



Oscars: Departed, Best Picture; Mirren & Whitaker, Best Actors; Etheridge, Best Song



Melissa Etheridge



Helen Mirren



Jennifer Hudson



Forest Whitaker



'An Inconvenient Truth'
Documentary

HOLLYWOOD, California - Mob epic "The Departed" won the Academy Award for best picture Sunday. It's director, Martin Scorsese was named best director. It was his first win after five previous losses, 365Gay.com reported.

Helen Mirren won the best actress Academy Award Sunday night for her role in "The Queen." Forest Whitaker took the best-actor Academy Award for "The Last King of Scotland," playing Ugandan dictator Idi Amin. Jennifer Hudson won the supporting-actress Academy Award for "Dreamgirls," her first film role. Her costar, Eddie Murphy, lost the supporting-actor prize to Alan Arkin of "Little Miss Sunshine."

"An Inconvenient Truth," a chronicle of Al Gore's campaign to warn the world about global warming, was picked as best documentary.

Melissa Etheridge won the Oscar for best-song for the anthem "I Need to Wake Up" from the film. "First I want to thank my wife Tammy," the Lesbian singer said, referring to her spouse Tammy Lynn Michaels. Etheridge beat out three songs featured in "Dreamgirls" and one from the movie "Cars."

Composer Gustavo Santaolalla won his second straight Oscar for original score for "Babel." He won the same prize a year ago for "Brokeback Mountain."

"Little Miss Sunshine," which leapt from low-budget indie to become a commercial hit won the original screenplay Oscar for first-time screenwriter Michael Arndt.

Ellen DeGeneres served as a noble ringleader for the ceremonies. Her opening monologue was as distinctly low key as her pant suit. DeGeneres noted the broad scope - internationally, racially and sexually - of this year's nominees.

"Such diversity in the room in a year where there's been so many negative things said about people's race, religion and sexual orientation," said DeGeneres. "And I want to put this out there: If there weren't blacks, Jews or Gays, there would be no Oscars. Or anyone named Oscar, when you think about that," she said.



Martin Scorsese



Alan Arkin

Supreme Court Refuses Anti-Gay Billboard Case

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Supreme Court Tuesday (Feb. 20) declined to hear an appeal from a conservative pastor who is battling the New York City Borough of Staten Island for ordering the removal of a billboard containing a Biblical condemnation of homosexuality, reported 365Gay.com.

The Rev. Kristopher Okwedy, founder of Keyword Ministries claims the borough decision violated his First Amendment rights of free speech and freedom of religion. Okwedy appealed to the Supreme Court after state and federal courts dismissed the case.

The high court did not explain its unanimous decision. He was represented by a lawyer furnished by the American Family Association.

In 2003 New York billboard company PNE removed the sign bought by Okwedy after then Staten Island Borough President Guy Molinari wrote a letter of protest to the company. Okwedy paid PNE Media about \$2,500 to design billboard signs that quoted a

passage from Leviticus: "Thou shalt not lie with mankind as with womankind. It is abomination."

In his letter to PNE's president Molinari, a Republican, said "I want to inform you that this message conveys an atmosphere of intolerance which is not welcome in our borough." He went on to remind the company made a lot of money from billboard signs in Staten Island.

Okwedy sued PNE for breach of contract but Federal Judge Nina Gershon dismissed the suit. Okwedy went to the Court Appeals Court which ordered the case revisited. The court ruled that "Molinari's letter could be found to contain an implicit threat of retaliation if PNE failed to accede to his requests."

In Nov. 2005 Gershon again dismissed the suit and Okwedy appealed to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals which appointed a three judge panel to examine the case. But the Second Circuit also dismissed the case.

Federal Law Trumps State Anti-Discrimination Statute

OLYMPIA, Washington - A state law that bars discrimination can't be enforced on the basis of sexual orientation and gender against some private employers' health benefit plans because it conflicts with federal law, state officials said, the Associated Press reported. Marc Brenman, director of the state Human Rights Commission, said officials investigating a discrimination complaint found the state law doesn't apply to certain providers of health insurance under the 1974 federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act, or ERISA.

That federal law governs private employers' health benefits, and supersedes any protections in state law. Since there is no federal statute prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, the state law can't be applied when discrimination complaints are based on those factors, Brenman said. "Effectively, because of the federal law, in this type of case, our hands are tied," he said.

Lawmakers expanded Washington's anti-discrimination law last year to include sexual orientation, after nearly 30 years of failed attempts by Gay rights advocates. It was quickly signed into law by Gov. Chris Gregoire and took effect in July, 2006. The measure was aimed at protecting Washington's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender residents. But its language is broader, banning any discrimination based on sexual orientation.

State Sen. Ed Murray, D-Seattle, downplayed the development, saying the bill he had championed for more than a decade "had nothing to do with health care benefits." "It wasn't anything that we had asked for," he said.

But Brenman said Washington state's law against discrimination specifically covers insurance, and that aspect applied along with everything else when sexual orientation and gender were added to the statute. Soon after the law took effect, Washingtonians began filing com-

plaints with the Human Rights Commission, which has authority to enforce the state's civil rights protections.

One complaint stood out. It was filed by Sandi Scott-Moore, a Redmond-based employee of manufacturer Honeywell International, who claimed health insurance coverage for her male partner was unfairly denied because the unmarried couple were not of the same gender.

During their investigation, the Human Rights Commission's staff found they had no jurisdiction because of the ERISA conflict. The same federal law has been applied in other recent cases invalidating state health insurance statutes, including a Maryland law that would have forced Wal-Mart Stores Inc. to spend more on employee health care.

Robert Guite, a Seattle attorney who specializes in ERISA cases, said it's not surprising the state law would be superseded by the federal statute. "ERISA has one of the broadest pre-emption provisions of any federal statute ever," Guite said. "Virtually all state laws that reach employee benefits are pre-empted by ERISA, regardless of their incidental application on matters that may be of interest to states." The federal statute doesn't apply to government employers or certain organizations such as churches, but private employers' benefit plans are almost universally covered by ERISA, Guite said.

The Human Rights Commission investigation never reached the substance of Scott-Moore's complaint - that her boyfriend should be allowed health benefits - because officials were stopped by finding they had no jurisdiction in the matter. "The logical next step would be for the United States Congress to provide people protections on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity," Brenman said. A spokesman with Honeywell did not immediately return a phone call seeking comment, and Scott-Moore's number was not listed in the company directory.

UPDATE

Gene Moore Education Scholarships To Be Awarded

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.

10th Annual 'Treasures For TIHAN' April 28

TUCSON - The tenth annual "Treasures for TIHAN," the signature fundraising event for the programs and services of TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network), is coming up on Saturday, Apr. 28, and will take place at the Westin La Paloma.

If you can help by donating or soliciting items for their auction—trips, antiques, jewelry, rugs, gift certificates, unique gift items, and collectibles of value (over \$50 in value, please), please contact Scott at scott@tihan.org.

TIHAN has a lot of volunteer needs so to help or for more information, go online to tihan.org or call the office, (520) 299-6647.

Prayers For Bobby March 2

TUCSON - In celebration of World Day of Prayer, Rincon Congregational United Church of Christ will host the Southwest premiere (mixed choir version) of "Prayers for Bobby," a 45-minute choral cantata based on the book by Leroy Aarons, Friday Mar. 2, 7:00 p.m. at Rincon Congregational United Church of Christ, located at 122 N Craycroft. The composer, J.A. Kawarsky, Professor of Theory and Composition at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ, will be present for this special performance. Patty Weiss will be the narrator.

"Prayers for Bobby" is the story of Bobby Griffith, a young boy who grew up in a small suburb of San Francisco. Born in 1963, Bobby leapt to his death from an interstate overpass just shy of his 20th birthday in response to the challenges and pressures his family, church, and community put on him because he was Gay. The book and cantata, written roughly ten years after Bobby's death, follows the transformation his mother underwent through the struggle between her faith and her love for her son.

A festival choir of 50+ singers and a nine-piece chamber orchestra will present "Prayers for Bobby" under the direction of Justin Raffa, Minister of Music at Rincon Congregational UCC. Raffa, a former student of "Prayers for Bobby" composer J.A. Kawarsky, is pleased to bring this work to the Southwest and share it with the Tucson community. Local musicians Adam Shelton and Molly Holleran will represent the characters of Bobby and Bobby's mother Mary through song. Other noted players include Thomas Azar at the piano and Christine Vivona on harp. This performance will also be interpreted in American Sign Language.

Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased by contacting the church office at (520) 745-6273 or by email at rinconucc@aol.com. Tickets are also available at Antigone Books.

Community Forum March 5

TUCSON - Monday, Mar. 5, 6:00 p.m., at 425 E. 7th St., Wingspan will be hosting a forum and dialogue about issues facing the LGBT People of Color community, and to discuss the findings of a Community Needs

Assessment of Wingspan's strengths and needs for improvement regarding People of Color inclusion.

LGBT People of Color encouraged to attend and share their ideas to improve Wingspan. White and straight allies encouraged to attend, so please plan on attending this forum.

For more information, contact Geovanna at Wingspan, (520) 624-1779.

TIHAN Volunteer Training March 8

TUCSON - The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) will conduct Volunteer Orientation on Thursday, Mar. 8, 5:15 - 9:15 p.m. at First Congregational UCC, 1350 N. Arcadia Ave.

"Join people of faith and compassion in ending the stigma that surrounds HIV/AIDS and make a positive difference in the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS," said Jess Knutson, Director of Education and Community Relations for TIHAN. TIHAN has a multitude of volunteer opportunities, from receptionist positions, to outreach and education, to active support for people living with HIV/AIDS in Tucson. All TIHAN services are offered free of charge and without prejudice or proselytism. Volunteer training and positions are open to all people, regardless of faith affiliation. TIHAN needs volunteers for data entry, CarePartner Support, reception, and events.

Volunteer Orientation will address questions about HIV/AIDS and give volunteers new ideas about what they can do to help. Interactive and informative, the orientation is available to all who want to learn more about HIV/AIDS, gain understanding of and sensitivity to those living with HIV/AIDS and people interested in TIHAN volunteer opportunities. Subjects covered include HIV/AIDS 101, living with HIV/AIDS, interfaith responses to HIV/AIDS, and an introduction to TIHAN programs. We encourage all ages, including seniors, University students and high school age teens, to participate.

Pre-registration is required by Mar. 6, and there is a \$17 materials fee for training. Full and partial scholarships are available. For further information about Volunteer Orientation or to register, contact the TIHAN office, (520) 299-6647.

After107: Next Steps, March 6

TUCSON - A forum on keeping the momentum for effective, positive political change will take place, Tuesday, Mar. 6, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m., at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St.

Now that Proposition 107 has been defeated, making Arizona the first (and so far only) state to have defeated a so-called "marriage amendment," how does the community keep the ball rolling?

For that matter, what should we be doing to ensure fairness and equality for all Arizonans and specifically the LGBT community? How can LGBT visibility be increased and overcoming residual homophobia among our neighbors and fellow Arizonans?

Come share your ideas and energy. For more information, contact Les, (520) 319-0892, E-mail: les_p_hackenslash@yahoo.com.

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By Libby Post

COMMENTARY . . .**Another Jihad**

Thirteen here. Seventy-four there. Tens of thousands actually when you add up all the civilians who have been killed in Iraq since the Commando-in-Chief began his crusade for democracy.

Like the Crusades of the Middle Ages, all this conflict is doing is causing more bloodshed, religious division and misunderstanding and the persecution of innocent people. In addition to the people who have lost their lives because of sectarian violence, there is a systematic sexual cleansing that is targeting Gays, Lesbians and heterosexual women who don't tow the strict Islamic line.

While the media routinely reports about the killing of civilians and our own military personnel, no one has paid much attention to the jihad against Lesbians and Gays in Iraq. While this is disturbing, it's not surprising. Say you're a Gay Iraqi and you meet up with NBC's Richard Engle. If he does a story on you, you're as good as dead. It will take Iraqi exiles and human rights activists outside of the country to bring this issue to the forefront.

At a Faith, Homophobia and Human Rights conference this past weekend in London, Ali Hili, the leader of an exiled Iraqi LGBT rights groups, told the attendees that the militias blamed for the murder of hundreds of Lesbians and Gays are sanctioned by the Iraqi government and the folks occupying the country, namely the U.S. Armed Forces, are doing nothing to stop the killings.

The Badr and Sadr militias—the armed wings of the two main Shia parties that control the Iraqi government—are routinely rounding up men and women who they suspect of being Gay or Lesbian. Most of this activity has been in Baghdad. According to Hili, once people are taken into custody they are never heard from again.

In addition, these militias are infiltrating the U.S. trained Iraqi police and, according to Hili, "are abusing their police authority to pursue a plan to eliminate homosexuals in Iraq" and that this is happening with the "collusion of key ministers in the Iraqi government."

Well, since the United States started the war, destabilized what civil society the country had and is propping up the semblance of government Iraq says it has, it only seems right to say that we had a hand in those killings as well as the killings of other civilians who are just trying to eek out a life in a war-torn country.

I spoke with Paula Ettelbrick, the executive director of the International Lesbian and Gay Human Rights Commission this week about this situation. She contends that the chaos, disruptions and human rights violations in Iraq—all of them, not just those against Lesbian and Gay people—are "first and foremost the result of Bush's war."

She told me that war is a fundamental cause of human rights violations. "It is not the only one," she said. "But look at any war, any resulting atrocities, and you find human rights violations because it allows the most vulnerable to be targeted without impunity."

Ettelbrick contends, however, that those of us who value human rights can't advocate just for the Lesbian and Gay people being targeted because the entire Iraqi society is falling apart. We have to advocate for all Iraqis who are being brutalized in the name of religion—it's certainly not in the name of any democracy I know. And, for the Bush

administration to say we're in there to build democracy is blasphemous given what has and continues to happen.

Bush's war in Iraq isn't just an armed conflict—it is an occupation. Ettelbrick contends, and I agree, the only responsible way for LGBT people in this country to respond is to call on Bush to withdraw from Iraq.

While we're doing that, we can also put some pressure on our State Department to grant asylum to Iraqi Lesbians and Gays. Believe it or not, being persecuted because of your sexual orientation is one of the factors we use to grant people asylum. However, geography trumps sexuality—if you're a Lesbian or Gay man from Iraq you're out of luck. Certain people are granted asylum and are allowed to immigrate more freely than others—folks from Iraq haven't made that list yet.

So there you have it—Iraqi Lesbians and Gays as well as others who don't tow a specific religious/political line are rounded up and shot. The Bush administration created this situation. We turn a blind eye when we know its happening and when folks from that country ask us for asylum, we say no.

Just another jihad for another day.

(Libby Post is President of Communication Services, an Albany, New York-based full-service marketing firm serving the not-for-profit, health care, tourism and small business sectors. This op-ed is reprinted from 365Gay.com.)

Florida Official To Transition

LARGO, Florida - The city manager of Largo, Florida has told a local newspaper of plans to begin transitioning in preparation for a sex-change operation, 365Gay.com reported. Steven Stanton sat down with the St. Petersburg Times after the paper began hearing rumors about Stanton and began asking questions.

In an interview at Largo City Hall, which also included mayor Pat Gerard, Stanton told the paper she has begun receiving hormone therapy and counseling - a requirement for transitioning. Stanton, who is married and the father of a teenaged son, said she had not intended to go public until later in the year when her son would be out of town and could not be subjected to the publicity. She said that plan changed when the Times began asking questions. Stanton has the support of Mayor Gerard. Both said that Stanton will remain as chief executive of the city, a position she has held for 14 years. "My gender has nothing to do with my capabilities," she told the paper.

Stanton said that she had felt all of her life that she was a woman in a man's body. She said that she had quietly begun to appear in female clothing earlier this year on trips to the store and to events outside of Largo. As she continues to transition she said she will change her name to Susan - telling the paper that it is a name her mother would have chosen if she had been born biologically female. Stanton also told the paper that she decided to seriously consider gender-reassignment surgery after city commissioners refused in 2003 to approve a human rights ordinance that would have protected the Transgendered. Stanton had supported passage of the ordinance.

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Wrestlers Needed For Jell-O Extravaganza

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!

Boys-R-Us, March 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 Ajia Simone are a part of this show so go check them out! Tickets are \$6 in advance, \$7 day of the show.

Special Counsel Bloch Accused Of Intimidation



Scott J. Bloch

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A high level investigation into allegations of homophobia, illegal gag orders, cronyism, and retaliation against Special Counsel Scott Bloch is being stymied by intimidation of those who made the complaints two federal employee groups say, reported 365Gay.com.

The Office of Personnel Management began the probe of Bloch in 2005 under Inspector General Patrick McFarland following a year of complaints by members of Congress, Federal Globe - the LGBT organization for federal civil servants, and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility - a watchdog group.

Now those groups say the Office of Special Counsel is trying to stonewall the investigation. This month employees at the agency were told to inform OSC management when they are contacted by investigators and that any contact with investigators must be in a special conference room at OSC headquarters. The groups say the directive is an attempt to silence them.

After an inquiry from investigators in the probe the OSC has backed down on the meeting place, issuing a second directive saying the meetings could take place elsewhere. The Office Of The Special Council is the agency that protects whistleblowers and investi-

gates complaints of discrimination by federal workers, but, Bloch has refused to take on complaints of discrimination based on sexuality. The OPM Inspector General investigation into Bloch is the third probe into Bloch's operation. The Government Accountability Office and a U.S. Senate subcommittee both have ongoing investigations into mass dismissal of hundreds of whistleblower cases, crony hires, and Bloch's targeting of Gay employees for removal while refusing to investigate cases involving discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Before being named Special Counsel by President Bush, Bloch served at the Justice Department's Task Force for Faith-based and Community Initiatives. Bloch's stonewalling complaints of discrimination by LGBT federal workers dates to February 2004 when he ordered references to sexual orientation removed from the Office of the Special Counsel website. Since 1998, when President Bill Clinton issued an executive order prohibiting bias in the civil service, the OSC has taken that to include sexuality.

A month after the references disappeared from the OSC website Bloch said Gay workers were no longer protected. After intense pressure from Federal Globe and from Democrats on The Hill, the White House said it would honor an Executive Order signed by President Clinton that assured LGBT workers had civil rights protections. But with Bloch's approval, several union contracts negotiated with various branches of the government removed the list of categories that are protected replacing them with the more nebulous phrase "any class protected by law."

Appearing in May 2005, before the the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs subcommittee on oversight of government management, the federal workforce and the District of Columbia, Bloch said that his interpretation of the Clinton executive order cannot be used to protect Gay workers because it does not specifically name LGBT workers. "It is not something I can prosecute in my agency," Bloch told the committee. "I am limited by the enforcement statutes that you give me."

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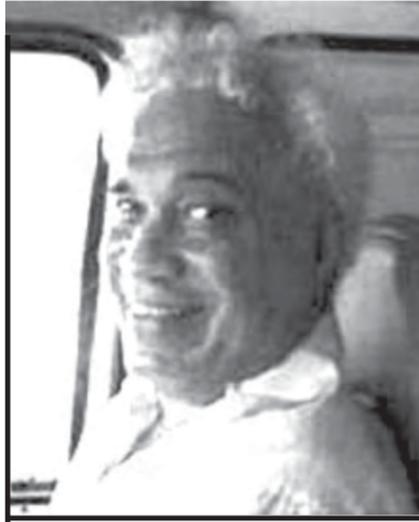
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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			REVEAL PARTY WEEKEND			
			1 <i>Thunder Thursday</i> Hosted By: Boy Sean DJ Hill	2 Hip Hop & Top 40 DJ Hill	3 Hip Hop & Dance DJ Shorty	4 Latin DJ DMenace
5 Poke-Mer Monday	6 Booze Day Tuesday \$25 Drafts	7 18 & Over Biz Body Dancers DJ Shorty	8 Hip Hop & Top 40 DJ Hill	9 FAC 3-9p Latin Night 1, 2, 3 Tequilla Specials	10 Monsoon Football Fundraiser 5-10p DJ Shorty	11 L-Word 8-9p Latin Night 1, 2, 3 Tequilla Specials
12 Poke-Mer Monday	13 Booze Day Tuesday \$25 Drafts Wine Tasting 6p	14 18 & Over Biz Body Dancers DJ Shorty	15 THUNDER THURSDAY Host: Boy Sean DJ Hill	16 FAC 3-9p Hip Hop & Dance DJ Shorty	17 <i>Get Lucky At The Biz</i> \$25 Drafts <i>St. Pattie's Day</i>	18 L-Word 8-9p Latin Night 1, 2, 3 Tequilla Specials
19 Poke-Mer Monday	20 Booze Day Tuesday \$25 Drafts	21 18 & Over Biz Body Dancers DJ Shorty	22 Hip Hop & Top 40 DJ Hill	23 FAC 3-9p BOYS R US 9pm show (\$7) Latin Night	24 Hip Hop & Dance DJ Shorty	25 L-Word 8-9p Latin Night 1, 2, 3 Tequilla Specials
26 Poke-Mer Monday	27 Booze Day Tuesday \$25 Drafts	28 18 & Over Biz Body Dancers DJ Shorty	29 <i>Human Project</i> <i>Hip Hop Dance</i> DJ Hill	30 FAC 3-9p Hip Hop & Dance DJ Shorty	31 Hip Hop & Dance DJ Shorty	

Brutal L/G Bashings Stymie Police In Two States

DETROIT, Michigan - Police in Detroit, Michigan and Boulder, Colorado say they have little evidence to go in two particularly vicious Gay bashings - one that resulted in the death of a 72-year old Detroit man and the other that left a college student bruised and battered, reported 365Gay.com.

Andrew Anthos, 72, died Friday night (Feb. 23) in a Detroit hospital, after being beaten senseless in front of his own apartment building on Feb. 13. Andrew Anthos was riding a city bus back to his apartment building when another male passenger asked him if he was Gay. When Anthos got off the bus the man followed him and attacked him on the street in front of his apartment. Anthos was repeatedly asked by the man if he were Gay. He was beaten with a pipe and left on the sidewalk bleeding profusely. The attack left him paralyzed and barely able to speak.



Andrew Anthos

Queer, We Care," "Hate is Socially Learned" and "Stop Pretending Boulder is Safe." The march ended outside Boulder's municipal building.

"This is not acceptable in Boulder. This is not acceptable in Colorado and this not acceptable in this country," Boulder Pride executive director Blake Weber told the crowd. Boulder Mayor Mark Ruzzin called the attack a "shameful act." Ruzzin said the large turnout would help the young woman with her recovery. The student, whose name is not being made public, was not able to attend the rally but she sent a statement that was read to the crowd thanking them. "Each day, I am getting stronger," the statement said.

Police say the young woman had met two men in a mall who said they were from California and did not have enough money for a hotel. The woman invited them to sleep on a couch at her home. When they made a sexual advance to her she told them she is a Lesbian and at least one of the men began beating her. She was punched and kicked in the face. A surveillance camera in the area shows the woman and two men but does not show the actual attack.

The man believed responsible for the attack is described as having dark hair, and possibly is named Dominick. He was wearing a dress shirt with a sequined tie and had Mardi Gras beads around his neck. The second man, who is not believed to have hit the woman, had blond hair in a "Beatles-style" haircut and was wearing a dark hooded sweat shirt, police said. Both men are thought to be white, between the ages of 18 and 21, and about 5-foot-7.

Members of Michigan LGBT rights group Triangle Foundation rallied around Anthos and his family, joining them at his bedside for the past two weeks. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the Hum, an Rights Campaign said Saturday (Feb. 24) they will cover the costs of Anthos' funeral. NGLTF executive director Matt Foreman said the attack is indicative of the generated in the state by conservative Christian groups, going back to the battle for an amendment to the state constitution to ban Gay marriage two years ago.

"The hatred and loathing that led to the vicious murder of Andrew Anthos only because he was Gay is not innate," said Foreman. "Instead it is being taught every day by leaders of the so-called Christian right and their political allies who use their vast resources, media networks and affiliated pulpits to blame Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people for all the ills of society. They disguise their bigotry as 'deeply-held religious beliefs. They cloak themselves in family values." He added that "it is appalling hypocrisy for these forces to pretend that their venomous words and organizing have no connection to the plague of hate violence against Gay people, including the murder of Mr. Anthos.

Meanwhile, in Boulder, Colorado more than 300 people held a march and rally to denounce an attack on a 21-year-old Lesbian student from Naropa University. The marchers wore rainbow ribbons and carried signs that read "We're Here, We're

Same Sex Marriage Critic In Court On Lewdness Charge In Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA CITY, Oklahoma - The lawyer for a former Baptist church leader who had spoken out against homosexuality said Thursday the minister has a constitutional right to solicit sex from an undercover policeman, reported the Associated Press on advocate.com. The Reverend Lonnie W. Latham had supported a resolution calling on Gays and Lesbians to reject their "sinful, destructive lifestyle" before his Jan. 3, 2006, arrest outside the Habana Inn in Oklahoma City. Authorities say he asked the undercover policeman to come up to his hotel for oral sex.

His attorney, Mack Martin, filed a motion to have the misdemeanor lewdness charge thrown out, saying the Supreme Court ruled in the 2003 decision Lawrence v. Texas that it was not illegal for consenting adults to engage in private homosexual acts. "Now, my client's being prosecuted basically for having offered to engage in such an act, which basically makes it a crime to ask someone to do something that's legal," Martin said.

Both sides agree there was no offer of money, but prosecutor Scott Rowland said there is a "legitimate governmental interest" in regulating offers of acts of lewdness. The American Civil Liberties Union of Oklahoma has filed a brief claiming that Latham's arrest also violated his right to free speech.

Before his arrest, Latham had spoken against same-sex marriage and in support of a Southern Baptist resolution that called upon Gays and Lesbians to reject their lifestyle. He has since resigned as pastor of the South Tulsa Baptist Church and stepped down from the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, where he was one of four members from Oklahoma. Latham declined to talk to reporters at the non-jury trial. Judge Roma M. McElwee said she would rule on the motion and issue a verdict in about two weeks. If convicted of the misdemeanor, Latham faces up to a year in jail and a \$2,500 fine.



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\$24-Million Settlement In Law Suit Against AIDS Drug Maker

BOSTON - An organization that fights for fair drug prices says it has reached a settlement in a nationwide class-action lawsuit against EMD Serono and Merck Serono International, reported 365Gay.com. The \$24-million settlement resolves claims that Serono wrongfully encouraged doctors to prescribe the AIDS drug Serostim to patients for whom it was unnecessary. Serostim is a recombinant human growth hormone manufactured by Serono to treat AIDS wasting, a condition involving profound involuntary weight loss in AIDS patients.

The lawsuit was filed in Sept. 2005 by the Prescription Access Litigation Project and New York City's District Council 37 of the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees. It charged Serono with promoting the use of an unapproved medical device that improperly diagnosed people as having AIDS wasting; providing doctors with travel stipends in exchange for their agreement to prescribe Serostim; and marketing the drug for uses that were not approved by the FDA. There was no allegation that any patient was medically harmed by Serono's conduct.

The settlement follows a settlement reached in October 2005 by the U.S. Department of Justice where Serono agreed to pay \$704 million in fines and pled guilty to criminal charges for the unlawful promotion of Serostim. In addition to the monetary settlement with the DOJ, Serono also agreed to a "Corporate Integrity Agreement" that requires internal audits and government monitoring. The U.S. Attorney in charge of the case asserted that "nearly 85% of prescriptions written for Serostim were not medically necessary." The DOJ settlement reimbursed govern-

ment programs for their Serostim payments but did not include reimbursement for patients and private health plans that paid out-of-pocket for Serostim treatment.

The lawsuit filed by DC 37 sought to recover Serostim payments for those groups. The settlement agreement in DC 37's case received preliminary approval from the U.S. District Court in Massachusetts last week and must receive "final approval" from the Court before it goes into effect. The settlement will establish a fund to reimburse two groups for their Serostim payments: Individual patients who paid the entire cost of Serostim prescriptions or who had private health coverage and were responsible for a co-payment for their prescriptions; And third-party payers — health insurance plans, union benefit funds and self-insured employers — that paid for part or all of the cost of Serostim dispensed to their members.

"We hope that this settlement will not only compensate those consumers and health plans that were deceived into paying unnecessarily for Serostim, but it will also serve as a precedent for other drug companies that would venture to take advantage of seriously ill patients in the name of profits," said Alex Sugeran-Brozan, Director of PAL. Rosaria Esperon, Administrator of the AFSCME District Council 37's Health & Security Plan in New York City said, "This case cried out for justice. Serono's promotion of Serostim affected some of our most vulnerable members who had to expend their scarce resources for co-pays on a drug that was unnecessary. Our self-administered drug benefit plan too was harmed when it paid the ingredient cost of this hugely expensive drug. Through this settlement, both our members and our plan have achieved a fair measure of justice."

The Prescription Access Litigation Project is a nationwide coalition of over 125 state, local, and national senior, labor and consumer health advocacy groups in 36 states fighting to make prescription drugs affordable. The organizations in the PAL coalition have a combined membership of over 13 million people. PAL works to end

illegal drug industry practices that increase the price of prescription drugs beyond the reach of the American consumer, using class action litigation and public education. Since 2001, PAL members have filed 28 sets of lawsuits targeting such practices.

R.I. May Recognize Some Mass. G/L Marriages

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island - Rhode Island should recognize state employees' Gay marriages that are performed in neighboring Massachusetts and extend benefits to their partners, the state's attorney general said in an opinion released Wednesday (Feb. 21), reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

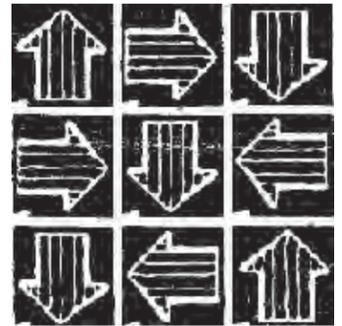
Rhode Island prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and also extends benefits such as health insurance to domestic partners of state employees, Attorney General Patrick Lynch noted in the opinion, requested by a state department. He said that with the absence of a law banning Gay marriage, there's no strong reason to deny recognition to Gay marriages performed in Massachusetts, the only state where such unions are legal.

Lynch said the advisory opinion, requested by the state Board of Governors for Higher Education, was not binding, and that the board could disregard it. "It's essentially guidance. It's my interpretation of the law," he said. Lynch's letter, dated Tuesday (Feb. 20) and released Wednesday (Feb. 21), was less equivocal. "Rhode Island will recognize same sex marriages lawfully performed in Massachusetts as marriages in Rhode Island," he wrote.

A spokesman for the board did not immediately comment, and it

was unclear what effect Lynch's opinion would have on the board's employees or other state agencies. Michele Granda, a staff attorney for Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, said she expected most government agencies in Rhode Island will heed the legal advice from Lynch as the state's top lawyer.

Rhode Island is one of a few states that neither allow nor specifically bar same-sex unions. Several legislative attempts to ban or legalize Gay marriage have failed there in recent years. A Massachusetts Superior Court justice decided last fall that Rhode Islanders are allowed to marry in that state, the only place in the country where Gay marriage is allowed. Rhode Island courts, however, are in no way bound by that decision.



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Irish G/L Marriage Case Heads To Supreme Court

DUBLIN, Ireland - A day after the Irish Parliament rejected a bill to legalize same-sex unions a Lesbian couple is taking the issue of Gay marriage to the Supreme Court of Ireland. Ann Louise Gilligan and Katherine Zappone are appealing a High Court ruling that their Canadian marriage cannot be recognized under the constitution.

As 365Gay.com reported Thursday (Feb. 22), a private members bill was turned down in Parliament after the government used the court ruling as proof a clause in the constitution which says the government must protect the institution of marriage means the bill legalizing civil partnerships was unconstitutional.

In their appeal, they say the High Court erred because the constitution does not specifically define marriage as only between opposite-sex couples. Gilligan and Zappone, who had been together for 20 years, were married in British Columbia in September 2003 within months of the legalization of same-sex marriage there. At the time both women were working in Canada. When they returned home and tried to file a joint income tax return the Revenue Commissioners refused to recognize the marriage citing Irish law and ordered the women to file separate returns. That would result in paying higher taxes. In 2004 a judge found there was enough reason for the case to

advance. Arguing before the High Court their lawyer said that the equality provisions of the Irish Constitution were violated when the tax department refused to recognize the couple's marriage. Last Dec. 2006 High Court Justice Elizabeth Dunne issued a 138 page ruling that there was no provision for same-sex marriage in the Irish constitution. The court also ordered the women to pay all court costs.

The private members bill introduced by Labor Party justice critic Brendan Howlin was modeled after Britain's civil unions law and would have afforded same-sex couples all of the rights and obligations of marriage. The government of Prime Minister Bertie Ahern said that equated civil partnerships with marriage and after warning the legislation would be rejected by the Supreme Court Parliament voted against the measure. Ahern's government concedes same-sex couples need protections. A government committee set up late last year to study ways of providing rights to same-sex couples has yet to make its recommendations. A second committee has recommended civil partnerships but without many of the rights of marriage, including the right of couples to adopt children. Nevertheless the government said it hopes to put a bill before Parliament later this year.

Gays Told STD Vaccine 'Waste Of Money'

SYDNEY, Australia - The scientist largely responsible for the development of a vaccine to protect men from genital warts and cancers says it is unlikely to help Gay men, reported 365Gay.com. The warning from Prof. Ian Frazer comes after reports from the UK that Gay men have been access to the drug Gardasil. Gardasil protects against the sexually transmitted infection, human papillomavirus (HPV). It has been approved for use in males and females from the ages of nine to 26 in the US, Britain and Australia.

The BBC reported that a large number of Gay men have been demanding access to the drug an effort to block anal cancer and genital warts. The British broadcaster reports that a number of private clinics are offering it to men at a cost of about \$1,000 for the three-dose treatment. One London clinic told the BBC it had immunized dozens of Gay men in the past six weeks.

"It's their money and their choice," Frazer, an Australian, told the Australian Associated Press. "But the reality is that adult males who have sex with other males, and who have been in anything other than a monogamous

relationship, are very unlikely to benefit." He said it was true Gay men were at a much higher risk of anal cancer and genital warts, particularly if they are HIV-positive. But Frazer said that to be effective in preventing anal cancer the shots must be administered to people under the age of 26 and preferably to those closer to nine or ten, and that many promiscuous Gay men likely already have at least one of the four strains of HPV.

Some British scientists disagree. They argue that the drug should be made available to all adults, saying even the most promiscuous person would not have encountered all four strains that Gardasil combats.



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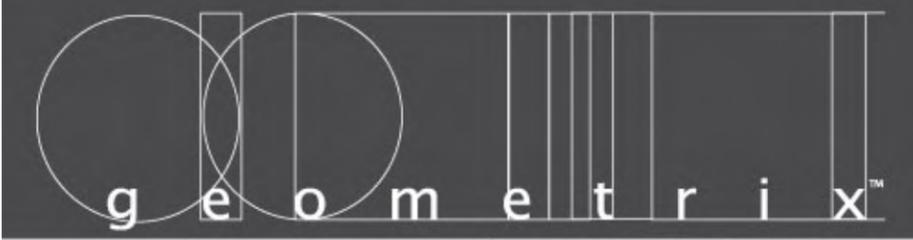
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POLITICS 2007
by Mark R. Kerr

ENDA, Hate Crimes & DADT

Three proposals protecting the employment rights of LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) citizens, expanding the current law to cover individuals based on "sexual orientation" and "gender identity," and repealing the ban on openly Gay and Lesbian individuals serving in this country's armed forces will be introduced in this 110th Congress.

in a statement.

Of the Fortune 500 companies, 430 (86 percent) of the organizations include sexual orientation in their non-discrimination policies, and 81 include gender identity and/or expression, a tenfold increase from 2001. ...

Prohibitions against discrimination in employment based on race, gender, religion, disability and national origin are part of federal statutes but on the other hand, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression don't have these protections and any recourse under current federal law or under the Constitution as it has been interpreted by the courts.

Current federal hate crime law, passed by Congress in 1968, allows federal investigation and prosecution of hate crimes based on race, religion, and national origin but doesn't include sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or disability. A proposed bill would give local law enforcement officials the resources they need to combat hate crimes based on actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or disability.

In 33 states, it is legal for an employer to fire an individual solely due to their sexual orientation and 43 states allow it based on gender identity or expression, perceived or otherwise. In Arizona, if you are fortunate to live and work within the city limits of Tucson, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression is covered under the city's 30-year-old anti discrimination ordinance. Phoenix and Tempe have ordinances and policies dealing with employment discrimination based only on sexual orientation as well but the state is one of the 33 without laws, ordinances or policies on employment discrimination.

According to the FBI, about 14 percent of the 7,163 hate crimes reported in 2005 targeted based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.

To take action, go online to: hrcactioncenter.org/campaign/hatecrimes and sign the petition to send to your Member of Congress and Senator. ...

Congressman Marty Meehan, D-Mass., on Wednesday, Feb. 28, reintroduced The Military Readiness Enhancement Act, a bill to repeal the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) ban on openly LGB individuals from serving in the armed forces.

"Employment discrimination strikes at the fundamental American value - the right of each qualified, hardworking individual to do his or her job and contribute to society without facing discrimination or being fired simply for who they are," said HRC (Human Rights Campaign) President Joe Solmonese, in a statement.

DADT has been in effect since 1993, for which the Department of Defense (DoD) has fired more than 11,000 service members under DADT - on average, two to three people are dismissed under the law daily. According to the Government Accountability Office (GAO) at least 800 of those had skills deemed "mission-critical" by DoD, including more than 300 linguists, of which at least 55 were proficient in Arabic.

A federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) is being drafted by openly Gay Congressman, Barney Frank, D-Mass., who said the version will also cover gender identity or expression while offering some allowances to employers so they can enforce dress codes and minimize potential controversies.

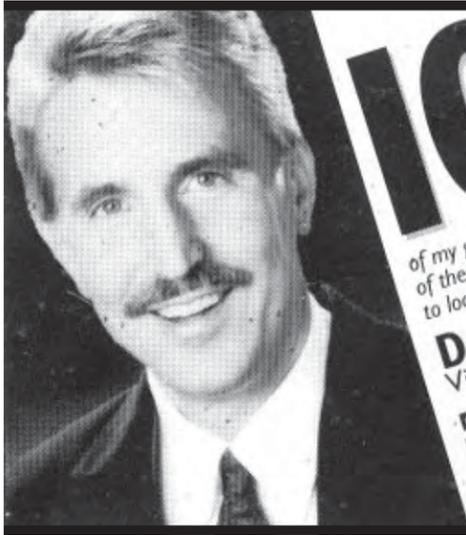
Let your Member of Congress and Senator know that DADT must be repealed, go online to: ga1.org/campaign/write_your_rep, ga1.org/campaign/write_your_senator.

Stories of and from individuals who have been discriminated against in employment for their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, perceived or otherwise are being collected by three national groups, HRC, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and the American Civil Liberties Union for a national campaign to pass ENDA. An online survey is available at theTaskForce.org, aclu.org/lgbt and hrc.org, for those who have experienced job discrimination to share their stories to help the effort to pass ENDA.

All three measures had been introduced in previous sessions of Congress, at times winning significant bipartisan backing but always falling short of final passage. This year, with Democrats now in control of both Congressional chambers, and many Republicans likely to join in support, chances for legislative success has never been better but for this to become a reality, everyone should volunteer for the upcoming legislative campaign for these measures.

"People sharing their painful stories are essential in shattering the myth that discrimination against us is rare or a thing of the past," said Matt Foreman, executive director of NGLTF,





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COMMENTARY . . .

Where Were You That Summer Of 2001?

By Frank Rich

"United 93," Hollywood's highly praised but indifferently attended 9/11 docudrama, will be only a blip on tonight's Oscar telecast. The ratings rise of "24" has stalled as audiences defect from the downer of terrorists to the supernatural uplift of "Heroes." Cable surfers have tuned out Iraq for a war with laughs: the battle over Anna Nicole's decomposing corpse. Set this cultural backdrop against last week's terrifying but little-headed front-page Times account of American "intelligence and counterterrorism officials" leaking urgent warnings about Al Qaeda's comeback, and ask yourself: Haven't we been here before?

If so, that would be the summer of 2001, when America pigged out on a 24/7 buffet of Gary Condit and shark attacks. The intelligence and counterterrorism officials back then were privately sounding urgent warnings like those in last week's Times, culminating in the President's Daily Brief titled "Bin Laden Determined to Strike in U.S." The system "was blinking red," as the C.I.A. chief George Tenet would later tell the 9/11 commission. But no one, from the White House on down, wanted to hear it.

The White House doesn't want to hear it now, either. That's why terrorism experts are trying to get its attention by going public, and not just through The Times. Michael Scheuer, the former head of the C.I.A. bin Laden unit, told MSNBC's Keith Olbermann last week that the Taliban and Al Qaeda, having regrouped in Afghanistan and Pakistan, "are going to detonate a nuclear device inside the United States" (the real United States, that is, not the fictional stand-in where this same scenario can be found on "24"). Al Qaeda is "on the march" rather than on the run, the Georgetown University and West Point terrorism expert Bruce Hoffman told Congress. Tony Blair is pulling troops out of Iraq not because Basra is calm enough to be entrusted to Iraqi forces - it's "not ready for transition," according to the Pentagon's last report - but to shift some British resources to the losing battle against the resurgent Taliban in Afghanistan.

This is why the entire debate about the Iraq "surge" is as much a sideshow as Britney's scalp. More troops in Baghdad are irrelevant to what's going down in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The surge supporters who accuse the Iraq war's critics of emboldening the enemy are trying to deflect attention from their own complicity in losing a bigger battle: the one against the enemy that actually did attack us on 9/11. Who lost Iraq? is but a distraction from the more damning question, Who is losing the war on terrorism?

The record so far suggests that this White House has done so twice. The first defeat, of course, began in early December 2001, when we lost Osama bin Laden in Tora Bora. The public would not learn about that failure until April 2002 (when it was uncovered by The Washington Post), but it's revealing that the administration started its bait-and-switch trick to relocate the enemy in Iraq just as bin Laden slipped away. It was on Dec. 9, 2001, that Dick Cheney first floated the idea on "Meet the Press" that Saddam had something to do with 9/11. It was "pretty well confirmed," he said (though it was not), that bin Laden's operative Mohamed Atta had met with an Iraqi intelligence officer in Prague months before Atta flew a hijacked plane into the World Trade Center.

In the Scooter Libby trial, Mr.

Cheney's former communications aide, Catherine Martin, said that delivering a message on "Meet the Press" was "a tactic we often used." No kidding. That mention of the nonexistent Prague meeting was the first of five times that the vice president would imply an Iraq-Qaeda collaboration on that NBC show before the war began in March 2003. This bogus innuendo was an essential tool for selling the war precisely because we had lost bin Laden in Afghanistan. If we could fight Al Qaeda by going to war in Iraq instead, the administration could claim it didn't matter where bin Laden was. (Mr. Bush pointedly stopped mentioning him altogether in public.)

The president now says his government never hyped any 9/11-Iraq links. "Nobody has ever suggested that the attacks of September the 11th were ordered by Iraq," he said last August after finally conceding that Iraq had nothing to do with 9/11. In fact everyone in the administration insinuated it constantly, including him. Mr. Bush told of "high-level" Iraq-Qaeda contacts "that go back a decade" in the same notorious October 2002 speech that gave us Saddam's imminent mushroom clouds. So effective was this propaganda that by 2003 some 44 percent of Americans believed (incorrectly) that the 9/11 hijackers had been Iraqis; only 3 percent had seen an Iraq link right after 9/11.

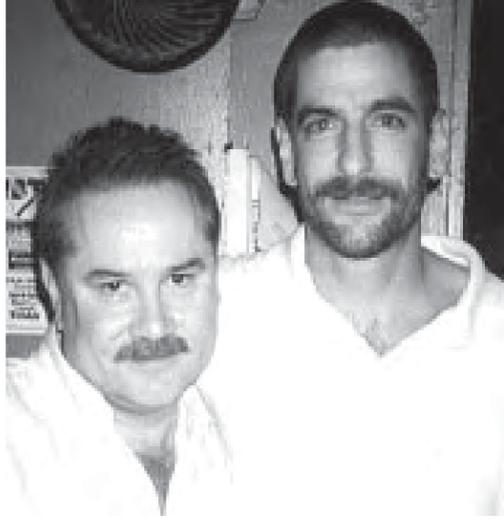
Though the nonexistent connection was even more specious than the nonexistent nuclear W.M.D., Mr. Bush still leans on it today even while denying that he does so. He has to. His litany that we are "on the offense" by pursuing the war in Iraq and "fighting terrorists over there, so that we don't have to fight them here" depend on the premise that we went into that country in the first place to vanquish Al Qaeda and that it is still the "central front" in the war on terror. In January's State of the Union address hawking the so-called surge, Mr. Bush did it again, warning that to leave Iraq "would be to ignore the lessons of September the 11th and invite tragedy."

But now more than ever, the opposite is true. It is precisely by pouring still more of our finite military and intelligence resources down the drain in Iraq that we are tragically ignoring the lessons of 9/11. Instead of showing resolve, as Mr. Bush supposes, his botch of the Iraq war has revealed American weakness. Our catastrophic occupation spawned terrorists in a country where they didn't used to be, and to pretend that Iraq is now their central front only adds to the disaster. As Mr. Scheuer, the former C.I.A. official, reiterated last week: "Al Qaeda is in Afghanistan and Pakistan. If you want to address the threat to America, that's where it is." It's typical of Mr. Bush's self-righteousness, however, that he would rather punt on that threat than own up to a mistake.

That mistake - dropping the ball on Al Qaeda - was compounded last fall when Mr. Bush committed his second major blunder in the war on terror. The occasion was the September revelation that our supposed ally, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, president of Pakistan, had negotiated a "truce" with the Taliban in North Waziristan, a tribal region in his country at the Afghanistan border. This truce was actually a retreat by Pakistan, which even released Qaeda prisoners in its custody. Yet the Bush White House denied any of this was happening. "This deal is not at all with the Taliban," the president said, claiming that "this is against the Taliban,

Continued on Page Thirteen

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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

Simplicity

by Lee Thorn

The Bush's administration's obsessive pursuit of the interests of America's ownership class, its unremitting single-minded dedication to ownership interests to the devastating detriment of everyone else - workers, students, soldiers, the middle class and the poor - can be explained quite simply. The problem with the simple explanation - that Dick Cheney's overriding loyalty is a loyalty to his own economic class - is that for most ordinary people it's just too evil to be believable. We have a problem believing in evil, especially evil on a scale that utterly disregards everyone's welfare except for members of the numerically tiny privileged class.

encounter with words to the effect that, "Bush isn't really stupid." Why is it that no one ever felt the need to say that about Clinton? Simple explanation: Bush is just as stupid as he appears to be when he's making unscripted remarks. We have as much trouble believing in Bush's stupidity as we do believing in Cheney's evil, perhaps because we're just not comfortable admitting that our cherished democracy could have resulted in a mentally retarded president, someone who would be clinically described as a moron (as opposed to an imbecile or an idiot).

One of the president's former speech writers explained Bush's endless gaffs by saying that you can just get him to memorize so much. The point is that he's had a lifetime, including his childhood, in which to memorize political bromides. Since he can't really analyze political problems, it's just a question of whether he can be sufficiently coached by what are called "his handlers" to produce the appropriate bromide on any given political occasion for which he hasn't already memorized a script.

And the simple explanation of Rove, an obviously brilliant political strategist devoted to a doltish protege, is that he fell in love with Bush and decided that the best way to stay close to him was getting him elected to high political offices. In an interview Rove once described Bush as dripping with charisma. If there's anyone else on the planet who feels that way, I've yet to hear from or about him. In the same interview Rove talks about ogling the circle left by chewing tobacco cans on Bush's jeans, a circle that typically occurs over the lower butt.

What about Rumsfeld? The simplest explanation is that his legendary arrogance just plain overwhelmed him. The question is, "How could anyone so smart get himself and his country into such a dumb predicament?" What Rummy like to call "the unknown unknowns" are particularly unforgiving to someone suffering from terminal arrogance. Tough luck for the million or so people who'll make up the final body count, IF WE'RE LUCKY and it soon comes to an end.

(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.)

I'm going to argue in favor of this and a few other simple explanations of the current administration. My first premise is that the unlimited rapacity and exclusivity that ordinary folks see as evil is not necessarily seen as evil by the likes of Dick Cheney. Why the hell not? Good question. I believe that Cheney may very well be relying on a 19th century socioeconomic theory, relying on this theory to justify what others might call evil. The theory, and it's one that had a wide acceptance in the 19th century, goes like this: If everybody in society fights as hard as he can, no holds barred, for his own economic interests, if everybody just forgets the law, forgets any concept of morality, forgets any concept of decency and goes all out for the gold, then the behavioral excesses of unrestrained individual actors will tend to be canceled out by the excesses of others. The result, according to the theory, is that the unrestrained aggression of individuals ends up in a rough economic justice. Three men fighting as hard as they can to get the whole pie results in each getting roughly a third. Never mind the blood on the floor.

Taking this view, Cheney can see his unprincipled unrestrained unseemly all out fight for the rich as just a part of a perfectly functional social system. Taking this view, he's not really saying, "To hell with everyone but the rich." He's saying, "The non-rich are somebody else's problem. If everyone's doing his job of unlimited aggression, it will all work out in the end."

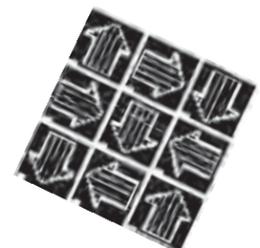
Other equally simple explanations may well apply to the administration. Almost every journalist who's been given unusual access to the president as some sort of special favor begins his report of the privileged

View From The Rock

We have been talking about the fact that the word of God encourages us to focus on excellence and that we all have our slang words for "excellent!" This is evidence how our language changes ever so rapidly. Our grandparents would need a translator in order to understand today's slang. It is possible that in two hundred more years, the Americans and the English would not be able to understand each other's language.

In contrast to this, we need to understand that the Word of God is constant. John 1:1 tells us that, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning." We can rely on Jesus, our rock, to be steady and unchanging. We can depend on Him. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8), and James 1:17 says, "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly light, who does not change like shifting shadows."

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Lawyer: Men Accusing Airman Of Rape Lied

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Florida - Men who say they were drugged and raped by an Air Force officer lied to avoid being revealed as Gay in the military, a defense attorney told a military jury Tuesday (Feb. 20), 365Gay.com reported. Capt. Devery L. Taylor, former chief of patient administration at Eglin Regional Hospital, is Gay and engaged in consensual sex with the men, his civilian attorney, Martin Regan, said during opening arguments in Taylor's court-martial.

Taylor, 38, pleaded not guilty Monday (Feb. 20) to raping four men and attempting to rape two others. He faces a maximum sentence of life in prison without parole if convicted of all the charges against him. The charges are two counts of attempted sodomy, four counts of forcible sodomy, three counts of kidnapping and one count of unlawful entry. "This case is about homosexual activity that is not approved of by the military services in our country at this time. Every one of these individuals but one is either in the military service or wants to be in the service," Regan said. Under the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy, members who are openly Gay are subject to discharge.

Capt. Eveylon Westbrook, the military prosecutor, described Taylor as a serial rapist who met his victims in bars, spiked their drinks with the "date-rape drug" gamma-hydroxybutyrate, or GHB, and kidnapped them. "Each victim will tell you they felt like they were drugged before he either assaulted or

attempted to assault them," she said.

A Pensacola paramedic later testified that he and Taylor were friends and had consensual sex on a previous occasion before the two met again at a bar in July 2004. The man said that he had one beer and that Taylor then bought him a shot, which caused him to become extremely ill. He said that he woke up in Taylor's home and that Taylor raped him repeatedly, but that he couldn't fight Taylor because he felt drugged. "My brain knew what was going on, but my body just wouldn't cooperate," he said. The man said he did not report the encounter to authorities until two years later, when he read a newspaper report about Taylor's arrest.

An Air Force lieutenant who worked with Taylor at the base hospital testified about his 2004 encounter with Taylor. He said he blacked out and does not know whether he was raped. The lieutenant, who is married, said he never had consensual sex with Taylor. Col. Thomas Cumbie, the military judge, turned down a defense request Tuesday to limit testimony about GHB. Defense attorneys said that its effects were similar to that of alcohol and that none of the victims had traces of the drug in their bodies, but Cumbie said the symptoms were common among all the victims.

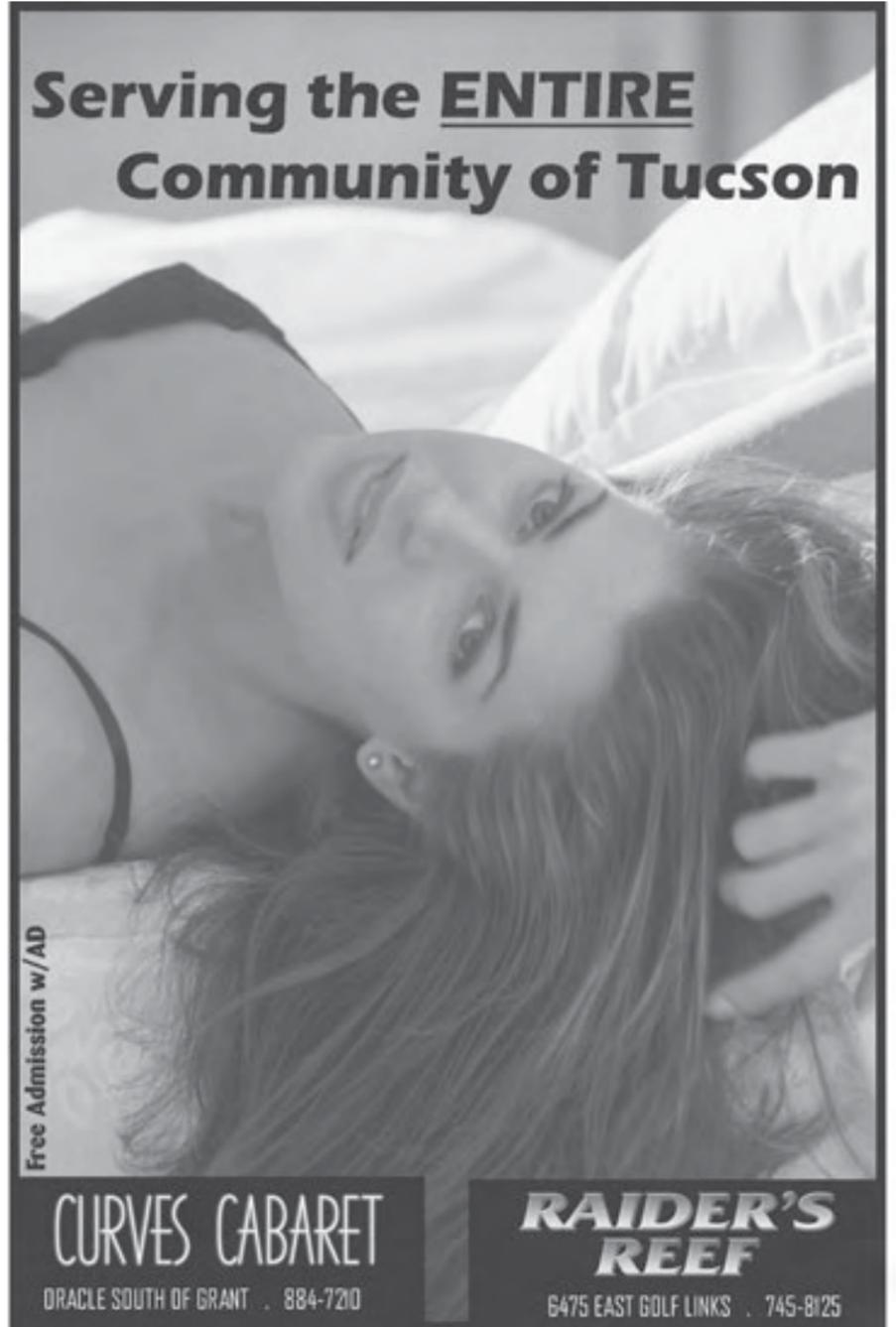


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COMMENTARY . . .

Continued from Page Ten

actually." When Dana Priest and Ann Scott Tyson of The Washington Post reported that same month that the bin Laden trail was "stone cold" and had been since Mr. Bush diverted special operations troops from that hunt to Iraq in 2003, the White House branded the story flat wrong. "We're on the hunt," Mr. Bush said. "We'll get him."

Far from getting him or any of his top operatives dead or alive, the president has sat idly by, showering praise on General Musharraf while Taliban attacks from Pakistan into Afghanistan have increased threefold. As The Times reported last week, now both bin Laden and his deputy, Ayman al-Zawahri, are believed to be "steadily

building an operations hub" in North Waziristan. We know that last year's London plot to bomb airliners, like the bus-and-subway bombings of 2005, was not just the work of home-grown jihadists in Britain, but also of Qaeda operatives. Some of the would-be bombers were trained in Qaeda's Pakistan camps much as their 9/11 predecessors had been trained in Afghanistan.

All of this was already going on when Mr. Bush said just before the election that "absolutely, we're winning" and that "Al Qaeda is on the run." What's changed in the few months since his lie is that even more American troops are tied down in Iraq, that even more lethal weapons are being used against them, that even more of the coalition of the unwilling are fleeing, and that even more Americans are tuning out both the administration and the war they voted down in November to savor a referendum that at least offers tangible results, "American Idol."

Yet Mr. Bush still denies reality. Ten days ago he told the American Enterprise Institute that "the Taliban have been driven from power" and proposed that America help stabilize the Pakistan border by setting up "Reconstruction Opportunity Zones" (remember that "Gulf Opportunity Zone" he promised after Katrina?) to "give residents the chance to export locally made products to the United States, duty-free." In other words, let's fight terrorism not by shifting America's focus from Iraq to the central front, but by shopping for Taliban souvenirs!

Five years after 9/11, the terrorists would seem to have us just where they want us - asleep - even as the system is blinking red once again

(Frank Rich is a Pulitzer Prize winning columnist for the New York Times, from which this has been reprinted from its Feb. 25 edition)

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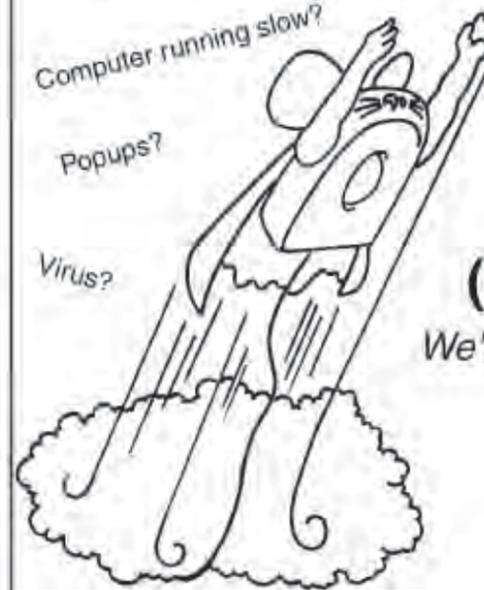
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Non Bar Calendar

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

At 6:00 p.m. at 425 E/ 7th Street, Wingspan will be hosting a forum and dialogue about issues facing the LGBT People of Color community and to discuss the findings of a Community Needs Assessment of Wingspan's strengths and needs for improvement regarding People of Color inclusion. For more info call Wingspan 624-1779.

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

A forum on keeping the momentum for effective, positive political change will take place tonight at Wingspan, 426 E. 7th St. from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Come share your ideas and energy. For more info contact Les, 319-0892

#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

Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) will conduct Volunteer Orientation tonight from 5:15 to 9:15 p.m. at First Congregational UCC, 1350 N. Arcadia Ave. Pre-registration is required by March 6 and there is a \$17 materials fee for training. Full and partial scholarships are available. For further information contact TIHAN 299-6647.

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 9

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

Tucson Prime Timers Cocktails – 5:30 p.m., Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Saturday, March 10

'Boys R Us'. Tucson's premier gender performance troupe for the past five years will be performing at the Surly Wench Pub, 424 N. 4th Avenue. Doors open at 9:00 p.m., show begins at 10:00 p.m.

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 Jack at 887-3736.

Tucson Prime Timers Business Meeting – 11 a.m., Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St.

Sunday, March 11

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 on-line MSN 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 12

Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Trivial Pursuit. 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 13

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Play bridge at Karol's! Call Karol for info at 744-9017.

Wednesday, March 14

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm. Canasta hosted by Marv & Steve. MSN Canasta is played every Wednesday at 7pm, but check back here for the specific host. Call Marv at 745-0304.

Thursday, March 15

#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 straight and gay men, join us at the regular Circle of Men

meetings. Call Tom 591-2828 for dates and times.

#2 Deadline is Noon today to reserve your place for pizza night. Call Erich: 745-2689.

Friday, March 16

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Pizza Night! Call Erich for directions at 745-2689! Did you phone in your reservation earlier this month to help plan ordering and preparation? Excellent! Get ready for great company, plus delicious salad, yummy desert, and 4 choices of pizza for only \$5.

Tucson Prime Timers Cocktails – 5:30 p.m., Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Saturday, March 17

#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 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 Steve at 664-2076.

Sunday, March 18

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 19

#1 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:30p.m. Meet Stephen and the group monthly for dinner and discussion of an agreed upon work of gay fiction. Currently, the group meets the 3rd Monday each month at Gourmet of China, 2544 S. Kolb Road. Contact Stephen at 546-4047.

#2 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm. Newsletter Night! Join Arlan and crew to help get the MSN newsletter in the mail, plus find out next month's events. [This month the movie is called 'THIRD MAN OUT' a gay detective thriller.] Munchies and soft drinks provided. Contact Arlan: 323-7414.

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

Tuesday, March 20

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Hand and Foot with Bruce. Call for info and directions: 743-3890. Please call ahead to assist your host in planning the evening.

Wednesday, March 21

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

Thursday, March 22

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

Friday, March 23

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 p.m., Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

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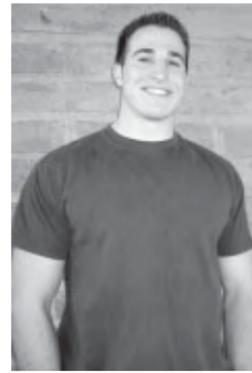
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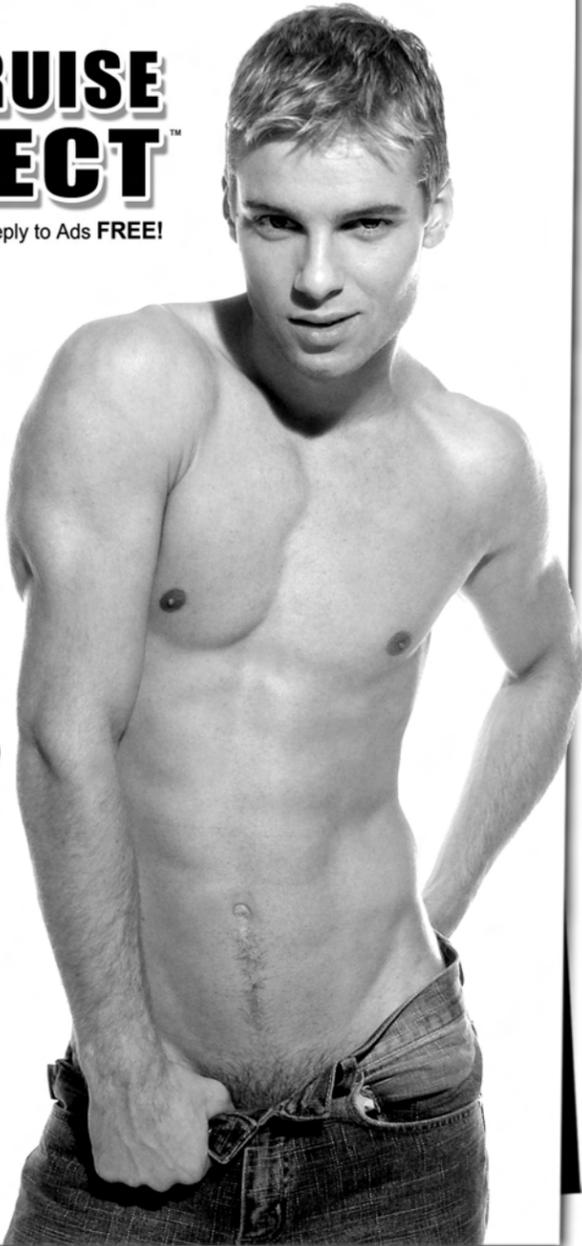
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Poll: 55% Of Americans Would Vote For G/L Candidate For President

NEW YORK CITY - A new poll indicates that a majority of Americans would vote for a Gay person for president. The Gallup survey finds that 55% of respondents would vote for a Gay candidate if he or she were "generally well-qualified," advocate.com reported.

Given the wide range of backgrounds among the current field of 2008 presidential contenders, the poll asked how willing Americans would be to vote for them, and it included hypothetical candidates for

good measure.

The results reveal that 95% of those polled would vote for a Catholic (the religion of Republican hopeful Rudy Giuliani), 94% would vote for an African-American (Democratic contender Barack Obama), 88% would vote for a woman (Hillary Rodham Clinton), and 72% would vote for a Mormon (Mitt Romney, Republican former governor of Massachusetts). The only category to poll below 50% was atheist.

Wyoming House Kills Ban On Out-Of-State G/L Marriages

CHEYENNE, Wyoming - Legislation to ban the state of Wyoming from recognizing same-sex marriages performed in other states or countries where they are legal died in committee Thursday (Feb. 22) on a single vote, 365Gay.com reported. House Speaker Roy Cohee (Rep.) cast the deciding vote, breaking a tie in the House Rules Committee. The measure passed the Senate last month.

If passed it would have meant that Wyoming Gays could not travel to Canada or any of the European countries where same-sex couples can marry and then have that marriage recognized at home. Massachusetts, the only state where Gay marriage is legal, has limited it to couples from that state and from Rhode Island. The Wyoming measure would also have meant that couples from areas where they were allowed to marry could not come to

the state, which calls itself 'The Equality State' and have their marriages recognized either by the state or by private businesses.

Wyoming already has a so-called Defense of Marriage law that mandates marriages conducted in the state must be between a man and woman. The new measure would have strengthened that act. LGBT rights groups said have not heard of a single instance where a Wyoming couple went out of the state to marry and then came home to demand rights or of couples coming from other areas asking to have their same-sex marriages validated.

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332 S. Freeway
Tucson, AZ 85745
(520) 624-8272

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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. 7th 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 1st, 2nd, 3rd Places. Happy Hour pricing & Free Food

COLORS - Closed on Mondays.

HOLLYWOOD - Open 5pm. Happy Hour 5pm to 7pm. \$1.75 well, domestic bottles, draft. Movie Night 8-11pm.

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 2nd Tuesday of every month at 5:30pm. Please RSVP by the first Monday of the Month. Wine bottles will be for sale after the tasting at a special discounted price.

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7 \$3.50 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 (2nd 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. Dart Tourney at 9am. 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, "Divalicious" show 9pm w/ Bunny Fu & Friends. After show dance with DJ Q til 2am,

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

WOODY'S - Open Noon til 2am; Happy Hour Noon-8pm (excl Spec Events); Chili Dog Buffet 5-9pm;

WEDNESDAY CALENDAR CONTINUED

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. Dart Tourney 8pm.

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. Karaoke Night presented by Rebecca of Y-Not from 8pm until 1am.

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 prize 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. Happy Hour #2 10pm until midnight.

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 Rayman 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 play 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

THURSDAY, MARCH 1

THE BIZ - Opening night of a four day Reveal Party Weekend. Come help the Biz crew reveal the bar's new Body. Boy Sean will host tonight's events called "Thunder Thursday" and DJ Hill will be spinning. Exotic dancers from 9-11p.m. and \$2 Body Shots until midnight. Bartender Body Shots 11 p.m. and Midnight.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2

THE BIZ - Day two of a four day Reveal Party Weekend. Come help the Biz crew reveal the completely remodeled bar's 'new body'. DJ Hill will be spinning and Exotic dancers from 9-11p.m. and \$2 Body Shots until midnight. Bartender Body Shots 11 p.m. and Midnight.

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

THE BIZ - Day three of a four day Reveal Party Weekend. Come help the Biz crew reveal the completely remodeled bar's 'new body'. DJ Shorty will be spinning hip hop and Dance music, and Exotic dancers from 9-11p.m. and \$2 Body Shots until midnight. Bartender Body Shots 11 p.m. and Midnight.

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.

SUNDAY, MARCH 4

THE BIZ - Last day of a four day Reveal Party Weekend. Come help the Biz crew reveal the completely remodeled bar's 'new body'. DJ Menace will be spinning some Latin Dance music, and Exotic dancers perform from 9-11p.m. and \$2 Body Shots until midnight. Bartender Body Shots 11 p.m. and Midnight.

YARD DOG SALOON - It's back - Prime Rib Dinner and it starts tonight at 7:00 p.m.

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.

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. 22nd Street, Tucson.

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

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

TUCSON GAY INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The new **MAN TO MAN INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY** is meeting about honoring the spiritual side of ourselves. It is the men's social/erotic group that offers passionate friendships, fun activities, and real tantric sex education. Call Marc 881-4582 in advance Check it out. We meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 7-9pm. Potluck dinner. Donation. **BROTHERS OF THE COMPASSIONATE WAY.** Pagan spiritual group for gay, bisexual, transgendered men. Box 41623, Tucson, AZ 85717.



Episcopal Dilemma: G/L Inclusion Or Worldwide Church

NEW YORK CITY - Three years of emergency summits, nuanced apologies and behind-the-scenes negotiating failed. Anglican leaders this past week gave the U.S. Episcopal Church an ultimatum: Halt your march toward full acceptance of Gays, or lose your place in the global Anglican family, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. Now, Episcopalians are asking themselves whether the cost of membership has become too high.

"We made our 'yes' to Gays and Lesbians," wrote Rev. Ann Fontaine of the diocese of Wyoming, in an examination of the Anglican demands. "Let it stand."

The global Anglican communion, represented in the United States by the Episcopal Church, has spent years debating how its 77 million members should interpret Scripture on salvation, truth and sexuality. But for theological conservatives, the time for talk ended in 2003 when the U.S. denomination consecrated its first openly Gay bishop, V. Gene Robinson of New Hampshire. To them, the confirmation was beyond the bounds of true Christianity. Ever since, Episcopalians have had a tough lesson in what it means to be Anglican in the 21st century. The communion was once dominated by its North American and European provinces. But these days, its biggest and fastest-growing churches, by far, are in parts of the developing world where traditional Bible beliefs are not questioned. As a result, Episcopalians have found themselves on the defensive.

It is no coincidence that Archbishop Peter Akinola, head of the Anglican Church of Nigeria, is leading the charge against consecrating Gays. With its 17.5 million members, the Nigerian church is more than seven times bigger than the U.S. denomination. Episcopalians who share these conservative views of Scripture are in the minority in their own church. But by putting their time, energy and resources behind overseas traditionalists, they have helped move the communion toward the kind of demands they made this week.

Anglican leaders ended their meeting in Tanzania by giving the Episcopal Church until Sept. 30 to pledge unequivocally not to consecrate another Gay bishop or approve an official prayer service for blessing same-sex couples. If that promise is not given, the Episcopal Church could face a much reduced role in the Anglican world.

Many Episcopalians say they are being asked to give up what they cherish most about their denomination: its emphasis on social justice in Scripture, which led them to accept Gay relationships, and its democratic policy making that gives lay people and clergy a vote in major decisions. They look at what they have already done to mend the rifts and consider it more than enough. The church has apologized repeatedly for failing to more fully consult with Anglican leaders before confirming Robinson - although it has not apologized for consecrating him. Episcopal leaders have explained themselves before Anglican panels and in countless private meetings.

If the Anglican family is forcing a choice between rejecting Gays or going it alone, the liberal view says, then it may be time to say goodbye. "If how others view us becomes our consuming concern, our mission will suffer or die," said Bishop Paul Marshall of the diocese of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, in a letter to his congregations.

But the head of the Episcopal Church, Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, returned from the Tanzania meeting saying the denomination should make the very concessions liberals abhor "for a season" until relationships with fellow Anglicans can

be healed. Jefferts Schori personally supports ordaining Gays, and she has upset some with her willingness to agree to the Anglican leaders' demands. Yet, she is not alone in wanting to keep the U.S. affiliation with the communion.

Bishop Kirk Smith of the diocese of Arizona told his parishioners that "my heart breaks" at the thought of stepping back from full inclusion of Gays and Lesbians. "However, I believe that we are at a moment in our history when we must remain together," Smith said. "I am committed to a fully inclusive church, but I am also committed to remaining part of the larger Anglican communion." It is a bond that goes back hundreds of years, with roots in the Church of England. Anglican leaders said that the Episcopalians' pledge would have to hold until "a new consensus emerges" over sexuality. But that might never happen, considering the intense differences over sexuality.

Whatever the Episcopal House of Bishops decides over the next seven months, the church can easily survive without the communion. The 2.3 million-member U.S. denomination may be relatively small, but it is affluent, and well situated to continue its missions with other Christians overseas. In fact, the Anglican communion itself may suffer more from any broken ties. A significant chunk of its budget comes from the U.S. church.

Utah Lawmakers Reverse Vote On GSA Bill

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah - When members of the Utah House arrived at the capitol on Thursday (Feb.22) supporters of a measure placing tough restrictions on school clubs were still reveling in Wednesday's (Feb. 21) passage of the bill, 365Gay.com reported. LGBT activists believe the restrictions were aimed at curbing Gay-straight alliances (GSA), although no specific clubs were named in the legislation.

Within minutes of entering the chamber, however, lawmakers learned that because of a procedural error they would have to vote again. Still confident they had enough votes to again carry the bill, they went forward. But when the ayes and nays were counted the measure had been defeated. It was latest in a roller coaster ride for the legislation. When it was first put to the House last month lawmakers removed some of the most restrictive regulations, leaving the bill only requiring parental approval when students join clubs. That version passed and the bill went to the Senate. In the upper chamber the bill's sponsor, Sen. Chris Butters (Rep.), reinserted original requirements from the House version - that schools could ban clubs they believe would threaten the "moral well-being" of students or faculty, that school principals be given all information that would be presented to the club a week in advance so parents could review it, and that the state be required to cover the costs of lawsuits involving the restrictions of school clubs.

The Senate passed the revised bill and returned it to the House. The House concurred with the Senate and passed the bill. What made enough members of the House change their minds overnight is not initially clear. The House sponsor, Rep. Aaron Tilton (Rep.) was noticeably angry. Butters and Tilton have tried for several years to get a law curbing GSAs. During debate on last year's bid to impose limitations on clubs Butters on the Senate floor said Gay-Straight Alliances are "a recruiting tool for Gays and are 'tearing down the moral pillars of society.'" There currently are approximately 14 GSAs in the state.



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