



Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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WEEKLY OBSERVER

FEBRUARY 21, 2007

ISSUE 1179

A Kiss Too Far?

NEW YORK CITY - The spot was only 30 seconds, almost a blur amid the action at the Super Bowl. Yet the hubbub after a recent commercial showing two auto mechanics accidentally falling into lip-lock while eating the same Snickers bar went a long way toward showing how powerfully charged a public kiss between two men remains, reported the New York Times, Sunday, Feb. 18.

Football is probably as good a place as any to look for the limits of social tolerance. And the Snickers commercial — amusing to some, appalling to others and ultimately withdrawn by the company that makes the candy — had the inadvertent effect of revealing how a simple display of affection grows in complexity as soon as one considers who gets to demonstrate it in public, and who, very often, does not.

The demarcation seemed particularly stark during the week of Valentine's Day, when the aura of love cast its rosy Hallmark glow over card-store cash registers and anyone with a pulse. Where, one wondered, were all the same-sex lovers making out on street corners, or in comedy clubs, performance spaces, flower shops or restaurants?

"There's really a kind of Potemkin village quality to the tolerance and acceptance" of Gay people in America, said Clarence Patton, a spokesman for the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project. "The idea of it is O.K., but the reality falls short." Provided Gay people agree to "play a very tightly scripted and choreographed role in society, putting your wedding together or what have you, we're not threatening," Mr. Patton said. "But people are still verbally harassed and physically attacked daily for engaging in simple displays of affection in public. Everything changes the minute we kiss."

The lugs in the Snickers commercial recoiled in shock at their smooch, resorting to "manly" behavior like tearing out their chest hair in clumps. Alternate endings to the commercial on a Snickers Web site showed the two clobbering each other, and related video clips featured players from the Super Bowl teams reacting, not unexpectedly, with squeamish distaste. The outrage voiced by Gay rights groups similarly held little surprise.

"This type of jeering from professional sports figures at the sight of two men kissing fuels the kind of anti-Gay bullying that haunts countless Gay and Lesbian schoolchildren on playgrounds across the country," Joe Solmonese, the president of the Human Rights Campaign, said in a statement. A spokesman for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation condemned the advertisement as "inexcusable." Masterfoods USA, a division of Mars and the maker of Snickers, withdrew the offending ads.

But for some the commercial left the lingering question of who owns the kiss? How is it that a simple affectionate gesture can be so loaded? Why is it that behavioral latitudes permit couples of one sort to indulge freely in public displays lusty enough to suggest short-term motel stays, while entire populations, albeit minor-

ity ones, live real-time versions of the early motion picture Hays Code: a peck on the cheek in public, one foot squarely planted on the floor?

The freedom to kiss in public is hardly the most compelling issue for most Gay rights advocates, or perhaps even in the minds of many Gay Americans. Yet the symbolic weight of simple gestures remains potent, a point easy to observe wherever on the sexual spectrum one falls. "Whose issue is it? Why is it only a Gay issue?" said Robert Morea, a fitness consultant in New York.

Although Mr. Morea is heterosexual, his client list has long included a number of high-profile professionals, the majority of them Gay women and men. "The issue is there because for so many years, people got beaten up, followed or yelled at," he said. "Even for me as a straight man, it's obvious how social conditioning makes it hard for people to take back the public space."

After considering herself exclusively Lesbian for decades, Sarah Van Arsdale, a novelist, not long ago found, to her surprise, that she had fallen in love with a man. At first, as she wrote last week in an e-mail message from a writer's colony in Oaxaca, Mexico, "Whenever we would hold hands in public, I felt a frisson of fear, waiting for the customary dirty looks or at least for the customary looking-away." In place of revulsion, Ms. Van Arsdale was startled to discover that, having adjusted her sexual identity, she was now greeted by strangers with approving smiles. "I felt suddenly acceptable and accepted and cute, as opposed to queer," she said.

While few are likely to have shared Ms. Van Arsdale's singular perspective, her experience is far from exceptional. "I'm a very openly Gay man," said Dane Clark, who manages rental properties and flies a rainbow flag from his house in Kansas City, Kan. "My partner and I don't go kissing in public. I live in probably the most liberal part of the State of Kansas, but it's not exactly liberal. If I was to go to a nice restaurant nearby and kiss my partner, I don't think that would go over very well."

As many Gay men have before him, Mr. Clark chose to live in a city rather than the sort of small town where he was raised in the hope that Kansas City would provide a greater margin of tolerance and also of safety. Even in nearby Independence, Mo., he said, "if you kiss your partner in a restaurant, you could find somebody waiting for you outside when you went to the car."

But haven't things changed radically from the days when Lesbians and Gay men were considered pariahs, before Gay marriage initiatives became ballot issues, before Ellen DeGeneres was picked to host the Oscars, and cable TV staples like "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" made a competitive sport of group hugs? In some senses and in certain places, apparently, they have. The landscape of acceptance, as the Snickers commercial inadvertently illustrated, is constantly shifting — broadening in one place and contracting somewhere

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Benefits For G/L Couples Starts In N.J.

TEANECK, New Jersey - Shortly after midnight, Steven Goldstein and Daniel Gross renewed their vows as New Jersey became the third state in the nation to offer civil unions for Gay couples, reported the Associated Press. The law that took effect Monday (Feb. 19) was "a big giant step forward," said state Sen. Loretta Weinberg, a prime sponsor of the civil unions law, who hosted ceremonies in her office for couples including Goldstein and Gross.

The civil unions, which offer the legal benefits but not the title of marriage, were granted automatically to the hundreds of Gay New Jersey couples who had previously been joined in civil unions or married in other states or nations.

For Goldstein and Gross, that meant reaffirming their Vermont civil union. They would have had the rights in New Jersey even without holding the midnight ceremony. Their civil union license, No. 1, was completed at 12:09 a.m. Monday by Teaneck registrar Laura Turnbull.

Elsewhere across the state, a handful of town halls opened at 12:01 a.m. to accept license applications from couples who had not been joined previously. They must wait 72 hours before they can hold civil union ceremonies, just like with weddings, and several planned to exchange vows early Thursday (Feb. 22). By midday Monday, at least 16 couples registered for a civil union license.

Partners Thomas Mannix and Kevin Pilla, who have been together since 1983, arrived at Asbury Park City Hall at about 11:30 p.m. Sunday, so they could be among the first to fill out the one-page license application as soon as the clock struck 12:01 a.m. "The things being granted are long overdue and very important to have, so we wanted to take advantage of it as soon as it was available," said Mannix, a 44-year-old business analyst. "But it was also bittersweet because it's not full marriage. Once a separate class is made, a separate category, we get back to 'separate but equal,' which we've learned from the past doesn't work."

The American Civil Liberties Union joined in criticizing that aspect of the new law. "If such a separate system of rights and an affixation of a different label were done on the basis of race, we would decry it, call it bigotry, see it as an affront to all New Jerseyans, and call it abhorrent and wrong," said Ed Barocas, legal director for the group's New Jersey chapter. "When it is done on the basis of sexual orientation, it is no less of an affront to all New Jerseyans, and no less abhorrent and wrong."

Among the many new benefits under the civil unions law, Gay couples gain the rights to adoption, child custody, visiting a hospitalized partner and making medical decisions. They also now have the right not to testify against a partner in state court. However, the federal government and most states do not recognize the unions. That means, for instance, that a surviving member of a civil union would not be entitled to his

deceased partner's Social Security benefits. And if a partner is hospitalized in another state, the other may not have an automatic visitation right.

New Jersey lawmakers hastily created civil unions in December, less than two months after a state Supreme Court decision held that Gay couples had a right to the same benefits as married couples. Gay rights activists in the state say they'll continue to press for full marriage rights through both political channels and lawsuits. Some social conservative groups, meanwhile, are pledging to block same-sex marriage by pressing for an amendment to the state constitution that prohibits such unions. Forty-five states have legal or constitutional bans on same-sex marriages. Only Massachusetts allows Gay couples to marry, while California offers domestic partnerships.

Scientists Find Chink In HIV's Armor

WASHINGTON, D.C. - An image released Thursday (Feb. 15) by researchers at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases reveals a vulnerability in the ever-powerful AIDS virus, reported advocate.com. Unlike the rest of the mutating virus, one key portion on the surface of HIV has been found to be stable and, more important, penetrable by the HIV-fighting antibody b12.

The finding has profound implications for developing an AIDS vaccine. "NIH researchers and their colleagues have revealed a gap in HIV's armor," said NIH director Elias A. Zerhouni in a written statement, "and have thereby opened a new avenue to meeting that challenge."

AIDS vaccine developers have long been frustrated by the endless ways HIV eludes natural and pharmacological-induced immune responses. Not only does HIV mutate rapidly and continuously, but the virus is coated with an impenetrable coat of sugary molecules, which block access by antibodies. However, certain parts of the virus remain immutable in order to bind and penetrate human cells. One of these regions, gp120, protrudes from the surface of the HIV molecule and has become the hot spot for vaccines to target.

This latest study, published in the current issue of *Nature*, has revealed the detailed structure of HIV that's formed when the antibody b12, an effective defense against HIV, binds with the gp120 protein. Researchers hope that the image will yield information on how to best fight HIV. Revealing a "critical area of vulnerability on the virus," study coauthor Dr. Gary Nabel told the BBC, "is certainly one of the best leads to come along in recent years."

UPDATE

Scholarships To Be Awarded By PFLAG -Tucson

TUCSON - PFLAG -Tucson will be awarding their Fifth Annual Gene Moore Scholarships, a total of seven \$1,000 scholarships.

PFLAG encourages all LGBT students to apply who are currently high school seniors headed for college, undergraduates, or graduate students. PFLAG typically receives fewer than 20 applications for its scholarships, which increases the likelihood of winning one.

Applicants can download application forms at pflagtucson.org/scholarship. If people are unable to obtain the forms this way, they can call PFLAG, (520) 360-3795 or e-mail PFLAG at pflagtuc@pflagtucson.org, and they will sent to them. The application consists of (1) personal information, (2) an essay about the applicant's plan for higher education, community activities, and why PFLAG should award a scholarship to them, (3) two letters of recommendation (at least one from a non-family member), and (4) a copy of the student's admission acceptance letter or, if a current student, a copy of the student's most recent grade report. The application must be postmarked by Mar. 31, and sent to PFLAG - Tucson, P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740-6264.

Boys R Us, Mar. 10

TUCSON - Boys R Us, the Old Pueblo's premier gender performance troupe for the past five years will be performing at the Surly Wench Pub, 424 N. Fourth Ave., Saturday, Mar. 10, doors open at 9:00 p.m., show begins at 10:00 p.m.

Boys R Us is a grassroots organization interested in bridging the gap between all areas of queer art by incorporating Drag Queens, Drag Kings, High Femmes, and all other types of gendered performance. They attended the International Drag King Extravaganza, a drag king conference in Austin, TX last November, and represented Tucson among hundreds of performers from all over, which their performances made Tucson proud.

In addition to the Boys, members of Black Cherry Burlesque and MC's Mister Fister and Aja Simone are a part of this show so go check them out! Tickets are \$6 in advance, \$7 day of the show.

RGMC's 'Reaches Out' Awards Given

TUCSON - Reveille Gay Men's Chorus held their annual Mardi Gras Celebration and Fund Raiser at the home of Joan Kaye and Robert Cauthorn (Feb. 20), and during the evening the recipients of the "2007 Reveille Reaches Out Awards" were Beth and Mayor Bob Walkup, Kathy Altman and Ivy Schwartz, Barclay Goldsmith, and Ernesto Portillo, Jr. These recipients were nominated and chosen for creating strong links between GLBT and straight Tucsonans.

The gala featured a Silent Auction, a Cash Raffle, and a Live Auction. The Live Auction was unique in that Reveille's pianist, Miroslava Panayotova of Bulgaria, winner of the 2006 concert competition of the University of Arizona, would give a private piano recital to the highest bid. Throughout the evening The Original Wildcat Jazz Band and the Reveille Men's Chorus under their Artistic Director, Linus Lerner, provided music for the guests, who were greeted with strands of purple, green, and gold beads distributed by a troupe of "bead boys" and "bead girls".

For more information about the chorus, go online to: reveillegmc.com/.

Tucson Clean And Beautiful Recognizes Wingspan Senior Pride's Clean-Up Efforts

TUCSON - Have you ever noticed Iron Horse Park on the south side of 10th St between 1st & 4th Avenues? Next time you take a stroll along 10th Street be sure to check out the new sign: "Tucson Clean & Beautiful, Adopt-a-park, Iron Horse Park - Sponsored by Wingspan Senior Pride."

Tucson Parks and Recreation recently placed a sign acknowledging the clean up efforts of Wingspan Senior Pride volunteers. Since August 2006, a crew of Wingspan Senior Pride volunteers has picked up their gloves, bags, and grabbers on the first Saturday and third Friday each month to make sure the park remains clean.

If you'd like to join in, they meet in Wingspan's back lot at 10:00 a.m. on the first Saturday and the third Friday of each month and then head

over to work which usually takes about an hour. Bags and a couple of "grabbers" are provided but if you want gloves or must have a pick up tool of some sort, please bring your own. For more information, please contact Pat Woelke, 9520) 624-1779 x22 or pwoelke@wingspan.org. The next clean up is Saturday, Mar. 3.

Calling All Wrestlers For The 20th Anniversary Of Jell-O Wrestling

TUCSON - The 20th Anniversary of the Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling and Live Auction Extravaganza will be held on Sunday May 6, at Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle, to raise funds for the programs and services th Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) offers.

Teams of wrestlers raise funds to wrestle in a pit of Jell-O, often with extraordinary costumes and characters. Between wrestling matches, Hostesses run a Live Auction of a variety of unique items selected to please the crowd. SAAF and the Jell-O committee are currently seeking wrestlers who want to flaunt their creative talents to put on a great show for the audience while raising funds through sponsorships for their wrestling match.

If you are interested in being a wrestler, please visit jello-wrestling.org and request a wrestler packet. Each wrestler is asked to raise a minimum of \$150 and this year wrestlers will again be able to solicit donations online by creating their own web page and emailing it to potential supporters. For more information go online to jello-wrestling.org, or contact Mae at (520) 628-7223 or E-mail at events@saaf.org. See you in the pit!

Jesse George Memorial, Feb. 24

TUCSON - A memorial for Jesse George will take place Saturday, Feb. 24, 10:30 a.m., at Pima County Democratic Headquarters, 4639 E. 1st St.

Jesse George, long time, out Democratic Leader, passed away on Friday, Dec. 1, 2006. He was a loyal Democrat for 65 years. One of Jesse's last great achievements recently took place as he was inducted into the Arizona State Democratic party Hall of Fame.

Jesse's service began more than forty years ago when he served as the youngest representative elected to the State of Texas Legislature in the 1960's. Jesse also served as the Pima County Democratic Chair (1998-1999), the party's candidate for Pima County Treasurer in 2000, the chair of Legislative District 11 and State Representative candidate for the Legislative District 27 in 2002. Jesse received two presidential appointments from Lyndon B. Johnson as a Congressional Liaison with the Small Business Administration and with the Office of Economic Opportunity. Jesse was always willing to go the extra mile to help new potential candidates that threw their hat into the political arena. His door and expertise were always available.

A potluck (so bring a dish) and tree planting will take place to honor remember Jesse. For more information, call (520) 326-3716.

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Informing the Community
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G/L Couples Nationwide Demonstrate For Marriage Rights

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Same-sex couples seeking marriage licenses descended on clerks offices from one end of the country to the other on Wednesday (Feb. 14), marking the 10th Freedom to Marry Day. As in the past nine years in every state except Massachusetts they were refused, reported 365Gay.com.

But even in the Bay State - the only place in the country where same-sex couples can legally wed, Gay marriage advocates were out in force denouncing a proposed amendment to the Massachusetts constitution that would end the practice.

Marriage advocates were also out in force in the three states that allow civil unions - Vermont, Connecticut and most recently New Jersey - seeking to have the laws revised to permit same-sex marriage.

Legislation to that effect has already been proposed in Vermont and Connecticut. Gay activists in New Jersey say they believe civil unions in that state will be transformed into marriage within the next two years.

In New York state, where the top court has ruled granting marriage to Gay couples is up to the legislature, and where Gov. Elliott Spitzer has pledged to introduce a marriage bill, same-sex couples were demonstrating in a number of cities.

In Rhode Island Gay couples held a rally at the State House. Currently Rhode Island same-sex couples are the only ones outside of Massachusetts that can go to that state and marry. That is because Rhode Island does not have specific legislation blocking same-sex marriage. Whether that also means that

under the Rhode Island constitution Gays have the right to marry within the state is currently before the courts.

The Supreme Court in Maryland is expected to rule this year on a lawsuit by Gay couples seeking the right to marry. Same-sex couples today rallied at the capitol for marriage equality.

In California the issue of same-sex marriage is before the state Supreme Court and the legislature. Today in Sacramento, Assemblyman Mark Leno (D) led other lawmakers and Gay activists to promote legislation he has reintroduced in the Assembly that would allow same-sex couples to marry. A similar bill was passed by the legislature in 2005 but vetoed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

In Yolo County, California, clerk Freddie Oakley is presenting same-sex couples with "certificates of inequality" when they apply for marriage licenses. Oakley said she sees no valid reason why Gay couples cannot marry. Other clerks in the state also are protesting the lack of marriage rights.

In Chicago, where Cook County Clerk David Orr and Mayor Richard M. Daley have both said repeatedly that they favor Gay rights, Gay marriage advocates are demonstrating outside the County Building.

Two attempts by Republicans in Congress have failed to pass proposed amendments to the US Constitution to bar same-sex marriage, but the Federal Defense of Marriage Act prevents the federal government from granting rights to Gay and Lesbian couples.

Students Rally For Fired Transgender Teacher

DETROIT, Michigan - Dozens of students have staged a rally and march in support of a Spring Arbor University professor who says she was fired after disclosing she is a transitioning transsexual, 365Gay.com reported. "She was a good teacher, she was well-respected, she should be able to work here," protestor Joel Skene told WLNS-television.

The Christian school informed Prof. Julie Nemecek that it would not renew her contract, after removing her from the classroom when she informed university president President Gayle Beebe she had been diagnosed with gender identity disorder. "Spring Arbor requires its faculty and administrators to be Christians and to follow biblical principles in all aspects of their lives," the university said in a statement. A spokesperson refused to specifically address Nemecek's situation.

Nemecek, who has taught at the school for the past 16-years, has filed a complaint with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. A hearing will be held next month. "I'm here to support Julie, I believe diversity is important, legally, I don't see why the university let her go," protest organizer Drew Hinkle told WLNS. Nemecek said she is encouraged by the student support. "There's no sin in living in joyful celebration of how God has made you," she said.

An ordained Baptist minister with a wife of 35 years and three grown sons, Nemecek said that in 2005 she began wearing makeup, nail polish and female attire when off campus - including at church. That December she told Beebe she was beginning her transformation. In her

discrimination complaint Nemecek alleges Beebe told her not to wear dresses on the university campus and to be evasive if asked about her makeup or fingernails. Several weeks later she was told to work from home and last December was informed that when her contract expires in May it will not be renewed. Nemecek is taking hormone treatments but says she is not planning to have gender reassignment surgery because of her relationship with her wife who has been supportive.

the LAW OFFICE of Carol L. Lohmann, P.C.



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Anglican Summit Ends With New Demands On U.S. Church Over Gay Clergy



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U.S. presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori Receiving Communion

DAR ES SALAAM, Tana - The Anglican Communion gave the U.S. Episcopal Church a September deadline on Monday (Feb. 19) to stop blessing same sex unions, but did give no clear indication of what action it would then take, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. Anglican Church leaders are meeting in Tanzania to reconcile conservative and liberal views on homosexuality, exacerbated by the U.S. Episcopal Church's consecration of openly Gay Bishop Gene Robinson in 2003.

In a statement issued in the final hour of the tense meeting, the Anglican Communion gave the U.S. church the Sept. 30 deadline to meet the request first issued in 2004. "If the reassurances requested of the House of Bishops cannot in good conscience be given, the relationship between the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion as a whole remains damaged at best, and this has consequences for the full participation of the church in the life of the communion," the statement said.

The spiritual leader of the world's 77 million Anglicans, Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, said it offered "an interim solution that certainly falls very short of resolving all the disputes." Williams has no power to force a solution in the Communion, a loose federation of 38 self-governing churches, which has traditionally run on consensus. However, he said the U.S. church might not be invited to the 2008 Lambeth Conference - a once in a decade meeting of all Anglican bishops - if it did not comply. "Either they are part of mainstream Anglicanism or they are not," said Martyn Minns, a prominent U.S. cleric who

has aligned himself with the conservative Anglican Church in Nigeria.

Earlier, a group of senior Anglican bishops released a draft covenant that would allow the Communion to sever ties with churches that stepped out of line. But officials expect it to take years for the draft to be finalized. The consecration of Robinson sparked uproar among traditionalists particularly in Africa, home to more than half the world's Anglicans. They have demanded the Americans repent and are now pushing ways to redraw the Anglican world map to exclude liberal-leaning provinces. Relations are so strained between the liberal and conservative factions that seven archbishops refused to take communion with U.S. presiding bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori in a rebuke at her unwavering support for Robinson and blessings for same sex unions.

Nigerian Archbishop Peter Akinola, who called Gay relations "an aberration unknown even in animal relationships", has set up a parallel conservative movement to allow disgruntled U.S. conservatives to place themselves under his oversight. The Anglican Communion wants to discourage such practices and on Monday proposed a "primatial vicar" as an alternative for Episcopalians who reject Jefferts Schori's leadership. Liberals argue that throughout its history Anglicanism has embraced diverse views. But conservatives who read the Bible more literally say liberal trends, such as openness to Gays, is leading the church away from its traditional teachings.

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else. The country in which anti-Gay advocates like the Rev. Fred Phelps once drew headlines for picketing Matthew Shepard's funeral and preaching what was called "a Day-Glo vision of hatred" can seem very far away at times from the laissez-faire place in which an estimated 70 percent of Americans say they know someone who is Gay.

"We don't administrate public displays of affection," said Andrew Shields, World Church Secretary of the Community of Christ, a Christian evangelical church with headquarters in Independence. "Homosexuality is still in discussion in our church. But our denominational point of view is that we uphold the worth of all persons, and there is no controversy on whether people have a right to express themselves."

The tectonics of attitude are shifting in subtle ways that are geographic, psychic and also generational, suggested Katherine M. Franke, a Lesbian who teaches law and is a director of the Center for the Study of Law and Culture at Columbia University. "I've been attacked on the street and called all sorts of names" for kissing a female partner in public, Professor Franke said. "The reception our affection used to generate was violence and hatred," she added. "What I've found in the last five years is that my girlfriend and I get smiles from straight couples, especially younger people. Now there's almost this aggressive sense of 'Let me tell you how terrific we think that is.'"

Yet Gay-bashing still occurs routinely, Mr. Patton of the Anti-Violence Project said, even in neighborhoods like Chelsea in Manhattan, where the sight of two men kissing on the street can hardly be considered a frighten-the-horses

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proposition. "In January some men were leaving a bar in Chelsea," saying goodbye with a kiss, Mr. Patton said. "One friend got into a taxi and then a car behind the taxi stopped and some guys jumped out and beat up the other two." One victim of the attack, which is under investigation by the police department's Hate Crimes Task Force, was bruised and shaken. The second had a broken jaw.

"The last time I was called a faggot was on Eighth Avenue," said Joe Windish, a longtime New Yorker who now lives in Milledgeville, Ga., with his partner of many years. "I don't have that here, and I'm an out Gay man," said Mr. Windish, whose neighbors in what he termed "the reddest of the red states" may be fundamentalist Christians who oppose Gay marriages and even civil unions, but "who all like me personally." Tolerance has its limits, though, as Mr. Windish found when he and his partner took a vacation on a sleepy island off the coast of Georgia. "I became aware that if I held my partner's hand, or kissed him in public, the friendliness would stop," he said. What Mr. Windish calls a level of peril is possibly always in play, and this no doubt has something to do with the easily observed reality that a public kiss between two people of the same sex remains an unusual occurrence, and probably not because most are holding out for the chance to lock lips over a hunk of milk chocolate, roasted peanuts and caramel.

"We forget here, because New York has been relatively safe for a while, that hate is a problem," said Roger Padilha, an owner of MAO public relations in New York. The reminders surface in everyday set-

tings, he said, and in ordinary ways. "My boyfriend and I always hold hands and, when we feel like it, we kiss," Mr. Padilha said. Yet some weeks back, at a late movie in a Times Square theater, as Mr. Padilha went to rest his hand on his partner's leg — a gesture it would seem that movie theaters were

invented to facilitate — he recoiled as sharply as had one of the Snickers ad guys. "He was like: 'Don't do that. It's too dangerous,'" Mr. Padilha said. "And afterward I thought, you know, my dad isn't super into P.D.A.'s, but nobody's ever going to beat him up because he's kissing my mom at a movie. I kept thinking: What if my boyfriend got hit by a car tomorrow? When I had the chance to kiss him, why didn't I?"

Country Star Chesney Denies Gay Rumors



Kenny Chesney with Renée Zellweger

NEW YORK CITY - Kenny Chesney explains why the word fraud was used on the document filed by Renée Zellweger to annul their marriage and denies the Gay rumors it sparked in an interview on CBS's 60 Minutes, reported the Associated Press on advocate.com. "It's not true. Period. Maybe I should have come out and said, 'No, I'm not [Gay],' but I didn't want to draw any more attention to it," the 38-year-old country singer says. "I didn't have to prove to anybody that I

wasn't [Gay]. I didn't feel like I really did."

Zellweger and Chesney were married on the Caribbean island of St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands in May 2005. It was the first marriage for both. Four months later, Zellweger listed "fraud" as the reason she was seeking an annulment. An annulment is a judicial declaration that a marriage never legally existed. In California, an annulment may be granted when either party in the marriage is under 18, of unsound mind, bound to a previous marriage, or if the consent to marry was obtained by fraud or force. The Oscar-winning actress later issued a statement saying the term "fraud" was "simply legal language and not a reflection of Kenny's character."

"We thought the least harmful [stated reason] was fraud because it [is] kind of broad...doesn't specify," Chesney says. "And boy...we were wrong." "The only fraud that was committed was me thinking that I knew what it was like...that I really understood what it was like to be married, and I really didn't," he says. Chesney, who is set to go on tour this summer, says he has no regrets. "Not at all. Not one bit," he says. "Even though I'd sit here and say I wish we'd gotten divorced instead of all that annulment stuff, and saved me a lot of public humiliation.... I still don't have any regrets. I loved her, you know? And it was real." Zellweger won an Oscar for 2003's Cold Mountain.

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Schwarzenegger Says He Would Veto Same-Sex Marriage Again

SACRAMENTO, California - Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger said he would veto a bill that would legalize same-sex marriage if state lawmakers passed it again this year, reported the Associated Press on advocate.com. Schwarzenegger made the statement in answer to a question from a high school student at the California YMCA Youth and Government Conference.



instead of having the state legislature or the governor enact a law. In June 2005 California's legislature was the first lawmaking body in the country to pass a measure legalizing same-sex marriage—a measure Schwarzenegger subsequently vetoed. The bill was reintroduced in December by Assemblyman Mark Leno of San Francisco.

Equality California's executive director, Geoffrey Kors, said in a statement that he and his group are disappointed with Schwarzenegger's views and hopes he will reconsider his decision if the bill is up for passage again. "How would the governor feel if his right to marry first lady Maria Shriver had been put to a popular vote?" Kors said. "We urge him to remember that each of us deserves to be treated fairly."

"I wouldn't sign it because the people of California have voted on that issue," the AP quotes Schwarzenegger as saying. He further explained that he would leave it up to a statewide vote

Science Body Told HIV Vaccine Likely Long Way Off

SAN FRANCISCO - It may be possible to battle AIDS into a low-rate of infection, but it will take a long time and elimination of the disease seems unlikely, Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease said Saturday (Feb. 17), reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. It's a disease transmitted by sexual activity, which is a fundamental component of human behavior. "so it isn't going to be easy to shut it off," Fauci said at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

drug treatment is now being used in parts of Africa and infected people there are using the drugs as prescribed, Fauci said. Starting the treatment in Africa with the triple-drug dose reduces the speed with which the disease can build resistance, he said, rather than starting with a single- or two-drug regimen. But, Fauci said, resistance to drugs develops sooner or later.

There are several new drugs in the pipeline, many of them promising, for use as second treatments in patients whose disease develops resistance to current therapy. Among the approaches, he said, are drugs to block fusion of the virus with human immune cells and others that may prevent the virus from maturing, he said.

A quarter-century after doctors first began recording cases of the illness, AIDS gets fewer headlines now that drugs are available to keep it in check in infected people, but the drugs don't eliminate the virus. Currently there are 40,000 new infections in the United States each year with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, and 4.3 million new infections around the world, he said.

Fauci, a longtime AIDS researcher and the government's point man on the disease, estimated that one in four Americans with HIV don't know they are infected. Public fatigue in reading and hearing about AIDS can become a problem, he added, because "once you take it off the radar screen it's hard to get out the message of prevention."

It's important for infected people to get diagnosed and treated, he said, because people who know they have the disease are less likely to spread it to others. And while current triple-drug treatment can't eliminate the disease, it can reduce the amount of virus in the system sharply, also helping prevent spread. Modern three-



Dear Editor:
I am writing about the news that Anne Maley is leaving the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF). I'm only reassured by knowing Anne is leaving in place, a group of people who are the best in the country to help all of us who have been lucky enough to be a part of SAAF.

Many years ago, Nancy Norman-Anaya and the late Michael Griffin took me to the small office on 4th Avenue to get me help when I first became ill with HIV. I was so afraid to even admit having HIV, let alone tell anyone else about it. We walked up those old stairs and at the top was a desk and sitting there with the biggest and most beautiful smile was Anne. All the anxiety left and all the tears too. From that day on, these many years later, I am still alive and healthy, thanks to Ann, her staff, Dr. Kevin Carmichael and the best friend anyone has ever had - Nancy Norman-Anaya.

Without all of those people working all together, I wouldn't be sitting here, in 2007, writing this letter of gratitude to you, and our community, all the work and love this one woman has done with no other thought in mind, than to help all of us here in Tucson.

So I wanted not only to thank my dear friends, Nancy Norman-Anaya, the best doctor, Kevin Carmichael and our late friend, Michael Griffin, but to thank Anne Maley, who I love and respect, and honestly know, without her and her staff, I wouldn't be here today.

Thanks Anne, you are loved!

Donald Paugh, Jr.

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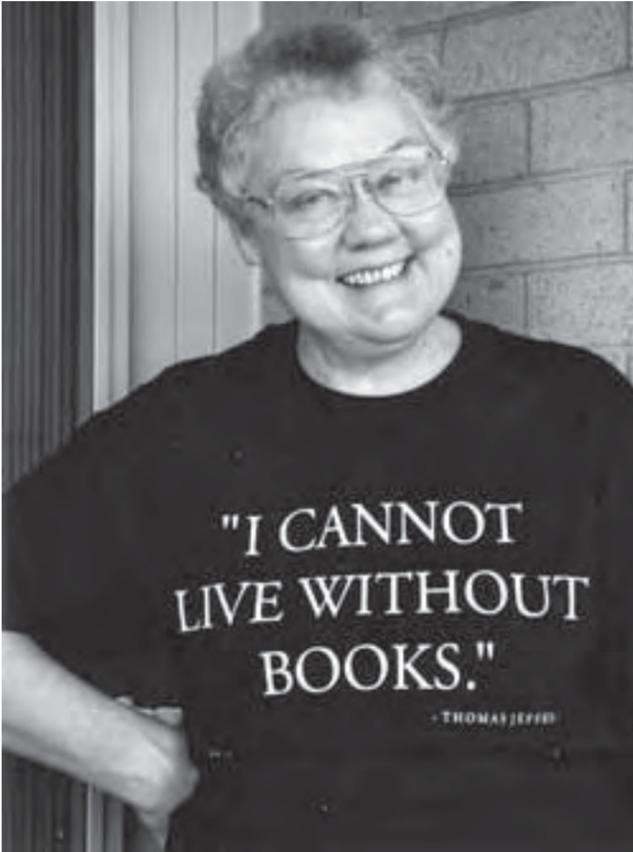
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# Pioneering Activist Barbara Gittings Dies



partner Kay Lahausen, who has been by her side for 46 years. Gittings other accomplishments include head of the American Library Association's Gay Task Force. In 2003 The American Library Association presented Gittings with it's highest honor, a lifetime membership. She was an active cornerstone in the campaign that led to the American Psychiatric Association dropping its categorization of homosexuality as a mental illness in 1973. Gittings was an early community journalist. She edited the D.O.B. publication "The Ladder" from 1963-66 and worked with

PHILADELPHIA - Lesbian and Gay rights pioneer Barbara Gittings has died at the age of 75 from a lengthy and brave battle with breast cancer, reported 365Gay.com. Gittings death was announced Sunday (Feb. 18) by fellow activist and Philadelphia Gay News publisher and friend Mark Segal announced today.

Lahausen on her 1973 book "The Gay Crusaders." On July 2, 2005 Gittings and Lahausen attended the unveiling of the first official historic marker in the nation recognizing the Gay Rights Struggle. The marker, placed by the Pennsylvania Historic Commission, is located directly across the street from Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

Gittings first came to the public spotlight in 1965 when she and a handful of Gay men and Lesbians held demonstrations outside the White House and Independence Hall seeking equal rights for homosexuals. "These were the first such demonstrations in American history and began an era of Gays coming out of the closet. Gitting involvement in the Gay rights movement started in the late 1950s when she helped organize the New York City chapter of the Daughters of Bilitis," said Segal.

Gittings continued to make appearances, even accepting an award from the American Psychiatric Association this past fall, but ill health finally led her and Lahausen to an Assisted Living Facility in Kennet Square, PA, where she went into a coma Sunday morning. Sunday night she passed away with Kay at her side. Along with Lahausen, Gittings is survived by her sister Eleanor Gittings Taylor of San Diego, California. Lahausen has asked that in lieu of flowers, donations be made in Barbara's memory to Lambda Legal Defense Fund. A memorial is currently being planned and details will be announced at a later date.

It was there she met her life



Gittings demonstrating outside the White House in 1965

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# Across The Q Globe

TORONTO, Ontario - The Toronto police service has made a strong effort to diversify its force by recruiting individuals who vary in ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation, reported *advocate.com*. Officers were even in the city's Gay neighborhood actively looking for new recruits, reports the Canadian newspaper *London Free Press*. "Our service wants to reflect our diverse communities in the city," Constable Gail Steed of the police employment unit told the paper. "We don't ask anybody to tell us their sexual preference; we just strive to get an accurate representation of the city." "I think it's great the police are coming to the Gay community for these sessions," said Mike Schneider, an attendee of the recruiting session. "This is very encouraging, and it shows the police support and welcome us." The session was one of many recruiting events held by the Toronto police force. However, staff sergeant Don Cole said he disapproves of recruiting sessions aimed at specific groups of people. "Anybody is free to join," Cole told the *London Free Press*. "We should be looking for the best people, not people who fit the quotas and are substandard. I don't see where we are going with this." . . .

BEIJING, China - Officials have signaled they will allow a prominent AIDS activist who had been confined to her home to visit the United States next month, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton said, reported *advocate.com*. Gao Yaojie was prevented by police from leaving her home, worrying fellow activists who said the action was aimed at keeping her from making the trip to the United States to accept an award from a nonprofit group. Clinton had pressed Chinese officials to let Gao travel to accept the award from Vital Voices Global Partnership, a nonprofit group supported by Clinton. Clinton aides said the Chinese ambassador called the senator to tell her Gao would be allowed to travel. "I'm delighted to learn from the Chinese government that our request to President Hu and Vice Premier Wu that Dr. Gao be allowed to travel freely to the United States has been granted," Clinton said in a statement. Melanne Vermeer, chair of the board of Vital Voices, said she was "elated" by the news and called Gao "a world-recognized leader on behalf of an issue critically important to China and the world community." Even as Gao was stuck in her house, a Communist Party deputy secretary praised her, illustrating China's inconsistent attitude toward whistleblowers like Gao. Gao is believed to have angered many officials by exposing corrupt blood-selling schemes in Henan province that infected thousands with HIV

AUCKLAND, New Zealand - The country's first Transgender person elected to a national office stepped down Wednesday from her seat in parliament, *advocate.com*. According to *365Gay.com*, Georgina Beyer is rumored to be setting aside time to run for mayor of Wellington, the nation's capital. She has yet to confirm these rumors. Local elections will be held later this year. Before Beyer transitioned, she worked as a stripper and escort in Australia, according to *365Gay.com*. After the transition, she moved to New Zealand, working in a restaurant and becoming an LGBT rights activist. She was elected mayor of a small town and later ran successfully for parliament as a member of the Labor Party. She has since been instrumental in upholding Gay rights and helping to pass the country's civil union laws. . . .

MOSCOW, Russia - Following recent news that Russia may reinvigorate Soviet law by jailing Gays, a new report finds that young recruits in the Russian army are being forced into prostitution, reported *Gay.com UK*. The *Gazeta* newspaper reported that soldiers from an army base in St. Petersburg are routinely being pimped by senior officials, who then force them to turn over the earnings. Clients allegedly include a former general of FSB, Russia's intelligence agency. Anonymous soldiers told *Gazeta* that they were violently tortured and beaten by senior officers as a means to force them into prostitution. Last year a 19-year-old recruit was reportedly beaten so badly that his genitals and legs had to be amputated. The Union of the Committees of Soldiers' Mothers of Russia, a rights group speaking on behalf of soldiers, said that clients arrived at the base late at night to avoid recognition. Soldiers were forced into cars and often would be gone all night. "The officers would beat us on the arms and legs. We were sent out to the park to earn money," one soldier told the newspaper. "I was tortured with electric shocks." The officers allegedly pasted a client list to successors, suggesting that the practice was long-held tradition. Soldiers were paid about \$50 on average for each client, most of which went back to the officers. Defense minister Sergei Ivanov, rumored as a potential successor to President Vladimir Putin, has pledged an investigation.

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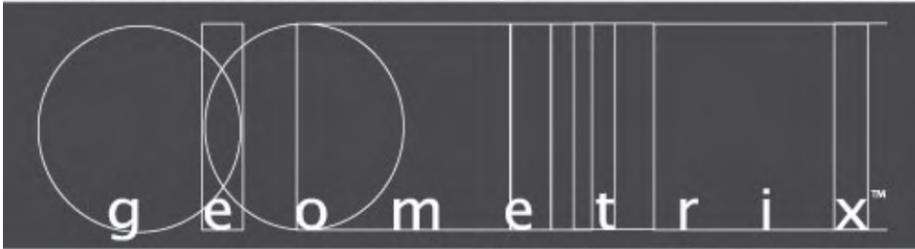


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# POLITICS 2007

by Mark R. Kerr

## Arizona Legislative Update

Thursday, Feb. 15, marked the deadline for the current session of Arizona State Legislature for bills to be heard by the committees the measures were assigned in their respective chamber.

Only one measure of note to the Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community, HB 2352, the Arizona Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) was scheduled to be considered Wed., Feb. 14 by the House Commerce Committee but was pulled from the hearing calendar.

Any proposed legislation that had not received an initial hearing is dead in that form but these measures can be resurrected during the session, either as a strike-everything amendment or floor amendment.

This is usually the case for many proposals since so many bills are introduced (1,522 in the current session) and the short time frame in which they have the opportunity to be considered by the Arizona Legislature.

A strike-everything amendment is where the language of another bill that has gone further in the legislative process can be removed, by permission of the bill's sponsor, and the language from another measure can be inserted.

A floor amendment is offered when a bill has reached the respective chamber's Committee of the Whole (COW), consisting of the entire body of each chamber, the sixty members in the Arizona House and thirty in the Arizona Senate. Proposed floor amendments though, must be relevant (germane) to the bill being attached to.

Former state Representative Steve May used a strike-everything amendment to repeal Arizona's archaic laws in 2001 dealing with sodomy and cohabitation. In this current session, HB 2352 was a strike-everything amendment for Arizona ENDA.

So bills: expanding Arizona's bias crimes statute to include misde-

meanors; going on record against "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"; prohibiting employers from requiring employees to attend a meeting or participate in communication that promotes the employer's religious and/or political beliefs which could be used to "out" LGBT employees and/or target them for harassment or termination; and, protecting the employment rights of LGBT Arizonans, may be dead for the current session in their original form and bill number, the proposals can still be resurrected and go through the legislative process.

Take action and contact your state Senator and Representative and speak out, letting them know your support of these proposals.

In Tucson and Pima County, call the Tucson Legislative Office, (520) 398-6000; for Phoenix and Maricopa County, call the Capitol Complex, (602) 926-3559 (State Senate), (602) 926-4221 (State House); and, for those outside these two areas or who wish to reach their legislators offices at the Capital directly, one can also call toll-free, (800) 352-8404.

To send an E-mail to your state Senator, go online to [azleg.state.az.us/MemberRoster.asp?Body=S](http://azleg.state.az.us/MemberRoster.asp?Body=S), and click on the E-mail link for your Senator, and to send an E-mail to your state Representatives, go online to [azleg.state.az.us/MemberRoster.asp?Body=H](http://azleg.state.az.us/MemberRoster.asp?Body=H), and click on the E-mail links for your two Representatives.

If you want to send an E-mail or perhaps don't know who your representatives are, go online to [eqfed.org/ahrf/home.html](http://eqfed.org/ahrf/home.html), the Arizona Human Rights Fund Advocacy Center, for which you can send messages on these measures in support and opposition, as well as finding out who represents you by just entering your zip-code and pressing the enter key.

## Gay Couples Celebrate Intention To Form Civil Unions

MEXICO CITY, Mexico - More than 100 Mexican Gay couples celebrated their registrations for civil unions in Mexico City's central plaza Wednesday (Feb. 7), wearing suits and wedding dresses and throwing rice in a scene akin to a mass engagement party, reported the Associated Press on [advocate.com](http://advocate.com). The couples noted their intent with the nongovernment Citizens Civil Union Network ahead of a law allowing Gay couples to register their unions and gain many of the rights of married couples.

parts of Latin America, the region's urban areas are becoming more socially liberal. Argentina's capital of Buenos Aires and the southern Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul have also legalized same-sex civil unions. At the national level, lawmakers in Costa Rica and Colombia have debated but not passed similar measures.

Mexico City, a semi-independent capital zone that has some of the same powers as state legislatures, approved the law in November. It takes effect Mar. 16. Eduardo Martinez, 21, exchanged rings with his partner, Alberto Pichardo, 19, to celebrate their commitment. "Our families support us. We have taken the decision in good conscience and we are very happy," said Martinez, dressed in a gray suit and tie.

Mexico's northern state of Coahuila, bordering Texas, has already enacted a similar law. Last month a Lesbian couple there registered for what officials called Mexico's first Gay civil union in a ceremony broadcast on national television. The Roman Catholic Church and the conservative National Action Party of President Felipe Calderon have sharply criticized the laws. While homosexuality is still taboo in many rural

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**Amaechi: Hardaway Slurs Show More Work Needed To Combat Homophobia**

NEW YORK CITY - Former NBA center John Amaechi, who disclosed last week he's Gay, said anti-Gay comments by another retired player "demonstrate the need to continue the conversation," 365Gay.com reported. Retired guard Tim Hardaway said on a radio show Wednesday (Feb. 14) that he hates Gay people.



Former NBA center John Amaechi

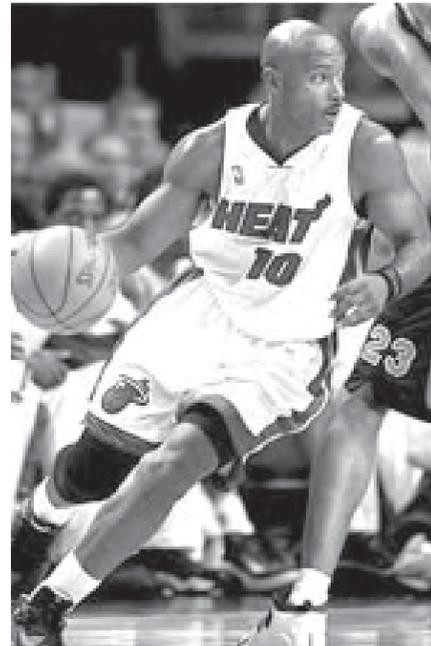
"I don't need Tim's comments to realize there's a problem," Amaechi told The Associated Press in a phone interview Thursday (Feb. 15). "People said that I should just shut up and go away - now they have to rethink that." Hardaway's comments were sparked by Amaechi's disclosure he's Gay.

"You know, I hate Gay people, so I let it be known. I don't like Gay people and I don't like to be around Gay people," Hardaway said while a guest on Sports Talk 790 The Ticket in Miami. "I'm homophobic. I don't like it. It shouldn't be in the world or in the United States." The host asked Hardaway how he would interact with a Gay teammate. "First of all, I wouldn't want him on my team. And second of all, if he was on my team, I would, you know, really distance myself from him because, uh, I don't think that is right. I don't think he should be in the locker room while we are in the locker room."

If he did find out that a teammate was Gay, Hardaway said he would ask for the player to be removed from the team. "Something has to

give," Hardaway said. "If you have 12 other ballplayers in your locker room that's upset and can't concentrate and always worried about him in the locker room or on the court or whatever, it's going to be hard for your teammates to win and accept him as a teammate."

Amaechi also detailed his life, in his autobiography "Man in the Middle." He hoped his coming out would be a catalyst for intelligent discourse. "His words pollute the atmosphere," Amaechi said. "It creates an atmosphere that allows young Gays and Lesbians to be harassed in school, creates an atmosphere where in 33 states you can lose your job, and where anti-Gay and Lesbian issues are used for political gain. It's an atmosphere that hurts all of us, not just Gay people."



Retired guard Tim Hardaway

Hardaway later apologized for the remarks during a telephone interview with Fox affiliate WSVN in Miami. "Yes, I regret it. I'm sorry. I shouldn't have said I hate Gay people or anything like that," he said. "That was my mistake." Hardaway has reportedly been removed from further league-related appearances. "It is inappropriate for him to be representing us given the disparity between his views and ours," NBA commissioner David Stern said in a statement to the South Florida Sun-Sentinel.

"Famously, they're saying in 2007 that homophobia is not an issue," Amaechi said. "While (Hardaway) is not a representative of the NBA or of straight men, there's no point pretending it's not an opinion that is out there."

**Movie About Gay Hockey Couple Drawing Heat**

TORONTO, Ontario - A conservative group is criticizing the Toronto Maple Leafs for allowing the use of its name and logo in a movie about a Gay former hockey player and his partner. The Canadian Family Action Coalition and other followers are bashing the Maple Leafs and makers of Breakfast With Scot for "promoting the homosexualization of small children."

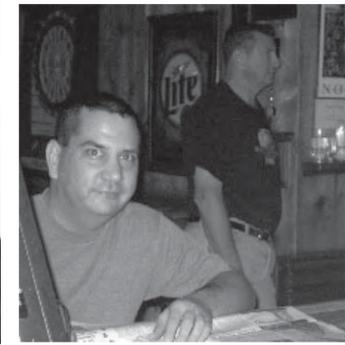
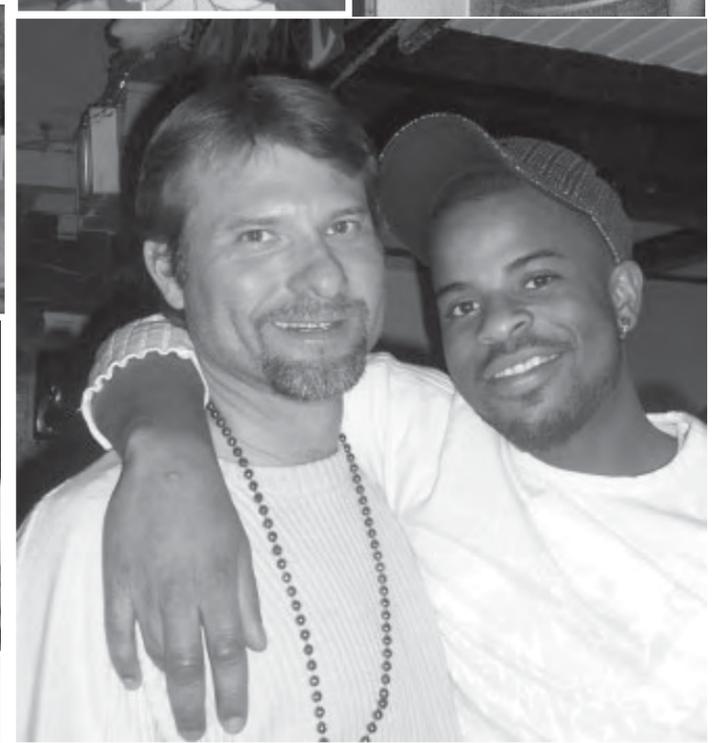
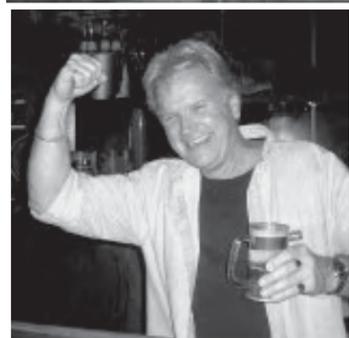
team's attorney who are a Gay couple who become guardians to an 11-year-old boy. Bernadette Masur, senior vice president for the team's communications, told the Times that executives for the Leafs thought the film would present a good opportunity. "Certain individuals are truly missing the point here," she said, "This is a story of a contemporary American family that exists today and is trying to raise a son in the best way possible."

"This is another attempt by certain individuals to normalize homosexual behavior, and they assume that the Maple Leafs will help the cause," Brian Rushfeldt, cofounder and executive director of the group, told the Los Angeles Times. "I don't think it does much for the image of the NHL among families who may want their children involved in hockey."

The film is based on a 1999 novel by Michael Downing that originally portrays a magazine editor and chiropractor, the article said. For the film version, the lead characters were recast as an ex-Leaf and the

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## NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

### Tangerine

by Lee Thorn

Susan Warren has opened an impressive gallery at 2522 E. Ft Lowell. The name of the gallery is "Tangerine" and it's been open for about five months. It features an interesting mix of crafts, gifts and fine art.

You judge a gallery by the art it presents, and I'll get to that, but there are some nice things about Tangerine that add to the art. I like the way the parking is set up. Seriously. You can park right next to the building and you don't have to back into busy Ft Lowell to get out. I also like the fact that the gallery is not in an artsy location surrounded by trendy shops and/or other galleries. Nothing against gallery clusters, but a gallery bravely standing alone way up north on Ft Lowell is a pleasant surprise.

Moving on to more important matter, a distinctive aspect of Tangerine is Warren's generous use of space. In spite of the fact that she has a lot more stuff than the average Tucson gallery, Tangerine is serenely uncrowded. The space is more like that of a museum than the claustrophobic atmosphere of many private galleries. She makes good use of the outdoors for large sculptures, lining the perimeter of her building with the works of well-known Tucson artist Steven Derks.

The quality of the lighting is also important. Unlike my frequent experience in some Tucson museums, I didn't even notice the lighting at Tangerine, which means that it's excellent. Steven Derks, whose steel sculptures ring the building, must have been working in Tucson forever. You see so much of his work that it seems like part of the landscape. If memory serves, the Tucson Museum of Art has a few of his fanciful little benches. He's best known for large abstract works — some covered with bright paint, some covered with rust — that somehow manage to intermingle the characteristics of whimsy and strength, simplicity and subtlety. I sometimes find myself studying one of his works and thinking "I wish he would have done this" or "I wish he wouldn't have done that." I wonder if he uses too many circles. How about an oval now and then? How about a bent oval? When an artwork has you thinking like that, your creative imagination has been entered like a hook enters the jaw of a trout.

Derks has a couple of non-abstract works here that I found intriguing. One combines a shovel, baseball bat, and sphere (much larger than a baseball). Another puts a very simple chair above a bundle of sticks. Both works are strikingly different from the abstractions in how they look and strikingly similar in character — whimsy, strength, simplicity, subtlety.

Tangerine also features the stone sculpture of Ed Davenport, a wide variety of stone is used in both abstract and representational forms. Where Derks' work might average 10 feet in height, Davenport's average closer to two or three. As with Derks, there is a great richness in the range of ideas and a satisfying competence of execution.

On the craft side, the gallery has a large sampling of copper vessels produced by five families from Santa Clara del Cobre, a small village in central Mexico where the Purepecha Indians have been working with copper since pre-Columbian times. I know next to nothing about copper vessels, but many of these pieces looked beautiful to me. The techniques used in producing copper vessels can include embossing, acid etching, silver plating and engraving.

There are very attractive necklaces, photos by Sandy Upson, painting by Derks, a large assortment of dishes and another wide assortment of candles. I lump all these together as the items that I didn't have time to pay sufficient attention to.

Tangerine is not looking for new artists or craftsmen. Warren plans to continue with the ongoing work of the folks she already has. That raises the question of how often one can go back and not see mostly the same stuff. It would be interesting, if she's going to use the same artists, to completely changed the samples of their work that are on display every two months or so. Do an opening, a reception, wine and cheese, all that jazz. It would be a lot of work, but it would keep the place fresh. Just a thought.

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

## View From The Rock

Last week, we talked about the fact that the word of God encourages us to focus on whatever is excellent. "If anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things." (Philippians 4:8) This concept of excellence is so important to us that we all have special slang words for it. A survey of the diverse group of Christians at Cornerstone took place on this

One lady in our congregation remembers saying "frosty" for something excellent with many of the baby boomers thought back to "neat" or "groovy", some of the younger adults would have said "bad" or "rad," "cool" was also very popular and one teenager said, "sweet"

Regardless of how you say it, God shows us the most excellent way. "For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations," (Psalm 100:5), "awesome!" Cornerstone Fellowship invites you to share in the excitement about the love of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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committed to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with all persons, regardless of race, culture, social standing, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Cornerstone Fellowship is located at 2902 N. Geronimo in Tucson, Arizona, online at [cornerstonefellowshiptucson.com](http://cornerstonefellowshiptucson.com). Sunday worship services are held at the church 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 E-mail: [pastorpaul@qwest.net](mailto:pastorpaul@qwest.net).



# 'Uncle Sam Wants You' Only If You're Not Gay But It's Okay Though, If You've Committed A Crime Here And There. . .

BY REBECCA SAWYER

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The New York Times reports that the military, last year, issued more than double the number of moral waivers than it did three years ago in an effort to meet recruiting goals. The findings, from the Michael D. Palm Center at UC-Santa Barbara, reveal that "[F]rom 2003 through 2006, the military allowed 4,230 convicted felons to enlist under the "moral waivers" program, which enables otherwise unqualified candidates to serve. In addition, 43,977 individuals convicted of serious misdemeanors such as assault were permitted to enlist under the moral waivers program during that period, as were 58,561 illegal drug abusers. In the Army, allowable offenses include making terrorist threats, murder, and kidnapping."

Wow. That's a heckuva lot of people with criminal backgrounds in the military. And now that the President has called for an additional 92,000 new troops, this trend of recruiting those who are poorly qualified to serve in our nation's armed forces will certainly continue. A former senior manpower analyst at the Defense Department was quoted in a recent news article as saying, "There is no question that standards will suffer if they have to, in order to meet the specific year goals."

As Aaron Belkin with the Palm Center wrote in a Huffington Post piece this morning, "Why does the military give a free ride to those who have proven to be disruptive while it gives the axe to proven soldiers who simply happen to be Gay? Perhaps because social conservatives never made criminals a cause celebre for their own moral crusades and fundraising drives, while Gays have proven a very effective target. The military would be far better served if, instead of yielding to political expediency and moral animus, it better monitored and assisted recruits who

really are prone to misbehavior, while taking a hard look at the data which show that allowing Gays and Lesbians to serve would improve the armed forces."

I agree. There is no logic in a law that calls for someone's dismissal solely because of sexual orientation. There is no logic in a law that mandates the firing of the Bleu Copas and Elizabeth Recuperos of the military. Isn't it time we did away with this law and recruit the best and brightest, regardless of sexual orientation?

In the New York Times piece, retired Admiral John D. Hutson, dean and president of the Franklin Pierce Law Center in New Hampshire and former judge advocate general of the Navy, summed up the problem of recruiting criminals quite nicely: "If you are recruiting somebody who has demonstrated some sort of antisocial behavior and then you are a putting a gun in their hands, you have to be awfully careful about what you are doing. You are not putting a hammer in their hands, or asking them to sell used cars. You are potentially asking them to kill people."

And this has happened. The military has given guns to those who have gone off to Iraq, only to go on a rampage and rape and kill a young Iraqi girl and murder her entire family. My question for you is: If you were a member of the military, which would you be more afraid of: the 'platoons of Lesbians' or 'platoons of felons'?

(Rebecca Sawyer joined SLDN (Servicemembers Legal Defense Network) in 2005 and currently serves as the organization's Senior Communications Associate. This is reprinted from their blog.)

# New Death Sentence In Gay Murder

LEVITTOWN, Pennsylvania - A man for the second time has been sentenced to death for the 1987 murder of local artist Anthony Milano. Richard Laird stood and briefly turned his head from the jury as the verdict was read. Milano's father and sister held hands as the verdict was read. Laird was convicted of the killing first in 1988 and sentenced to death. His accomplice, Frank Chester, was sentenced to life in prison. Laird appealed his death sentence and last August a federal appeals court ordered a new trial for him, citing errors in the original trial but declined to order a second trial for Chester because he had not faced the death penalty. At his new trial Laird was found guilty, with sentencing put off until Wednesday (Feb. 14).

Township near his burning car. He had been beaten and slashed in the head and face, and his throat was cut so many times that his spinal cord was severed. Laird and Chester, believing Milano to be Gay, harassed and humiliated him as he tried to get a beer and sandwich, forced him to buy them drinks and then left the bar with him.

Laird's attorney, John Kerrigan did not deny his client had killed Milano. "This is a brutal, horrible, senseless killing, but it is not first-degree murder," he told the court. But he said that Laird was so drunk he was incapable of forming the intent needed for first-degree murder and should not face the death penalty. Prosecutor Michelle Henry scoffed at the argument. "He's saying, 'I'm a killer, but excuse me. Excuse me for the savage brutality I did, because I drank too much,'" Henry told the jury.

The four day trial covered most of the same ground as the original. Milano, 26., was found murdered along a road in Bristol

"I would not support repeal of Roe v. Wade"

"I do not support Roe v. Wade. It should be overturned"

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# Non Bar Calendar

Wednesday, February 21st

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Canasta hosted by Jack at 887-3736. MSN Canasta is played every Wednesday at 7pm, but check back here for the specific host.

Thursday, February 22nd

#1 Men'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.

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

Friday, February 23rd

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!

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

Saturday, February 24th

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, February 25th

#1 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.

#2 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:00p.m. Oscar Night with Marvin and Steve. Call 745-0304.

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

Monday, February 26th

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.

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

Tuesday, February 27th

#1 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. An evening of Bridge with Willie. Please call 297-8756

Wednesday, February 28th

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.

Thursday, March 1

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

Friday, March 2

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Join Merlin and Lee for an evening of Charades. Come out and

totally enjoy putting your acting/miming and pantomime skills to the test. For directions and reservations [(a limited space event, please plan ahead and phone early)], place a telephone call to Lee and Merlin, your gracious yet competitive emcees and moderators, at 207-5336.

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

Saturday, March 3

#1 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 8:30a.m. Join Robert for a morning of Volleyball. This is played for fun, and you'll get to know some nice guys as you play. Two great ways to work on your game! For details and directions, please call Robert at 400-1376.

#2 Men's Social Network members are invited to join Desert Adventures hike to Wasson Peak. Check out all of the details in the MSN March newsletter.

#3 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:30p.m. March MSN Members Anniversary Dinner. Information in the MSN newsletter.

Sunday, March 4

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:30p.m. 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 MSN 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.

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

Monday, March 5

Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Mexican Train Dominos. Please call Karol at 744-9017 for information and to reserve your place at this limited seating event.

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

Tuesday, March 6

#1 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Gay Reading Group meets at Wingspan. For info, contact Doug at 529-0014 or drweiner@msn.com

#2 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Hand and Foot with Peter. For info and directions: 881-8276. Please call ahead to assist your host in planning the evening.

Wednesday, March 7

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Canasta hosted by Bruce 743-3890. MSN Canasta is played every Wednesday at 7pm, but check back here for the specific host.

Thursday, March 8

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

## Arts and Entertainment

**Now Playing Thru February 25**

"Plaza Suite" Top Hat Theatre presents Neil Simon's classic at 3110 E. Ft. Lowell Road. 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 3:00p.m. Sundays. Tickets \$15-\$17. 326-6800.

**Now Playing thru March 18**

"Steel Magnolias" by the Live Theatre Workshop 5317 E. Speedway. 327-4242.

**March 3 & 4**

Arizona Opera presents "The Beauty and the Beast" at Tucson Music Hall, 260 S. Church. 293-4336

**March 3 thru April 14**

Arizona Theatre Company (ATC) presents "Molly Delicious" by Craig Wright at the Temple of Music and Art, 330 S. Scott Ave. 622-2823

**March 6 thru April 15**

Arizona Theatre Company (ATC) presents "I Am My Own" by Doug Wright at the Temple of Music and Art, 330 S. Scott Ave. 622-2823

**March 10**

Arizona Onstage Productions present "Heart And Music II" at the Temple of Music and Art Main stage, 330 S. Scott Ave. downtown. 270-3332 or 882-6574

**March 20 thru April 8**

Invisible Theatre production "Letters To Sala" at the Invisible Theatre, 1400 N. First Ave. 882-9721

**March 20 - 25**

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

**March 22 thru April 29**

Live Theatre Workshop presents "Holy Spirit On Grand Avenue" By Toni Press-Coffman. 327-4242.

**April 17 - 22**

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

**May 15 - 20**

A Nederland Presentation: Broadway In Tucson Edward Albee's "Who's Afraid Of Virginia Wolf", starring Kathleen Turner and Bill Irwin. 1-866-821-2929 or online [broadwayintucson.com](http://broadwayintucson.com)

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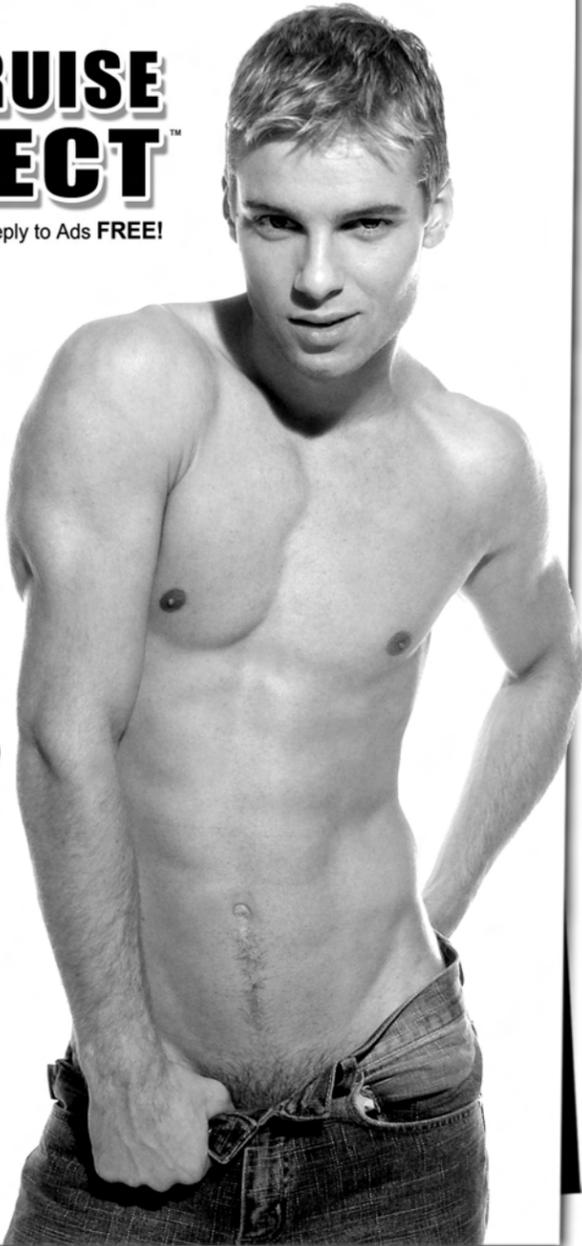
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## Foster Child Removed Because Couple Is Gay, Men Say

MIAMI, Florida - An eight-month old child has been removed from the foster care of a same-sex Miami couple and the men say the decision was based solely on the fact they are Gay, 365Gay.com. The HIV-positive baby had been placed with Roger Carillo and partner Hiram Perez The Children's Society when his birth mother, a crack addict was deemed unfit. At the time no other family member wanted the child, named Ricky.

When he was born he weighed only 4.5 pounds. Since being with Carillo and Perez little Ricky has gained weight - he now weighs 20 pounds - and despite his HIV status is otherwise healthy. The couple applied to become permanent foster parents for the child but shortly after making the application this week men received a call from The Children's Society that a caseworker would come by to pick up Ricky.

Shortly before noon the caseworker arrived with three police officers to reclaim Ricky. Carillo and Perez say they were told by the Society that a judge granted Morales' biological grandmother custody during a hearing they claim they knew nothing about. The child was placed in the backseat of a police cruiser and driven to the home of the grandmother he had never before seen. Carillo and Perez say they were dumbfounded and believe the child is being given to the grandmother because they are Gay. They say that when Ricky was placed with them the grandmother did not want him. Under Florida law Gays cannot adopt but can be foster parents.

"I want to think of myself as a good-hearted person that, because he was HIV-positive and because he had those addictions and nobody else wanted him, I chose to say yes," Carillo told WPLG-television. "I'm very disturbed what's going to happen in the future with my child," Perez said. Carillo said that it took almost four months to detox the child from the crack passed on to him by his mother. Media attempts to contact the child's grandmother were unsuccessful. A bill to repeal the ban on Gay adoption died in the last session of the Florida legislature.

**A man who  
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advertise  
is like one  
who winks in  
the dark:  
he knows.  
he's doing it,  
but nobody  
else does.**

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| 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. 7<sup>th</sup> at 8pm!

COLORS - Open 11m - 11pm Champagne Brunch 11am - 2pm with choice of complimentary mimosa, Bloody Mary or Screwdriver. Dickie Steed on piano during brunch. Brunch served until 2pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm \$3.50 Skyy Cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and well. Reduced price appetizers. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

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. Free Texas Hold-Em Poker Tournaments at 4:00, and 7:00 pm. Play 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. Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events); Brunch 11:30am-2:30pm; Back Pocket Patio Bar 2pm til 2am. Beer Bust 2-7pm; Bar-B-Que 5-9pm; Karaoke with Michael D. 9p.m.; DJ Jeff in the Back Pocket 9pm; Drag Bingo every other Sunday 8-9pm Watch for special events.

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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 all day & night with \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Kitchen closed. \$3 taco & tostada bar 4-8 pm. GLBT Movie Nite with shows at 6 & 8 pm,. Free pool all day.

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 Noon til 2am. Happy Hour Noon-8pm (excl spec events) Karaoke with Michael D. 9pm

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and well and reduced price appetizers. Full menu served until 10pm.

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

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Kitchen open 4-9pm. Free Texas Hold-Em Poker for women only at 6:30 p.m. Play for points and prizes - no cash involved. Tequila Nite with \$2.50 well tequila & margaritas, 75¢ off call tequilas.

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

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

WOODY'S - Open Noon til 2am. Happy Hour Noon-8pm (excl spec events) 80s Nite with Alex 8-close

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, \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and well and reduced price appetizers.. Full menu served until 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,

## WEDNESDAY CALENDAR CONTINUED

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio 7pm. Free Pool til 4pm. \$2.75 Cuervo Margaritas 4-8pm

WOODY'S - Open Noon til 2am; Happy Hour Noon-8pm (excl Spec Events); Chili Dog Buffet 5-9pm; Underwear/Fetish/Leather Party with Alex and Blake 9-close - \$1 off all drinks for those who participate (50¢ off draught/schnapps) Back Pocket Patio Bar open 9pm-close.

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

## THURSDAY

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

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and Well and reduced price appetizers. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

HOLLYWOOD - Open 5pm. Happy Hour 5pm to 7pm. \$1.75 well, domestic bottles, draft. Stand-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. \$2.50 Mexican Beers all night, \$1.00 Jello shots.

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 Noon-2am; Happy Hour Noon-8pm (excl Spec Events); Free Pool all day. Nacho Chip Buffet 5-9pm; \$1 PBRs Longnecks and \$2 Tecate Longnecks; Back Pocket Bar open 8-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, \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and Well and reduced price appetizers. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly Dinner Specials. "Hot Jazz, Cool Martinis" with Susan Artemis and Craig Faltin 6:30-9:30pm. "Guys & Dolls" comedy drag show hosted by Lucinda Holliday at 10pm.

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. \$4.50 Fried Chicken dinner with fries and slaw. Free Two-Step lessons with Amanda every other Friday. Call 293-7339 for schedule. DJ Pat plays the best of contemporary and classic country 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 Noon-2am; Happy Hour Noon-8pm (excl spec events); Martini Happy Hour 5-8pm-\$1 off all call Martinis; Back Pocket Patio Bar open 8-close. DJ Jeff in the Back Pocket 9-close; Watch for special events.

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, \$2 Skyy cocktails, \$3 Skyy Martinis, \$2.75 Domestic and reduced price appetizers.. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials. Tucson's hot new duo "Pacific Breeze" performs 7-10pm.

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

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open 11:00am. Happy Hour 11am-8pm, \$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. Learn to plau Texas Hold-Em Poker Lessons at noon with a friendly game to follow - no money involved. DJ playing dance mix or check 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-2am; Happy Hour 10am-8pm (excl spec events); Steak/Fish Dinner in the Back Pocket 5-9pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar open 5-close. Live Jazz with Arthur Migliazza in the Back Pocket 6-9pm; DJ Jeff in the Back Pocket 9-close. Watch for special events.

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, FEBRUARY 23

COLORS - Guy's and Dolls Show at 10:00 p.m. hosted by Lucinda Holliday. Special guest COLORS - Guy's and Dolls Show at 10:00 p.m. hosted by Lucinda Holliday. Special guest Adrienne Alexander. Come early to assure seating.

YARD DOG SALOON - "Rodeo Day" - Drink Speicals for those in Western Wear.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

HOWL AT THE MOON- Big evening here starting off with Miss Cosmopolitan Pageant from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Then the IDOLS celebrity impersonators show starts at 10 pm. Madonna, Michael Jackson, Reba, Cher, and more. Hosted by Lucinda Holliday. \$5.00 cover.

YARD DOG SALOON - "Leather Night" Drink Specials 9:00 .m. to closing. DJ Bob S. at 9:00 p.m.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 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.

WOODY'S - Ajia Simone will be doing a show in the Back Pocket Bar at 8:00 p.m. With Ajia will be Tori Steele and Miss Leading..

## FRIDAY, MARCH 2

COLORS - Guy's and Dolls Show at 10:00 p.m. hosted by Lucinda Holliday. Special guest Barbra Seville. Come early to assure seating.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 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.

WOODY'S - José Cuervo Flavored Tequila Promo Party with Giveaways and Specials 10:30 p.m. Come and see the new look and the progress of the Back Pocket Patio Bar.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 9

COLORS - Guy's and Dolls Show at 10:00 p.m. hosted by Lucinda Holliday. Special guest Miss Gay Arizona America Makayla Kay. Come early to assure seating.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 16

COLORS - Guy's and Dolls Show at 10:00 p.m. hosted by Lucinda Holliday. Special guests Miss Gay Tucson America Jessica Deveraux and Miss Gay America 1998 Maya Montana. Come early to assure seating.

WOODY'S - March Birthday Party with free Cake and Champagne for those celebrating their Birthday here. Register early with the bartenders.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 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

WOODY'S - St. Patrick's Day Green Party with drink and food specials.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 18

WOODY'S - Rock, Paper and Scissors Contest sponsored by Bud Light 11:00 p.m. - Midnight. Winners go on to compete in City, State and eventually National competitions in Las Vegas. Bud Light Bottles will be \$2.50 during competition.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 23

WOODY'S - Delta Lambda Fraternity 18 and Over Party - 20:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.

Informing The Community



# NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

**TUCSON KNIGHT OWLS (TKO)** - We are a non profit social club that is open to every one. T.K.O. contributes to the fellowship and support of the community, and openly invites new members. Monthly meetings occur on the first Saturday of every month at 12:30 pm., followed by a beer bust from 2pm to 6pm., at our home bar the Yard Dog saloon. We will have a spaghetti dinner at our next beer bust March 3rd at 4pm. T.K.O.'s annual spring/summer fling is now called owls fling. This year we will be going to Holly Lake. Applications will be available at our next beer bust. You can also pick one up from any T.K.O. member. MDA Shamrocks are coming for March. Watch for more details in the weeks to come.

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

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

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

**P.F.L.A.G. - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays** - is a support group available to anyone who has a son, daughter or friend who is Gay. Call 360-3795 or write P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740-6264. All replies confidential.

**GLBT-friendly AL-ANON** group meets Saturdays at 11am at Unitarian Universalist Church, 4831 E. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Tucson.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**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](http://www.botop.com) All are welcome to our general meetings/potlucks on the 2nd Friday of every month, at 3202 E. 1<sup>st</sup> St. (the "Ward 6" Office Bldg.) Just south of Speedway & East of Country Club. PotLuck Dinner begins at 6:30 and the monthly meeting follows at 7:15 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SPORTS TEAMS** and updates on Gay Games, contact **TEAM ARIZONA** at their website: [teamarizona.org](http://teamarizona.org)

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

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

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GLBT,** Tucson's Gay and Lesbian business networking group holds regular meetings the third Thursday of every month. Call 615-6436 for more info. [www.tucsonglbtchamber.org](http://www.tucsonglbtchamber.org)

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

Pride Weekend. Inquiries about support groups and individual needs should be directed to Wingspan and other local agencies listed here. For more information call 622-3200 or visit the TPI website at [www.tucsonpride.com](http://www.tucsonpride.com)

**LEARN TO BE A LISTENING FRIEND** Unique Hospital Volunteer Program teaches listening skills to Volunteers who provide a safe/compassionate environment to at-risk patients. Training every 6 weeks. 694-7063.

**TUCSON INTERFAITH HIV/AIDS NETWORK (TIHAN),** a coalition of faith communities committed to a compassionate response to HIV/AIDS, provides HIV education in congregational settings, volunteer CareTeams to support HIV+ persons, a referral network of HIV-sensitive clergy, and interfaith services of healing and hope. For more information call 299-6647.

**ANONYMOUS HIV COUNSELING AND TESTING** is available through the Pima County Health Department at sites throughout Tucson, Very Gay Friendly. For more information or to make an appointment call 791-7676.

**SMART (Self Management And Recovery Training)** a free non-12-step self-help alternative for people working to overcome addictive and other emotional problems meets in Tucson Monday thru Thursdays at different locations. For more information about SMART, contact Jennifer at 838-3975.

**AZdykes** is a new email list for Lesbians living in Arizona. For information mail [tyan@theriver.com](mailto:tyan@theriver.com) and request guidelines.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**AAPSP - ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY PROFESSIONALS:** a confidential organization committed to providing support and networking for all Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual public safety professionals in Arizona. Membership open to Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters, Probation, Parole and Corrections Officers and civilians working within these agencies. Website: [AAPSP.org](http://AAPSP.org) or e-mail: [AAPSP@aol.com](mailto:AAPSP@aol.com) or call Dave (520)745-9059 (Tucson) or Kim (602)534-6219 (Phoenix)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Church Begins Campaign To Keep Gay Pastor

ATLANTA, Georgia - It was a typical Sunday scene and, in its own way, a small act of defiance, reported 365Gay.com. Members of St. John's Lutheran Church last weekend filed by their pastor, hugging him and exchanging jokes. Gleeful children rushed past toward a treats-laden table.

Many in the 350-member Atlanta congregation say they don't plan to let the Rev. Bradley Schmeling leave the pulpit on Aug. 15, as ordered last week by an Evangelical Lutheran Church in America disciplinary committee because he is in a Gay relationship. Defying the order could end Atlanta's oldest Lutheran church affiliation with the ELCA, cutting off the small church and its members from the large denomination's resources, including community service programs, hymn books and access to synod officials for guidance on legal, financial and spiritual matters.

St. John's members hope it doesn't come to that. They want the denomination to change its rules about sexually active Gay clergy at its biennial churchwide assembly Aug. 6-12 in Chicago, just days before Schmeling is set to be removed from the clergy. "We are not an activist church, even though we can stand for issues of justice," said Charles Fox, who occasionally assists Schmeling at Sunday worship. "He exemplifies the kind of love and empathy I envision Christ to have had."

The committee, which basically served as the jury in a closed-door trial, found Schmeling guilty of breaking the denomination's rules for having a same-sex relationship. However, the committee also called those rules "at least bad policy," and recommended changing them, which the ELCA could consider at its biennial meeting.

St. John's, a congregation that gathers in a 1914 Tudor-style manor in one of Atlanta's historic, mansion-lined neighborhoods, now finds itself in the middle of a campaign to allow sexually active Gays to be pastors in the largest Lutheran denomination in the U.S.

"It hasn't been a problem to explain Brad or his relationship to our children as much as what the church wants to do," said Fox, a married father of a 10-year-old boy and an 8-year-old girl.

The ELCA, which has 4.9 million members, allows openly Gay clergy, but only if they are celibate. Still, many Lutheran churches support ordaining partnered Gays and perform same-sex blessing ceremonies despite the policy. The same debate over how biblical verses on Gay relationships should be interpreted is tearing at many mainline Protestant groups. Schmeling told both his bishop and congregation about his sexual orientation before he was chosen pastor in

2000; at the time he was not in a relationship. Last year, when Schmeling told Bishop Ronald Warren of the Southeastern Synod that he had found a lifelong partner, Warren asked the 44-year-old pastor to resign. Schmeling refused and Warren started disciplinary proceedings.

Much like a trial, a closed-door disciplinary hearing committee of 12 ELCA members, both lay and clergy, heard evidence for nearly week in January. Seven of them felt the rule as stated left them no choice but to defrock Schmeling. But the committee also wrote that, if not bound by the church's rules, they "would find almost unanimously that Pastor Schmeling is not engaged in conduct that is incompatible with the ministerial office" and would order no discipline. Further, the committee suggested the ELCA remove its rule and reinstate Gay clergy who were removed or resigned because they were in a same-sex "lifelong partnership." At the ELCA's last national meeting in 2005, a proposal to allow synods to decide if they would accept a pastor in a same-sex relationship failed after getting nearly half the 1,000 votes, short of the required two-thirds majority.

St. John's members and Gay rights groups hope Schmeling's case will provide the final push for change. "We could have dodged the bullet for St. John's and Brad, but the gun would have remained loaded for every other Gay and Lesbian pastor in a committed relationship, and there's lots of them," said Emily Eastwood, who assisted in Schmeling's defense and heads Lutherans Concerned, a national group that fights for full inclusion of Gays in the church and is drafting a policy change to propose during the upcoming biennial meeting.

The largest ELCA synod in the U.S., which includes Minneapolis and has more than 225,000 baptized members, already supports sexually active Gay clergy. Its members voted for the national resolution in 2005. "What we like to believe is that it's up to us to find ways to utilize the gifts of all people," Bishop Craig E. Johnson said.

Laura Crawley, the president of St. John's 10-member council, said the council ultimately will have to decide whether to defy the order or not, but support is strong for the pastor. "The biggest thing is for us to just be St. John's, and then the ELCA decides what it wants to be," church member John Ballew said after Sunday's service.

Schmeling has until the second week of March to decide if he wants to appeal the committee's decision. However, he's optimistic that he will still be leading the church on Aug. 15, which also would be his seventh anniversary at St. John's. Until then, he doesn't plan any particular activism. "The best thing I can do for this issue is to be the best pastor I can be in this place," he said.



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## Hallmark Releases New Line Of Cards Including One For Coming Out

NEW YORK CITY - Buying a greeting card for someone's birthday, anniversary, or if they're feeling under the weather is pretty straightforward, reported [advocate.com](http://advocate.com). But what if they're undergoing chemotherapy or struggling with depression? "Get Well Soon" probably won't cut it. Likewise, most cards lining the store shelves don't work on occasions as someone leaving an abusive spouse, undergoing drug rehab, or declaring their sexual orientation.

Hallmark Cards Inc., which has built its \$4.2 billion empire on sentiments for life's happier times, is releasing a new line of cards that will speak to those and other situations that

the company says have either been ignored by greeting card companies or received only a smattering of attention from niche players.

Theresa Steffens, an assistant product manager at Hallmark, said a majority of online and focus group respondents said they couldn't find what they were looking for when needing an encouragement card. "Either the consumer said they were walking away from the display or they were just unhappy with the card that they purchased, so we saw this as a huge opportunity," Steffens said.

Customers said they wanted cards dealing with more real-life

situations. "They said, 'I don't know what to say during a difficult time, so I don't say anything at all,'" Steffens said. "So again there's an opportunity there to help them talk through these tough situations that they're dealing with and to foster that communication."

No topics were off-limits, said company spokeswoman Rachel Bolton, noting two cards that could be sent to Gay people who have disclosed their sexuality. The cards don't directly refer to homosexuality, only extolling the person to "Be You" or "This is who I am" or featuring a rainbow, a symbol of Gay pride.

Bolton said the writing is general enough for other uses, however, with one focus group member saying they would send it to a friend starting a new job. "Our findings determined that people didn't want to be labeled or identified," Bolton said. "We want to be inclusive and not exclusive."

