Observing Tucson And The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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Harrassment Of Arizona LGBT Students Common,. Study Reports

TUCSON - Arizona's Gay and Lesbian students need better protection against harassment, a national study says, reported the Arizona Daily Star. That study, titled "From Teasing to Torment: a Report on School Climate in Arizona," is the cornerstone of a local symposium held on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered youth in Arizona schools.

Scholars, attorneys and community members gathered at the University of Arizona for the two-day event, said University of Arizona Associate Professor Stephen Russell, with the hope of creating progressive social policy from a foundation of academic research. "What are the possibilities of thinking about system-level changes in schools and school policy?" Russell asked. "Having said that, there are great examples in Arizona, mostly in Tucson, of inclusive, nondiscriminatory and anti-harassment policies."

In 2004, the Tucson Unified School District adopted a policy that strictly prohibits harassment based on "real or perceived race, color, religion (creed), national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability or on the basis of association with others identified by these categories." The report is authored by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, a national education network and nonprofit organization focused on school safety for Gay and Lesbian students. It is based on interviews with 3,450 students across the country. Released in June 2006, the national study also focused on 12 states, including Arizona.

"Given that only half of Arizona students reported being protected by comprehensive anti-harassment policies in their schools, it is imperative that lawmakers and school officials create state-level safe-school legislation that offers explicit protection to students who are targets of bullying, harassment and assault based on personal characteristics such as sexual orientation and gender identity/expression," the report's summary and recommendation states. The report also found that "biased language, especially homophobic and sexist remarks, were commonly heard among students and often overlooked by teachers and other school staff. Biased language was even heard from some teachers and school staff."

There were 154 respondents from Arizona. More than half identified themselves as Anglo students and more than a quarter as Latino. A majority were male students at public schools in urban or suburban areas and 9 percent identified as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender, higher than the national average of 6 percent. The study found fewer than half of the students surveyed reported feeling very safe at school, 44 percent reported bullying, name-calling and harassment and more than 60 percent reported peers being harassed because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation, their looks or body size and gender expression.

Fifty-two percent of the surveyed students said they were protected by a comprehensive anti-harassment policy that specifically mentioned sexual orientation or gender identity. About a third of surveyed students reported hearing school personnel make sexist comments while more than 20 percent reported homophobic comments from school staffers. Students said teachers or staffers were never or rarely present when racist or homophobic language was used, but nearly half noted that teachers and school staffers rarely or never corrected or criticized homophobic remarks made in their presence.

"Having students feel they belong in their school is an indicator of success," said Joe Kosciw, research director for the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network. If students don't feel safe, attendance could drop, grades will suffer and aspirations will sink, Kosciw said, explaining the need for policies to establish a comfortable, safe atmosphere.

Suspect in 23 South Louisiana Deaths Lured Victims By Promising Sex

NEW ORLEANS, Louisiana - A man who allegedly confessed to murdering 23 men pleaded not guilty on Tuesday (Jan. 16) to nine counts of first-degree murder, charges that carry a possible death sentence. Ronald Dominique was rolled into the courtroom in a wheelchair, reported the Associated Press on advocate.com. Dominique mumbled "not guilty" to each count as his sister and other relatives looked on along with family members of some of his alleged victims.

The nine charges stem from the rape and murders of nine men between 2002 and 2005 in Terrebonne Parish. The other 12 men were allegedly killed in other parts of the state and charges are being handled by authorities in the various other parishes. Dominique has allegedly confessed to 23 murders of men from 1997 to 2005. Victims were found in ditches, sugar cane fields, and other remote locations in southeastern Louisiana. He was arrested at a homeless shelter in December. Initially booked with two murders, he eventually was indicted on nine and during interrogation confessed to 23, authorities have said.

Dominique, who has a heart condition, allegedly enticed victims with offers of money for Gay sex, or in some cases by offering his "wife" for heterosexual encounters, authorities said. He showed the men a picture of a woman, but he is not married. In addition to the nine charges in Terrebonne, Dominique was also arrested in connection with two bodies found in the New Orleans suburb of Jefferson Parish. But local authorities have said they lack the necessary evidence to hold him in connection with those cases and it remains unclear if or when he will be charged in connection with the death of the two men. Terrebonne District Attorney Joe Waitz said he is trying to schedule meetings with prosecutors in other districts to discuss how to proceed with other possible cases. Dominique's public defender, Anthony Champagne, declined comment.

Justice Department Report Slams FBI Over Foley Investigation

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The FBI should have acted to protect teenage House pages when it initially learned last July, 2006, that ex-Rep. Mark Foley had sent disturbing e-mails to a former male page, an internal Justice Department report concluded Monday (Jan. 22), reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

Ex-Rep. Mark Foley

The bureau, which at the time declined to investigate, also made inaccurate statements to the news media about its decision, the report said. It said that bureau spokesmen wrongly asserted that the decision was influenced by a congressional watchdog group's failure to provide information missing from the e-mails.

The report, by Inspector General Glenn Fine, said the group was not asked to provide any additional information from the e-mails, nor did the missing material influence the decision not to investigate the Florida Republican.

"We believe the FBI should have considered taking some steps to ensure that any minors in the Congressional page program were not at risk of predatory behavior by Foley," Fine reported.

Such actions by the FBI could have included interviewing the former page and notifying House officials overseeing the page program about the e-mails.

The inspector general, however, found no misconduct by FBI officials, who at the time were aware only of e-mails to a former Louisiana page that were not sexually explicit and gave no indication of criminal activity.

The FBI had no immediate comment on its initial failure to act. Republicans in Congress also failed to take effective action against Foley, and polls show this was a factor in the GOP losing control of Congress.

The group that provided the e-mails, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) said it had been vindicated by the report.

"Not only did the FBI fail to investigate the possible sexual abuse of minors by a sitting member of Congress, the bureau then tried to cover up it's shocking inaction by blaming CREW. The IG's report vindicates CREW completely."

The bureau did launch an investigation after Foley, R-Fla., resigned Sept. 29 and the news media revealed he had sent instant electronic messages with sexual overtones to former male pages. The FBI has not commented on the results of that investigation.

"We believe that the e-mails provided enough troubling indications on their face, particularly given the position of trust and authority that Foley held with respect to House pages, that a better practice for the FBI would have been to take at least some follow-up steps ... ." the report said.

The action could have included a preliminary inquiry with an interview of a former page or, alternatively, officials should have considered "notifying the House authorities in charge of the page program about the concerns expressed by the former page," Fine's report said.

In fact, some House officials did know about the e-mails, sent in 2005. The chairman of the House Page Board overseeing the program, Republican Rep. John Shimkus of Illinois, confronted Foley about them and told him to stop sending the messages.

However, Shimkus has been criticized by members of both parties for failing to convene the page board, and the body was reconstituted last week to ensure that it would better handle future problems.

The substance of the e-mails to the Louisiana page has long been known. Foley asked what the youngster wanted for his birthday and asked for a picture.

The youngster told others the e-mails "freaked me out" and repeated multiple times that they were "sick."

The internal Justice report

Continued on Page Two

UPDATE

Anti G/L Marriage Amendment Revived In New Mexico

SANTA FE, New Mexico - A lawmaker who spearheaded the push for a so-called Defense of Marriage Act two years ago is now pressing for the passage of an amendment to the state constitution to bar same-sex marriage, reported 365Gay.com. Rep. Gloria Vaughn (R) introduced the resolution Wednesday (Jan. 17).

Vaughn's measure would amend the New Mexico Constitution to define marriage as being between a man and a woman. Her 2005 attempt to pass the DOMA failed and now she says it is up to the people. But before it gets to the electorate it is in for rough going in the legislature. House Speaker Ben Lujan (D) has assigned the bill to three committees, including House Consumer and Public Affairs - which in 2005 killed DOMA. Even if it is approved at the committee level it would need to be passed in both houses of the legislature. Unlike most bills which need approval of a majority in the chamber at the time of the vote a measure destined for the ballot box needs a majority of the total number of members of the chamber - whether they are present or not.

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson (D) opposes same-sex marriage but has not weighed on the proposed amendment. In 2005 Richardson said that he would sign DOIMA, but only if it had a civil union component that would protect same-sex couples. The 2005 push for DOMA was the result of an incident the previous year in Sandoval County where clerk Victoria Dunlap issued more than 60 same-sex marriage licenses before Attorney General Patricia Madrid filed a lawsuit that stopped her. The marriage were later declared illegal. New Mexico currently is one of only a handful of states that have no legislation specifically barring same-sex marriage.

Lobby Day Feb. 6

PHOENIX - The Arizona Human Rights Fund (AHRF) is proud to come together with dozens of like-minded, progressive organziations to hold the 2007 Progressive Lobby Day, Tuesday, Feb. 6, at the Arizona State Capitol, 1700 West Washington St.

Join as your schedule allows - either 10:00 a.m. or noon, with the program ending by 1:30 p.m. Please RSVP either to Megan at political@ahrf.org. or by using the easy on-line registration form to the right. Even if you're just considering coming, please let us know - we have to order enough food and rather too much than too little!

AHRF needs volunteers to help with set-up, registration and general tasks so if you're interested in donating a few hours of your time, contact Kerry at kerbear94@yahoo.com.

Wingspan Reel Pride Presents, Jan 26&28

TUCSON - Come out and welcome Tucson's fave Indie Producer, Michael J. Shoel of Ariztical Entertainment and writer/director Phillip J. Bartell for the Tucson premiere of Eating Out 2: SLOPPY SECONDS, Friday, Jan. 26 at the Loft Cinema, 3233 E. Speedway. The film will be followed by a question and answer session and light refreshments. Come on out for the funny, sexy date movie of the year. (Contains adult material). Tickets are $10 general admission, $7 for students and seniors.

The Reel Pride Committee has selected top shorts from the festivals for this year's mini-fest, Sunday, Jan. 28, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.. Be prepared for great laughs and sexiness in this 90 minute program. (Contains adult material.): Available Men, Implication, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Funeral, Hello, Thanks, Lead Role: Father, LA Dolls, Science of Love, Crémmate Muffy and Peace Talk. Tickets for this event are $5.25 general admission; $4.50 for TFS members

For more information, contact Caz Springer at Wingspan, (520) 624-1779, E-mail: cspringer@wingspan.org.

Priest Quits In G/L Protest

PHOENIX - A Roman Catholic priest who frequently clashed with Phoenix Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted over the role of Gays in the church has left the priesthood, 365Gay.com reported. The Rev. Chris Carpenter, a leader in the Phoenix Diocese's ministry to Gay and Lesbian Catholics, had been on a yearlong leave of absence.

Rev. Chris Carpenter

Carpenter's disagreements with Olmsted date back to 2004 when he and eight other priests signed a letter called the Phoenix Declaration, which affirmed the right of LGBT people to fully participate in the Catholic Church. Olmsted ordered the priests to remove their signatures. Carpenter becomes the seventh signatory to the document to leave the priesthood. "The enforcement of church doctrine and liturgical practice are taking a step backward to the pre-Vatican II era," Carpenter said in a statement. Carpenter, as well as being a priest was also known as "Father Flick," for his regular film reviews in The Catholic Sun, the diocese newspaper. He said that "From now on, I won't formally identify myself as a priest or as 'Father' or dress as one." His statement said that he take a job as a non-denominational interfaith chaplain with a hospice in Long Beach, California where he has resided for the past year.

Olmsted is one of a number of American bishops who take a strict interpretation of a June 2004 statement from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops titled "Catholics in Political Life." It condemns people who don't follow Catholic teaching but leaves decisions about speeches and receipt of communion to individual bishops. In 2005 he instructed pastors in the state not to invite to their parishes any public figure who disagrees with basic church teachings on abortion, Gay marriage or other issues. Last year Olmsted was one of the leaders in a bid to amend the state constitution to ban same-sex marriage, civil unions and domestic partner benefits. The measure failed at the polls in November.

ABC Leads GLAAD Award Nominations

LOS ANGELES - ABC, whose hit show "Grey's Anatomy" has made headlines over an anti-Gay slur used by an actor, led nominees for this year's awards from an organization that monitors depictions of Gays and Lesbians in the media, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

The network landed eight nominations from the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, the group announced. CBS garnered five nods, NBC three and PBS two. Among cable networks, CNN received four, Bravo and HBO three, and BBC America two.

"Grey's Anatomy," a medical drama, is nominated for outstanding individual episode. The show itself has gotten unwanted attention since actor Isaiah Washington used a slur to talk about castmate T.R. Knight in an on-set dustup in October with co-star Patrick Dempsey, then used it again at this month's Golden Globes as he denied ever uttering it. Washington apologized Thursday (Jan. 18) after the network admonished him.

Nominees for feature film in wide release include "Little Miss Sunshine," "The Night Listener," "Running with Scissors," "Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby" and "V for Vendetta."

Special prizes will go to singer Patti LaBelle, fashion designer Tom Ford and tennis great Martina Navratilova.

The 18th annual GLAAD Media Awards – consisting of 42 categories – are split into four ceremonies, held in Los Angeles, New York, Miami and San Francisco in March, April and May. The awards "recognize and honor mainstream media for their fair, accurate and inclusive representations of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender . . . community and the issues that affect their lives."

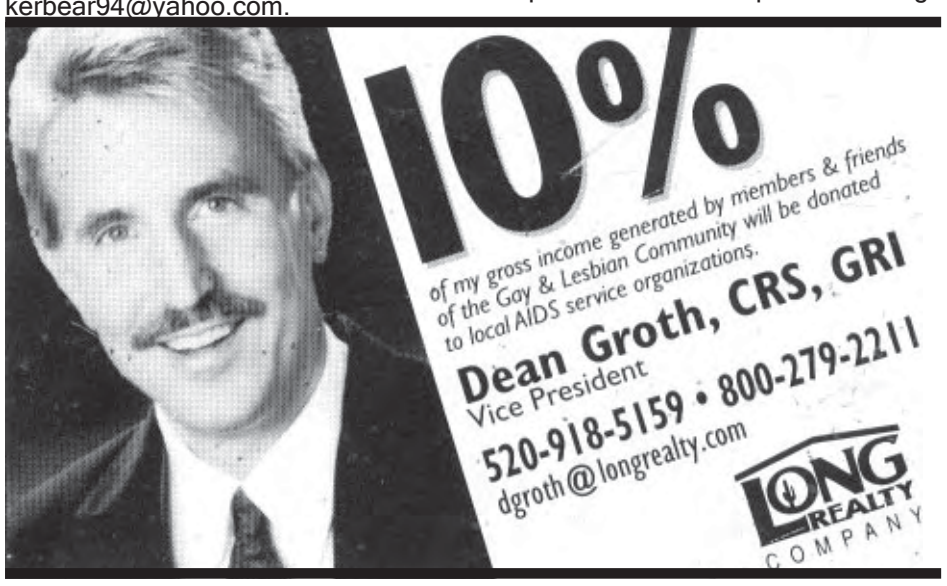
Foley Investigation

Continued from Page One

said that at the very least the bureau should have notified the organization that provided the e-mails that it had declined to open an investigation.

CREW had been relying on the FBI to pursue the matter and had not notified anyone else about the e-mails while waiting for the bureau to act.

The House voted unanimously last Friday (Jan. 19) to provide both parties equal membership on the board that oversees the page program and to add a parent and a former page to that body.



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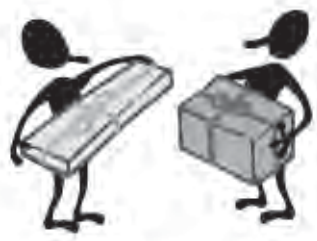

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For more info contact our Volunteer Resources Coordinator at 628-7223 or volcoord@saaf.org

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SAAF

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Informing the Community
The Observer

Oscar Nominations Announced

LOS ANGELES - "Dreamgirls" led Academy Awards contenders Tuesday (Jan. 23) with eight nominations, but surprisingly was shut out in the best picture category after being considered a potential front-runner, reported various news service stories.

The sweeping ensemble drama "Babel" was close behind with seven, including best picture and acting honors for two newcomers to U.S. audiences, Adriana Barraza and Rinko Kikuchi. Other best-picture nominees were the bloody crime saga "The Departed," the World War II spectacle "Letters From Iwo Jima," the road-trip comedy "Little Miss Sunshine" and the monarchy-in-crisis chronicle "The Queen."

Going into nominations day, the best-picture competition looks unusually wide open, with no consensus on a favorite. With "Dreamgirls," a Golden Globe winner out of the race, the best picture competition was even more up for grabs.

But front-runners in all four acting categories nabbed nominations and seem poised to come home with Oscars on Feb. 25: Helen Mirren for best actress as British monarch Elizabeth II in "The Queen"; Forest Whitaker for best actor as Ugandan dictator Idi Amin in "The Last King of Scotland"; and Eddie Murphy and former "American Idol" finalist Jennifer Hudson as soulful singers in "Dreamgirls."

All four preceded the Oscar nominations with wins at the Golden Globes.

Oscar attention is a new experience for Murphy, whose fast-talking persona has brought him devoted audiences but little awards acclaim in his 25-year career. For Hudson, the nomination caps a speedy rise to stardom with her first film role, just two years after making her name on "American Idol."

The best-actress category featured a 14th nomination for two-time Oscar winner Meryl Streep, padding her record as the most-nominated actor ever, this time as a demonically demanding boss in "The Devil Wears Prada." Joining Mirren and Streep as best-actress nominees were Penelope Cruz as a woman dealing with bizarre domestic crises in "Volver"; Judi Dench as a scheming teacher in "Notes on a Scandal"; and Kate Winslet as a woman in an affair with a neighbor in "Little Children."

Other best-actor nominees were Leonardo DiCaprio as a mercenary hunting a rare gem in "Blood Diamond"; Ryan Gosling as a teacher with a drug addiction in "Half Nelson"; Peter O'Toole as a lecherous old actor in "Venus"; and Will Smith as a homeless dad in "The Pursuit of Happyness." Whitaker is expected to come away with best actor, though sentiment is high for O'Toole, who has been nominated seven times, losing each. An eighth loss for O'Toole, who nearly turned down an honorary Oscar three years ago because he hoped to earn one outright, would put him in the record books as the actor with the most nominations without winning.

This finally may be the year for another perennial loser, Scorsese, who is tied with four other directors for the Oscar-futility record of five nominations and five losses. "The Departed" marks Scorsese's return to the cops-and-mobsters genre he mastered in decades past and is considered his best shot to finally win an Oscar, though a sixth defeat would put him alone in the record book as the losingest director ever.

Best picture: Babel, The Departed, Letters From Iwo Jima, Little Miss Sunshine, The Queen.

Best director: Clint Eastwood - Letters From Iwo Jima, Stephen Frears -The Queen, Paul Greengrass - United 93, Alejandro Gonzales Inarritu - Babel, Martin Scorsese - The Departed

Best actor: Leonardo DiCaprio - Blood Diamond, Ryan Gosling - Half Nelson, Peter O'Toole - Venus, Will Smith -The Pursuit of Happyness, Forest Whitaker - The Last King of Scotland.

Best actress: Penelope Cruz - Volver, Judi Dench - Notes on a Scandal, Helen Mirren - The Queen, Meryl Streep - The Devil Wears Prada, Kate Winslet - Little Children.

Best supporting actress: Adriana Barraza - Babel, Cate Blanchett - Notes on a Scandal, Abigail Breslin - Little Miss Sunshine, Jennifer Hudson - Dreamgirls, Rinko Kikucki - Babel.

Best supporting actor: Alan Arkin - Little Miss Sunshine, Jackie Earle Haley - Little Children, Djimon Hounsou - Blood Diamond, Eddie Murphy - Dreamgirls, Mark Wahlberg - The Departed.

Best animated feature film: Cars, Happy Feet, Monster House.

Best adapted screenplay: Borat, Children of Men, The Departed, Little Children, Notes on a Scandal.

Best original screenplay: Babe, Letters from Iwo Jima, Little Miss Sunshine, The Queen, Pan's Labyrinth.

New Tool To Handle Identity Theft

NEW YORK CITY - Competition between banking and other financial institutions has never been stiffer, prompting more players–both big and small–to add a perk most people will find very attractive: free identity theft recovery service, gfn.com reported. With some 8.9 million victims accounting for $56.6 billion in losses in 2005, according to private and government statistics, it may be a perk few could dismiss as unnecessary.

According to Identity Theft 911, which contracts with businesses providing the service to customers and employees, after you're assigned a personal advocate (who performs the equivalent of friendly hand-holding throughout the process), the service helps victims close compromised accounts, place fraud alerts and prevent additional damage. This is, however, not the same as identity theft insurance, which typically pays for phone bills, lost wages and legal fees related to identity theft. These services do not cover direct monetary losses, but for the money, they seem well worth the expense. With coverage limits of $10,000 to $15,000, policies generally cost $25 to $60 per year. Last year, about 130 credit unions and community banks rolled out free identity theft recovery services to their customers, according to Identity Theft 911.

In addition to power hitters like Citibank, dozens of community banks and credit unions are joining this service. But it's not just banks. MetLife Insurance, which has offered free identity theft recovery service to its homeowner policyholders since June 2005, extended it to customers of its online MetLife Bank in December, reports USA Today. If your bank doesn't offer a program like Identity Theft 911, security experts suggest the fairly modestly priced credit-monitoring services. All three of the credit reporting bureaus–Equifax, Experian and TransUnion–offer regular viewings of your credit report to spot potential fraud. This won't prevent identity theft, but it will help you keep better tabs on your credit reports, all for about $14.95-$29.95 a pop, depending upon who you order the reports from.

Marriage Ban Bill Annulled

By Mark R. Kerr

PHOENIX - Faster than you can say "quickie Vegas divorce," HCR (House Concurrent Resolution) 2023 has been pulled for consideration for this legislative session.

Coming on the heels of the first ballot-box defeat, in Nov. 2006, of a proposal to amend a state constitution to ban governmental and legal recognition of same-sex relationships (Proposition 107), HCR 2023, if approved, would place again on the Nov. 2008 ballot, a proposed state constitutional amendment as defining marriage as "between a man and a woman," despite current Arizona law (A.R.S. 25-101 & 25-112) defining it as such and legal precedent upholding it.

According to the bill's primary sponsor, Republican state Representative Russell Pearce of Mesa, said in an interview with another publication that HCR 2023 was filed prematurely and won't "go forward," but don't count on it though, since:

Arizona's 48th Legislature will meet in two regular sessions, one ongoing this year and in 2008, an election year;

Proponents of the ill-fated Proposition 107 have not disbanded after their dubious, electoral defeat. "The Protect Marriage Arizona Coalition is staying intact, and we continue to believe Arizona needs a comprehensive marriage amendment," said Cathi Herrod, president of the Center for Arizona Policy, in an interview with another publication; and

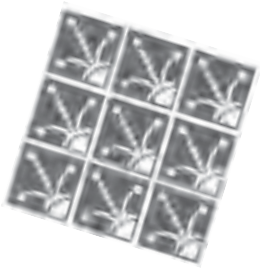
With the electoral success at the ballot box and through fund raising, they scored in previous campaigns in other states, Republicans won't give up their "bread and butter" issue, the "threat of homosexuality."

Opponents of Proposition 107, Arizona Together and No on 107, have not disbanded either.

State Representative Kyrsten Sinema, D-Phoenix, chair of Arizona Together, who helped lead the successful campaign against Proposition 107, said in interview with another publication that her group is ready for the fight if legislators decide to put the issue before voters again. Tucson opponents of Proposition 107, No on 107, are staying together as well.

To make donations, go online to voteno107.com/donate.html or iwssecure.com/noprop107/contribute/ .

To send a check, make checks payable to "No on 107," and mail them to No on 107, 1718 E. Speedway Blvd. #244, Tucson, Arizona 85719, (Due to campaign finance disclosure laws you must include your occupation and employer when making a contribution), or "Arizona Together," and mail them to Arizona Together, 319 E. McDowell Road, Suite 100, Phoenix, Arizona 85004.



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Friday	Martini Happy Hour $1.00 off
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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 Thursty Thursdays Techno w/ LSD.J.	2 FAC* 3-8p Hip Hop w/ DJ Shorty	3 Hip Hop w/ DJ Shorty	4 L WORD Latin w/ DJ Dmenace SUPERBOWL
5 Poke-Her Night L WORD (replay)	6 Boozeday Tuesday 25 cent drafts	7 18 & Over Hip Hop & Reggaeton w/ DJ Shorty	8 Thursty Thursdays Techno w/ LSD.J.	9 FAC* 3-8p Latin w/ DJ Dmenace	10 RED BALL Hip Hop w/ DJ Shorty	11 L WORD Latin w/ DJ Dmenace
12 Poke-Her Night L WORD (replay)	13 Boozeday Tuesday 25 cent drafts Wine Tasting	14 18 & Over Hip Hop & Reggaeton w/ DJ Shorty LEZ-B-WED	15 Thursty Thursdays Techno w/ LSD.J.	16 FAC* 3-8p Hip Hop w/ DJ Shorty	17 Hip Hop w/ DJ Shorty	18 L WORD Latin w/ DJ Ddmenace
19 Poke-Her Night L WORD (replay)	20 Boozeday Tuesday 25 cent drafts	21 18 & Over Hip Hop & Reggaeton w/ DJ Shorty	22 Thursty Thursdays Techno w/ LSD.J.	23 FAC* 3-8p Latin w/ DJ Dmenace	24 Hip Hop w/ DJ Shorty	25 L WORD Latin w/ DJ Dmenace
26 Poke-Her Night L WORD (replay)	27 Boozeday Tuesday 25 cent drafts	28 18 & Over Hip Hop & Reggaeton w/ DJ Shorty	Notes: *The Friday Afternoon Club (FAC) is back!!! 1/2 price drinks & appetizers from 5-7pm...Ticket giveaway ever hour for drawing at 8pm - must be present to win.			

GroupExpands To Provide Legal Aid To Low Income LGBT Families Nationwide

SAN FRANCISCO - The National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) is launching a new project to provide access to family law services for low-income same-sex parent families, 365Gay.com reported. NCLR already has a track record representing same-sex couples in legal battles for marriage rights.

Existing legal services for poor and low-income families generally lack the specialized knowledge and expertise to effectively serve clients the San Francisco-based organization said in a statement.

Called the Family Protection Project, NCLR said it intends to fill this gap by providing specialized training and materials to legal services programs in selected states, beginning with California, Florida, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wisconsin.

"Every day, NCLR receives calls from LGBT people across the country who are desperate because they cannot afford an attorney," said NCLR Executive Director Kate Kendell. "This is a huge unmet need. By training attorneys who work specifically with low income and poor communities about the unique legal issues facing the Lesbian, Gay Bisexual and Transgender community, we will be giving them the tools to assure that their LGBT clients get meaningful help and representation."

Nationally, experts estimate that at least six million children in the U.S. have LGBT parents.

On average, according to recent studies by the Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation Law and Public Policy at UCLA School of Law, same-sex parents with children earn $10,000 less than married couples with children. Despite the need for free or low-cost legal services for these families, however, they are virtually non-existent in most states, Kendell said.

The Family Protection Project will help low-income LGBT parents protect their relationships with their children by increasing and improving the capacity of legal services organizations and by educating families about their rights.

The organization said that the Project will train and assist attorneys who provide free and low-cost family law representation. NCLR said it is working with community groups to educate families about their rights and reach out specifically to communities of color with relevant, culturally competent information.

"Children with LGBT parents often don't have a legal relationship with at least one of their parents, which leaves them and their families vulnerable," said NCLR attorney Cathy Sakimura, who will manage the project. "If a child's biological parent dies or is incarcerated and her other parent isn't a legal parent, she can end up in foster care, even though she has another parent who is able to take care of her. Also, low-income families are ineligible for many government benefits if their parent-child relationships aren't recognized." Sakimura said that in each state, NCLR will collaborate with organizations serving low-income families, LGBT people, and communities of color.

NCLR's first partnership is in Pennsylvania with Equality Advocates Pennsylvania, one of the few organizations providing free representation specifically for low-income LGBT families.

Complaint Filed Against Right Wing Group For Selling Fraudulent 'Ex-Gay' VIdeo

CHICAGO - Truth Wins Out filed a complaint today with Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan against the Naperville, Illinois-based non-profit organization Americans For Truth and its president Peter LaBarbera for selling a misleading video on its web-site titled, "It's Not Gay." In a letter to Madigan, Truth Wins Out urged her to expeditiously pull this fraudulent video from the marketplace, require a written apology from LaBarbera and that refunds be offered to dissatisfied consumers.

"Nowhere does Americans for Truth inform potential viewers that Johnston's 'cure' did not endure," wrote Truth Wins Out's Executive Director Wayne Besen in the letter to Madigan. "This organization is undeniably peddling false hope to vulnerable and desperate people and bilking them out of their hard earned money. In doing so, Americans for Truth is unscrupulously capitalizing on the sincere and heartfelt religious convictions of its followers and exploiting them for the organization's financial gain."

The primary spokesperson featured in "It's Not Gay" is Michael Johnston, an HIV+ so-called "ex-Gay" leader who offers testimony claiming he became heterosexual in 1998 "through the power of Jesus Christ." He went on to collaborate with The American Family Association, Coral Ridge Ministries and Rev. Jerry Falwell. In August 2003, Johnston's claims at sexual conversion collapsed in an embarrassing scandal. Michael Hamar, a Virginia attorney, called Besen to say he had a client who had been having an affair with Johnston, not realizing, at first, Johnston's true identity as a prominent ex-Gay figure. Besen was also introduced to another young man who claimed to have had unprotected sex with the ex-Gay leader. While in Virginia, Besen was shown a video of a man that looked eerily similar to Johnston having unprotected sex with several men. Hamar's client signed an affidavit swearing the man was Michael Johnston.

The news broke in Southern Voice, a respected Gay publication in Atlanta. Johnston resigned his ministry in disgrace and fled to a sex addiction facility in Kentucky, Pure Life Ministries, where he sought counseling. In reaction to Johnston's fall, LaBarbera told Southern Voice, "He obviously had a moral failing, that's true." Despite publicly admitting that Johnston had failed in his efforts at heterosexuality, Labarbera is now selling the specious "It's Not Gay" video and portraying Johnston to unsuspecting viewers as a "former homosexual."

Truth Wins OUT is a non-profit organization that counters right wing propaganda, exposes the "ex-Gay" myth and educates America about Gay life. For more information, visit truthwinsout.org.

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COMMENTARY. . . .

LGBT Youths Must Be Helped Too

By Ernesto Portillo Jr.

TUCSON - Marie Luna, 20, was once homeless. Her friend Daizy Woodz, 19, is homeless. Both young women have experienced the difficulty of moving from home to home, from friend to friend and from stranger to stranger.

Being young and homeless is punishing. Being repudiated as a young Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or Transgender person can be crushing. Being both is incomprehensible for most people. The plight of young people found in such a predicament is rarely discussed. Woodz and Luna say it's time Tucson does so.

Kicked out by their families, homeless LGBT youths sleep on the streets, where they're at the risk of assaults by homophobic youths. Youths like Luna and Woodz are prey to predator adults – straight and Gay, men and women – who give the scared LGBT kids shelter and food in exchange for sex. And if the discarded youths manage to find a warm bed in a homeless shelter, they may be isolated, or assaulted because of their sexual identity.

Luna, who is Bisexual, said homeless LGBT youths deal with these challenges every day. A disproportionate 42 percent of homeless youths are Gay or Lesbian, according to a recently released national survey. Additional research says homeless youths are also disproportionately Bisexual and Transgender, according to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the National Coalition for the Homeless.

A 2005 survey by the Tucson Planning Council for the Homeless said 17 percent of homeless youths here are LGBT. They are hidden in plain sight.

The national task force calls homeless LGBT youths an epidemic. Woodz, who is Transgender, calls it "whack." As in out of whack or wrong. I met Luna and Woodz, both eloquent, strong and honest, at the Eon Youth Center on North Sixth Avenue, across from the Downtown Ronstadt Transit Center. The center is a drop-in space where teens and young adults, most of them LGBT, can safely meet afternoons and evenings. At night the center locks its door. Those young people who don't have a safe place to go spend the night where they can.

Homeless LGBT youths don't have the support system that homeless straight kids might have, said Courtney Jones, homeless youth advocate at Eon, a joint effort of Wingspan, the Southern Arizona Aids Foundation, CODAC Behavioral Health Services and the Pima County Health Department.

At times LGBT homeless youths don't look the part. They might not be disheveled. And they might be in school, said Jones. But they remain at risk, she said.

Homeless LGBT youths have limited places to go for shelter because their families shun them or because they find homeless shelters inhospitable to LGBT youths, Jones said. "That's what unique about LGBT youths," she said.

Woodz and Luna left home while in their mid-teens after enduring physical and emotional abuse from many of the people in their lives. Woodz recalls that coming out to her mother was met with a slur and a boot from home.

LGBT homeless youths try to build each other up. Living on the street tears them down. Drugs and alcohol. Assaults. Sexual exploitation. Lack of sleep and food. These are among the litany of social ills that keep these young people down. Many of the youths are resilient and survive. But they can't overcome.

The time is now, say Luna and Woodz, for the community to help come up with a plan and a place to help these young people – and all of us – overcome. They're talking to all of us, and especially parents of LGBT youths.

"It's OK to be who you are. It's not a disease," Woodz said. And they're asking us to hear them. "Listen to our voices," Luna said.

(Ernesto Portillo Jr. is a columnist for the Arizona Daily Star, from which this is reprinted from the Jan. 21 edition)

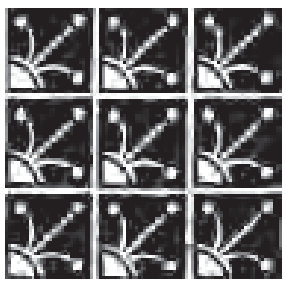
Philadelphia Had Right To Arrest Anti-Gay Protestors Court Rules

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania - A federal judge has ruled that the city of Philadelphia did not violate the rights of an anti-Gay group when it arrested them during a protest at the city's Gay pride celebration in 2004, 365Gay.com reported. The 11 demonstrators from Repent America had sued the city and Philly Pride Presents, the organizer of OutFest, alleging their civil rights had been violated. U.S. District Judge Lawrence Stengel disagreed, granting summary judgment for the city and Philly Pride.

When members of Repent America showed up at the 2004 event police allowed them to demonstrate at the edge of a cordoned off area where OutFest was being held. But when the demonstrators began using a bullhorn yelling Biblical passages to drown out the events on stage pride organizers complained to police. The protestors then allegedly attempted to enter the cordoned off area, continuing to use the bullhorn to condemn homosexuality. At that point they got into an argument with a group of Pink Angels, who screamed back. It was at that point police intervened and arrested the demonstrators. They were held 21 hours but charges were later dropped and Repent America and its leader Michael Marcavage filed the civil rights lawsuit.

In his ruling Stengel said that the right to speak and assemble is not without limits. "There is no constitutional right to drown out the speech of another person," he said in his written ruling.

Stengel noted that the city did not bar Repent America from demonstrating, but that after the protestors left the designated area and entered the cordoned off place where OutFest was being held the city had the right to intervene. Marcavage has been arrested, detained or cited by police around the country since founding Repent America in 2002, including at a demonstration against same-sex marriages in San Francisco.



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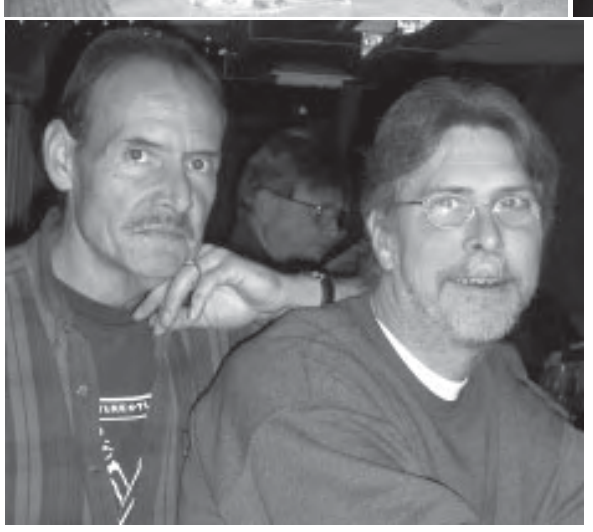

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Annual Equality State To State, GLBT Americans And State Legislation Report Released By HRC

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Human Rights Campaign released its third annual Equality from State to State: GLBT Americans and State Legislation report, examining the state of state legislation that affected the GLBT community in 2006. From New York to Florida to California to Washington state, Equality from State to State 2006 outlines the legislative gains and challenges GLBT Americans faced in their state capitols.

"State capitols continue to be the epicenters in the quest for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender equality and we will continue to work with our allies to support legislation that moves our goal of equality forward," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese.

During the year 2006, almost 400 bills affecting the GLBT community were introduced in state legislatures, approximately the same as the previous year, with 44 becoming law. Although marriage equality dominated the public discourse about GLBT Americans, several significant non-marriage measures became law. Washington became the 17th state to pass an anti-discrimination law. The California Legislature became the first to pass a bill specifically addressing domestic violence in the GLBT community, and 15 measures extending rights to same-sex couples passed, in six states and the District of Columbia.

"This past year, we saw a 42 percent increase in the number of favorable bills passed from 2005, with California passing the most favorable bills – 10 in total," said Human Rights Campaign State Legislative Director Carrie Evans.

Of the 242 favorable bills – i.e., bills intended to increase the rights of the GLBT community – that were introduced in 2006, 231 were in the areas of anti-discrimination (87), hate crimes (32), relationship recognition (83), parenting (five) and education/schools (24). Thirty-four of the favorable measures passed; 15 of these were in the area of relationship recognition.

Of the 137 unfavorable bills – i.e., bills intended to abridge the rights of the GLBT community – introduced in 2006, 73 were in the areas of anti-discrimination (20), hate crimes (one), relationship recognition (16), parenting (19) and education/schools (17). Five of these unfavorable measures unrelated to marriage passed.

Some of the highlights of the report include:

The first-ever defeat of an anti-Gay state constitutional amendment by voters in Arizona.

State legislatures defeating more anti-Gay constitutional amendments than they passed

Eight additional states ratifying anti-Gay constitutional amendments

Additional rights for same-sex couples in New York, Rhode Island, California, Maine, New Jersey and the District of Columbia

Southern legislatures accounting for half of the unfavorable bills passed in 2006

Democratic-controlled legislatures introducing more unfavorable legislation than Republican-controlled legislatures.

The report, Equality from State to State, is available at the Human Rights Campaign website at hrc.org/statelegreport.

Episcopal Church Prepares To Go To Court Over Breakaway Anti-Gay Parishes

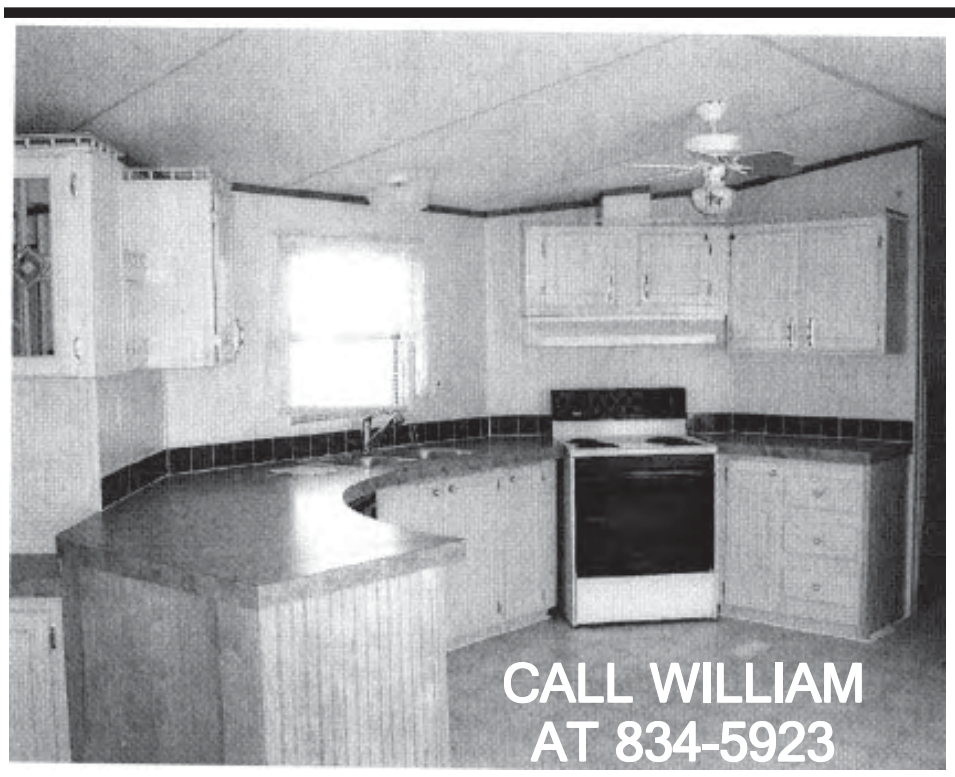
RICHMOND, Virginia - Episcopalian leaders say they are done negotiating and plan to take legal action for the return of property held by 11 parishes that broke away because of the church's tolerance of Gay clergy and relationships, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

Bishop Peter Lee and the executive board of the Diocese of Virginia declared the land and buildings held by the churches "abandoned" and said they mean to go to court to recover or protect diocesan property. Lee wrote that he had tried unsuccessfully to find ways to resolve the dispute without taking it to court. "No longer am I convinced that such an outcome is possible, nor do I believe that such a move at this time is dishonorable," he wrote in a letter to the diocese.

The diocese and members of the breakaway Truro Church and The Falls Church - the two most prominent and largest of the state's Episcopal parishes - agreed in December to delay legal action over those two parishes' property, estimated to be worth $25 million, for 30 days. That agreement expired Wednesday (Jan. 17)

Jim Pierobon, a member of Falls Church and a spokesman for the breakaway churches, said all 11 congregations are prepared for a court battle. "We intend to protect our

Continued on Page Ten



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POLITICS 2007

by Mark R. Kerr

Arizona Legislative Update

A total of 911 bills, memorials, resolutions and mandates have been introduced, as of press time, for the first session of Arizona's 48th Legislature, currently ongoing in Phoenix.

With the Republicans in control of both state legislative chambers, measures concerning Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) citizens, positive and negative, have been introduced.

Arizona would go on record supporting the repeal of the federal "don't ask, don't tell" policy that discriminates against openly Gay and Lesbian individuals from serving in the country's armed forces, if HCM (House Concurrent Memorial) 2003 is approved.

Sponsored by ten state Representatives, HCM 2003 was first read on Jan. 16 and assigned to the House Committee on Counties, Municipalities and Military Affairs, which has not placed the measure on a hearing calendar as of yet.

HB 2351 would prohibit employers from requiring employees to attend a meeting or participate in communication that promotes the employer's religious and/or political beliefs.

Since LGBT workers are not protected from employment discrimination, an employer could use religion or politics to "out" LGBT employees and/or target them for harassment or termination.

Sponsored by four state Representatives, HB 2351 has been first read and assigned to the House Judiciary and House Commerce Committees for consideration.

A bill expanding the state's bias crimes has been introduced for consideration in this state legislative session. HB 2358 is sponsored and cosponsored by fourteen state Representatives

If approved, HB 2358 would empower the Courts to increase the sentence for a misdemeanor if the offense was committed toward a person because they are of a particular group, including those categories include race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender or disability.

Misdemeanor hate crimes such as vandalism, graffiti and assault are commonly used to target, harass and intimidate minority groups, could receive special consideration from the Courts. Additionally, with this classification, an offender's criminal history could be more detailed, allowing law enforcement to detect patterns and repeat offenses.

HB 2358 was first read on Jan. 22 and assigned to the House Judiciary Committee, which has not scheduled the bill for a hearing.

A Senate companion measure of HB 2358 may be introduced as well.

A bill protecting the employment rights of Arizonans has been filed for consideration.

HB 2580, sponsored by four state Representatives and two state Senators would make it illegal for large employers (51 employees or more), employment agencies or labor unions to discriminate on the basis of military service, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or pregnancy.

Under the bill, employers with fewer than 50 employees would be exempt from these requirements and all religious organizations would be exempt from the sexual orientation and gender identity provisions.

HB 2580 has not been first read or assigned to a committee as of press time.

CA's First Openly Transgender Administrative Law Judge Sworn-In

SAN FRANCISCO - Transgender Law Center Board Member and long-time civil rights advocate, Victoria Kolakowski, was sworn in as the state's first openly Transgender Administrative Law Judge (ALJ). Kolakowski is among eight new ALJs of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). Despite many gains in Transgender civil rights over the last five years, Victoria's selection as an ALJ for the CPUC will make her the only openly Transgender judicial or quasi-judicial officer in the state.

"I am very honored to serve the people of California in this new role," said Kolakowski. "I hope that my appointment it is a small step toward the day when the selection or election of a Transgender person to any position in state government is considered ordinary."

"Vicky is a valued member of the California Bar and the Transgender community," said Christopher Daley, Director of the Transgender Law Center (TLC). "Her selection as an ALJ is an example of how Transgender people can succeed in California when appointment or hiring decisions are made on the basis of merit. In addition to being a landmark event in the Transgender civil rights movement, this is a great day for the state because Vicky is going to make a wonderful ALJ."

Kolakowski is a graduate of the Louisiana State University School of Law. She has practiced law as both a corporate and private attorney. She entered public service with the CPUC in 1999. She later served as Acting Assistant Chief Counsel of the California Electricity Oversight Board. Most recently, she served in a limited term position as an ALJ at the California Department of Insurance. She was a founding Board member and officer of the organization now known as Equality California and joined TLC's Board in 2006.

LGBT Jewish Inclusion Project February Events

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Please check our website, jewishtucson.org/lgbt for more information about the LGBT Jewish Inclusion Project.

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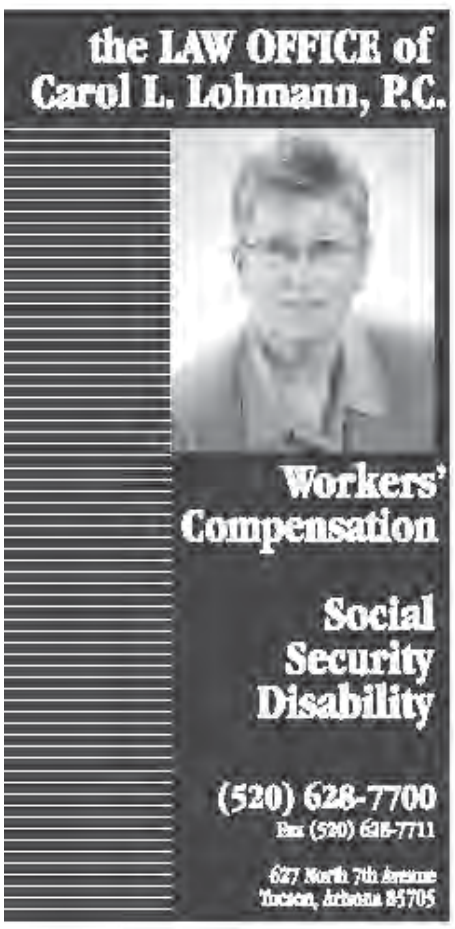

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COMMENTARY. . . .

Raise The Minimum Wage

WASHINGTON, D.C. - While applauding the recent passage of the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 in the U.S. House of Representatives, Eleven LGBT Organizations urged the quick passage of the accompanying bill in the Senate, and a speedy signing by President Bush. What follows is the LGBT Minimum Wage Sign-On Letter.

"As organizations representing Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender people, we call on the United States Senate to support a fair increase in the minimum wage. We applaud the recent passage of The Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 in the United States House of Representatives and we strongly support and urge the speedy passage of the accompanying bill in the Senate.

"Our community is diverse, with workers coming from many different economic backgrounds. The undersigned organizations recognize that an increase to the minimum wage would provide real relief to millions of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender workers who currently work for $5.15 an hour. The proposed bill would raise the minimum wage to $7.25 an hour.

"In a 1998 report published jointly by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and The Institute For Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies, Dr. M.V. Lee Badgett shattered the long-held myth of economic affluence among Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Americans. Dr. Badgett states, 'The reality is that Lesbians and Gay men earn no more than heterosexual people.'

"The current minimum wage makes it difficult for workers to support their families and themselves. As working peoples' wages have remained stagnant or declined over the last ten years, their health care, energy, and housing costs have increased substantially. For instance, it would take someone making the current minimum wage of $5.15 an hour 11.2 hours to earn enough money to pay for a tank of gas.

"Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) workers and their families will benefit from an increase to the minimum wage. An increase to the minimum wage will allow working class LGBT workers to sustain and provide for themselves and their families.

"Therefore, be it resolved that the following undersigned Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender organizations strongly urge the United States Senate to pass a minimum wage increase, and we urge President Bush to sign any such bill into law."

Signed: Equality Federation, Family Pride Coalition, Freedom To Marry, Hudson Pride Connections, The Mautner Project, The National Association For Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Centers, The National Center For Transgender Equality, The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Out And Equal Workplace Advocates, Pride At Work, AFL-CIO, Queers For Economic Justice

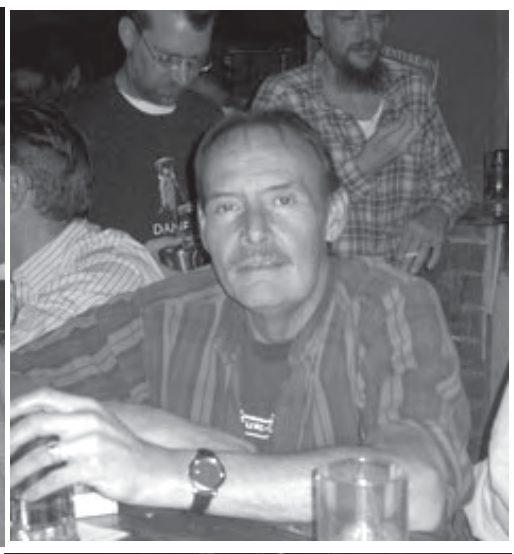
Episcopal Church

Continued from Page Eight

churches' property rights to the fullest extent of the law," he said. Pierobon said church members have filed reports with court clerks, informing the state as required by civil law, of the congregations' decisions to leave the church.

Lee wrote that the diocese is attempting to block such action, since breakaway congregants appear to be believe filing the reports "gives them the right to Episcopal Church property." The churches have voted since late last year to part ways with The Episcopal Church, which is the U.S. wing of the global Anglican Communion. They have said they will align with the Convocation of Anglicans in North America, which was established by Nigeria's conservative Anglican Archbishop Peter Akinola. The Episcopal Church has been under pressure since the 2003 consecration of the first openly Gay bishop, New Hampshire's V. Gene Robinson. The denomination has adopted a general acceptance of Gays.

HAPPY 15TH ANNIVERSARY TO THE VENTURE-N



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Lawsuit Accuses Pfizer Of Marketing Viagra For Recreational Use

NEW YORK CITY - One of the nation's largest HIV/AIDS healthcare providers announced Monday (Jan. 22) that it is suing Pfizer, accusing it of encouraging the recreational use of Viagra and in doing so contributing to the increased incidence of sexually transmitted diseases including HIV.

At a news conference at Healthcare Foundation said the lawsuit will be filed in Superior Court of the State of California in Los Angeles. The suit alleges that Pfizer engaged in "unlawful, unfair and fraudulent business practices" in violation of California Business and Professions Code. It goes on to say that "unlawful and deceptive marketing of its erectile dysfunction drug Viagra has caused an increase in the spread of sexually transmitted diseases including but not limited to HIV/AIDS. Pfizer has engaged in and continues to engage in this conduct despite clear evidence of its illegality and harmful effects."

"Pfizer's direct to consumer marketing of Viagra as a drug to enhance sexual performance is primarily aimed at men who don't necessarily suffer from a clinical diagnosis of erectile dysfunction, and we believe it is not only irresponsible, but also illegal, especially in light of the drug's known use as part of a 'circuit party cocktail' of drugs that is fueling the spread of STDs and HIV," said Michael Weinstein, President of AIDS Healthcare Foundation. Weinstein said that the lawsuit seeks an injunction against Pfizer to force it to stop advertising the drug "in the reckless manner it has been doing, and to require Pfizer to undertake an immediate public information/education campaign to both inform members of the general public as to its prior advertising practices."

It also wants the court to direct the company to begin a public education program primarily aimed at men who have sex with men "about the increased risks of transmission of sexually transmitted diseases associated with using Pfizer's Viagra." The suit has the backing of Dr. Jeffrey D. Klausner, the Director, STD Prevention at the San Francisco Department of Public Health. "Several of our studies and those I reviewed for my research showed strong independent associations between the use of Viagra and increased sexual risk behavior, including an increased risk for diseases like syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia and HIV infection," said Klausner. "The promotion of Viagra for what some have called 'recreational use' must be stopped. Why the FDA has not acted on this is unclear to me," Klausner said.

Ex-Cop Sentenced To 24 Years For Rape Of Transsexual

SAN ANTONIO, Texas - A former San Antonio police officer has been sentenced to 24 years and four months in prison for the rape and beating of a transsexual woman, 365Gay.com reported. Dean Gutierrez was sentenced in federal court for violating the civil rights of Starlight Bernal by committing aggravated sexual abuse while on duty.

Gutierrez, who served on the force for 16 years before being fired when the federal charges were laid, showed no emotion as the sentence was delivered. He was arrested by San Antonio Police following a lengthy investigation after Bernal filed a complaint. She told investigators that on June 10, 2005 she was stopped by a San Antonio officer who said he needed to check for warrants. Bernal said that she was then attacked by the officer in his patrol car.

DNA tests on bodily fluids found in the vehicle and on Bernal led investigators to Gutierrez. In an interview following Gutierrez' arrest Bernal said,"I begged for my life and that didn't help... He (Gutierrez) could have done this to anyone. He had a badge and a gun. He had all the authority to do what he wanted."

At his trial Gutierrez' attorney did not dispute the DNA evidence but argued that the sex had been consensual and Bernal had filed the charges against the officer in order to sue him in a civil case. Gutierrez could have been sentenced to life in prison. In a statement following the sentencing the Department of Justice said it was satisfied with the sentence. "Officers of the law bear the special responsibility of upholding justice and protecting the rights of all citizens," said Wan J. Kim, assistant attorney general for the civil rights division.

View From The Rock

Recently, a young man in Tucson passed away from AIDS. He was only 27 years old.

Twenty years ago, this was commonplace in our community. Since then, drugs have been developed which make it possible for people with HIV to live longer lives but even today, this death is a shock to us as much as it was 20 years ago.

Our pastor received a call here at Cornerstone Fellowship asking him to come to see this young man.

Pastor Paul told us that this young man knew Jesus as his Lord and Savior and we knew then that death and disease would have no lasting grip on this young man and that he will spend eternity with Jesus. "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved," Romans 10:13 says. There are plenty of people out there who would say that this young man will spend eternity in hell, but we know better.

Cornerstone Fellowship, located at 2902 N. Geronimo in Tucson, Arizona, cornerstonefellowshiptucson.com, is committed to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with all persons regardless of race, culture, social standing, sexual orientation or gender identity. Sunday worship services are held at 10:30 a.m. In addition, Cornerstone offers a 6:30 p.m., Wednesday evening Bible study at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St. Please call the church at (520) 622-4626 with prayer requests or -mail pastorpaul@qwest.net.

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Academy Loves, Snubs 'Dreamgirls'

LOS ANGELES - The musical "Dreamgirls" led Academy Awards contenders Tuesday (Jan. 22) with eight nominations, but surprisingly was shut out for best picture, positioning the ensemble drama "Babel" or the mob saga "The Departed" as potential front-runners, reported the Associated Press on the PlanetOut Network. "Babel" was close behind with seven nominations, including best picture and acting honors for two newcomers to U.S. audiences, Adriana Barraza and Rinko Kikuchi. "The Departed" had five nominations, among them best picture, a directing slot for Martin Scorsese and a supporting-actor honor for Mark Wahlberg. Other best-picture nominees were Clint Eastwood's World War II spectacle "Letters From Iwo Jima," the road-trip comedy "Little Miss Sunshine" and the monarchy-in-crisis chronicle "The Queen."

Despite a scene-stealing performance, Wahlberg's nomination was unanticipated considering he performed opposite such top-billed actors as Leonardo DiCaprio, Jack Nicholson and Matt Damon. DiCaprio did earn a best-actor nomination for "Blood Diamond." "I wasn't expecting it at all. I can't believe it. I was sound asleep. My agent called and was screaming," said Wahlberg, who plays a caustic, wisecracking cop. "I thought the house was on fire or something."

Going into nominations day, the best-picture competition looked unusually wide open, with no consensus on a favorite. With Golden Globe musical winner "Dreamgirls" out of the running, the race could come down to Golden Globe drama winner "Babel" and "The Departed," though "The Queen" could be a dark-horse contender, as well. But front-runners in all four acting categories nabbed nominations and seem poised to come home with Oscars on Feb. 25: Helen Mirren for best actress as British monarch Elizabeth II in "The Queen"; Forest Whitaker for best actor as Ugandan dictator Idi Amin in "The Last King of Scotland"; and Eddie Murphy and former "American Idol" finalist Jennifer Hudson as soulful singers in "Dreamgirls."

Mirren said she had no idea "The Queen" would have such an impact. "It is one of the hardest roles to play, not just a living person but one who is part of our everyday lives in Britain," she said. "Whilst her presence is with us from her image on the letters that come through our door and on the money we spend, we know so little of the woman behind the image. I hope that my performance has conveyed a sense of Elizabeth the woman as well as the queen."

Oscar attention is a new experience for Murphy, whose fast-talking persona has brought him devoted audiences but little awards acclaim in his 25-year career. For Hudson, the nomination caps a speedy rise to stardom with her first film role, just two years after making her name on "American Idol."

The best-actress category featured a 14th nomination for two-time Oscar winner Meryl Streep, padding her record as the most-nominated actor ever, this time as a demonically demanding boss in "The Devil Wears Prada." Joining Mirren and Streep as best-actress nominees were Penelope Cruz as a woman dealing with bizarre domestic crises in "Volver"; Judi Dench as a scheming teacher in "Notes on a Scandal"; and Kate Winslet as a bored housewife in an affair with a neighbor in "Little Children."

Playing a mom who hangs out at the park with her child in "Little Children," Winslet appropriately learned of her nomination while dropping her daughter off at school. "I really am a soccer mom," Winslet said, who earned her fifth Oscar nomination. "I am so happy. I am going to be screaming and whooping all day long. I really thought I wasn't going to get a nomination. I am really going to try to enjoy this moment. I'm speechless. It feels like I've never been nominated before."

Along with Whitaker and DiCaprio, best-actor nominees were Ryan Gosling as a teacher with a drug addiction in "Half Nelson"; Peter O'Toole as a lecherous old actor in "Venus"; and Will Smith as a homeless dad in "The Pursuit of Happyness." Whitaker is expected to come away with best actor, though sentiment is high for O'Toole, who has been nominated seven times, losing each. An eighth loss for O'Toole, who nearly turned down an honorary Oscar three years ago because he hoped to earn one outright, would put him in the record books as the actor with the most nominations without winning.

This finally may be the year for another perennial loser, Scorsese, who's tied with four other directors for the Oscar-futility record of five nominations and five losses. "The Departed" marks Scorsese's return to the cops-and-mobsters genre he mastered in decades past and is considered his best shot to finally win an Oscar, though a sixth defeat would put him alone in the record book as the losingest director ever. "He's been deserving many times before," Wahlberg said.

Prim Oscar voters maintained their track record of ignoring over-the-top comic performances, snubbing Sacha Baron Cohen for his Golden Globe-winning role in the raucous "Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan." Cohen shared an adapted screenplay nomination for the largely improvised "Borat," though.

The comedy front did bring supporting nominations for Alan Arkin as a foul-mouthed grandfather and Abigail Breslin as a girl obsessed with beauty pageants in "Little Miss Sunshine," though the film's three key performers, Greg Kinnear, Toni Collette and Steve Carell, were overlooked. Ten-year-old Breslin became the fourth-youngest actress ever nominated, behind supporting-actress winner Tatum O'Neal ("Paper Moon") and supporting-actress nominees Mary Badham ("To Kill a Mockingbird") and Quinn Cummings ("The Goodbye Girl"). All three were 10 when nominated, a few months younger than Breslin.

With five blacks, two Hispanics and an Asian, it was the most ethnically diverse lineup ever among the 20 acting nominees. After decades in which the Oscars were a virtual whites-only club, with minority actors only occasionally breaking into the field, the awards have featured a much broader mix of nominees in the last few years. Black actors in particular have come into their own, with Oscar wins by Halle Berry, Denzel Washington, Jamie Foxx and Morgan Freeman, and three of the four acting front-runners this year.

Asians and Hispanics still lag behind, though nominations for Cruz, Barraza and Kikuchi are signs that Hollywood is making strides toward greater diversity.

While Cruz's "Volver," from Spanish director and past Oscar darling Pedro Almodovar, was shut out for foreign-language picture, another Hispanic film scored well. Mexican director Guillermo del Toro's "Pan's Labyrinth" had six nominations, including foreign-language film, screenplay, cinematography and score. "If each one of them got nominated on their own, that would be great, but the fact that they all did ... that's just too much for one little girl this early in the morning," said Salma Hayek, an Oscar nominee for 2002's "Frida," who helped announced the nominees Tuesday morning.

Mexican filmmaker Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu earned a best-director nomination for "Babel." Inarritu and Scorsese were joined in the best-director category by Eastwood for "Letters from Iwo Jima," Stephen Frears for "The Queen," and Paul Greengrass for the Sept. 11 docudrama "United 93."

"Dreamgirls" looked as though it might follow 2002's "Chicago" as a rare musical to win best-picture, but like last year's music-themed "Walk the Line" it was a startling omission from the Oscar's top category. While Murphy and Hudson made it into the supporting categories, lead players Foxx and Beyonce Knowles and director Bill Condon were left out. Three of the eight nominations for "Dreamgirls" came in a single category – for original song.

Two-time best-picture and director winner Eastwood's "Letters from Iwo Jima" had been considered a longshot and clearly was the film that denied "Dreamgirls" its chance at the top trophy. Eastwood continued his late-career surge and Oscar magic with four nominations for the Japanese-language "Letters" including original screenplay. His World War II companion film "Flags of Our Fathers" also had two technical nominations, including sound editing in which it will compete against "Letters."

The year's top-grossing movie, "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest," grabbed four nominations in technical categories, including visual effects. The Hindi-language movie "Water" is up for best foreign film and comes after a slew of accolades for the Toronto-based director and screenwriter, Canadian filmmaker Deepa Mehta.

Guilty In Drugging 1 Of 2 Gay Murder Victims

TAMPA, Florida - A man on trial for assisting in the drug rape and murders of two Gay men has been found guilty of drugging one of the men, reported 365Gay.com. Scott Schweickert, 41, was on trial in federal court charged with conspiracy and assisting in a drug-facilitated crime of violence in relation to the deaths of Michael Wachholtz and Jason Galehouse.

His alleged coconspirator and the man police was responsible for the actual murders, Steven Lorenzo, was convicted in 2005 of plying nine Gay men with the drug GHB and then brutally sexually assaulting them. He currently is serving a 200 year sentence but has yet to stand trial for the murders of Wachholtz and Galehouse in 2003. During his trial Schweickert did not deny accompanying Lorenzo in going to Gay bars to find men to sexually dominate. Wachholtz's body was found was discovered in his Jeep on Jan. 6, 2004. The body of Galehouse has never been found. After six hours of deliberations the jury found Schweickert guilty of conspiring to distribute GHB and drugging Wachholtz. But with little evidence linking Schweickert to Galehouse the jury found him not guilty on those charges. Schweickert faces up to 40 years in prison when he is sentenced.

Schweickert told investigators that he and Lorenzo picked up Galehouse in a Tampa Gay bar, took him Lorenzo's home where Galehouse was slipped a drug hidden in a drink, and when he was unable to resist, had sex with him. He then told police that Lorenzo held Galehouse in a "sleeper hold" until he passed out. When Lorenzo realized that Galehouse was dead, they dismembered his body, placed the parts in bags and drove discarded the remains in various trash bins throughout the Tampa area. Schweickert alleged that the following night he went with Lorenzo to the same bar and picked up Wachholtz. At Lorenzo's home they drugged Wachholtz but when he began to struggle with Lorenzo, an ether-soaked rag was held to Wachholtz's face until he passed out and then died.

GHB, or Gamma hydroxy butyrate can be produced in clear liquid, white powder, tablet, and capsule forms. Colorless, odorless, and tasteless, it can be slipped into drinks and ingested without the victim having any clue. It causes sedation, often rendering the victim helpless. It also produces amnesia, making it very difficult to arrest and convict a perpetrator. At Lorenzo's drug trial, seven of his victims testified at his trial. All of them told jurors that they met Lorenzo in bars - six of them in Tampa - and had gone home with him. When they woke up, they testified, they were bound and in pain from having been tortured and raped.

HOROSCOPES

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The Sun ventures into Aqueerius and offers us fresh perspectives on old issues. Will you make a mountain out of a molehill or settle on a nice soft mound? It's entirely up to you.

ARIES (MAR. 21 - APR. 20)

Sun in Aqueerius sets you on a course of reevaluation, particularly as it pertains to platonic relationships. People's feelings are at stake. Nothing is as small and petty as it seems. Many things you face in the next weeks are in fact, real attention grabbers. Proud Rams discover the difference between laisez faire and just plain lazy. Yawn. But will you care?

TAURUS (APR. 21 - MAY 21)

Queer Bulls make the art of compromise into grand opera when Sun enters Aqueerius. Drama! Passion! Intrigue! Take a breath. Looking back on past professional efforts, you may want to ask yourself if all this has been worth it. It is true that there has been some monetary advantage but what price glory? Resolve to march to the beat of a different drummer now... but not to disco.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Have you been laboring under the illusion that no matter how bad things get, if you wait, they eventually peter out? Let's be real, pink Twin. Sun in Aqueerius gives you a global, objective perspective that enables you to see things as they really are without the gloss. Finally. Now dispense with folks who or follies that have been holding you back. Okay, now what?

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

How intense are your feelings? What is driving you into action now? Gay Crabs have a great deal of planetary activity hovering in Aqueerius. That means that your carnal desires continue to hold sway over your common sense especially when it comes to a certain special someone. Is this a bad thing? I think not. Heck, its business as usual for you.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)

No matter how annoyed you feel about someone, you have to find ways of working with them. Sun in Aqueerius asks that you find common ground and acceptance. It is a tall order for proud Lions who prefer to have their own way all the time. But think of how nice life will be with certain relationships. Looking for a connection? Plug into the social circuit this week and sizzle.

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)

This is a good time of year to address health and diet issues. Queer Virgins can create the perfect exercise regime to handle any extra handles. Sun in Aqueerius gives you focus, discipline and dedication for dramatic results. The holidays may be distant memories but the holiday excess lingers on... and on. Doesn't cruise season last twelve months?

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

There might be an opportunity for a wilde romance. Will you hold on to your heart or toss it into the wind? Proud Libras are sometimes in love with love and now, with Sun in Aqueerius, you might have a choice of several flights of fancies. There is nothing permanent here - only all in fun. It is all gist for the mill, apparently. Prepare your novel and get typing.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

Queer Scorps always love a mystery. Satisfy your curiosity by exploring your ancestral roots. There is a story here that will prove to be very, very interesting. For those with less interest in family trees and more interest in backyard trees, find time to ready your garden for the spring. Plant a few seeds and see what sprouts. Anyone we know?

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)

You won't have to travel far to find excitement this week. Not only can Gay Archers benefit from keeping abreast of community issues, they can also spread the wealth around. Get involved; There is more than meets the eye in any neighborhood event. Is there a power opportunity? Maybe. More likely, you'll just meet a few like minded neighbors. Oh dear.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)

Money and Sun in Aqueerius are the stuff that dreams are made of. Live your dream. Pink Caps have a hankering for more out of life and why not? Not only will you find ways of indulging yourself, you will also enjoy every single "dulge". Will you overspend your budget? Do you even have a budget? Forgetaboutit. Heck, when you've got it, flaunt it baby!

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

Sun in your sign is a time to run with scissors and color outside the lines. Aqueerians are the very essence of independence and find this time to be one of liberation and unfettered freedom. Look your best. Resolve to start new projects and meet scads of new folks. Opportunities abound for those who take the reins and gallop. Avoid saddle sores and sourpusses.

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MAR. 20)

Guppies who feel enclosed and trapped can find the key to their release when Sun enters Aqueerius. Avoid restricting yourself to the tried and true. This is a time of exploration, creativity, intuition and general mellowness. It is also a time of self acceptance, love and pride. Be who you are, yesterday's fashion, bad hair and all. Others will simply have to adjust.

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TUCSON

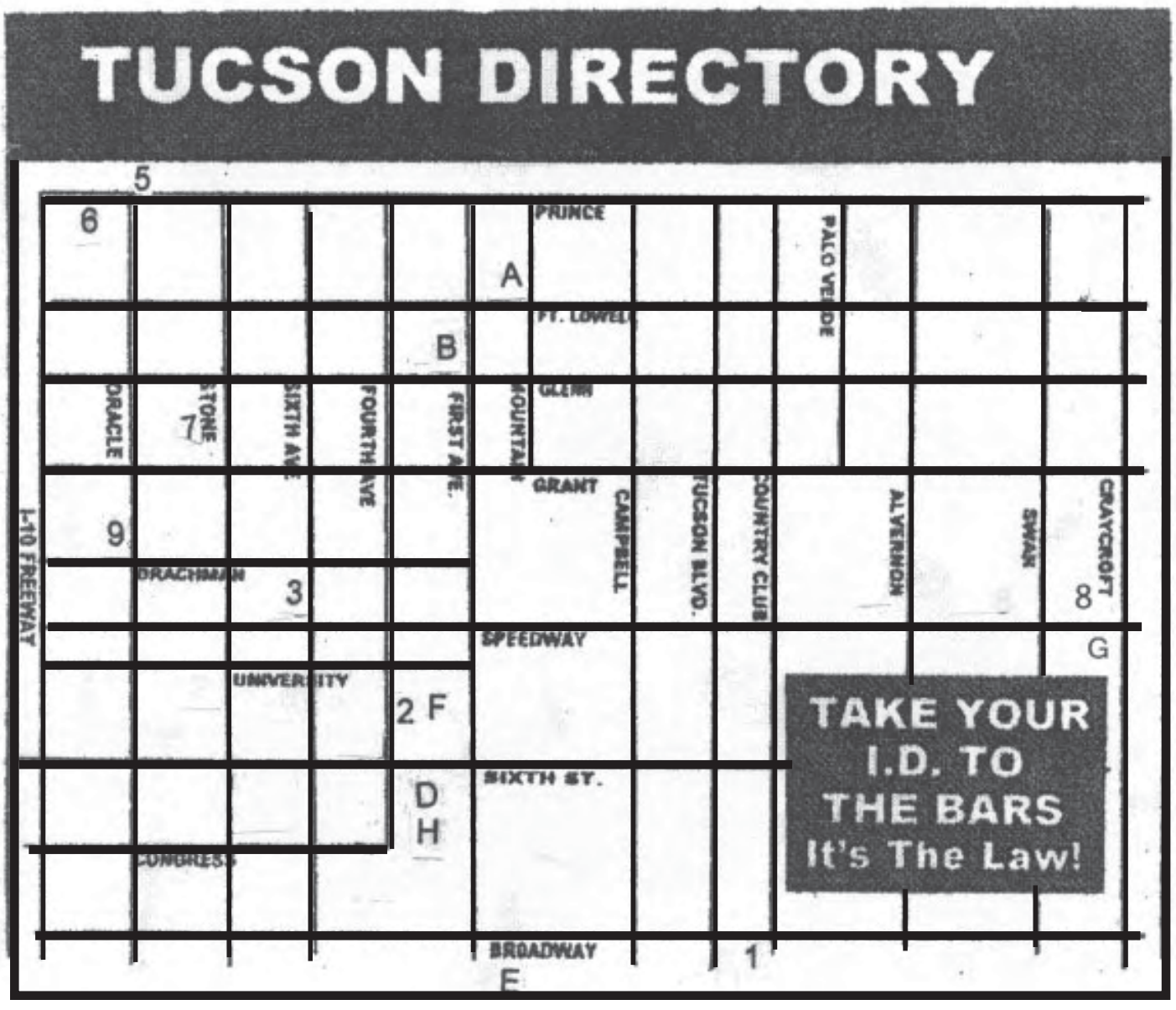
Prison For Man Claiming Home Torched In Homophobic Attack

LAKELAND, Florida - A man who whose mobile home was destroyed by fire last year in what he claimed was a homophobic hate crime has been sentenced to 18 months in state prison, reported 365Gay.com. Christopher Robertson, 24, later confessed to police that he had torched the home and written hate messages himself. As part of a plea agreement with the district attorney's office Robertson will be on six years' probation after he leaves prison. Robertson and his partner Paul Day returned home from shopping in July 2005 to find the trailer fully engulfed in flames. When Lakeland firefighters arrived at the trailer they found the words "die fag" spray painted on front of the home and the structure nearly destroyed. There was nothing they could do to save it. Walking with police through the burned out mobile home the next day Christopher Michael Robertson said all the items of value had been stolen including a television set and laptop computer.

Investigators helped him fill out insurance claims and there was a huge outpouring of support from throughout the country as people sent money, and offers of housing and furniture. But as investigators began probing the cause of the fire the probe led back to Robertson. Under questioning by police Robertson confessed. Now he has pleaded guilty to arson, grand theft, making a fraudulent insurance claim, arson, burning to defraud and other charges. The 24 year old said he needed money and set the fire to collect the insurance money. The items he reported stolen were actually in storage.

Police said Day had no part in the crimes and cooperated with investigators, investigators. The fire occurred during a summer of arson attacks across the country attributed to homophobia. Robertson's attorney sought to have sentencing delayed, telling Circuit Court Judge Donald Jacobsen that Robertson also had recently been given custody of a teenager who will not turn 18 until October, and that he needed time to make arrangements for the boy to have a place to live. But the district attorney's office objected, noting that sentencing already had been delayed once at Robinson's request.

TUCSON DIRECTORY



Community Bars

1. THE BIZ
   2900 E. Broadway 318-4838
2. IBT'S
   616 N. 4th Ave. 882-3053
3. VENTURE-N
   1239 N. 6th Ave. 882-8224
5. WOODY'S
   3710 N. Oracle Road, 292-6702
6. HOWL AT THE MOON
   915 W. Prince Rd. 293-7339
7. YARD DOG SALOON
   2449 N. Stone, 624-3858
8. COLORS FOOD & SPIRITS
   5305 E. Speedway 323-1840
9. HOLLYWOOD
   1601 N. Oracle Rd.,628-3519

Community Organizations

A. MCC - METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
3269 N. Mountain - 292-9151

B. CORNERSTONE FELLOWSHIP
2902 N. Geronimo - 622-4626

D. WINGSPAN - 425 E. 7th St. - 624-1779

E. S.A.A.F. - 375 S. Euclid Ave. - 628-7223

F. RAINBOW PLANET COFFEE HOUSE
606 N. 4th Ave. - 620-1770

G. TIHAN -Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network
1101 N. Craycroft, Ste 301. 299-6647

H. EON YOUTH CENTER 620-6245

Non Bar Calendar

Wednesday, January 24
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm. hosted by Merlin and Lee at 207-5336. MSN Canasta is played every Wednesday at 7pm, but check back here for the specific host.

Thursday, January 25
#1Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. No host Coffee Night at Rainbow Planet on fabulous 4th Avenue.

#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, January 26
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00 p.m. Merlin and Lee host a word for word fun evening of Scrabble. If you don't know how to play, they will be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please contact Merlin and Lee at 207-5336. If you're loquacious, erudite, or a wordsmith; this man's game just may be a triple word score for you!

Saturday, January 27
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Shuffle over for Floating Pinochle every Saturday of the month except for first Saturday MSN Monthly Pot Luck. Contact Marvin at 745-0304.

Sunday, January 28
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:00p.m. Thom and/or Ken host Dinner Out at one of Tucson's Ultra-Fabulous Buffets. For reservations and directions, contact Thom 623-2941, e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com , or Ken at 294-6606. Please contact Thom or Ken by Sunday at Noon to facilitate reservations. Price is usually under $10. Check the Yahoo on-line calendar for the scheduled place. The venue is rotated to include all parts of town, and may occasionally be held at a full-service menu restaurant.

Monday, January 29
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Join Karol for Hearts by phoning to reserve your place at this limited seating event. Contact 744-9017.

Wednesday, January 31
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm. Canasta hosted by Merlin and Lee at 207-5336. MSN Canasta is played every Wednesday at 7pm, but check back here for the specific host.

Friday, February 2
Tucson Prime Timers Cocktails - 5:30 - 7:00. Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Sunday, February 4
Tucson Prime Timers Brunch - Noon, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Monday, February 5
Tucson Prime Timers Lunch - 12:30 P.M. The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

Friday, February 9
Tucson Prime Timers Cocktails - 5:30 PM, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Saturday, February 10
Tucson Prime Timers Business Meeting - 11 AM, Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St.

Sunday, February 11
Tucson Prime Timers Brunch, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

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

Friday, February 16
Tucson Prime Timers Cocktails - 5:30 PM, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Sunday, February 18
Tucson Prime Timers Brunch - Noon, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Monday, February 19
Tucson Prime Timers Lunch - 12:30 P.M., The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

Friday, February 23
Tucson Prime Timers Cocktails - 5:30 PM, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Sunday, February 25
Tucson Prime Timers Brunch - Noon, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Monday, February 26
Tucson Prime Timers Lunch - 12:30 P.M., The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

Tech Corp. Told To Adopt LGBT Anti-Bias Policy

BOISE, Idaho - Shareholders in technology company Micron have voted to require the firm to adopt a written nondiscrimination policy for LGBT workers but the company refuses to say if it will abide by the vote, 365Gay.com reported. Fifty-five percent of the shareholder votes were in favor of the change. The company's board of directors had recommended shareholders reject the measure. The board said that existing provided adequate protection.

Micron did not release the result of the main in vote taken prior to the company's annual meeting. The Idaho Statesman found the results in a report filed by the company with Securities and Exchange Commission. The Statesman reports that Micron officials won't say whether they will honor the shareholders' vote. "Hopefully the company follows the wishes of shareholders who feel it was necessary to make this change that so many companies have already done," said Jeff Simmons a spokesperson for the New York City Employees Retirement Fund told the paper. The fund is a large shareholder in Micron.

New York City Comptroller William C. Thompson, who administers the fund, campaigned for the measure. The fund has been instrumental in pushing companies to adopt LGBT protections. Last May, 2006, it got fast food chain Wendy's International to amend its policies to include the provision. More than 80 percent of Fortune 500 companies now have policies in place that prevent workplace discrimination based upon sexual orientation, and 24 percent include gender identity, according to the Human Rights Campaign.

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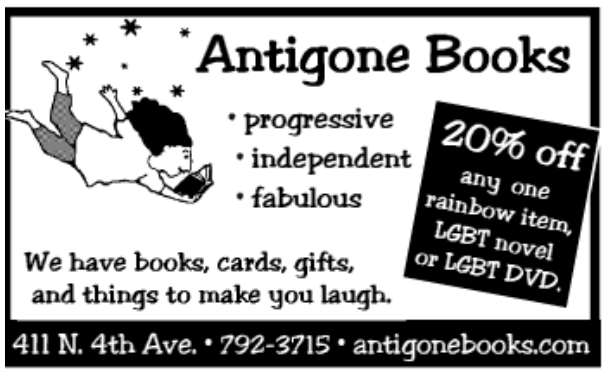

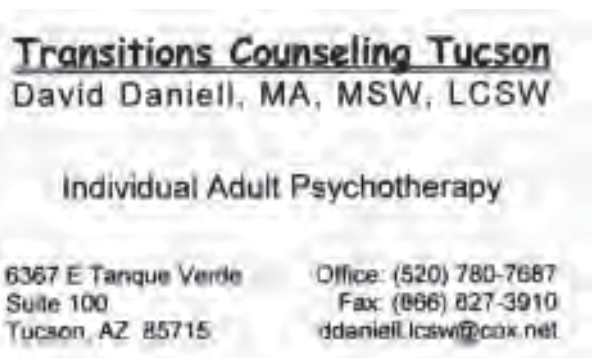

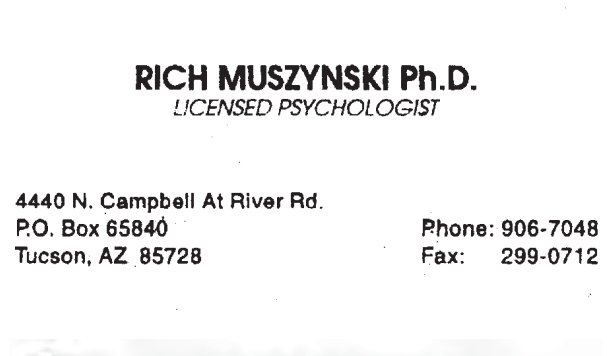

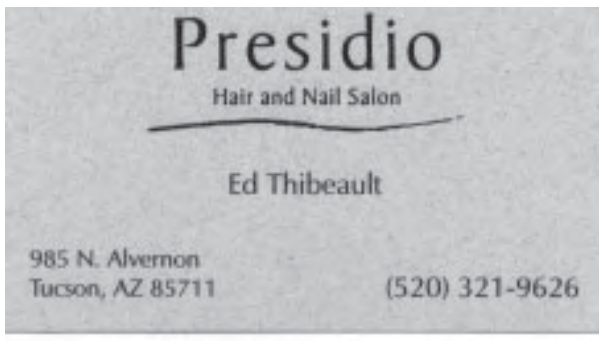

Iraq Slams UN Report On Death Squad Victims Because Gays Included

BAGHDAD, Iraq - The Iraqi government on Thursday (Jan. 18) strongly criticized a U.N. report on human rights that put its civilian death toll in 2006 at 34,452, saying it is "superficial" and discussed subjects that are taboo in Iraqi society such as homosexuality, 365Gay.com reported. The government did not reject the casualty figure but said the U.N. Assistance Mission report was "not professional or neutral as we would expect from the missions of the international organization. The report was superficial in dealing with several points," spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh said.

A compilation of Iraqi government figures from three agencies put the number of civilians killed last year at some 12,357. But a Health Ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to disclose the information, said 16,000 bodies of victims of violence had been brought to the Baghdad morgue alone last year and it appeared that the U.N. figure was "about correct."

When asked what the government didn't accept about the report, al-Dabbagh said "I am not talking about figures. I am talking about details in the report." The U.N. report, which was released Tuesday (Jan. 16) in Baghdad, also was critical about the government's performance on human rights violations, raising concerns about homosexuals and other vulnerable groups. "The current environment of impunity and lawlessness invites a heightened level of insecurity for homosexuals in Iraq. Armed Islamic groups and militias have been known to be particularly hostile toward homosexuals frequently and openly engaging in violent campaigns against them," the U.N. report read. "There has been a number of assassinations of homosexuals in Iraq."

Such a topic is widely frowned at in this predominantly Muslim country and Gays usually keep their sexual orientation a secret. "There was information in the report that we cannot accept here in Iraq. The report, for example, spoke about the phenomenon of homosexuality and giving them their rights," al-Dabbagh said. "Such statements are not suitable to the Iraqi society. This is rejected." "They should respect the values and traditions here in Iraq," he said. He said that the government is doing its best to guarantee the respect of human rights in the country "despite the difficult situation Iraqi is going though."

Ending the violence.

Wingspan launches the Anti-Violence Project – a community initiative to assist lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender victims of discrimination, domestic violence, sexual assault and hate crimes.

Call the Anti-Violence Project 24-Hour Crisis Line at 624-0348, or toll-free 1-800-553-9387.

WINGSPAN
Southern Arizona's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center

www.wingspan.org

SYPHILIS IS BACK!
&
HIV NEVER LEFT!

If you have had sex, you could be at risk for **Syphilis, HIV** and other **STD's.**
Although, condoms used correctly each and every time can reduce your risk, why not go the extra mile.
Protect yourself, your health and your community by getting tested today.

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic Schedule
Theresa Lee Health Center
332 S. Freeway
Tucson, AZ 85745
(520) 624-8272

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

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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MONDAY

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

COLORS - Closed on Mondays.

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

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

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

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

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

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

TUESDAY

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

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7 $3 Skyy cocktails, $2.50 Domestics 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 prixzs - no cash involved. Great way to learn the game or sharpen your skills.

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY

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

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

THE BIZ - Open3pm-2am; Drink What You Want with ½ priced Happy Hour 3-8pm; 'Thirsty Thursday' with Tori Steele & Friends! Drag show starts at 9:30pm with Tori Steele, Janee Starr, Diana Flair and weekly special guests. $2 Pitchers and Rotating Shot Specials. Followed by a new Surprise guest DJ!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY

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

COLORS - Open 4pm-1am. Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3 Skyy cocktails, $2.50 Domestics 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 Raynman spinning club music inside.9pm-2am.

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

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

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

SATURDAY

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

COLORS - Open 4pm-11pm, Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3 Skyy cocktails, $2.50 Domestics 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

Friday, Jan. 26
Howl At The Moon_ Free two_step lessons with Amanda at 7:30 pm. Country DJ starts at 8:30 pm. Lessons are every other Friday: 1/26, 2/9, 2/23.

Saturday, Feb. 27
Hollywood Bar - Rose's Trasvesti Show direct from Nogales is set to entertain on the Hollywood stage beginning at 10:00 p.m. For those who have not witnessed one of these shows is in for a real treat. The costumes and the talents are terrific. A cast of nearly ten along with the background crew will have this new venue in Tucson rocking with joy. Get there early for good seats.

Saturday, Feb. 3
Howl At The Moon_ Texas Hold_Em Poker lessons at noon (that's right, partner, I said High Noon). A friendly game for the students will follow the lessons so you can try out your new skills.

Saturday, Feb. 3
Howl At The Moon_ Benefit drag show to help send Somora DeHuni to Miss Gay Arizona. Show starts at 9:30 pm, $5.00 cover.

Sunday, Feb. 4
Howl At The Moon_ Super Bowl Party here! Munch on free dogs, chili, and chips as you cheer on the Bears or Colts. $2.50 domestic longnecks and pints during the game, shot specials all night.

Saturday, Feb. 10
Howl At The Moon_ Too Much Information is here playing classic rock, blues, and dance favorites. This is a great band–don't miss them. 9pm. $5.00 cover

Saturday, Feb. 17
Howl At The Moon_ It's Touché's birthday! Join in the celebration–TexMex band starting at 9 pm. No cover.

Saturday, Feb. 24
Howl At The Moon_ IDOLS celebrity impersonators show starting at 10 pm. Madonna, Michael Jackson, Reba, Cher, and more. Hosted by Lucinda Holliday. $5.00 cover.

Sunday, Feb. 25
Howl At The Moon_ It's Oscar Night! Predict the winners with Buzztime network. Play movie trivia before the show. Make a night of it! $2.00 champagne, $2.50 mimosas, and $3.00 house wines.

Saturday, Mar. 3
Howl At The Moon_ NCC Entertainer of the Year Pageant Show. Special guest performances as well as the contestants vying for the title. 9pm. $5.00 cover.

Saturday, Mar. 17
Howl At The Moon_ Royalty Show! All nine performers will be former Miss Gay Tucson title holders. This will be one hell of a show–plan now to attend! $5.00 cover

Arts and Entertainment

Now Playing Thru Feb. 4
"I Hate Hamlet" presented by the Live Theatre Workshop, 5317 E. Speedway. 7:30 Thursdays-Saturdays; 3:00 p.m. Sundays.

Now Playing Thru January 28
Invisible Theatre, 1400 N. First Ave. presents 'Barbra's Wedding' 7:30 p.m. Tuesday thru Thursdays; 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturdays and 2:00 p.m. Sunday. $22-$25 call 882-9721.

Now Playing Thru February 3
Arizona Theatre Company presents Stephen Temperly's 'Souvenir' a the Temple of Music and Art, 330 S. Scott Avenue. Call for times, tickets and reservations 622-2823.

Now Playing Thru February 4
Beowulf Alley Theatre presents 'The Woman In Black' adapted by Stephen Mallatratt from the book by Susan Hill - one of the great ghost stories of all time. Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays 7:30 p.m.; Sundays 1:30 p.m. Preview performances January 11 & 12. 11 South Sixth Avenue. Tickets $18 with discounts; special on-line pricing at www.beowulfalley.org.

January 23 - 28
A Nederland Presentation: Broadway In Tucson "Altar Boyz" at the Tucson Music Hall. Winner "Best Off-Broadway Musical" and the Outer Critics Circle Award. Laugh-packed musical comedy. (520) 321-1000 www.ticketmaster.com. Tickets also available at the TCC Ticket Office. For more information go to 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 outabout@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 of visit our website at www.botop.com All are welcome to our general meetings/potlucks on the 2nd Friday of every month, at 3202 E. 1st St. (the "Ward 6" Office Bldg.) Just south of Speedway & East of Country Club. PotLuck Dinner begins at 6:30 and the monthly meeting follows at 7:15 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SPORTS TEAMS and updates on Gay Games, 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; Dezert Girlz (MTF Support) meets 2nd Mondays at 7pm; Dezert 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 @yahoogroups.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.

'Contrite' Grey's Star Meets With LGBT Groups

LOS ANGELES - Grey's Anatomy star Isaiah Washington meet with representatives of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network and the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation late Monday afternoon (Jan. 22), reported 365Gay.com. The meeting was the first between LGBT groups and Washington since his homophobic remarks at the Golden Globe Awards a week ago. The hour-long session was set up by ABC which has taken criticism for not firing Washington over his use of the word "faggot" in relation to fellow Grey's star T.R. Knight.

Isaiah Washington

Held in an ABC office in Los Angeles the meeting was described as amicable by GLSEN Executive Director Kevin Jennings. Jennings said that Washington appeared "genuinely apologetic" and agreed to a follow-up meeting. Monday (Jan. 22) marked the beginning of GLSEN's No Name-Calling Week in schools nationwide. Jennings described for Washington the effect verbal bullying can have among students and look to television stars as roll models.

According to GLSEN's 2005 National School Climate Survey, 75 percent of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender students reported hearing derogatory remarks such as "faggot" or "dyke" frequently or often in school. This year marks the fourth-annual No Name-Calling Week is a time for educational activities aimed at ending name-calling of all kinds and providing schools with the tools and inspiration to launch ongoing dialogue about ways to eliminate bullying in their communities.

In GLSEN's 2005 report, From Teasing to Torment: School Climate in America, 47 percent of junior and middle high school students identified bullying, name-calling or harassment as a somewhat serious or very serious problem at their school. The three leading reasons students reported other students were harassed, bullied or called names were physical appearance, actual or perceived sexual orientation and how feminine or masculine students are. Additionally, 69 percent of junior/middle high school students reported being assaulted or harassed in the previous year and only 41 percent said they felt very safe at school.

Following the meeting with Washington Jennings said he was hopeful that at the follow-up meeting Washington would agree to participate in GLSEN's anti-bullying programs. "We emphasized that this is not a one-shot deal, but an ongoing thing. He was very open to doing this," said Jennings.

GLAAD president Neil Giuliano called the meeting encouraging, saying that at the beginning of the meeting Washington candidly acknowledged the harm he had caused by his repeated use of the epithet. "Isaiah understands that he is going to be judged by more than just his apology," Giuliano said. "He knows that his future actions – including the genuine first step that today's meeting represents – will demonstrate his sincerity in becoming part of the solution to anti-Gay bigotry."

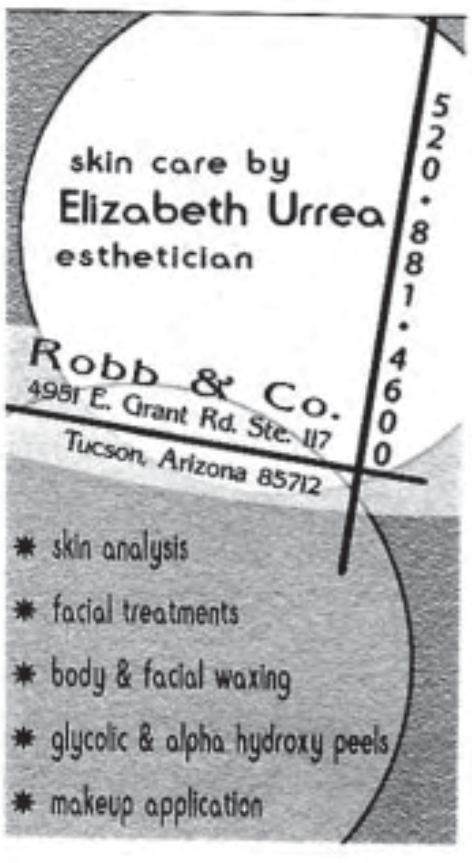
During a backstage interview at Monday's (Jan. 15) Golden Globes Washington denied involvement in a heated on-set incident last year during which the word "faggot" was reportedly uttered. "No, I did not call T.R. a faggot," Washington told reporters. "Never happened, never happened." Knight soon after the October fracas publicly came out and announced that he is Gay. Thursday night (Jan. 18), after ABC issued a statement criticizing the actor and affirming its policy of nondiscrimination, Washington issued a long apology. "I apologize to T.R., my colleagues, the fans of the show and especially the Lesbian and Gay community for using a word that is unacceptable in any context or circumstance," Washington said in a statement released by ABC television.

HIV Contagious Before Symptoms Show

CHAPEL HILL, North Carolina - Research into the spread of AIDS shows that HIV may be highly transmissible before an infected person has the first symptoms or even before HIV tests can detect up the virus.

Researchers at the University of North Carolina studied five couples where HIV transmission occurred soon after one partner contracted the virus, and as early as one week before the partner developed the first flu-like symptoms characteristic of early HIV infection.

"For the first time [we've been able to show] that sexual transmission can happen readily and very soon after exposure,'' said lead researcher Dr. Christopher D. Pilcher. Pilcher said it shows the importance of consistent safe sex.

The period shortly after transmission is known as primary HIV infection, a time when virus levels in the blood soar and short-lived symptoms including fever, fatigue and swollen glands may set in. At this point, the immune system has not yet produced antibodies to the infection, so standard tests that detect HIV antibodies cannot pick up the infection. They also say they believe during this very early stage high amounts of the virus are "shed" into the genital tract, making it a highly infectious time period.

"If you engage in unsafe sex,'' he said, ``you cannot assume that you are not infected or infectious just because you had a negative antibody