unanimously agreed with us and said that there was more than enough evidence for Lorenzo's case to go to trial. The trial is pending.

Unfortunately, Lorenzo's situation isn't unusual. In many ways we're dealing with the evolution of the same issues that have affected people with HIV since the

beginning of the epidemic – policies based on fear and not science. Lambda Legal has been at the forefront of the battle to end HIV discrimination from the beginning. We won the first AIDS discrimination case in the nation in 1983, and helped win a Supreme Court ruling in 1998 that declared the Americans with Disabilities Act must also protect people with HIV. Now, we're using federal anti-discrimination law in our lawsuit to change the State Department's policy.

Last October as she was swearing in Mark Dybul (an openly Gay man) as U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, Condoleezza Rice called the fight to eradicate AIDS "one of the great moral callings of our time." It's true that we have a moral duty to prevent the spread of this disease and protect people living with it, but we have an equally strong responsibility to make sure that people living with HIV are not subject to discrimination based on fear and outmoded stereotypes.

Lorenzo Taylor is a clear example of a highly qualified, dedicated person who is being blocked from serving his country simply because he has HIV. This is not right. And that's the message we hope the secretary of state gets.

(Kevin Cathcart is the Executive Director of Lambda Legal.)

Continued from column at right

geographic diversity. One of these partnerships is with the Pima County HIV/AIDS CARE Consortium since 1992.

'Light To Unite' Campaign Launched

NEW YORK CITY - In support of World AIDS Day, Bristol-Myers Squibb in collaboration with the National AIDS Fund launched the third annual "Light to Unite" campaign. The campaign is aimed at raising funds for communities across the United States whose HIV/AIDS needs are underserved, and people can go to the Web site lightto unite.org to light a virtual candle. Visitors to the site can also educate themselves and others on recent issues concerning HIV/AIDS. Bristol-Myers Squibb will donate \$1 for each candle lit through December 31, up to a maximum contribution of \$100,000, to the National AIDS Fund. The proceeds will go directly to these underserved communities.

The National AIDS Fund was founded in 1988 to reduce the incidence and impact of HIV/AIDS by promoting leadership and generating resources for effective community responses to the epidemic. Through an expanding network of Community Partnerships, the Fund promotes collaborative local planning and provides strategic grants and technical support to over 400 direct service organizations annually. Community Partnerships are consortia of concerned business, philanthropic, and community leaders dedicated to supporting HIV/AIDS prevention and care in their local communities and regions.

The National AIDS Fund has had Community Partnerships in 39 cities or regions in 27 states and the District of Columbia since 1988. The Fund currently has 29 active Partnerships, making grants in 25 states and the District of Columbia. These Partnerships are typically consortia of concerned business, philanthropic, and community leaders dedicated to supporting HIV/AIDS prevention and care in their communities and regions. Community Partnerships were established based on a community's HIV/AIDS incidence, an existing infrastructure to raise and sustain funding, and

Continued on the left

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Federal Hate Crimes Bill Has Chance With New Congress

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The LGBT-rights movement suffered a setback in last month's midterm election when seven states passed initiatives banning same-sex marriage or domestic partnerships, the Los Angeles Times reported. But with Democrats about to take control of Congress, some of its other legislative goals appear within reach - including making violence against LGBT citizens a hate crime and outlawing workplace discrimination.

For the last 12 years of Republican control of Congress, LGBT-rights organizations set aside their push for legal protections in order to defend against conservative measures such as same-sex marriage bans. With the realignment of the House and Senate next month, Gay and Lesbian groups say they are tantalizingly close to having enough votes to ensure passage of at least the hate crimes bill, and perhaps the discrimination measure, which once failed in the Senate by one vote.

Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), said the hate crimes bill had a "very good chance of going to George Bush's desk ... in the first half of the year." He said the discrimination measure might be further off, noting that Democrats may not want to push for too much too soon.

Nevertheless, prospects for change are sufficiently improved that social conservatives are gearing up for battle. "We're very concerned," said Tom McClusky, lobbyist for the Family Research Council, a prominent conservative group. "We see blocking those pieces of legislation as one of our top priorities."

The hate crimes bill would provide federal resources to local law enforcement officials; it has the backing of 175 organizations, including the National Sheriffs' Assn., the International Assn. of Chiefs of Police and the U.S. Conference of Mayors. The legislation - prompted by the 1998 killing of Matthew Shepard, a gay man who was beaten and left for dead outside Laramie, Wyo. - has passed the Republican Senate three times and the GOP House once but has never reached the president's desk.

Some LGBT-rights activists worry they are demanding that the bill include transgender individuals, which could complicate passage. And social conservatives contend that hate crimes laws in Sweden and Canada have silenced religious expression. "Passes have been prosecuted for saying these things [about homosexuality] in the Bible, in their own churches," said Jan LaRue, chief counsel for the conservative Concerned Women for America.

The bill to ban workplace discrimination because of sexual orientation failed by one vote in the Senate 10 years ago. Such discrimination is legal in 33 states; conservatives say businesses should be free to hire or fire employees who reflect their views.

LGBT-rights activists say they expect the Democratic leadership to focus just one of their issues to get attention soon after the party takes control, for fear of alienating conservative Democrats. The hate crimes bill has the best chance of early passage, advocates say, because it has support from law enforcement groups.

Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-

Wis.), said one advantage of Democratic control was the power to hold hearings to educate the public - and the president - about the importance of the hate crimes bill. "For 12 years, hearings were not held on these issues," she said. "If you use the hearing process well, it would be hard not to be moved and influenced by the stories from victims of hate crimes or from families of victims of hate crimes who have died. "If we want to move the president to sign a hate crimes bill, we'll have to move the public."

With a Democratic majority in the House and Senate, social conservatives will be looking to the White House for help. "We'll likely be relying on the president to veto," McClusky said.

LGBT-rights activists acknowledge that President Bush could be a problem, given his base of religious conservatives, but are not convinced he would use his veto power. "Given the broad, broad public support, I'd be very surprised if President Bush would actually veto" the hate crimes bill, said Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, a civil rights group. Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign, said of Bush: "Until now he's been beholden to the radical right wing. I hope coming out of this election cycle, he will think more deeply about his legacy."

At the White House, Deputy Press Secretary Dana Perino demurred when asked what Bush would do. "A lot of ideas are being discussed for the new Congress," she said. "We'll take a look at the details of legislation when it's introduced and moving through the legislative process."

Some LGBT-rights activists want to press for the hate crimes and workplace discrimination bills simultaneously. "This seems ultimately doable," Solmonese said. "The public overwhelmingly supports the fact that Gay and Lesbian people shouldn't be fired just because of who they are and supports more tools for law enforcement." Still, the Human Rights Campaign has learned from past misfires - including President Clinton's effort to banish discrimination against gays in the military on his first day in office - not to be overly ambitious so early on. And with Americans listing the war in Iraq and corruption in Congress as their main reasons for voting for Democrats, Solmonese is reminding members that lawmakers will have to focus on those issues first. "The surest way for this new Congress to go away is if they ignore that tidal wave. It would be shortsighted for us to demand things," he said.

But LGBT-rights groups say they have already won an important victory: They can now play offense instead of defense. "One of the most welcome changes with the new Congress is not being on defensive every single minute of the day, which we've been for 12 years," Foreman said. "We've spent so many scarce resources over the years just trying to not lose. It's thrilling to be able to move forward."





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Court Hears G/L Marriage Arguments

ANNAPOLIS, Maryland - To many proponents of same-sex marriage, the struggle to legalize same-sex unions represents the final wave of the decades-long civil rights movement, reported the Associated Press in the Baltimore Sun. To many opponents, it's an effort that seeks to subvert the will of the majority and undermine traditional families.

Yet the fate of these couples who seek to marry in Maryland will come down to how seven judges decide the pricklier question of whether the state constitution guarantees people the right to marry whomever they choose. That question was at the center of dry but rigorous arguments today before the state's highest court, the latest hearing in a 2004 lawsuit filed by nine same-sex couples and a Gay man whose partner is dead. The suit names court clerks who denied the couples' requests for marriage licenses.

The Court of Appeals gave no indication of how it would rule; a decision could take months. An attorney for the plaintiffs argued that the state has no rational basis for denying Gays and Lesbians the fundamental right to marriage. An attorney for the state countered that Maryland's 1973 ban on same-sex marriage did not constitute gender discrimination because it applies equally to both genders.

"There is no fundamental constitutional right to same-sex marriage," said Robert Zarnoch, counsel to the General Assembly, who said the question should be decided by the legislature, not the courts. Said American Civil Liberties Union attorney Kenneth Choe, who argued on behalf of the plaintiffs: "The exclusion of same-sex couples from marriage violates the most fundamental guarantees of equality and liberty for all."

Deborah Weimer, a professor at the University of Maryland School of Law, said the case will turn on whether the judges believe the constitution applies to Gay marriage or not. She said it could go either way and expects "a close vote," but like an overwhelming majority of law professors at the university, she believes the question should be decided by the court.

"The argument for the state was basically, 'Let the legislature decide.' But this is a constitutional question," Weimer said. "It's up to the court to make that decision. I understand that some courts have ducked that responsibility, but I hope the Maryland court would not." Weimer co-wrote a brief in support of the plaintiffs that was signed by more than two-thirds of the law professors at the university.

Delegate Don Dwyer, R-Anne Arundel, hopes Maryland voters have the chance to decide the issue as well. Dwyer intends to introduce a constitutional amendment banning Gay marriage, as he has in three previous legislative sessions. "This issue will remain in the courts unless we pass a constitutional amendment," said Dwyer, who argues that homosexuality would be taught in public schools if Gay marriage is legalized. "I think that is against the views of the majority of parents who have their children in public schools." Dwyer was one of many voices on both sides of the issue who spoke outside the courthouse today. There was talk about the history of the Gay-rights movement, the definition of family and the practical difficulties confronted by couples who cohabitate and raise children but are unable to marry.

"The times have changed. We're not invisible anymore," said Dan Furmansky, executive director of the Gay-rights group Equality Maryland. "What we can't do is be legally married and legally related to our partners. ... We ask our fellow Marylanders today to walk a mile in our shoes."

Recalling a time when her partner and fellow plaintiff, Joanne Rabb, was hospitalized with a mysterious illness, Takia Foskey of Baltimore said she couldn't provide essential support to the woman she loves. "I couldn't get any information in her medical condition because I wasn't recognized as her partner," Foskey said. "I couldn't make any decisions on anything." Said Robb: "She's pretty much the only one I have."

About two dozen demonstrators from religious organizations gathered in solidarity with the diverse group of plaintiffs, holding signs that read "Presbyterians Support Same-Sex Civil Marriage" and "Equal Rights for the Free State." Plaintiffs Alvin Williams and Nigel Simon of Upper Marlboro, stood alongside their pastor, the Rev. Dennis Wiley of Covenant Baptist Church in Washington.

Some believe that "the black church is uniformly against Gay marriage," Wiley said. "The black church is not a monolith." Much of Choe's argument before the court centered on the question of whether the state has a rational basis to deny same-sex couples the right to marry while it concedes that marriage is beneficial to opposite-sex couples. "It is not enough that there is a reason for including the included class. There must also be a reason for excluding the excluded class," Choe said. "The state could grant right-handed people but not left-handed people the right to marry simply by observing that marriage benefits right-handed people and their children."

In his rebuttal, Zarnoch argued that such a statute would be "wholly arbitrary," while the Gay-marriage ban was not. Weimer said that rebuttal highlighted the difficulties the state faced in proving its case. "The argument from the state was really quite weak, in terms of trying to argue that there was some rational basis for the discrimination that's happening here," Weimer said. "He really couldn't answer that question." Earlier, Zarnoch argued that when examining whether a right is fundamental, "you apply words like 'history' and 'tradition.' They're not dirty words in the context of a fundamental right analysis."

That argument resonated with Gay marriage opponents. "Certain things are just natural definitions," said Doug Stiegler, executive director of the Maryland Family Protection Lobby, a conservative advocacy group. "A family is a man and a woman and children."



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Around The World

LONDON - Tuesday (Dec. 5) marked the first anniversary of civil partnerships law in Great Britain and newly released figures show the law has been well received by Gay and Lesbian couples. The numbers, for the first nine months (Dec. 2005 - Sept. 2006) showed that 15,672 couples entered into civil partnerships between December 2005 and September 2006. The vast majority, 14,084 were in England, the Office of Statistics said. In Wales there were 537, 942 in Scotland and 109 in Northern Ireland. The statistics also show that the majority of couples entering into civil partnerships were male - 62 percent in England, 57% in Scotland, 56% in Northern Ireland and 51% in Wales. But the Office of Statistics said that it appears the gap between male and female same-sex couples is narrowing. One out of every four civil partnerships took place in London. In a civil partnership, the couple sign documents in an exclusively civil procedure and partners do not have to exchange a spoken vow as in a marriage. Once registered couples receive some of the same benefits accorded married couples including pension, immigration, and property rights. The number of couples who had civil partnerships was far fewer than the 40,000 the government predicted in the first year. LGBT rights groups say this likely because many Gay and Lesbian couples are holding out for full marriage. Couples could begin giving formal notice of their intent to register their partnership. Under the law there is a waiting period before the ceremony can be held. ...

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Ten Gay men have been abducted in Iraq and it is feared all of them may have been murdered. Five young activists from Iraqi LGBT, Amjad 27, Rafid 29, Hassan 24, Ayman 19 and Ali 21 were seized at gunpoint by Iraqi police while holding a secret meeting in the al-Shaab district (Nov. 9). They were communicating with Ali Hili, a British-based Gay Iraqi Muslim who heads Iraqi LGBT and is Middle East spokesman for UK queer rights group Outrage. Hili said: "For the last few

months they had been documenting the killing of Lesbians and Gays, relaying details of homophobic executions to our office in London, and providing safe houses and support to queers fleeing the death squads. "Suddenly there was a lot of noise, then the connection ended." Just days later, Haydar Kamel, aged 35, the owner of famous men's clothing shop in the al-Karada district of Baghdad, was kidnapped near his home in Sadr city. The kidnappers were members of the Mahdi army, an Islamist militia loyal to fundamentalist leader Muqtada al-Sadr. "Haydar had previously received death threats because of rumours about his alleged homosexuality. For many months, he had financially supported several Gay men who were in hiding after they had been threatened by death squads," claims Hili. Police also arrested four employees at the Jar al-Qamar barbershop in the al-Karada district of Baghdad which was popular with Gay men. None of the 10 men have been heard from and it is feared all have been summarily executed. ...

DUBLIN, Ireland - Ireland has won the scrum to host the next Gay rugby world cup in 2008. The biennial competition was awarded to Dublin at a meeting in Seattle of representatives from 30 countries. Paris and Sydney had been Ireland's main rivals to host the Bingham Cup, a three-day competition. Richie Whyte, the tournament director, said beating off Paris and Sydney was a huge achievement. "We had to compete with the natural attractions of two of the world's greatest cities," he said. Philip Browne, the chief executive of the Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU), sent a message of support to the organizing committee. Nick Costello of the Emerald Warriors, Ireland's first Gay rugby team, formed in 2003, says about 2,000 players and supporters will visit Dublin. "It's good news for rugby, the Gay community and the city." The competition will be held in Dublin City University's campus in Glasnevin in June 2008. "DCU is large enough to host an international event, but it has a campus feel about it, so it should generate a buzz," Costello said.

As First South African Gay Wedding Takes Place, Most Other Couples Face New Delays

CAPE TOWN, South Africa - Hundreds of same-sex couples hoping to marry awoke to a shock Friday morning (Dec. 1) - they will have to wait until the new year before they can tie the knot, 365Gay.com reported. Same-sex marriage legislation became law on Thursday (Nov. 30) but registry offices across the country report they are already booked solid with opposite-sex nuptials.

The earliest the weddings can take place in most areas is January the home affairs office said Friday. For couples in Cape Town, Wynberg, Bellville and Nyanga they will have to wait until March. Only in Johannesburg some other small areas are there any openings. Vernon Gibbs and Tony Halls became the first same-sex couple to wed in South Africa. The couple exchanged vows before a marriage officer in George, in the Southern Cape.

Gibbs and Halls run a lodge and animal center on the country's southwestern coast, and wore their game-ranger uniforms for the ceremony. But elsewhere in the country long delays were expected. Adding to the confusion, the marriage law allows officiates who object to Gay weddings on "moral grounds" can refuse to perform the ceremonies. The delay will not affect those Gay welcoming churches that have said they will perform Gay weddings, but even many of those are already booked by straight couples.

The marriage bill was signed

into law by Deputy President Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka while President Thabo Mbeki attends a summit conference of African leaders in Nigeria and came just 24 hours before a court imposed deadline (Dec. 1) to have the law in place. It made South Africa the fifth country to legalize same-sex marriage, following the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Canada. In the United States, Gay marriage is legal only in the state of Massachusetts.

Last year the Constitutional Court ruled that denying same-sex couples the rights of marriage was unconstitutional. It said that if Parliament fails to act by the December deadline the the law automatically be changed to include same-sex unions. But, it gave no specific direction on how the law should be changed. Last year the Constitutional Court ruled that denying same-sex couples the rights of marriage was unconstitutional. It said that if Parliament fails to act by the December deadline the the law automatically be changed to include same-sex unions. But, it gave no specific direction on how the law should be changed.

The case that led to the court ruling was brought by Marie Fourie and Cecilia Bonhuys, who have been partners since 1994 but were unable to marry. Seven other same-sex couples later joined the case. The Roman Catholic and conservative Protestant denominations fought the legislation as it made its way through Parliament and refuse to allow same-

Continued on Page Seven

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Bush Administration Gets Failing Grade In World AIDS Day Report Card

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Bush administration and the Republican-controlled Congress for the third year in a row have received a failing grade from an LGBT civil rights organization in the government's response to the global HIV/AIDS pandemic, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. The World AIDS Day report card was released by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) to coincide with today's AIDS Day observances. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the first reported case of AIDS.

HRC graded the administration and Congress in four key areas: prevention, care and treatment, research and global AIDS. This year the report card included a new category evaluating efforts to combat AIDS-related discrimination. The 2006 report card gives the government and F for prevention, a D for care and treatment, F for research, C for its global response and an F for ending AIDS related discrimination.

"We are hopeful that with a new congressional leadership the failed policies of the past will not continue to be repeated," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "Since we began this report card three years ago, the Bush administration and congressional leadership's response to this global pandemic has been grossly inadequate. The American people sent a message in these midterm elections that they want to see real actions on issues affecting people's lives, and we are optimistic that their voices will be heard in relation to the efforts to combat this disease."

In the area of prevention the report card said that the Bush administration and the Republican congressional leadership continued to pursue policies that undermine effective prevention strategies on HIV/AIDS.

"The only federal funding stream for sex education in our schools remains limited to unproven and medically inaccurate abstinence-only-until-marriage programs that fail to teach youth how to protect themselves from HIV. This year, congressional leaders jettisoned language unanimously passed by the Senate mandating that these programs be medically accurate," the report card says. It goes on to note that the Bush administration added additional restrictions to federally funded abstinence-only programs mandating that "the term 'marriage' must be defined as 'only a legal union between one man and one woman as a husband and wife,' and the word 'spouse' refers only to a person of the opposite sex who is a husband or a wife."

In giving the government a D for care and treatment the report card states that years of inadequate funding levels for the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act turned this year's reauthorization of this crucial program into a zero-sum game pitting states with newer and emerging HIV/AIDS epidemics against those that

have been the traditional epicenters of the disease. "States with newer and emerging epidemics have traditionally been short-changed by the Ryan White CARE Act and are in desperate need of more funding to provide life-saving treatment and care. However, since Congress has effectively flat-funded the program for six years, new formulas that would give these states critically needed funds would inevitably result in deep and possibly destabilizing cuts for the communities with the plurality of current cases."

In the area of research, where the government earned an F the report card notes that last year, Congress approved a Labor-Health and Human Services appropriations bill that gave less than a 1 percent funding increase to the National Institute of Health, the smallest percentage increase since 1970.

In February of this year, the president released his fiscal year 2007 budget which proposed flat-funding NIH, specifically cutting \$15 million for AIDS research. Meanwhile, Congress plans on passing a continuing resolution instead of passing a Labor-HHS appropriations bill for fiscal year 2007, which means cuts for NIH.

The best grade the government received was a C for its global approach to HIV/AIDS. "The Bush administration and Congress have made significant steps in raising awareness and dedicating funding to fight the global AIDS pandemic," the report card states. "Unfortunately, many of these important initiatives have come with ideological strings attached."

As for ending AIDS-related stigma and discrimination, the report card in giving an F notes that the 2006 UNAIDS Report on the Global Epidemic asserts that understanding that homophobia is one of the key "drivers of the epidemic" is "absolutely fundamental to the long-term response to AIDS." But, in June on the 25th anniversary of the day that the first AIDS case was reported by the Centers for Disease Control, President Bush held a press conference to call on Congress to pass an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would permanently ban same-sex couples from enjoying equal rights and protections of marriage. The president, surrounded by some of the most virulent anti-Gay and homophobic voices in the nation, told the amendment's proponents, "I'm proud to stand with you."

Last spring, Congress stripped out of a child safety bill a provision passed by the House of Representatives by a wide, bipartisan margin to give law enforcement tools to confront hate violence against GLBT Americans, calling it "a poison pill." "When our nation's leaders use same-sex couples as political scare tactics and deny law enforcement resources to confront violence driven by anti-Gay violence, it is clear that they do not understand the implications that fueling homophobia has on creating a culture that is up to the task of ending HIV/AIDS," the report card said.



African Gay Wedding

Continued from Page Six

sex weddings. Unitarian pastor and former Cape Town mayor Gordon Oliver said that he is prepared to perform weddings for Gay couples. Oliver told the Cape Argus newspaper that opposition to same-sex marriage will, "like apartheid and abortion", change over time.

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POLITICS 2006

by Mark R. Kerr

A Post Election Primer, Episode Five - End Game

After months of petition signature gathering, filing, fund raising, Clean Elections shenanigans, campaign finance reporting, mudslinging, radio ads, television blurbs and those robo-calls, the 2006 election was made official Monday, Dec. 4.

Pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes §16-648, by the Secretary of State in the presence of the Governor, Attorney General and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the election canvass (final tabulation) was conducted.

A total of 1,553,032 of the state's 2,568,401 registered voters cast ballots for the Nov. 7 general election, a 60.5% participation rate, giving the state its highest turnout for a non-presidential election in more than two decades.

Pima County had the second highest statewide turnout with 65.6 % of registered voters casting ballots, and only Yavapai County had a better rate of turnout with 71.37%.

Among the nineteen propositions on the general election ballot

taking immediate effect will be a 2-cent-per pack tax on cigarettes under Proposition 201 but the smoking ban authorized by the initiative will not take effect until May, 2007.

An additional 80-cent tax on a pack of cigarettes, approved in Proposition 203, also will take effect to pay for pre-school programs, health screenings and other services, mostly targeted to children living in poverty.

Employers will have until Jan. 1, 2007 to start paying the new state minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour. Proposition 204, the Humane Treatment of Farm Animals won't go into effect until Dec. 31, 2012.

Gov. Janet Napolitano said she plans to sign proclamations by the end of the week (Dec. 9) to declare the passage of the ballot measures. Those other ballot initiatives without delayed implementation dates will then take effect immediately.

One of those not going into effect is Proposition 107, which would have barred governmental and legal recognition of same-sex marriages,

civil unions and domestic partners and the extension of any benefits to such relations with an amendment to the state Constitution, since Arizona voters rejected Proposition 107 by a 51.8 to 48.2% margin. So for the time being, pending another petition drive by the Center for Arizona Policy, Tucson's domestic partner registry still exists, so consider the following:

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, at the time there was a total of 5,475,968 unmarried partner households in the United States of which, 594,391 were same-sex unmarried partners. In Arizona, at the time of the census, there was a total of 118,196 unmarried partner households in the state of which, 12,332 were same-sex unmarried partners. Pima County, according to the federal census figures, had a total of 20,917 unmarried partner households of which, 2,244 were same-sex unmarried partners.

Since the 2000 U.S. Census was conducted, those figures have risen, noted with the recent study of unmarried partner households, conducted by the Rutgers University National Marriage Project, as well as governmental entities, state, county and municipal, recognizing same-sex unmarried partner households with the rights and privileges the respective entity can provide under their laws, while in addition to those options or otherwise, many other same-sex couples have also taken the time and the money through legal paperwork, to ensure their relationships.

Tucson's Mayor and Council, in Sept. 2003 and by unanimous vote, recognized the unmarried partner households, both unmarried and same-sex, by creating the first Domestic Partner registry law in Arizona. This registry is for those who share a relationship of mutual support, caring and commitment, documenting their relationship.

At the present time, under city law and state statutes, only two rights and benefits are listed for couples who register with Tucson's registry: 1) A right to visitations of one's partner in a health care facility, as long as the patient consents. 2) Extending use of and access to city facilities to a registered domestic partner as if the domestic partner were a spouse.

Tucson's registry went into effect on Dec. 1, 2003 with fanfare and celebration at City Hall, when many couples, both opposite-sex and same-sex registered their relationships and the prevailing question being gleefully asked about their documentation was "What is your number?"

As time has passed, the shine on the registry seems to be fading from Tucson's registry, for whatever reason, few couples (opposite and same-sex) have documented their relationship by going

down to Tucson's City Hall and signing up.

Tucson's Domestic Partner registry is not limited to city residents and doesn't list on the paperwork whether it is same-sex or opposite-sex but is a public document that shows that the city recognizes caring, committed relationships.

Both same and opposite-sex couples can register with Tucson's Domestic Partner registry since under the city's human relationship ordinance, on the books since 1977, rights, privileges and benefits under city statutes must be afforded to all people.

If you are in a committed same-sex relationship and have gone through the legal morass of ensuring that relationship but haven't gone down to Tucson's City Hall, or if you are in a committed opposite-sex relationship but choose not to get married or cannot, due to: legal considerations (if one's former spouse is involved in a lawsuit making you liable under state statutes), or religious considerations (one's faith prevents a union), or age consideration (Social Security regulations) or for whatever reason it is time to stand up and be counted during these times, by signing up with Tucson's Domestic Partner registry. It does cost \$50 to register your relationship but it is a worthwhile investment.

For more information about the Tucson's Domestic Partner registry, call the Tucson City Finance Department at (520) 791-4566 or go online to: tucsonaz.gov/hottopics/dprreg.html.

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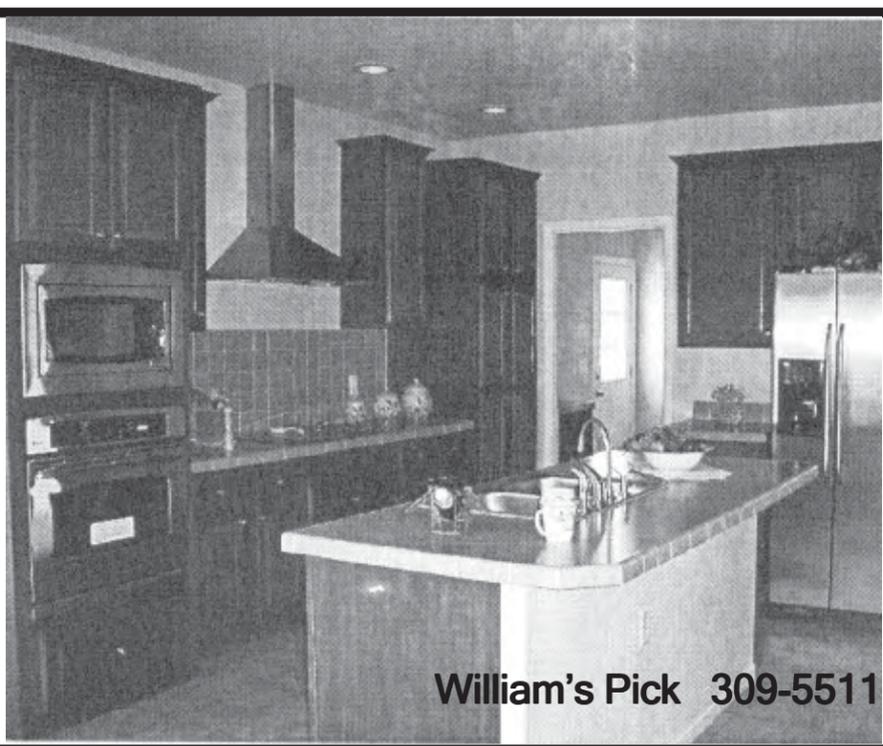


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PERSPECTIVE

McCain Flunks As Straight-Talker On Gay Rights

By Professor Aaron Belkin

Arizona Sen. John McCain, almost certainly a contender for the White House in 2008, wants you and me to believe that he is a straight-talker. At least that's what his carefully-crafted reputation is all about.

For a straight-talker, though, McCain seemed caught off-guard when ABC political correspondent George Stephanopoulos recently asked him a simple question on national television: "Senator, do you support Gay rights?" In a moment that conjured images of his friend John Kerry, McCain said that he supports Gays rights, but he believes in firing Gay people from the military, although he opposes "discriminating against any American," and he opposes discrimination in the workplace.

Whether or not one cares about the Gays-in-the-military issue in particular, McCain's mixed-messaging appears to send a strong signal about his willingness to be a true straight-talker when it comes to difficult topics. For starters, it is impossible to be in favor of Gay rights and in favor of firing Gay people from the military. If you are a straight-talker, you need to be honest and choose one or the other.

Moreover, you cannot be in favor of firing Gay people from the military and opposed to discrimination in the workplace. Again, you cannot be a straight-talker and have it both ways. You get to choose only one.

Finally, if you want to fire Arabic linguists from the military just

because they are Gay, you need to be honest and explain why doing so is good for national security. Rather than hiding behind platitudes, you need to explain why, even though Israel's, Britain's and 22 other militaries have successfully integrated Gays and Lesbians, you think American soldiers are not professional enough to follow orders. And you need to explain why, even though 80 percent of troops returning from Afghanistan and Iraq are telling pollsters that they are comfortable interacting with Gays, you are still relying on outdated ideas to support your policy positions.

It is widely known in Washington that Sen. McCain has had senior, openly Gay staff members for years. If he is comfortable sharing the details of his political operation with such staffers, can we truly believe that he would refuse to serve alongside them in a foxhole? Something doesn't add up here. Which is precisely the point. With all his poll-tested hedging, we can't tell where Sen. McCain really stands. That is a disturbing sign for any voter who wants to send a straight-talker to the White House. By all accounts, voters are hungry for leaders who speak plainly and simply from the heart. Gay rights are only the beginning of a long and winding road through tough moral decisions that Sen. McCain will face in seeking the presidency. I only hope his Straight-Talk Express does not land at the bottom of a ditch.

(Aaron Belkin is an associate professor of political science at the University of California, Santa Barbara. This op-ed is reprinted from the Dec. 4 edition of the Arizona Daily Star.)

AIDS Programs Fail To Reach High-Risk Groups: U.N.

GENEVA, Switzerland - Surveillance for the HIV virus is weak in most of the world and prevention and treatment programs often fail to reach high-risk drug users, homosexuals and sex workers, the World Health Organization said on Friday (Dec. 1), reported 365Gay.com. In a message marking World AIDS Day, being celebrated under the theme of Accountability, the WHO's acting director-general Anders Nordstrom said that tackling the AIDS epidemic remained one of the world's most pressing public health challenges.

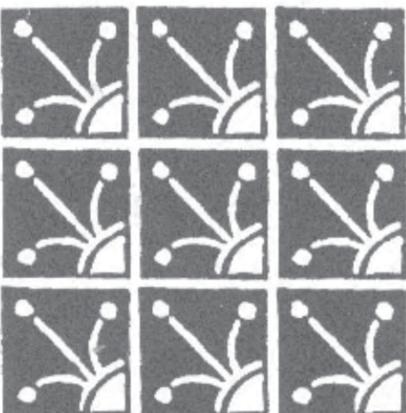
Only 1.6 million people or 24 percent of the 6.8 million people worldwide who need the life-extending therapy receive it, according to the latest joint report of UNAIDS and the WHO. "We have a very long way to go still in the provision of medicines to those who need them," the WHO's Nordstrom said. "HIV surveillance remains weak in almost all regions, particularly among marginalised

groups. Those at highest risk – men who have sex with men, sex workers and injecting drug users – are not reliably reached through HIV prevention and treatment strategies," he said.

People most at risk of exposure to the deadly virus do not always know how to protect themselves and often lack access to condoms, clean needles and syringes, according to Nordstrom. "Even in countries where the epidemic has a very high impact, such as Swaziland and South Africa, a large proportion of the population do not believe they are at risk," he added.

Nearly 40 million adults and children are infected worldwide and HIV infection is rising in every region of the world, especially in east Asia and in eastern Europe/central Asia, according to the latest UNAIDS/WHO report. Louise Arbour, U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, reminded governments of their duty to increase access to anti-retroviral drugs for all AIDS sufferers, without discrimination. "It means holding governments accountable for obligations of immediate effect, for example where scaling-up access (to the drugs) discriminates against a certain group such as children, those involved in the sale of sexual services or injecting drug users," Arbour said in a statement.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said AIDS has become the greatest challenge of the generation, but for far too long the world had been in denial about the epidemic which emerged 25 years ago. "Accountability – the theme of this World AIDS Day – requires every President and Prime Minister, every parliamentarian and politician, to decide and declare that 'AIDS stops with me'," Annan said.



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COMMENTARY . . .

By Frank Rich

It turns out we've been reading the wrong Bob Woodward book to understand what's going on with President Bush. The text we should be consulting instead is "The Final Days," the Woodward-Bernstein account of Richard Nixon talking to the portraits on the White House walls while Watergate demolished his presidency. As Mr. Bush has ricocheted from Vietnam to Latvia to Jordan in recent weeks, we've witnessed the troubling behavior of a president who isn't merely in a state of denial but is completely untethered from reality. It's not that he can't handle the truth about Iraq. He doesn't know what the truth is.

The most startling example was his insistence that Al Qaeda is primarily responsible for the country's spiraling violence. Only a week before Mr. Bush said this, the American military spokesman on the scene, Maj. Gen. William Caldwell, called Al Qaeda "extremely disorganized" in Iraq, adding that "I would question at this point how effective they are at all at the state level." Military intelligence estimates that Al Qaeda makes up only 2 percent to 3 percent of the enemy forces in Iraq, according to Jim Miklaszewski of NBC News. The bottom line: America has a commander in chief who can't even identify some 97 percent to 98 percent of the combatants in a war that has gone on longer than our involvement in World War II.

But that's not the half of it. Mr. Bush relentlessly refers to Iraq's "unity government" though it is not unified and can only nominally govern. (In Henry Kissinger's accurate recent formulation, Iraq is not even a nation "in the historic sense.") After that pseudo-government's prime minister, Nuri al-Maliki, brushed him off in Amman, the president nonetheless declared him "the right guy for Iraq" the morning after. This came only a day after The Times's revelation of a secret memo by Mr. Bush's national security adviser, Stephen Hadley, judging Mr. Maliki either "ignorant of what is going on" in his own country or disingenuous or insufficiently capable of running a government. Not that it matters what Mr. Hadley writes when his boss is impervious to facts.

In truth the president is so out of it he wasn't even meeting with the right guy. No one doubts that the most powerful political leader in Iraq is the anti-American, pro-Hezbollah cleric Moktada al-Sadr, without whom Mr. Maliki would be on the scrap heap next to his short-lived predecessors, Ayad Allawi and Ibrahim al-Jaafari. Mr. Sadr's militia is far more powerful than the official Iraqi army that we've been helping to "stand up" at hideous cost all these years. If we're not going to take him out, as John McCain proposed this month, we might as well deal with him directly rather than with Mr. Maliki, his puppet. But our president shows few signs of recognizing Mr. Sadr's existence.

In his classic study, "The Great War and Modern Memory," Paul Fussell wrote of how World War I shattered and remade literature, for only a new language of irony could convey the trauma and waste. Under the auspices of Mr. Bush, the Iraq war is having a comparable, if different, linguistic impact: the more he loses his hold on reality, the more language is severed from its meaning altogether.

When the president persists in talking about staying until "the mission is complete" even though there is no definable military mission, let alone one that can be completed, he is indulging in pure absurdity. The same goes for his talk of "victory,"

another concept robbed of any definition when the prime minister we are trying to prop up is allied with Mr. Sadr, a man who wants Americans dead and has many scalps to prove it. The newest hollowed-out Bush word to mask the endgame in Iraq is "phase," as if the increasing violence were as transitional as the growing pains of a surly teenager. "Phase" is meant to drown out all the unsettling debate about two words the president doesn't want to hear, "civil war."

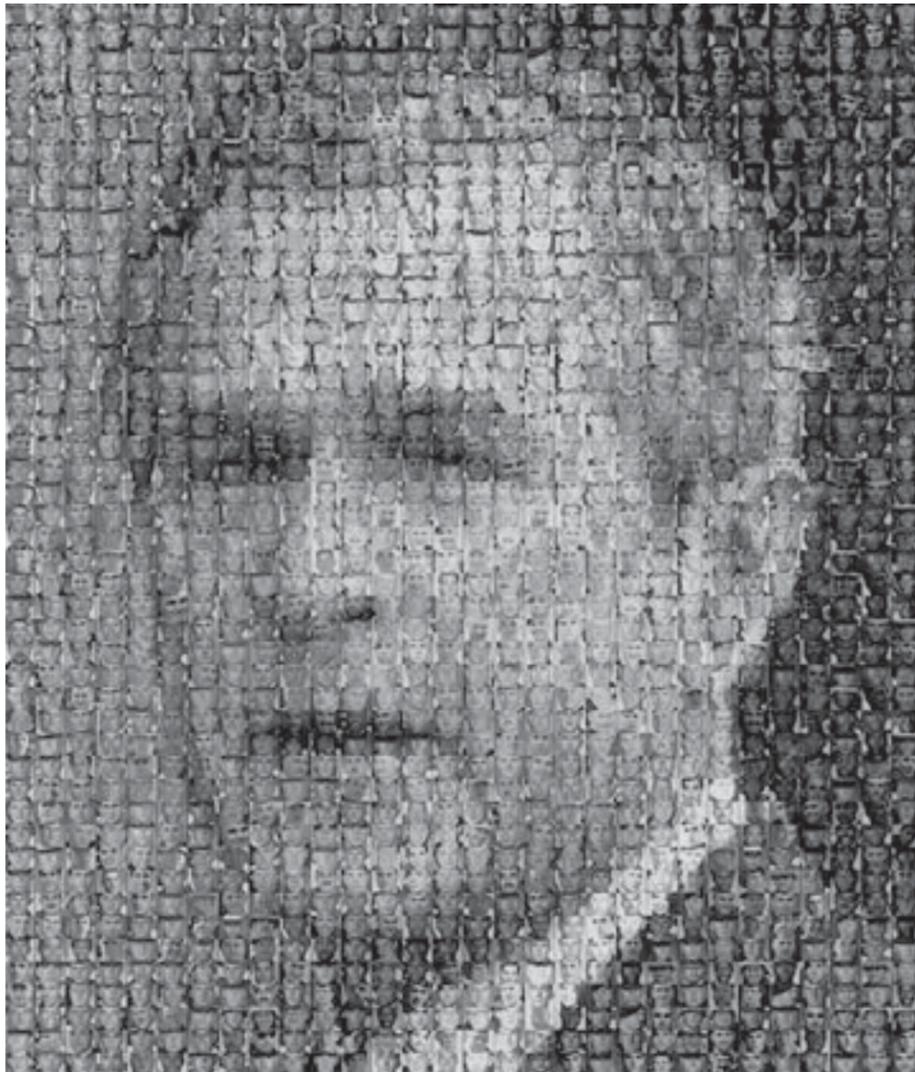
When news organizations, politicians and bloggers had their own civil war about the proper usage of that designation last week, it was highly instructive – but about America, not Iraq. The intensity of the squabble showed the corrosive effect the president's subversion of language has had on our larger culture. Iraq arguably passed beyond civil war months ago into what might more accurately be termed ethnic cleansing or chaos. That we were fighting over "civil war" at this late date was a reminder that wittingly or not, we have all taken to following Mr. Bush's lead in retreating from English as we once knew it.

It's been a familiar pattern for the news media, politicians and the public alike in the Bush era. It took us far too long to acknowledge that the "abuses" at Abu Ghraib and elsewhere might be more accurately called torture. And that the "manipulation" of prewar intelligence might be more accurately called lying. Next up is "pullback," the Iraq Study Group's reported euphemism to stave off the word "retreat" (if not retreat itself).

In the case of "civil war," it fell to a morning television anchor, Matt Lauer, to officially bless the term before the "Today" show moved on to such regular fare as an update on the Olsen twins. That juxtaposition of Iraq and post-pubescent eroticism was only too accurate a gauge of how much the word "war" itself has been drained of its meaning in America after years of waging a war that required no shared sacrifice. Whatever you want to label what's happening in Iraq, it has never impeded our freedom to dote on the Olsen twins.

I have not been one to buy into the arguments that Mr. Bush is stupid or is the sum of his "Bushisms" or is, as feverish Internet speculation periodically has it, secretly drinking again. I still don't. But I have believed he is a cynic – that he could always distinguish between truth and fiction even as he and Karl Rove sold us their fictions. That's why, when the president said that "absolutely, we're winning" in Iraq before the midterms, I just figured it was more of the same: another expedient lie to further his partisan political ends.

But that election has come and gone, and Mr. Bush is more isolated from the real world than ever. That's scary. Neither he nor his party has anything to gain politically by pretending that Iraq is not in crisis. Yet Mr. Bush clings to his delusions with a near-rage – watch him seethe in his press conference with Mr. Maliki – that can't be explained away by sheer stubbornness or misguided principles or a pat psychological theory. Whatever the reason, he is slipping into the same zone as Woodrow Wilson did when refusing to face the rejection of the League of Nations, as a sleepless L.B.J. did when micromanaging bombing missions in Vietnam, as Ronald Reagan did when checking out during Iran-Contra. You can understand why Jim Webb, the Virginia senator-elect with a son in Iraq, was tempted to slug the president at a White House reception for newly elected members of Congress. Mr. Bush asked "How's your boy?" But when Mr. Webb replied, "I'd like to get them out of Iraq," the president refused to so much as



acknowledge the subject. Maybe a timely slug would have woken him up.

Or at least sounded an alarm. Some two years ago, I wrote that Iraq was Vietnam on speed, a quagmire for the MTV generation. Those jump cuts are accelerating now. The illusion that America can control events on the ground is just that: an illusion. As the list of theoretical silver bullets for Iraq grows longer (and more theoretical) by the day – special envoy, embedded military advisers, partition, outreach to Iran and Syria, Holbrooke, international conference, NATO – urgent decisions have to be made by a chief executive who is in touch with reality (or such is the minimal job description). Otherwise the events in Iraq will make the Decider's decisions for him, as indeed they are doing already.

The joke, history may note, is that even as Mr. Bush deludes himself that he is bringing "democracy" to Iraq, he is flouting democracy at home. American voters could not have delivered a clearer mandate on the war than they did on Nov. 7, but apparently elections don't register at the White House unless the voters dip their fingers

in purple ink. Mr. Bush seems to think that the only decision he had to make was replacing Donald Rumsfeld and the mission of changing course would be accomplished.

Tell that to the Americans in Anbar Province. Back in August the chief of intelligence for the Marines filed a secret report – uncovered by Thomas Ricks of The Washington Post – concluding that American troops "are no longer capable of militarily defeating the insurgency in al-Anbar." That finding was confirmed in an intelligence update last month. Yet American troops are still being tossed into that maw, and at least 90 have been killed there since Labor Day, including five marines, ages 19 to 24, around Thanksgiving.

Civil war? Sectarian violence? A phase? This much is certain: The dead in Iraq don't give a damn what we call it.

(Frank Rich is a columnist for the New York Times from which this op-ed is reprinted from their Dec. 3 edition.)

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World AIDS Day Marked Throughout Asia

HANOI, Vietnam - In Thailand, AIDS activists planned to create the world's largest "condom chain." In Papua New Guinea, officials took blood tests to encourage voluntary HIV/AIDS testing.

And in Indonesia, activists walked through the streets of the capital with their faces wrapped in white sheets, some carrying signs that said "No more stigma!" and "Stop HIV/AIDS."

Asian countries celebrated World AIDS day with events both serious and lighthearted. They came together one day after former U.S. President Bill Clinton announced an agreement that would dramatically cut the price of HIV/AIDS drugs for children worldwide, making medicine more widely available in countries where hundreds of thousands go without treatment.

More than 8 million people were living with HIV in Asia in 2005, and roughly 520,000 people died of AIDS across the region, according to the United Nations. In most Asian countries, the epidemics are driven by a combination of intravenous drug use and unprotected sex, much of it commercial.

In Thailand, AIDS activists created the world's "Longest Condom Chain," a ribbon of 25,000 condoms intended to raise awareness about the disease. They arranged the condoms side-by-side on a ribbon placed on the ground, stretching through Bangkok's Lumpini Park. Thailand has long been considered a model in the fight against AIDS and has made great gains in reducing the number of new infections through strongly promoting condom use among prostitutes.

In China, schoolgirls decorated classrooms with red ribbons, the international symbol for AIDS aware-

ness, and taxi drivers handed out angel-shaped cards with information about preventing the disease and reducing discrimination against people with HIV. China's Health Ministry said that the number of reported HIV/AIDS cases rose by almost 30 per cent to 183,733 in the first 10 months of this year, from 144,089 cases at the end of last year. Intravenous drug use was the biggest source of infection, the ministry said. Health experts estimate that the actual number of cases is four or five times higher than the reported figure.

In Papua New Guinea, the governor general and the health minister took HIV/AIDS blood tests in front of hundreds of people to encourage voluntary testing for the disease. Governor-General Paulias Matane and minister Peter Barter attended a rally at the Tabari open-air craft market in Port Moresby and gave blood samples as hundreds of spectators applauded. Papua New Guinea has the highest incidence of HIV/AIDS among Pacific countries, with around two percent of the population estimated to be HIV-positive.

In Hanoi, about 450 people participated in an event that brought together people with HIV and other community members and aimed at reducing the stigma attached to the disease. The group pitched a dozen large tents, where people ate lunch, talked and sang together. They even had a "Condom Fashion Show" featuring outfits stitched together with condoms. About 20 people in the group were living with HIV, and most had become infected by injecting heroin. "We really need something like this so that people will understand more about the epidemic," said Nguyen Minh Phuong, 37, an HIV carrier. "It allows us to do something useful and help prevent the disease from spreading."

Europe Marks World AIDS Day

BERLIN, Germany - Church services in Moscow and London, a provocative artist's action in front of a Stockholm cathedral, and warnings about the spread of HIV on Europe's eastern fringe marked Friday's (Dec. 1) commemorations of World AIDS Day across the continent, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

Ukraine's President Viktor Yushchenko conceded his country was losing ground against one of Europe's fastest growing epidemics, saying 100,000 Ukrainians have been officially registered as HIV-positive. Every day, 40 people are diagnosed with HIV, and eight die from AIDS, Yushchenko said. "Such figures are shocking," Yushchenko said in a published address timed to coincide with World AIDS Day. "We can't be indifferent to them."

Yushchenko's statement comes as UNICEF officials warn that Europe may see a catastrophe in its Eastern members and neighbors, with 270,000 people counted as infected in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, some 90 percent of them infected through intravenous drug abuse. "Eastern Europe stands at the threshold of an AIDS epidemic of catastrophic proportions, which can only be stopped through a broad-based educational campaign," said Dietrich Garlich, German head of the United Nations Children's Fund.

In Moscow, dozens of believers lit candles and joined in a prayer service in the small Russian Orthodox Church of St. Catherine the Great Martyr. Women lit thin yellow candles tied with the red ribbons that symbolize the fight against HIV and AIDS, while priests led the chanting of prayers. The Russian Health Ministry said Russia aspired to provide equal

access by all HIV sufferers to anti-retroviral drug therapies. Chief epidemiologist Gennady Onishchenko said Thursday that the number of officially registered cases of HIV had reached 362,000, but international agencies and some Russian experts have said the true number of HIV-infected people in Russia is closer to 1 million. Activists allege that Russia is dragging its feet in battling the disease and that the nation faces a devastating epidemic and demographic crisis within the next decade if more is not done.

In London, the day was marked by services in Westminster Cathedral and a concert by the London Gay Mens' Chorus at St. Pancras Church, while in Copenhagen, artist Jens Galschiot put up a 2.5-meter (8.2 feet) sculpture of a crucified pregnant teenager outside Copenhagen's Lutheran cathedral. He called it a protest against the idea that "God allows nothing but chastity and unprotected sex." Galschiot received permission from city authorities to erect the statue, named "In the Name of God," outside the cathedral, and even the clergy appeared unmoved. "It's a good supplement to the crucifix we have inside the church," said Anders Gadegaard, the cathedral's dean.

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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

Water And Trash

by Lee Thorn

In 2004 the water and garbage departments of Tucson were merged and, beginning next year, they'll be separated again. The same folks who said merging would increase efficiency are now saying that separation will increase efficiency. It would be sad if it wasn't so funny, and so Tucson!

It looks, to the eye untrained in forensic accounting, like the whole exercise was nothing more than a bookkeeping gimmick. Merging the departments apparently allowed the city to take \$18 million from garbage and put it into the general fund where it could be used to balance the city's budget.

The good news is that all this foolishness doesn't actually seem to be hurting anyone. The bad news is that, according to a story in the ARIZONA DAILY STAR (Nov.29, B1), the city doesn't even know how many garbage cans it has and it hasn't evaluated the efficiency of its garbage collection routes in the last 15 years. So Tucson!

Back in the 1970s I had a business idea, combining a bookstore with a coffee shop, so I called up the Service Corp of Retired Executives to ask what they thought of it. I got a retired executive with a heavy New York accent who told me, "Darling, you have a terrible idea. The customers will get the frosting from the Danish on your books and you'll go out of business." Nowadays it seem like every new bookstore has a coffee shop, but I don't mind. I ended up going into another business that was probably easier.

I'm pretty sure that we still have a Service Corp of Retired Executives giving would-be businessmen free advice, but what Tucson really needs is a Service Corp of Retired Empiricists who could examine the functioning of city government in a nonpartisan, apolitical way and find meaningful methods for measuring the performances of the various departments.

It would be nice to know how many garbage cans the city has. It would be nice, given the road construction that has occurred over the last 15 years, to know whether the garbage routes are efficient. It would be nice to know why many of our city bureaucrats are paid much more money than comparable bureaucrats in other Southwestern cities.

But the possibilities are really endless and occasionally fascinating and all completely up for grabs. For example, how good is our police department? What does that question even mean? What statistics could you

look at to begin to get an answer? Is anyone keeping those statistics? The same question could be asked about the city attorney, the fire department, the parks, anything and everything.

Why doesn't anyone do this stuff? It's labor intensive and there's no money in it. But, if someone did do it in a scientific way, we'd begin to know something about how we are doing in various departments and we could begin to think about ACTUALLY improving efficiency. Just in the last month I've encountered four old people who don't know what to do with themselves. One told me he was working as a clerk in a store "just for something to do." One said of his current, very comfortable situation, "I'm lost." I'm talking here about very bright and very well educated individuals who are devoid of direction.

I suspect that one of the problems with these old folks is their education itself. They were taught that no activity that doesn't result in someone making money is worth doing. Obviously, if Einstein had believed that we wouldn't have his theories of relativity. And if Van Gogh believed that we wouldn't have his paintings. But, sad to say, people of my generation were brainwashed in that direction. Not all of us bought it. We had our famous flower children, but they were the minority.

So now we have all these interesting questions going unasked and unanswered and all this brainpower going to waste because if you're a clerk in a store you get a paycheck if you need it or not and you can tell yourself you're still a valued member of society. There's education and there's miseducation. Today we have standardized tests that virtually guarantee the latter. I hope there are a few subversive teachers who occasionally whisper in their students' ears, "Money isn't everything."

(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)

Sweden Upholds Gay Blood Ban For At Least A Year

STOCKHOLM, Sweden - Plans to repeal Sweden's ban on Gay blood donors have been delayed for at least a year, pinknews.com reported. Last August, Sweden's National Board of Health and Welfare announced they would be reviewing the rule, introduced to prevent the spread of HIV, with many thinking it would be amended to allow donations from Gay men who had not had sex for six months.

But a medical adviser told the Board that more analysis is needed. Torsten Mossberg told Swedish English language paper The Local "The board will make the decision, but we will be recommending that men who have sex with men remain banned. "We need to carry out a more thorough risk analysis, and expect to return with a new proposal towards the end of next year,"

The issue of banning Gay blood donors has drawn protest in the USA and UK, unlike in Spain and Italy where there is no such ban and in Australia where Gay men must have not had sex in the last year to be applicable.

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Non Bar Calendar

Wednesday, December 6th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Canasta with Marv and Steve. Call 745-0304 for info.

Thursday, December 7th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. #1Coffee Night at Rainbow Planet is no host drop-in caffienated talkfest.

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

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

Saturday, December 9th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Pinochle with Marv. Call 745-0304 for info.

Sunday, December 10th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:00p.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 11th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Poker Night! Texas Hold-Em with Karol. Cal 744-9017 for information.

Tuesday, December 12th
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!

First 'Out' Gay Congressman Memorialized

Continued from Page Fourteen

public with his own homosexuality four years after Studds, told the crowd of 300 at the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum that Studds inspired thousands of Gays and Lesbians by acknowledging his sexuality without apology. "The important thing about what Gerry did was the reaction to it. And the reaction to it was that there was no reaction," Frank said, adding that Studds "helped Americans understand that they really aren't homophobic, they just thought they were supposed to be."

Shortly after the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court legalized Gay marriage in the state in 2004, Studds married his longtime partner, Dean Hara.

Lesbian Fire Chief's Firing Moves Forward

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota - Minneapolis city council's executive committee Tuesday (Nov. 28) rejected a move to demote beleaguered Lesbian fire chief Bonnie Bleskachek and voted to proceed to fire her, reported 365Gay.com. Bleskachek has been the subject of four sexual discrimination and harassment lawsuits.

Mayor R. T. Rybak sent a letter to executive committee members saying he no longer had confidence in the chief and proposed either firing her or accepting a tentative deal worked out with Bleskachek's attorney where she would be demoted to battalion chief or captain. But following a closed door meeting of Rybak and the other executive committee meeting the mayor said the committee voted unanimously to proceed with the chief's dismissal.

Bleskachek's attorney, Jerry Burg, said she was stunned to learn the deal had been turned down. Bleskachek is Minneapolis' first female fire chief and one of only two openly Gay fire chief in a major U.S. city. A city investigation found evidence that under Bleskachek the department gave preferential treatment to Lesbians or those who socialize with them.

The City of Minneapolis last month settled two of three lawsuits filed by female firefighters against Bleskachek. The women, one of whom was Bleskachek's former domestic partner, alleged the chief had discriminated against



Bonnie Bleskachek

them. The fourth suit was filed by a male firefighter. The lawsuit was filed this month in U.S. District Court in Minneapolis after a complaint with the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights found he had probable cause.



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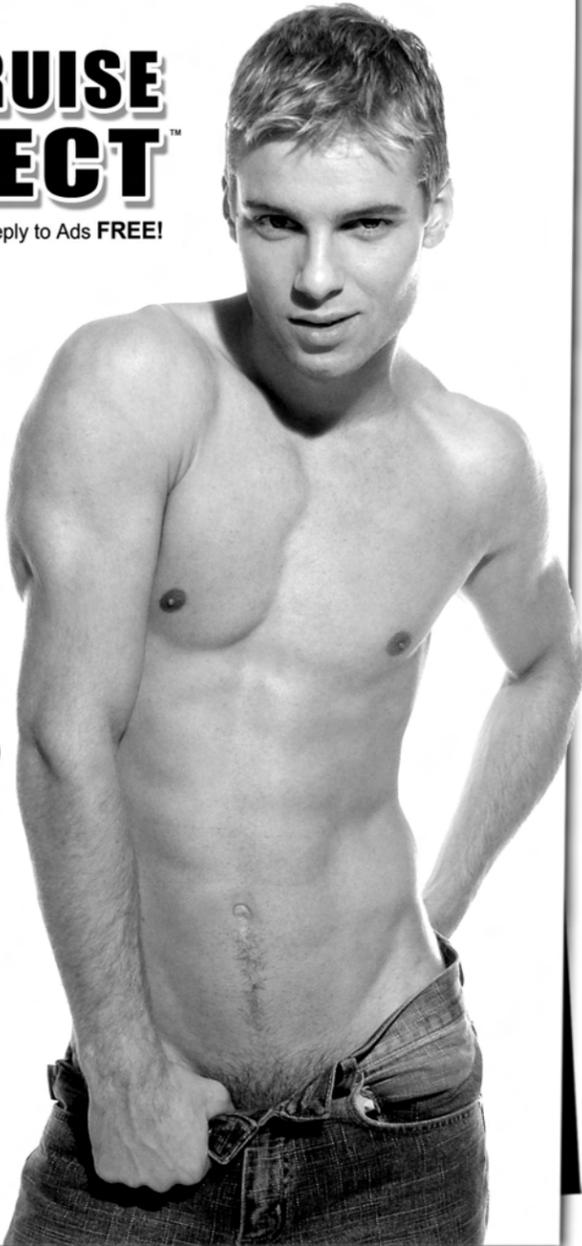
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Tuesday 12:30 - 3:30 P.M.
Wednesday 12:30 - 3:30 P.M.
Thursday 4:00 - 6:30 P.M.
Friday 12:30 - 3:30 P.M.

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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

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

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

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

IBT's -Troy's Recovery Bar noon-4pm. 4-7:30 Karaoke on the patio. Benefit B-B-Q for the Pride Parade 5:30-7:30 and dance with DJ Mike Lopez 9pm to close.

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio open 3pm. \$2.00 Bloody Marys or Screws til 3pm Patio Beer Bust 3-7. Burger BBQ 5-7. Selection of burger meats to choose from. \$3 proceeds go to Pet Watch (helping HIV/AIDS clients with their veterinary bills).

WOODY'S - Open 11am. Brunch \$5, 11:30 - 2:30. Patio Bar open 2pm-close. Yard games on the grass. Beer Bust 16oz \$1 2-7pm. \$2.50 Sirloin or Chicken Burgers w/sides 5-9pm. Karaoke with Michael D. 9pm-close. DJ Jeff on the Patio 9pm. Drag Bingo every other Sunday 8-9

YARD DOG - Open 10am - 2am. Patio Bar opens at 7pm.

MONDAY

COLORS - Closed on Mondays.

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

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

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, DJ Craig Carter 10pm-2am \$1.50 well vodka drinks, All drink specials not available during special events.

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio 6pm. Free pool til 4pm. \$2.75 Skyy Martinis 4-8pm..

WOODY'S - Open 10am. w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm \$1.50 well or domestic longnecks. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Karaoke w/Michael D. 9-1

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

TUESDAY

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7 \$3 Skyy cocktails, \$2.50 Domestic and well. Nightly dinner specials.

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

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

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3 Skyy cocktails, \$2.50 Domestic and well. Full menu served 4-10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

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

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

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, "Diva-Licious" show 9pm w/ Bunny Fu Fu & Friends. After

show dance with DJ Q til 2am,
VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio 7pm. Free Pool til 4pm. \$2.75 Cuervo Margaritas 4-8pm
WOODY'S - Open 10am w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm \$1.50 well or domestic longnecks. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Underwear- fetish-leather nite \$1 off for those wearing underwear-fetish or leather. (Excludes draught & schnapps) for all in leather or underwear.

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

THURSDAY

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm,\$3 Skyy cocktails, \$2.50 Domestic and Well. Full menu served 4-10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

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

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

IBT's -Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, Boyz Nite Out with your Bartenders & GoGo Boys dancing in their undies and DJ Mike Lopez spinning Top 40 & All request \$1.75 Long Islands and \$1.50 Tequila shots 10pm-2am.

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio open 7pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Pool Tourney 7pm. \$3 entry. Special prices for players. Steak Nite (3rd Thursday during summer). Bring your own or get it here \$6.00.

WOODY'S - Open 10am w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm \$1.50 well or domestic longnecks. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Free Pool all day. NTN Game Nite w/prizes 9-close. \$1 Pabst Blue Ribbon. Patio bar open 8pm-close

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am.50¢ off any Top Shelf Bourbon til 8pm. Beer Bust 4-8pm. Patio Bar opens 7pm.

FRIDAY

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

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

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

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, 9pm Hot Dance with DJ Mike Lopez outside on the patio and DJ Rayman spinning club music inside.9pm-2am.

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

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

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

SATURDAY

COLORS - Open 4pm-11pm, Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3 Skyy cocktails, \$2.50 Domestic and Well Full menu served 4-10pm. Nightly dinner specials. "Pacific Breeze performs 7-10pm.

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

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

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, 5-8pm karaoke and Teryaki Kabobs on the patio. 8:30pm Show time w/ Ajia Simone or Janee Star. DJ Q spinning Club Music inside and Mike Lopez spinning on the patio 10pm to close..

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio Bar open 3pm. Patio Beer Bust 3-7pm.

WOODY'S - Open 10am. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. \$5 Steak or Fish w/all the trimmings 5-9. Patio Bar open 5-close. Live Jazz w/Arthur Migliazza on the patio 6-9. Party w/DJ Jeff 9-close.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. Beer Bust 4-8pm. \$1.25 glass, \$2.25 pitcher. Patio Bar Opens 7pm.

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

HOWL AT THE MOON - Silver Coyote Holiday Dance and Potluck. 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Dancing, swing, golden oldies, classic country, ballroom and easy listening favorites. Bring a dish to share, celebrate the holidays in a relaxed atmosphere. Non-smoking in the dance area. \$2.00 Cover.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

HOWL AT THE MOON - Phoenix Chapter of the AGRA promotional Party for the January 13-14 Roadrunner Regional Rodeo in Phoenix. Drink specials and give-aways. Country DJ so dust off your boots. Music starts at 8:00 p.m.

YARD DOG SALOON - Promo Party for Arizona Gay Rodeo Association for their Roadrunner Regional Rodeo in January. Food and Drink Specials.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

WOODY'S - Ajia Simone and Lucinda Holliday in their original two woman holiday show. 8:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

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

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.

Arts and Entertainment

Now Playing thru December 17

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

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

Now Playing thru December 20

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

December 8 - 17

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

January 2 - 7

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

January 23 - 28

A Nederland Presentation: Broadway In Tucson "Altar Boyz". 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; Desert Girlz (MTF Support) meets 2nd Mondays at 7pm; Desert 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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