



Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

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Hillary Clinton Wants 'Partnership' With Gays



Hillary Rodham Clinton addresses the Human Rights Campaign (HRC)

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton told the nation's leading Gay rights group in an unpublicized speech that she wants a partnership with Gays if elected president, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

Clinton also said she opposes the "don't ask, don't tell" policy regarding Gays in the military that was instituted during her husband's presidency.

"I am proud to stand by your side," Clinton said in a keynote speech to the Human Rights Campaign. Neither Clinton's campaign nor her Senate office made any announcement that she would be making the Friday address (Mar. 2).

In the speech, Clinton joked that she shares the same initials as the group, and pledged to maintain the same close working relationship that last year helped defeat the federal amendment which would have banned same-sex marriage.

"I want you to know that this is exactly the kind of partnership we will have when I am president," Clinton told the group. "I want you to know that just as you always have an open door to my senate office, you will always have an open door to the White House and together we can continue this journey."

Clinton's husband Bill Clinton was president when the Pentagon instituted the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, which says Gays may serve in the military only if they keep their sexual orientation private. In 1999, as she prepared to run for the Senate from New York, Clinton publicly opposed that policy.

Previous to Bill Clinton's administration, Gays were flatly forbidden from serving in the military.

Sen. Clinton said it would be safer for the nation if openly Gay soldiers, sailors, Marines, and airmen could wear the uniform.

"This policy doesn't just hurt Gays and Lesbians, it hurts all our troops and this to me is a matter of national security and we're going to fix it," Clinton said.

Her chief rivals for the Democratic nomination, John Edwards and Barack Obama, also favor repealing the policy.

She also attacked the Bush administration for making political appeals based on Gay rights issues, vowing that her presidency would mark "the end of leadership that has politicized the most personal and intimate issues."

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'Shocking' Program Could Carve \$60 Million Out Of HIV/AIDS Prevention Budget

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A little-known initiative added to the recently-renewed Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Act will divert \$60 million from the Center for Disease Control's HIV/AIDS prevention budget over the next three years into a fund for which no states actually qualify, reported rawstory.com. CDC officials say that if no new money is appropriated to offset the annual funding loss, the agency will be forced to make cuts in its support for state HIV programs to make up the difference.

Renewed by Congress last fall and signed into law by President Bush in December, the act supports a wide range of care and treatment services for those living with HIV/AIDS. But a provision inserted into the act's budget by conservative Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK) could dramatically reduce funding for prevention programs. Coburn's HIV Early Diagnosis Grant initiative mandates that \$30 million in CDC's HIV/AIDS prevention dollars be set aside annually to fund grants for states that meet a specific set of qualifications regarding HIV testing.

The problem, according to HIV/AIDS community advocates, is that no states currently qualify for the grant program. However, the CDC's prevention budget will still lose that \$30 million annually, whether any state qualifies and applies or not.

"It's shocking, really," Sean Barry, Director of Policy for the New York-based Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project (CHAMP), told rawstory.com. "That's \$30 million a year whether any state qualifies or not... that money could, effectively, be wasting away in the Treasury Department."

CDC spokesperson Jennifer Ruth confirmed that the agency "is not aware of any states that currently qualify" for the program. "Some states have indicated that they are pursuing statutory or regulatory changes which may make them eligible for the funding in the future," Ruth wrote in an e-mail to rawstory.com.

But Coburn spokesperson John Hart said while "it is not certain how many states would currently be eligible for the funding," the initiative was actually "set up as a financial incentive to encourage states to adopt CDC testing recommendations and to prioritize early diagnosis of high risk groups and efforts to eliminate baby AIDS." Hart confirmed that any unused grant money would not be returned to the prevention budget.

The HIV Early Diagnosis Grant program would make available multi-million dollar grants to states under two categories. Twenty million dollars would be available annually for states that have voluntary ("opt-out") HIV testing of pregnant women and universal testing of newborns, with a yearly \$10 million grant limit per state. Another \$10 million would be avail-

able for states that perform voluntary HIV testing of clients at sexually transmitted infections clinics and at substance abuse treatment centers. The money can be used by states to pay for HIV/AIDS testing, prevention counseling, treatment of newborns exposed to HIV/AIDS, treatment of infected mothers and newborns exposed to HIV, and costs associated with connecting those diagnosed with HIV to care and treatment. Earlier this month, when the Senate approved the 2007 budget resolution, Democratic leaders included language which bars the use of CDC prevention funds for the early diagnosis program this year. President Bush signed the bill into law on February 15.

Sean Barry of CHAMP pointed out that the Bush administration has already cut CDC HIV prevention grants to state and local health departments by a total of \$21 million since 2003. Barry added that if the Democrats had not blocked the funding for 2007, the money transferred to the program would have amounted to a \$30 million budget cut to the CDC's prevention budget, with all the money "just sitting on the shelf." He stated, however, that it will be more difficult for HIV/AIDS community advocates to urge Congress to block the fund transfer in future budget years.

To offset the anticipated loss of funds next year, the CDC has included a request for \$30 million in new money in the agency's 2008 budget to support the program, the CDC's Jennifer Ruth said. "If an increase is not appropriated in 2008, funds would have to be redirected from existing programs for state health departments in order to support it," Ruth wrote in an E-mail.

Laura Hanen, Director of Government Relations for the National Association of State and Territorial AIDS Directors, said advocates had urged a compromise with Coburn and other government officials to allow any unused portion of the \$30 million to return to the CDC's prevention budget each year.

Instead, Senator Tom Coburn, a frequent critic of how the CDC has spent portions of its HIV prevention budget in the past and a former co-chair of George Bush's President's Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA), inserted language in the legislation requiring the money be stripped from the CDC's HIV prevention programming dollars.

"It's just not acceptable to take that money away," Diana Bruce, director of policy and government affair for AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families, said. "It would be a very different situation with new money."

Hart disagreed. Hart said the senator had sought to include the

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UPDATE

Wrestlers Needed For Extravagaza

TUCSON - The 20th Anniversary of the Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling and Live Auction Extravagaza will be held on Sunday May 6, at Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle, to raise funds for the programs and services the 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.

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.

Tryshe Dhevney At S.H.A.R.E. March 27

TUCSON - The featured guest speaker at the March 27th S.H.A.R.E meeting will be Tryshe Dhevney. Tryshe will discuss SoundShifting, a unique body/voice integration system that uses the power of the voice to consciously create optimal health and physical, emotional and spiritual attunement.

Sound is the most direct path to healing the body, subconscious thought and emotions - a path that begins with one's attention to change. When we become willing to explore within ourselves, we can easily tap into our own wisdom, vocal power, unlimited creativity and unexpressed feelings through conscious use of sound as well as focused and intuitive movement. This energy healing process is profoundly direct, effective and efficient. By creating a point of focus for the mind, sound forms an energetic grid through which previously blocked energy can flow. This creates a healing mechanism of resonance and vibration, allowing sound to move to those parts of us that are "out of tune," returning it to its natural rhythm and frequency. Tryshe is widely recognized and has held workshops at Canyon Ranch, Miraval and the Institute of Noetic Science. Her work has also been featured on CBS News and PBS.

S.H.A.R.E is a self healing group that explores and addresses core issues (shame, abandonment, trust). The group shares positive thought and tools such as self evaluation, discussion, education (guest speakers), journaling, body-work, nutrition, meditation, peer to peer counseling/motivation and group activities to strengthen and empower each other to a life of joy and purpose. S.H.A.R.E meets at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St., 7- 9 p.m. on the first, third and fourth Tuesday of each month. For more information please contact Lee at leepoffaith@comcast.net or visit soundshifting.com.

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE



To the Community:

After lengthy personal reflection, I have decided to step down as Executive Director of Wingspan. I feel that it is time for me to explore new challenges and opportunities. I also believe that it is time for Wingspan to have new leadership. I will continue to serve as Wingspan's Executive Director for a while longer during the transition. This will allow Wingspan to finalize its strategic planning process and conduct a thorough and careful search for a new Executive Director.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve Wingspan and the community, and I feel blessed by the many wonderful experiences Wingspan has afforded me. I have so enjoyed working with the LGBT and allied communities and have such warm feelings about my time at Wingspan. I know that news of my departure will come as a surprise to many people; please know that I wish it were possible to tell everyone personally. I am not leaving Tucson and I have no immediate plans.

As I mentioned, I will be staying on at Wingspan for a while longer and then will begin looking for other employment. The Wingspan Board and I will be working on a plan that ensures a smooth transition and continuity in leadership. We promise to keep the community informed about that process as it unfolds.

I have had the joy of working with countless staff and volunteers to help build Wingspan from a small, primarily volunteer agency to an organization with 20 staff and a \$1.1 million budget. It has been a pleasure developing new programs and increasing Wingspan's services to the community. Wingspan's past and current volunteers and staff have taught me a lot about how to create a good work environment and ways of developing a cohesive internal team. I am also proud to leave Wingspan with a strong and diversified funding base for the organization.

I ask that you continue to support Wingspan with your gifts of time, talents and resources during this transition. I will continue to be one of Wingspan's strongest supporters and hope that Wingspan's support in the community continues to increase as Wingspan prepares to unveil a new vision and plan for the future.

Wingspan is entering a new period, with exciting challenges and opportunities. New leadership will help meet these needs and carry the organization to the next level of development. I care deeply about Wingspan and want to make certain that it continues to thrive. I know that the future of Wingspan will be very bright because of the core group of board, staff and volunteers who work tirelessly to make this organization great. I want to thank them for their hard work, dedication and service to our community.

Again, I am so appreciative of all that Wingspan has provided me over the past six years. I have learned so much and hopefully have provided something in return. I will most fondly remember all of the amazing people with whom I have worked over these six years, many of whom I count as friends. I am deeply grateful for all of the support you have given me and your trust in my vision and leadership.

Warm wishes,
Kent Burbank Executive Director

How can I help?

You can make a difference by volunteering with the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation!

- *Reception
- *Client Support
- *Prevention
- *Speaker's Bureau
- *Data Entry
- *Special Events
- *Fundraising
- ...and much more!

Newcomer Orientations are open to all those interested and are held once a month at our office, located at

375 South Euclid Avenue.

Contact Lisa Carter at 628-7223 or lcarter@saaf.org
Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation



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Informing the Community
The Observer

Howl at the Moon
Sports Pub & Dance Club

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SW corner of Prince & Fairview
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sat 3.10.07
dj hard mac
is back

Karaoke
with Rosemary

Thursdays
8:30 pm

Sat., March 17th
Royalty Show
with former
Miss Gay Tucson

By Eric Alva

Coming from a military family, I'm sure it was not much of a surprise when I told my parents that I planned to join the military. After all, both my grandfather and father had proudly served in the Army; my grandfather was a World War II and Korean War veteran and my father served in Vietnam.

I had graduated from high school in 1989, and after two unremarkable semesters at community college, I knew the last thing I wanted was to continue living at home and working for a fast food restaurant chain.

Fortunately, I had witnessed other friends join the United States Marine Corps and return home from boot camp completely transformed into a military man with their short haircuts and crisp uniforms. I knew then that this was what I wanted. So on June 15, 1990 I was sworn into the U.S. Marine Corps. I was 19 years old.

As I began my career in the U.S. Marine Corps, I spent the early years of my military career deployed in Somalia and was later stationed in Okinawa, Japan. Being a Marine and serving my country gave me sense of confidence and honor that I relished. So in 2002, I reenlisted and found myself in Kuwait and was ultimately called to serve in the Iraq war.

On Mar. 21, 2003, my life changed forever.

Soon after combat began in Iraq, I was in charge of 11 U.S. Marines on a logistical convoy when I stepped on an Iraqi landmine outside my Humvee vehicle and became the first American wounded in the Iraq War. The explosion was so powerful it blew me to the ground ten feet away and took off part of my right leg. I can still remember the ringing in my ears from the blast.

I spent months in rehabilita-

COMMENTARY . . .

Don't Ask, Don't Tell: From The Inside Out

tion where I was visited by President Bush, First Lady Laura Bush and former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. I was recognized by the military for my service and received a Purple Heart award. I was also interviewed by several major newspapers and magazines and I made numerous TV appearances, including on the Oprah Winfrey Show. Yet despite all the attention and focus on my life, today is the first time I have publicly talked about my sexuality in relation to my military service.

To be honest, each time I was commended on my courage, I couldn't help but remember how scared I was that I would be found out as Gay and kicked out of the military. I remember the fear I felt when people around me in the military started debating the new "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy even before it became law. During training meetings people would make such nasty remarks about homosexuals. Still, my proudest moments during my 13 years in the military came when I would confide in one of my friends about my sexual orientation and they would still treat me with the same respect as before.

Although I'm no longer wearing the uniform of the U.S. Marine Corps, my mission continues to be protecting the rights and freedoms of all Americans. I have realized that I have an obligation to myself, my partner Darrell and Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Americans across the country to stand up and speak out for our deserved rights.

So as I begin my first day as national spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign's efforts to repeal

"Don't Ask, Don't Tell," I was excited to join Rep. Marty Meehan at a Capitol Hill press conference for the reintroduction of the Military Readiness Enhancement Act, legislation to repeal this broken and discriminatory policy. I also joined hundreds of HRC members from across the country on Capitol and met with congressional leaders during the Human Rights Campaign lobby day.

Although I'm a little nervous about the effects my new public role may have on my immediate life and my family, I consider this anxiety to be a small price to pay for speaking up for the estimated 65,000 Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Americans that voluntarily and willingly serve our country in the military but yet are forced into fear and silence by this ban.

The undeniable truth is that not only is this policy just plain wrong because it discriminates against Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual servicemembers, but the loss of thousands of dedicated personnel with critical skills and expertise clearly confirms that this ban is also a dangerous and costly compromise to our nation's security. In fact, in the nearly 14 years since this policy was first enacted, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) estimates that the government has spent between \$250 million and \$1.2 billion to investigate, eliminate and replace qualified service members who want to serve their country but can't because expressing their sexual orientation violates "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

Ironically, 73 percent of troops say they are personally comfortable in the presence of Gays and Lesbians and public opposition to the law has grown dramatically since "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" was enacted. In 2005, polls indicated that 79 percent of Americans believe that Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual servicemembers should be free to openly serve in the military.

My sacrifice was for the rights and freedoms of all our citizens and did not exclude GLBT Americans. In this time of conflict where our military is in desperate need of skilled personnel, Congress and the Department of Defense should be looking for ways to increase enrollment in the Armed Forces - and not restricting Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Americans from serving because of who they are.

(Marine Staff Sgt. Eric Alva was the first American wounded in the war in Iraq. On Mar. 21, 2003, he was traveling in Iraq in a convoy to Basra with his battalion when he stepped on a landmine, breaking his right arm and damaging his leg so badly that it needed to be amputated. Alva was awarded a Purple Heart and received a medical discharge from the military.)





Tucson's #1 Gay Club

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAYS

5PM-8PM-SPECIAL HAPPY HOUR

SHRIMP COCKTAILS
\$2.00 WELL DRINKS
\$2.00 DOMESTIC BEERS

9PM-CLOSE
DJ Q SPINNING
ON THE DANCE FLOOR

10PM-CLOSE
DJ MIKE LOPEZ SPINNING
ON THE PATIO FOR
"I'M A SEXY BITCH!" NIGHT

"PARIS IS BURNING"

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SUNDAY, MARCH 11TH
18 & UP WITH ID!

9PM-PARTY STARTS!
11PM-VOGUE COMPETITION!

COMPETE FOR FABULOUS CASH PRIZES!!!
***CATEGORIES FOR COMPETITION ARE**
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Visit our Back Pocket Patio Bar
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Friday and Saturday
Party with DJ Jeff and the boys
9-Close

Sunday March 11th
Tucson's Best All Day Party
Brunch 11:30-2:30
Patio Bar with Andrew opens at 2pm
Beer Bust 2-7pm
BBQ 5-9pm
Karaoke at 9pm with Michael D

Monday March 12th
Join Ryan and Michael D for Karaoke

Come see our New Look and the progress
of the Back Pocket Patio Bar

Coming Events

- March 17th St. Patrick's Day Party
- March 18th Rock, Paper Scissor Contest
- March 21st Sarong Party with Alex and Blake-
- March 25th Lucinda Holliday & Guests

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Shocking Program Could Carve \$60 Million Out OF HIV/AIDS Prevention Budget

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measure in the Ryan White Act to ensure funding for early diagnosis efforts, citing a "long history" of financial neglect. The initiative, he said, is also aimed at meeting the CDC's own 2003 recommendations and ensuring fiscal responsibility. "As a fiscal conservative, Dr. Coburn believes that it is irresponsible to add to the federal budget deficit and that all new spending should be offset," Hart said. "This is simply prioritizing government spending in a fiscally responsible manner."

The potential loss of funds to the CDC's HIV prevention program could not come at a worse time, advocates say. Infection rates remain high among the poor and minority groups. AIDS is now the leading cause of death among African-American women 24-34 years old. Bush's 2008 budget, unveiled earlier this month, requests \$93 million in additional funds that are nominally for the CDC's prevention program: \$63 million for a targeted HIV testing program and the \$30 million requested by the agency to offset the loss of funds to Coburn's grant program. No new money, however, has been requested to fund actual prevention efforts - such as counseling or sex and HIV education - which target those who have yet to become infected in hopes of deterring or changing high-risk behaviors. Instead, the additional funding, if appropriated, will go towards identifying those who already have the disease.

Hanen argued that mem-

bers of the HIV/AIDS community have "basically been defending prevention programs" since the Bush administration took office six years ago. However, Laura Bruce of the AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families countered that, while Coburn "is a senator who cares a lot about HIV/AIDS" issues, funding his initiative through the CDC's HIV prevention budget is misguided. "There already is a massive effort to prevent mother to child transmission ... the CDC has its own prenatal transmission programs," Bruce said, adding that about 100 babies a year are HIV positive. "That's why the numbers are so low." Bruce added while voluntary testing is important - AIDS Alliance does not support mandatory HIV testing - the most effective way to eradicate mother-to-child HIV transmission is through "intensive case management" for HIV positive mothers. She said that this would take about \$10 to \$30 million. "That's a lot cheaper than \$90 million," she said. Hart responded that the senator "believes that this initiative - based upon CDC's own recommendations - has the greatest potential for HIV prevention and will result in long term cost saving."

Bruce said she didn't think that three years would be enough time for states to change their HIV testing policies to qualify for the grant program before the legislation sunsets in 2009. "I think realistically, that money will be sitting there for the duration," she said.

While funding for the grant program was blocked by Congress for the current fiscal year, if the initiative receives appropriations the following two years, that would give states until late summer of 2009 to change their HIV testing laws and apply.

Capt. Sentenced To 50 Years In Gay Rape Case

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Florida - A military jury ignored an Air Force captain's plea for leniency Wednesday (Feb. 28), sentencing him to 50 years in prison for raping four men and attempting to rape two others, reported 365Gay.com. The sentence was delivered a day after nine Air Force officers serving on Capt. Devery L. Taylor's court-martial jury found him guilty of all charges against him for drugging and kidnapping servicemen he met in bars. Taylor was dismissed from the Air Force and will not be eligible for parole for 20 years.

Earlier, the 38-year-old former hospital administrator asked jurors to consider a sentence of 10 years. His civilian attorney, Martin Regan, said Taylor had no criminal history and an outstanding military record in his four years of service. Taylor was convicted of two counts of attempted sodomy, four counts of forcible sodomy, two counts of kidnapping and one count of unlawful entry. He had testified that he had consensual sex with five of the men and that the sixth, who is openly Gay, raped him. Taylor's attorney said the men lied to protect their military careers.

"I want you to know how much I have loved being a part of the Air Force and serving this country. It has been difficult for me to be a part

of the military and be who I am, which is a homosexual," Taylor said in a written statement read by a military defense attorney assisting in the case. Taylor said he feared he was the victim of a "Gay round up" when military investigators interviewed him in 2006 and that is why he did not fully answer their questions in a five-hour videotaped interview.

Hillary Clinton Wants 'Partnership' With Gays

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Human Rights Campaign vice president David Smith said Clinton's comments were "very well received," though he added the group is not endorsing any candidate and does not anticipate making an endorsement "anytime soon."

Clinton spokesman Blake Zeff said the candidate "affirmed her desire to have a strong partnership with the community as president," adding they were "delighted" the speech was available on the Internet.

Clinton aides said no announcement was made because the group's gathering is traditionally closed to the press. Video of the speech was posted on the group's Web site, hrc.org.

Smith said such annual board meetings have always been closed to the press, but it was the first time he could remember that a speech at such a meeting had been made public afterward.

"There's no contradiction," he said. "The event is always closed to the press and we wanted to make (the remarks) available for people to see."

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COME TO COLORS THIS FRIDAY AND CELEBRATE LUCY'S 2nd ANNIVERSARY @ COLORS

Lucinda Holliday
Guys & Dolls
Makayla Kay
"Miss Gay AZ 2007"

FRI. At 10 Must be 21 To Attend

We are serving lunch again!
From 11:30 - 4:00 on Thur, Fri & Sat
FEATURING A SELECT MENU DESIGNED TO GET YOU IN AND FED QUICKLY!

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR COOKS & SERVERS APPLY IN PERSON

Happy Hour 4-7 Daily
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\$3.50 Sky Cocktails
\$2.75 Well & Domestic



Study: Coming Out Doesn't Equal More Sex

LOS ANGELES - A survey of U.S. Gay men presented at the 14th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections reveals that Gay men born in the 1970s (and therefore now in their 30s) knew they were Gay, came out earlier and had their first boyfriend earlier than Gay men of previous generations, reported Gay.com UK on the PlanetOut Network. But it also finds that older Gay men (born in the 1940s, and therefore now in their 60s) had just as much, if not more, sex as adolescents and had it just as early.

The survey also found that younger Gay men were more likely to have started their sexual adventures by having oral rather than anal sex and were much more likely to have had sex with a woman before they started sex with men. The researchers comment that this means that younger Gay men have had a "broader early sexual repertoire," though if they count oral sex as having a broad repertoire, it begs the question as to what they think a narrow one might be.

The age-stratified survey of Gay men was part of a study called the Urban Men's Health Survey, an annual quiz of Gay men conducted in 15 U.S. cities.

Three statistics suggested that being young and Gay has, if anything, gotten more difficult over the years. The proportion of men who said they'd been harassed at school for being Gay increased from three out of five born before 1940 to four out of five born after 1970.

The number who said they'd experienced child sex abuse increased from 12 percent to 19 percent. And twice as many men born after 1970 had attempted

suicide before the age of 18 compared with those born before 1940 - 6 percent versus 3 percent.

The survey interviewed 2,881 men who said they'd had sex with another man over the last year. It excluded, for this age analysis, the 157 who were under 25 and about 700 (a quarter of the sample) who didn't define themselves as Gay. This left 2,024 men.

Their average age was 40, seven-eighths of them were white, and most were born between 1940 and 1970, with 7 percent each born before 1940 or after 1970.

About 70 percent said they were HIV negative, 20 percent HIV positive and 10 percent said they didn't know their status.

As you might expect, the average age at which men wondered if they were Gay, decided they were, came out to others and got serious a boyfriend declined over the years.

For instance men born before 1940 didn't start even wondering if they were Gay till they were over 17, made the firm decision by the age of 22, and came out to family (if they did) at 25 - having acquired their first serious boyfriend before coming out at the age of 23.

Men born after 1970 wondered if they were Gay before they were 13, had decided they were by 17, and came out at 19 before having their first serious relationship at about 19 and a half years old.

On the other hand, just because men born in the 1940s came out to themselves and others later didn't mean they were having less sex. The number who'd had more than 25 partners before the age

of 18 declined significantly from 13 percent of men born before 1940 to 4 percent of men born after 1970.

And the number whose first sex was with another man declined from 80 percent of those born before 1940 to 65 percent of those born after 1970. Anal sex remained just as fashionable over time but the proportion whose first sex was oral sex increased from 48 percent of those born before 1940 to 72 percent of those born after 1970.

Of course, the latter would be starting to have sex in the late 1980s and early '90s, when the fear of AIDS was at its peak.

Another branch of the same survey, which included men under 25, found that between 5 percent and 11 percent of Gay men in the 15 cities who'd previously taken an HIV test believed themselves to be negative when they were in fact positive.

More than 90 percent of the men had taken an HIV test at some point and two-thirds of them had been tested in the last year - a far higher proportion than in Europe.

Of the ones that had been tested, 79 percent said they were negative, 15 percent positive and 6 percent said they hadn't dared go back for their result.

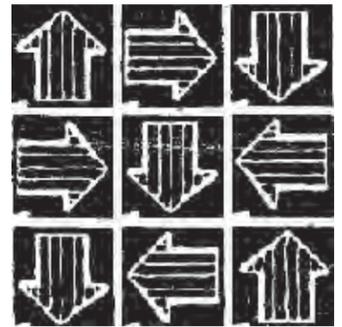
When the men were given an oral HIV test, it turned out that in fact 26 percent were positive, with nearly half of these (12 percent of all men who'd ever been tested) being newly diagnosed. The federal Centers for Disease Control has recommended that in the light of these findings, Gay men should get tested for HIV at least once a year.

study from New York which found that Gay men have by far the highest risk of acquiring new HIV infections of any group.

By using an assay which detects recent infection in people coming to get tested at New York City's STD clinics, a group from the New York Public Health Department found that HIV incidence - the proportion of people who get new infections - was 3 percent a year in Gay men, 1.7 percent a year in injecting drug users and 0.25 percent a year in heterosexuals.

The peak age for infection was 35-39. Black people were still the ethnic group most likely to acquire HIV but their incidence rate had declined from 0.7 percent a year in 2000 to 0.28 percent in 2004 and was now not greatly in excess of that seen in Latinos, though still twice the rate in white people.

Incidence had declined in all groups except Gay men, where an initial decline from 3.8 percent a year in 2000 hadn't been sustained and had stayed at 3 percent a year. In other words, one in 35 Gay New Yorkers a year becomes HIV-positive.



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Bill To Repeal Military Ban Reintroduced In Congress



Congressman Marty Meehan

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Legislation to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" the ban on Gays serving openly in the military, was reintroduced in Congress Wednesday, Feb. 28, reported 365Gay.com. Congressman Marty Meehan (D-MA), chair of the House Armed Services Sub-Committee on Oversight and Investigations, filed the bill. A similar bill died last year when the last session of Congress ended.

Meehan said that more than 110 Members of Congress from both parties have signed on to co-sponsor the bill, called the Military Readiness Enhancement Act (H.R. 1246).

Since the ban on Gays serving openly was implemented a decade ago more than 11,000 men and women have been dismissed under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" according to the Government Accountability Office.

Among them were more than two dozen Arabic translators, dropped by the Defense Department since the war in Iraq began because they were openly Gay.

Additionally, a study conducted last year for the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network concluded that the U.S. military could attract as many as 41,000 new recruits if Gays and Lesbians in the military were able to be open about their sexual orientation.

"Given our military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, the recruiting woes our armed forces face, and the quality of troops being dismissed

under the law, Congressman Meehan's legislation is more important than ever," said C. Dixon Osburn, executive director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. "When the armed forces fire nearly five dozen Arabic translators, our security is diminished. When doctors and nurses are removed from duty, the well-being of those who depend on medical personnel for help is threatened. And when intelligence officers are booted only because of their sexual orientation, our country is less safe. There is no excuse for sacrificing security in the name of discrimination."

A Zogby poll taken in October showed three-out-of-four members of the military who are serving in Iraq or recently returned home don't care if someone in their unit is Gay.

The poll, taken for the Michael D. Palm Center at the University of California, Santa Barbara, also found that nearly one in four U.S. troops say they know for sure that someone in their unit is Gay or Lesbian, and of those 59% said they learned about the person's sexual orientation directly from the individual

Support for repeal has been steadily growing.

In January General John Shalikashvili, who served as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the Clinton Administration called for repeal of DADT in an op-ed article in Tuesday's New York Times.

Two days later Clinton's Secretary of Defense, William Cohen, called for an end to the ban.

The issue also came up this month when Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice appeared before the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Responding to a question by Rep. Gary Ackerman (D-NY) Rice said the state department does not have a ban on LGBT workers. When she complained the department was having difficulty finding Arabic translators Ackerman asked Rice why the state department had not hired any of the translators fired by the Pentagon because they are Gay and Lesbian. Rice refused to be pinned down.

Meehan said that with Democrats now in control of Congress he is confident the measure will pass.

Condom Mishaps Common Among Young Men, Study Shows

LEXINGTON, Kentucky - Many young men could use a bit more instruction on proper condom use, according to the lead author of a new study that found nearly one in three recently experienced condom breakage. "We give condoms away all the time, and unfortunately that's often all that we do," R.A. Crosby of the University of Kentucky in Lexington told Reuters Health, advocate.com reported. "I think it's important to take men beyond consistent use when we make attempts to intervene, and to promote the correct use as well."

Crosby and his colleagues interviewed 278 men between the ages of 18 and 35 attending a public sexually transmitted infection clinic to understand how frequently and why condom breakage occurs. All of the men reported using a condom during intercourse at least three times in the previous three months. Thirty-one percent reported at least one recent instance of condom breakage. Men who previously had a sexually transmitted infection were twice as likely to report condom breakage, while men who reported problems with condom slip-

page were nearly three times as likely to have problems with condom breakage. Those who said they didn't feel confident with their ability to use condoms were also more likely to have experienced condom breakage.

Other risk factors were allowing condoms to contact a sharp object, having problems with the fit and feel of condoms, and not squeezing air from the condom's receptacle tip. Each of these three factors doubled the risk of condom breakage. The findings show that identifying men who need more information on how to use a condom could be as simple as asking them if they have problems with condom breakage or slippage, have had a sexually transmitted infection in the past, or don't feel confident about using condoms, Crosby noted. Men should also be instructed to avoid letting teeth, nails, or other sharp objects come in contact with a condom, he added, and they should never use scissors to open a condom package. He added that sexually transmitted disease clinics should ideally provide a range of sizes and brands of condoms to their clients so men can find the best fit.



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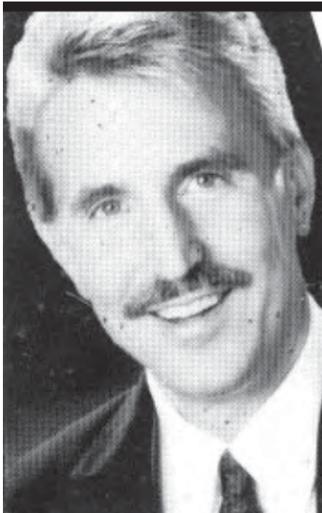
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Gay Marine Rocks The U.S. Military

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Staff Sgt. Eric Alva lost his leg nearly four years ago when he stepped on a land mine in the desert in Kuwait. He was the first U.S. Marine to be seriously wounded in the Iraq conflict.

In Bethesda Naval Hospital, Alva was visited by President Bush and Laura Bush, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and ex-basketball player Michael Jordan.

As the first Marine to be injured in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Alva became a household name. He was a guest on "Oprah" and was awarded a Purple Heart. Unsurprisingly, his good looks and polite charm made him a poster boy for military bravery and inspiring patriotism.

The opportunistic, media-savvy establishment figures queuing up for their photo ops were unaware of one crucial fact in this story - the 5'1" Latino from San Antonio just happens to be Gay.

Alva was aware of his sexuality when he enlisted aged 19 in 1990, and admits to lying on his application when asked about his sexual orientation. However, Alva's wish to serve his country proved stronger than fears regarding sexual honesty.

Already a hero on many levels, Alva is about to use his unique place in history to create waves of a different kind. He came out at a Wednesday (Feb. 28) news conference on Capitol Hill, where he called for the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on Gays in the service to be abandoned.

"I'm an American who fought for his country and for the protection and the rights and freedoms of all American citizens - not just some of them, but all of them," Alva said.



Staff Sgt.. Eric Alva

He now plans to work with the Human Rights Campaign as it renews its efforts to repeal "don't ask, don't tell," which bars Lesbians and Gay men from serving openly in the armed forces.

Alva told the Washington Post: "The truth is, something's wrong with this ban. I have to say something. I mean, you're asking men and women to lie about their orientation, to keep their personal lives private, so they can defend the rights and freedoms of others in this country, and be told, 'Well, oh, yeah, if you ever decide to really meet someone of the same sex and you want the same rights, sorry, buddy, you don't have the right.' That's one factor. The other factor is, we're losing probably thousands of men and women that are skilled at certain types of jobs, from air traffic controllers to linguists, because of this broken policy."

Complaint Refiled Over Lesbian Wedding Ceremony

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania - A Florida minister has again filed a complaint against the Rev. Janet Edwards, who faced charges in church court for marrying a Lesbian couple before the court determined last year that the charges were filed four days too late, reported the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. The Rev. James Yearsley said he refiled the accusation with Pittsburgh Presbytery, charging that Ms. Edwards defied her vows and the constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA), which prohibits same-sex marriages and bars pastors from performing them.

Yearsley, who is pastor of

Village Presbyterian Church in Tampa, Fla., filed the original accusation on his own in 2005 but has been joined now by 14 pastors and elders as co-accusers. Yearsley, who was pastor of Mount Hope Community Church in Penn Hills when he filed the original complaint, said he is continuing to pursue it because he believes Ms. Edwards and the church "should have their day in court." He said he and his co-accusers were disappointed that it was dismissed on technical grounds in November after a mix-up over the deadline for an investigating committee to file charges. "We are a church with a clear constitution and the process works. We need to allow it the opportunity to work," he said.

Edwards is a parish associate at the Community of Reconciliation in Oakland and a longtime activist for Gay people in the church. She said she does not believe she violated the promises she made at ordination by marrying two West Virginia women in June 2005. "Of course it is difficult to be called a heretic or apostate by a fellow Presbyterian and another Christian. But I really learned from the first round and I want to focus my soul on reconciling prayer," she said yesterday. "I'm hoping that I can talk with people who disagree with me and that we can find our way to reconciliation."

Pittsburgh Presbytery will again appoint an investigating committee of ministers and elders to look into the accusation and determine if charges should be filed in church court. Ms. Edwards could face penalties ranging from a reprimand to removal from ministry if she is convicted.

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Episcopal Leader Urges Churches To Cool Gay Support



Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori

NEW YORK CITY - Appearing on a live webcast, the Episcopal Church's presiding bishop began the painful task Wednesday (Feb. 28) of persuading members to roll back their support for Gays - at least for now - so the denomination can keep its place in the world Anglican fellowship, reported 365Gay.com. The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, who personally supports ordaining partnered Gays, told a studio audience, callers and those who submitted questions by e-mail that they should make concessions that Anglican leaders are seeking to buy time for reconciliation.

"To live together in Christian community means each member takes seriously the concerns and needs of other members," Jefferts Schori said. "If we can lower the emotional reactivity in the midst of this current controversy, we just might be able to find a way to live together." Asked whether she was abandoning Gay and Lesbian Christians, Jefferts Schori said, "My view hasn't changed, but I'm called to be

pastor to the whole church."

Anglican leaders emerged from a closed-door meeting in Tanzania with an ultimatum for the U.S. denomination: They gave Episcopalians until Sept. 30 to unequivocally pledge not to consecrate another partnered Gay bishop or authorize official prayers for same-sex couples. If it doesn't, the church risks a much-reduced role in the 77 million-member Anglican Communion. The Episcopal Church, which represents Anglicanism in the United States, caused an uproar in 2003 by consecrating its first openly Gay bishop, V. Gene Robinson. The decision put the liberal Christian focus on social justice directly at odds with the traditional biblical view of sexuality. Robinson made his first public comments on Anglican demands, saying the church should reject the ultimatum and instead "get on with the work of the Gospel" no matter how communion leaders react. Several other Episcopal bishops have issued similar statements.

Most of the calls and questions submitted during the webcast were equally fraught. One woman said her daughter is a Lesbian seeking to become an Episcopal priest who was "broken-hearted" by the restrictions on Gays. Another asked whether Anglican leaders were actually promoting division instead of healing. Jefferts Schori answered each in the same calm, measured tone, saying "an ethic of justice and inclusion would seemingly also urge us to include the dissenter." Theological conservatives are a minority in the 2.3 million-member church, but are the majority among Anglicans overseas.

The presiding bishop cautioned that a rush to break from other Anglicans would hurt Episcopal humanitarian work, disconnecting the U.S. church from sister churches overseas. She said she understood the fear created by the crisis, but a split would not solve the problem. "We are being pushed toward a decision by impatient forces within and outside this church who hunger for clarity. That hunger for clarity at all costs is an anxious response to discomfort in the face of change which characterizes all of life," she said. "The impatience we're now experiencing is an idol - a false hope that is unwilling to wait on God for clarity." The Episcopal House of Bishops will take up the proposal for the first time at a closed-door meeting in March. Jefferts Schori said she was also trying to find a way that the House of Deputies, which represents clergy and lay people, could weigh in on the decision without calling a special convention, which would be expensive and time-consuming.

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POLITICS 2007

by Mark R. Kerr

'Words Can Only Go So Far'

For the third time, so far, in 2007, the use of derogatory terms or expressions of hatred toward homosexuals made the headlines of the corporate hack media.

According to news accounts, Isaiah Washington, an actor on the television show, "Grey's Anatomy," called fellow cast member T.R. Knight a "faggot," then subsequently denying ever uttering the term, after which Knight and other cast members acknowledged the incident taking place. Washington repeated the slur backstage at the (Monday, Jan. 15) Golden Globes ceremony. Knight subsequently came out during several interviews about the on-set scuffle during this time.

During the time former NBA player John Amaechi announced that he was Gay, former basketball star, Tim Hardaway, said during an interview (Wednesday, Feb. 14) for a South Florida sports-radio program, "I hate Gay people," and admitting being "homophobic," when asked how he would react in having an openly homosexual teammate.

Speaking (Friday, Mar. 2) at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), conservative Republican political commentator, Ann Coulter said, during her address: "I was going to have a few comments on the other Democratic presidential candidate, John Edwards, but it turns out you have to go into rehab if you use the word 'faggot,' so I--so kind of an impasse, can't really talk about Edwards." CPAC audience members then said "oh," applauded and cheered.

Prior to her address, former open-minded independent turned homophobic Republican, Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, prior to Coulter's appearance: "I am happy to hear that after you hear from me, you will hear from Ann Coulter. That is a good thing. Oh yeah!" Coulter had expressed support for Romney's bid for the White House at the Conference.

There was a torrent of condemnation and criticism from individuals, actors (including fellow cast members), athletes, sports officials commentators, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) and progressive organizations resulting in stories being written and broadcast about these incidents.

Speaking out against hatred and remarks or instituting an action, such as a boycott, can only go so far but during these times, further action needs to be taken to get the point across that bigotry and prejudice is wrong.

Faced with the potential loss of income, through the loss of future acting work and his current role on the hit television show, Washington later recanted his denial, apologized, checked into a treatment center to address his "issues," meeting with LGBT groups, and after being publicly rebuked, banned from future NBA events and losing several commercial sponsorships, Hardaway issued a half-baked apology as well over his statements.

Coulter, on the other hand, called the incident, the latest in the slew, just a joke and a school yard taunt, continuing to use homophobia to peddle her books, columns and speaking engagements, resulting in financial rewards and publicity from the corporate hack media. It is time to ratchet up the pressure, not through boycotts but speaking out to those businesses and corporations which do business with Coulter, either through sponsorships, advertisements or otherwise.

On Sunday, Mar. 4, an effort was started by a grassroots effort by a DailyKos (dailykos.com) diarist, resulting in such noted companies as Verizon,



Ann Coulter

Washington Mutual Savings, Sallie Mae, Toyota and netbank.com, as of press time, pulling their advertisements from Coulter's website in the wake of the controversy over her remarks about Edwards. This effort continues and can be found online at dailykos.com/storyonly/2007/3/4/105236/4618, and dailykos.com/storyonly/2007/3/6/13130/17765.

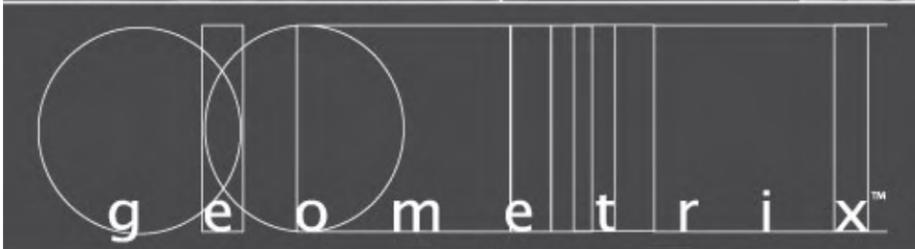
This type of effort, getting commercial sponsors to pull their advertisements succeeded when the homophobic radio host, "Dr." Laura Schlessinger launched a syndicated television show in 2000 and is working in this present effort, so speak out and get the message out to where it will even affect Coulter, in her pocketbook.

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.

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COMMENTARY. . .

Stupid In Seattle

By Jim Allen

SEATTLE, Washington - Unless you've been living in a cave in Borneo for the last decade or so, it's been apparent that the WNBA has Lesbian players and a large Lesbian fanbase.

The Seattle franchise, the Storm, were part of a package deal with the men's team, the (Super)Sonics, that was sold to two Oklahoma City businessmen in July, 2006. Routine, right? Well, no. Those two businessmen, Tom Ward and Aubrey McClendon, did something almost immediately after acquiring the team that's guaranteed to piss me off: they threatened to move the team if they don't get state funding for a new arena.

The tab varies between \$200 - \$400 million, depending on which way the wind is blowing. I'm totally, implacably opposed to using public monies in extortion efforts by sports team owners, but this one gets even more galling. Columnist/sex advice expert Dan Savage's blog broke the story that the two owners donated approximately \$1.1 million between

2004 and 2006 to vile homophobic Gary Bauer's hate group Americans United to Preserve Marriage.

They basically bankrolled the whole thing and that has made some people in Seattle mad. Being the cynical bastard that I am, I could easily see this being a cunning plot by the new owners: piss of a good chunk of your fanbase, have attendance drop and then say "See! See! Seattle won't support the team, we have to move!" blah blah blah.

The one sliver of (unintentional) humor to be found in this thing is the response by the Sonics PR guy, Jim Kneeland, who said "People are entitled to have their views, they are not views that I happen to agree with but they are not trying to impose them on anyone out here". The hypocrisy, or stupidity, take your pick, of that statement is ginourmous: Ward and McClendon, using their financial clout, are trying to do exactly that, impose their views on everyone.

(Jim Allen is a writer for outsports.com, from which this is reprinted from.)

'That's So Gay' Lawsuit

SANTA ROSA, California - When a few classmates razed Rebeka Rice about her Mormon upbringing with questions such as, "Do you have 10 moms?" she shot back: "That's so Gay," the Associated Press reported on 365Gay.com. Those three words landed the high school freshman in the principal's office and resulted in a lawsuit that raises this question: When do playground insults used every day all over America cross the line into hate speech that must be stamped out?

After Rice got a warning and a notation in her file, her parents sued, claiming officials at Santa Rosa's Maria Carillo High violated their daughter's First Amendment rights when they disciplined her for uttering a phrase "which enjoys widespread currency in youth culture," according to court documents. Testifying about the 2002 incident, Rice, now 18, said that when she uttered those words, she was not referring to anyone's sexual orientation. She said the phrase meant: "That's so stupid, that's so silly, that's so dumb." But school officials say they took a strict stand against the putdown after two boys were paid to beat up a Gay student the year before. "The district has a statutory duty to protect Gay students from harassment," the district's lawyers argued in a legal brief. "In furtherance of this goal, prohibition of the phrase 'That's so Gay' ... was a reasonable regulation." Superior Court Judge Elaine Rushing plans to issue a ruling in the non-jury trial after final written arguments are submitted in April. Her gag order prevents the two sides from discussing the case.

Derogatory terms for homosexuality have long been used as insults. But the landscape has become confusing in recent years as minority groups have tried to reclaim terms like "queer," "ghetto" and the n-word. In recent years, Gay rights advocates and educators have tried teaching students that it is hurtful to use the word "Gay" as an all-purpose term for something disagreeable. At Berkeley High School, a Gay student club passed out buttons with the words "That's so Gay" crossed out to get their classmates to stop using them. Rick Ayers, a retired teacher who helped compile and publish the "Berkeley High School Slang Dictionary," a compendium of trendy teen talk circa 2001, said educating students about offensive language is preferable to policing their speech. "I wouldn't be

surprised if this girl didn't even know the origin of that term," he said. "The kids who get caught saying it will claim it's been decontextualized, but others will say, 'No, you know what that means.' It's quite talked about."

Rice's parents, Elden and Katherine Rice, also claim the public high school employed a double-standard because, they say, administrators never sought to shield Rebekah from teasing based on Mormon stereotypes. In addition, the Rices say their daughter was singled out because of the family's conservative views on sexuality. They are seeking unspecified damages and want the disciplinary notation expunged from Rebekah's school record. Eliza Byard, deputy executive director of the New York-based Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, said nearly nine out of 10 Gay students her organization surveyed in 2005 reported hearing "That's so Gay" or "You're so Gay" frequently.

"It bothers them a lot," Byard said. "As odd or funny as the phrase sounds, imagine what it feels like to be in a setting where you consistently hear it used to describe something undesirable or stupid, and it also refers to you." She said it is okay to discipline students for using the phrase after efforts have been made to educate them. "The job of a school is to deal proactively and consistently with all forms of bullying, name-calling and harassment," she said. Jordan Lorence, an attorney with the Alliance Defense Fund, a Christian legal organization, agreed "That's so Gay" carries a negative meaning and said he would not want his children to say it. But he said formal discipline is not the answer. "Reasonable people should say, 'Let's put a stop to this kind of search-and-destroy mission by school officials for everything that is politically incorrect,'" he said.



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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

Mystery Critic

by Lee Thorn

Someone has been passing out fliers critical of local government and nobody seems to know who it is. The content of the fliers is pretty mainstream. It points out the same flaws that are routinely pointed out by the non-mysterious critics of local government. It reminds me that, in spite of a substantial consensus about the ineptitude of our local political leadership, we don't seem to be able to change anything.

The fliers revisit the "buddy-punching" story involving the garbage department wherein employees were punched out by their supervisors for time they didn't actually work, a scheme that cost the city \$80,000 that they'll admit to and who knows how much in reality. All the buddy-punchers are still happily on the job. Is that because "buddy-punching" is such a cute phrase that nobody could actually bring himself to fire a buddy-puncher much less demand that he be prosecuted?

Before somebody ingeniously came up with the phrase "buddy-punching" and before the local newspapers mysteriously decided to adopt it, what the garbage guys were doing was known as "theft by fraud." They were creating false documents, the time cards, for the purpose of obtaining funds that they had no legal right to. But "buddy-punching" sounds so much better than "theft by fraud" that nobody went to jail.

Perhaps this will inspire municipal employee/thieves of the future. What if you could think of a new way to defraud the city and a new cute name for it as well? What if you could con or bribe the press into adopting the cute new name? How about "tummy smacking" or "bootie patting"? Would either of those be cute enough to let you and your fellow thieves stroll off with \$80,000 and keep your jobs and stay out of the clink, all in plain sight? I don't see why not.

The mystery fliers also complain about the recent stupid garbage tax proposal, the recent stupid transportation tax proposal, and the recent stupid sales tax proposal for the police department. Let me play the fool who, to paraphrase a German proverb, points to the spot on the rug. The spot on the rug in this case is that these tax proposals all have something in common besides being recent and stupid. It's the reason that they are all stupid — they're regressive. A

regressive tax, for those of you who slept through Economics 101 and/or currently serve in local government, is one that places the tax burden squarely on the shoulders of those least able to pay it. These tax proposal are stupid for the same non-partisan reason that it's stupid trying to get water out of a stone or blood out of a turnip.

In marked contrast, a progressive tax is one that places the tax burden on the shoulders of those most able to pay it. In the fictional television town of Deadwood, for example, they had gambling joints and mining operations raking in lots of money. Progressive taxation would have placed the burden heavily on those enterprises. In the non-fictional yet harder to believe town of Tucson, we have developers raking in lots of money. I'm sure we have other juicy tax targets, but the developers are the hardest to miss.

The fliers go after the wasted planning dollars of Rio Nuevo, pointing out that the \$3.5 million spent on the proposed rainbow bridge to nowhere bought only meetings, consultants and drawings. Frankly, the ongoing sins of Rio Nuevo have been so bad for so long that mentioning a wasted \$3.5 million almost seems like carping. Rio Nuevo is like the war in Iraq: at what point must any sane man notice that they simply don't know what they're doing, that they're just bumbling around hoping that something good will magically happen, that they're trying to run out the clock on their pathetic terms of office before the public gets wise and brings out the tar and feathers.

That brings me to another point of comparison between Tucson and our nation. I don't know a single person who thinks the city is well governed. Last November's national election was a resounding vote of no confidence in how our country is being run. In both case the leaders go on with business as usual. I don't seriously doubt that democracy is the best form of government that's been invented, but if we judge by its results it seems to be in need of some fine tuning.

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

View From The Rock

According to a recent article in the USA Today, Gay teens are coming out at a younger age than ever before, because acceptance of Gays is growing and because these youth are receiving more support from adults and seeing more positive role models. More openly Gay adults are available to help these young people deal with their issues.

Of course, not everyone is happy with this, since many are rejected by their families, face teasing and bullying at school, and many churches still condemn their lifestyles. Sadly, a higher than average number of homeless young people are homosexual, according to a recent study conducted.

These young people should know that they can have jobs where they're not based on harassed of because of whom they are, attend church and worship, have long term loving, committed relationships and children, and bring them up to have healthy, productive lives.

Jesus loves all of us and tells

us that we have the right to be his children. "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him." (1 John 3:1) I would also tell them that God has promises for them. "For I know the plans I have for you², declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11) I would urge them to turn to the Lord Jesus Christ, and receive his promises.

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

First Openly Gay Man To Speak At A Political Convention Bob Hattoy Dies

SACRAMENTO, California - AIDS activist Bob Hattoy, the first openly Gay man and the first person with HIV/AIDS to speak at a national political convention, died on the weekend of AIDS related complications, reported 365Gay.com. In 1992 he was invited by Bill Clinton to address the Democratic National Convention. Hattoy blasted then-President George Herbert Walker Bush accusing him of "moral blindness" and the "politics of denial, division and death" for not doing enough to combat the virus.

When Clinton became president Hattoy was asked to join the administration serving in both Clinton terms as a deputy in the Office of White House Personnel. President Clinton also appointed him to the Presidential Commission on HIV/AIDS, where he served as Chair of the Research Committee.

Hattoy worked with AIDS activist groups and with the American Civil Liberties Union. He has also worked for the Sierra Club from 1981 to 1992, where he was a Regional Director for California and Nevada working on various environmental justice issues.

Several weeks ago he was hospitalized in Sacramento and died on the weekend (Mar. 3-4). "This weekend, America lost a true champion for justice," said Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean in a statement. "Aside from being a fierce advocate on causes ranging from LGBT rights and HIV issues, to civil liberties and the environment, Bob Hattoy was a wonderfully charming man with a tremendous sense of humor. Most of all, Bob was a



Bob Hattoy

friend and mentor to so many. Through Bob's life and service to our country, we are all reminded of the need to do more to encourage greater participation of all Americans, including Gays and Lesbians, in our political process. Bob will be missed. Our thoughts go out to his family, friends and loved ones," said Dean.

"Bob Hattoy was truly a person of courage," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "His prime time speech on AIDS at the 1992 Democratic Convention broke new ground in the fight to combat the disease and forever changed the way millions of Americans viewed people living with HIV/AIDS."

Washington G/L Partner Registry Clears Senate

OLYMPIA, Washington - The Washington State Senate passed legislation Thursday (Mar. 1) that would create a domestic partner registry for same-sex couples, reported 365Gay.com. The domestic partner registry would also be open to opposite sex senior who for a variety of reasons are unable to marry. The legislation would allow couples who register to have inheritance rights to partner property, the right to visit partners in hospital, make medical decisions and insure the rights of partners when one dies without a will.

"You have prevented us from marrying," openly Gay Sen. Ed Murray, D-Seattle, the bill's main sponsor, told the Senate. "Please do not prevent us from caring for each other." "Justice demands that we take a small step on a longer journey to end that hurt," he said, referring to the long term goal of legalized same-sex marriage. Republicans denounced the bill saying it looked

to much like marriage as is. The bill passed 28 - 19. It now goes to the state House of Representatives, where half of the House members have signed on as co-sponsors. Gov. Chris Gregoire has pledged to sign it.

In January during Senate hearings a woman whose same-sex partner died as a result of flooding a month earlier told lawmakers that she had difficulty getting into the hospital to see her dying lover. In emotional testimony Charlene Strong told how partner Kate Fleming got trapped in the basement studio where she ran an audio company. As the water rose she was unable to open the door to get out. Rescuers finally broke through and rushed Fleming to an area hospital. But at the hospital Strong was told she could not be with her dying partner of nearly 10 years because she was not a relative. Finally officials relented when a family member interceded. Fleming died moments later. Even as she tried to plan Fleming's funeral Strong faced roadblocks. Strong told committee members that if they had been an opposite-sex married couple, or had civil union rights she would have had no trouble.

Republicans who oppose the legislation are pushing a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage. Last July 2006, the Washington Supreme Court upheld the state's so-called Defense of Marriage Act that limits marriage to opposite-sex couples. The court cited the argument that marriage was designed for the procreation of children. But the court noted the legislature could overturn the law or amend it to include gay pairs. Gay and Lesbian couples denied marriage licenses filed suit in 2004. Two lower courts ruled that the state law barring gay marriage was unconstitutional and the the high court heard arguments in the case in Mar. 2005. The proposed constitutional amendment does not have enough support in the legislature to advance. But gay rights advocates have put forward their own amendment picking up on the high courts procreation argument. It would require heterosexual couples to have a child within three years or have their marriages annulled.

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Purported Hate Crime Was Faked

ADA, Oklahoma - A woman who claimed two men threw her to the ground and one of them cut the word, "Lesbian," into her forearm with a knife has admitted to fabricating the incident, Ada city officials said Friday, Mar. 2, reported the Associated Press. Sarah Kaspereit showed police superficial wounds when she reported the incident in Dec. 2006. "Both the FBI and local police conducted an investigation and ultimately determined the wounds were most likely self-inflicted," city spokesman Mark Bratcher said in a written statement. "Kaspereit admitted that that was indeed the case on Mar. 1, almost three months after she initially filed the false report."

Police Sgt. Tracy Jackson said Kaspereit told an investigator she had inflicted the injury to herself and that nobody else was around when she did this. "Kaspereit apologized for her actions and expressed remorse for the trouble she had caused," Jackson said. After the attack, members of the Gay-Straight Alliance, a community organization based at East Central University, held a rally to raise awareness about threats to the Gay community. Police suspicions about the incident began early on. Kaspereit had said it occurred in front of her house on Dec. 4 and that she had screamed, but her neighbors told police they did not see or hear anything unusual. Before this incident, Gay rights advocates had become alarmed with a report of a potential hate crime in Pontotoc County outside of Ada. A woman had claimed that someone blindfolded her, bound her to a tree and wrote the word "Hellbound" in pen across her chest. This incident was determined to be unfounded not long after it occurred, authorities said.

Ada Police Chief Mike Miller said he did not intend to file any charges against Kaspereit even though filing a false police report can be a misdemeanor crime. "She's trying to fix her problems on her own," he said. "She never said what prompted her to do this. She's going through a lot of problems right now and trying to work them out." Miller said the incident drew national attention. "We were getting a lot of inquiries about it, local, state and even nationwide, calls, letters and e-mails," he said. "I'm just glad that this crime didn't happen here."

Retro Mercury redirects and helps to correct any misdirected missives from the past weeks. Will you say what you mean and mean what you say? Ah, no more or no less than usual, I see.

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)
If you have had a few contretemps with compadres, at least you can correct them when Mercury redirects. Proud Rams often do not edit what they say and that appears to be the root cause of their current set of platonic problems. Happily you can kiss and make up, if that is what you truly want to do. If not, at least agree to disagree and nod amiably as you pass in the street.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)
All your best efforts at creating a shining corporate sensation have only resulted in an unintended glare. Now it is time to redeem yourself. Mercury redirects and gives you the rare opportunity to make up for lost time. Queer Bulls can try, try again with senior staff to much better effect. Plan your course of action and bask in the glow of that gorgeous pink light.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
If your best laid travel plans have fallen to nothing, at least you can recoup your losses as Mercury redirects. Pink Twins need an escape now as the recent past has offered little in the way of relaxation and rejuvenation. Pack your bags and book a ticket or two. Will you find yourself buffeted and washed ashore on some long lost beach? Only if that is your plan!

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
Words of love may have missed their intended target. Your messages might have gone astray or were misinterpreted. Now however, Gay Crabs are able to find the right words to sway even the most intransigent and difficult of lovers. Good. But are mere banalities enough? Often actions speak louder and prouder than words. Did I say often? I meant always.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)
If there has been some miscommunication in relationships, this week Mercury redirects and clears them up to a certain degree. The past has had its ups and downs. You might not have heard what partners have been saying and they haven't been listening to you either. Proud Lions like to hear themselves roar. Maybe each of you can roar less and purr more now.

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)
Has your day to day job been more onerous and frustrating than usual? Blame it on retro Mercury and start sharpening your pencils with vigor again. You now have no excuse; get back to work and really apply yourself. Tackle every nasty little task that you have put off or buried somewhere in your desk. Queer Virgins are extremely productive now. Oh goody.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)
Proud Libras manage to have fun in even the most difficult circumstances. Is it their innate optimism? I think it is their need to escape the hum drum of their dreary existence. Now, Mercury redirects and your ability to have fun and really enjoy life will not be hampered by confusion and misinterpretation. Let loose and enjoy anything creative. Hmm, how creative can you be?

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 23)
Have you recently seen more than your fair share of domestic dust-ups? Perhaps it was your tendency to boss the course. Or maybe you thought that your needs were being expressed clearly but simply ignored. Queer Scorps can correct past mistakes and set their domestic agenda on go, go, go. At least someone here can do that!

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)
Even in the best of times, your ability to unintentionally blurt out rancid opinions is legendary. With retro Mercury it may have even gotten you into trouble. But help is on the way, Gay Archer! Now you can say what you mean and mean what you say and you won't even be penalized for it. At least you won't if you don't want to be.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)
Your recent poor fiscal performance can be blamed on a variety of factors - partially because you misinterpreted good advice. Acquisitive pink Caps now pick themselves up, brush themselves off and try, try again. There is money to be made through careful investing and with a cold clear eye to the bottom line. Grab it in both hands and keep it from sagging further.

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)
As Mercury redirects in your own sign, Aqueerians begin to feel more in control of their public persona. Sure, the past weeks might have been full of missed appointments, embarrassing interviews and less-than-stellar first meetings but you now have a great opportunity to redeem yourself. In fact, showing a little vulnerability can work to your favor. Remember, just a little!

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)
Usually Guppies are considered the most intuitive of folks but recently they have had some mean static on their psychic hotline. Readjust your antenna and concentrate as Mercury redirects. Get back on track with renewed confidence. It is now possible to focus and get into some great, karmic things. Hmm, anyone we know?

TUCSON DIRECTORY

The map shows a grid of streets. Major streets labeled include I-10 Freeway, Broadway, University, Speedway, and various numbered streets. A sign in the bottom right corner of the map area reads: "TAKE YOUR I.D. TO THE BARS It's The Law!"

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3710 N. Oracle Road, 292-6702
 6. **HOWL AT THE MOON**
915 W. Prince Rd. 293-7339
 7. **YARD DOG SALOON**
2449 N. Stone, 624-3858
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 - B. **CORNERSTONE FELLOWSHIP**
2902 N. Geronimo - 622-4626
 - D. **WINGSPAN** - 425 E. 7th St. - 624-1779
 - E. **S.A.A.F.** - 375 S. Euclid Ave. - 628-7223
 - F. **RAINBOW PLANET COFFEE HOUSE**
606 N. 4th Ave. - 620-1770
 - G. **TIHAN -Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network**
1101 N. Craycroft, Ste 301. 299-6647
 - H. **EON YOUTH CENTER** 620-6245

Non Bar Calendar

Wednesday, 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

#1Men'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

Miss Gay Tucson America 2007 Pageant at the Holiday Inn Palo Verde. Pre-Judging 6:00 p.m. Pageant 7:00 p.m. Guest entertainers all current or former crown holders. They include Maya Montana, Jessica Deveraux, Mikaila Kay, Bunny FuFu, Lucinda Holliday, Victoria DuPuis, Tori Steele, Janee Starr, Heather Boa. For ticket information call 520-396-3224.

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

#1Men'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.

#2Men'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

Saturday, March 24

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Shuffle over for Floating Pinochle every Saturday of the month except for first Saturday Monthly Pot Luck. Phone host Marvin at 745-0304 for location, driving directions, and info.

Sunday, March 25

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 26

#1Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Join Karol for Hearts by phoning to reserve your place at this limited seating event. Contact 744-9017.

#2Please call Merlin and Lee TODAY if you want to go to Govinda's for lunch on Thursday at 207-5336.

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

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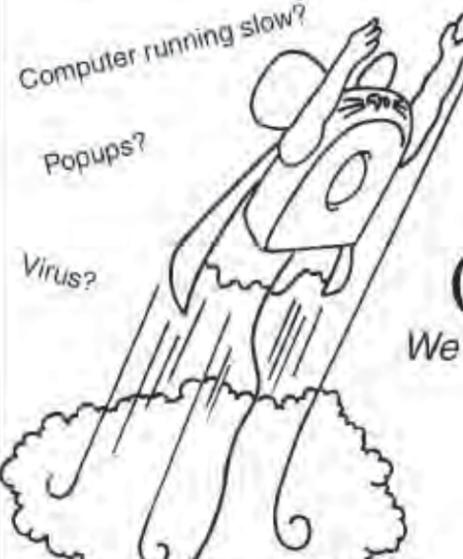
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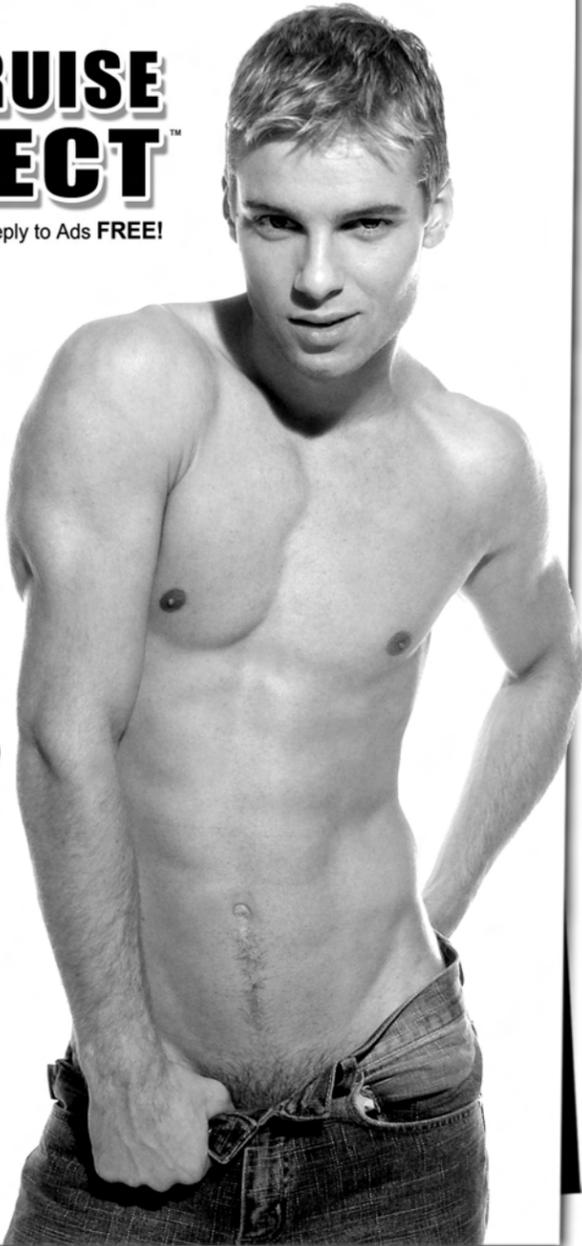
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Mexican Pop Star Christian Chaves Comes Out

MEXICO CITY, Mexico - Christian Chavez, a singer for the Mexican pop group RBD, has announced that he is Gay after photographs of him kissing and exchanging rings with another man surfaced on the Internet, reported the Associated Press on the PlanetOut Network. "I don't want to keep on lying and lie to myself because of fear," Chavez said in a statement posted on the group's Web site Thursday (Mar. 1). "I feel bad for not having shared this with all my fans before, as they are the ones that worry and it is because of them that I decided to be honest."



are and never make the same mistake I did. Tolerance to diversity!"

A series of photos that appeared on the Web site latingossip.com showed the 23-year-old star, known for his ever-changing hair colors, signing documents, exchanging rings and kissing a man with short black hair. According to the site, the photos were taken in 2005 in Canada, which that year became the fourth country in the world to legalize Gay unions. The photos "show a part of me, a part that I was not prepared to speak of in fear of rejection, of criticism, but especially for my family and its consequences," said Chavez, whose statement appeared in both Spanish and English.

RBD, a spinoff from Mexico's wildly popular two-year soap opera "Rebelde," achieved massive success throughout Latin America and among Spanish-speakers in the United States. In Feb. 2006, three people were crushed to death when thousands of fans surged through security barriers at an RBD autograph session in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Weeks earlier, police in New Jersey and Texas also struggled to contain unexpectedly large turnouts of fans for the band.

"Although I'm scared and filled with uncertainty I know that I can rely on the support of my fans," he added. "Their love is bigger than all of this. I ask them from the bottom of my heart, not to judge me for being honest and to feel proud of who they

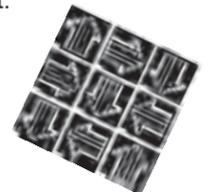
Mexico Can't Discharge HIV-Positive Soldiers

MEXICO CITY, Mexico - The Supreme Court has ruled that the armed forces cannot kick out HIV-positive members because doing so is discriminatory and unconstitutional, 365Gay.com reported. The court, with an 8-3 vote, Tuesday (Feb. 27) ordered Mexico's Defense Department to return to duty four soldiers who were expelled from the armed forces for testing HIV-positive.

or who medically cannot complete their duties.

The case rose to the Supreme Court after several soldiers appealed the Defense Department's decision to let them go. A congressional commission has requested that Mexico's armed forces provide them with figures on the number of military personnel infected with the AIDS virus and how many have been discharged as a result.

The judges spent five sessions debating whether HIV-positive armed forces members were "useless," as the military had argued. The president of the court, Guillermo Ortiz, said the military can still expel members who have full-blown AIDS



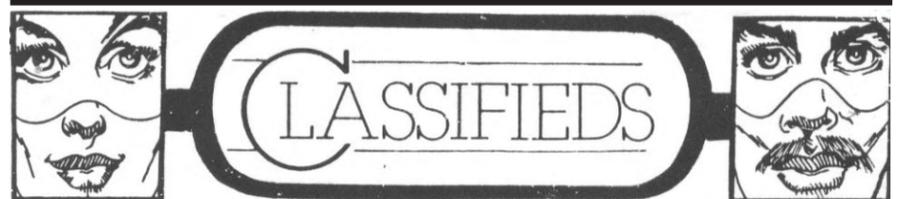
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Thursday	4:00 – 6:30 P.M.
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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

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. Dinner served until 10pm.

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. Dinner 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. Dinner served until 10pm.

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

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

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, "Diva-Licious" show 9pm w/ Bunny Fu Fu & Friends. After show dance with DJ Q til 2am,

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

WEDNESDAY CALENDAR CONTINUED

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

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. 50¢ off any Top Shelf Vodka until 8pm Beer Bust 4-8pm. Patio Bar Opens 7pm. 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 11:30am-11pm. Lunch served until 4pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and Well and reduced price appetizers. Dinner served until 10pm.

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 11:30am-1am. Lunch served until 4pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and Well and reduced prize appetizers. Dinner served until 10pm. "Hot Jazz, Cool Martinis" with Susan Artemis and Craig Faltn 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 Raynman spinning club music inside. 9pm-2am.

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

WOODY'S - Open Noon-2am; Happy Hour Noon-8pm (excl spec events); Martini Happy Hour 5-8pm-\$1 off all call Martinis; Back Pocket Patio Bar open 8-close. DJ Jeff in the Back Pocket 9-close; Watch for special events.

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

SATURDAY

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

COLORS - Open 11:30am-11pm, Lunch served until 4pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and Well, reduced price appetizers. Dinner served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials. Tucson's hot new duo "Pacific Breeze" performs 7-10pm.

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

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open 11:00am. Happy Hour 11am-8pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Kitchen open 11am-9pm. \$2.50 Capt. Morgan or Mailbu. Cheeseburger & Fries Special for \$4.50 all day. Best burgers around. Learn to plau Texas Hold-Em Poker Lessons at noon with a friendly game to follow - no money involved. DJ playing dance mix or check our ad for special events. Kitchen open 9pm to midnight serving late night munchies menu.

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

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

WOODY'S - Open 10am-2am; Happy Hour 10am-8pm (excl spec events); Steak/Fish Dinner in the Back Pocket 5-9pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar open 5-close. Live Jazz with Arthur Migliazza in the Back Pocket 6-9pm; DJ Jeff in the Back Pocket 9-close. Watch for special events.

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

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY, MARCH 7 & 10

HOWL AT THE MOON - Pac 10 Men's Basketball Tournament. Come in and cheer on the Wildcats!

FRIDAY, MARCH 9

THE BIZ - Welcome Back Party for DJ Hill who will be playing your favorite Latin music every Friday and Sunday.

COLORS - Guy's and Dolls Show at 10:00 p.m. hosted by Lucinda Holliday. Who is celebrating her second anniversary at Colors. Special guest Miss Gay Arizona America 2007, Makayla Kay. Come early to assure seating.

SATURDAY, MARCH 10

THE BIZ - Welcome Back Party for DJ Hill who will be playing your favorite hip-hop and dance music every Thursday and Saturday.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Check out the dance mix with DJ Hard Mac. 9:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 11

THE BIZ - Welcome Back Party for DJ Hill who will be playing your favorite Latin music every Friday and Sunday.

IBT'S - "Paris Is Burning" Legends Ball. Party starts at 9:00 p.m. 11:00 p.m. it's Vogue Competition. Compete for fabulous cash prizes. Categories for competition are Vogue & Runway. Drink Specials and much more. Hosted by Ajia Simone with DJ Mike Lopez.

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 - Open at 11:00 a.m. for St. Patty's Day specials. \$3.50 Reuben Sandwich with fries. \$3.00 Guinness bottle, \$5.00 Emerald Martinis. Sthen in the evening it's a 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.

YARD DOG - St. Patrick's Party!

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.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21

WOODY'S - Sarong Party with Alex and Blake.

FRIDAY, MARCH 23

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 24

HOWL AT THE MOON - Female Impersonation Show featuring China Collins, Lucinda Holliday, Bunny FuFu, and more! Starts at 10 pm. \$5.00 cover

YARD DOG - 5h Annual TOGA Party. Don't miss it!!

SUNDAY, MARCH 25

WOODY'S - Lucinda Holliday and Guests

SATURDAY, MARCH 31

HOWL AT THE MOON - Amber Gaia and Dar are here playing favorite and original acoustic music. 9 pm.

SATURDAY, APRIL 7

HOWL AT THE MOON - DJ Hard Mac is back with dance mix.

SATURDAY, APRIL 14

HOWL AT THE MOON - Benefit drag show for Jasmine Bouvier in her quest for the Miss Gay Arizona title. 9 pm

SATURDAY, APRIL 28

HOWL AT THE MOON - Too Much Information is here playing classic rock and blues. 9:00 p.m. \$5.00 cover.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

HOWL AT THE MOON - It's Cinco de Mayo with DJ Michelle playing cumbias,

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.

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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.



'Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue, Don't Harass'

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue, Don't Harass" policy requires Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual service members to keep their sexual orientation secret and refrain from same-sex sexual conduct. The military is banned from asking questions about a service member's sexual orientation, and significant restrictions are placed on commanders seeking to investigate the possibility that a service member may be Gay. Anti-Gay harassment is prohibited under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," as are "witch hunts" and certain other invasive investigations that have been used over the years to root out Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual service members.

Under the current policy, service members may be investigated and administratively discharged if they: make a statement that they are Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual; engage in physical contact with someone of the same sex for the purposes of sexual gratification; or marry, or attempt to marry, someone of the same sex.

Before "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the stated policy of the U.S. military was that "homosexuality is incompatible with military service." All recruits were asked about their sexual orientation before they were allowed to serve. Service members suspected of being Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual were questioned, prosecuted and even threatened with court martial and prison if they refused to give up the names of other service members who were also Gay. Many of the Gay soldiers being discharged were dishonorably discharged, making them ineligible for military pension and other retirement benefits.

In 1992, presidential candidate Bill Clinton declared his opposition to the military's exclusion of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual soldiers. During Clinton's first year in office, a very public congressional and national debate ensued regarding the question of whether the military's practices were acceptable.

Advocates for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community proposed a policy of equal treatment, reasoning that sexual orientation has no bearing on a person's ability to serve. However, after hearings before the Senate Armed Services Committee and much debate, a compromise now known as the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue, Don't Harass" policy was reached in 1993.

The policy's implementation has resulted in a substantial increase in the number of discharges based on sexual orientation as well as high costs related to the discharges. According to the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, more than since the law's implementation in 1993 is more than 11,000 people have been discharged under the policy. On average, the armed forces fire 2-3 service members under the law each day.

Although Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual service members have been held to the "Don't Tell" portion of the policy, reports show that the "Don't Ask, Don't Pursue, Don't Harass" parts of the policy are often ignored.

A 2000 Defense Department inspector general survey showed that 80 percent of service members had heard offensive speech, derogatory names, jokes or remarks about Gays in the previous year, and that 85 percent believed such comments were tolerated. Thirty-seven percent reported that they had witnessed or experienced direct, targeted forms of harassment, including verbal and physical assaults and property damage. Overwhelmingly, service members did not report the harassment. When asked why, many cited fear of retaliation.

Anti-Gay epithets and jokes are not the only forms of sexual orientation harassment that persist in the military. In July 1999, Pfc. Barry Winchell was brutally beaten with a baseball bat in his barracks at Fort Campbell, Ky. He died as a result of the attack. Fellow soldiers testified that the death came months after vile anti-Gay name-calling and harassment, rumor-mongering and inquiries into his private life. An Army inspector general report in July 2000 found that before and after the murder, Maj. Gen. Robert Clark, the commanding general at Fort Campbell, had not provided required training on the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. Following the report, President George W. Bush twice nominated Clark for a promotion to lieutenant general, the Army's second

highest rank. Due to controversy surrounding Clark's previous command at Fort Campbell, the Senate Armed Services Committee did not act on his promotion in 2002. In 2003, the committee is considering his nomination a second time.

Today, many service members continue to be interrogated, harassed and threatened about their sexual orientation. The "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy offers no safe space for service members dealing with such harassment, as psychotherapists, chaplains and doctors have all been known to report service members struggling with their sexual orientation or with harassment based on their perceived sexual orientation. Thus, confidentiality for service members facing these issues is almost nonexistent.

Women and young adults ages 18 to 25 are disproportionately affected by the policy, according to SLDN. For example, while women made up 15 percent of the Army's forces in 2002, they represented 36 percent of the discharges under the law. Women constituted 7 percent of the Coast Guard in 2002 and 34 percent of the discharges. Overall, SLDN reports that women made

up 15 percent of the armed forces in 2002 but accounted for 31 percent of those discharged under the law.

Women are affected in part due to a phenomenon known as "Lesbian baiting." Lesbian baiting occurs when women are identified as Lesbians for a variety of reasons, often in retaliation to poor performance reviews, after refusing a man's sexual advances or after reporting a man for sexual harassment.

In 2002, 83 percent of those discharged from the Air Force under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" were 18 to 25 years old, although they accounted for only 35 percent of the force. While they constituted only 10 percent of the Coast Guard in 2002, service members under 26 accounted for 86 percent of the discharges under "don't ask, don't tell." The 2002 Defense Department inspector general survey also found a "substantial" difference in responses according to level of service, which typically corresponds with the age of the service member. Seventy-eight percent of respondents stated that enlisted service members were harassed in violation of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." Only two percent said the same for officers.

"Don't Ask, Don't Tell" leaves a great deal of discretion to military commanders. There have been many instances in which Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual soldiers have made statements regarding their sexual orientation that, under a strict reading of the policy, should have resulted in their discharge. For various reasons, including opposition to the policy by individual leaders, mission requirements, personnel shortages or skepticism regarding the veracity of the statements, some service members are not discharged for expressing their sexual orientation.

Although service members are not always discharged in accordance with the rules set out by the policy, in most cases if a service member is determined to be Gay, he or she is discharged. Following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, government officials publicly complained about the shortage of qualified linguists - especially those fluent in Arabic. However, several Arabic linguists and Korean linguists from the Army's Defense Language Institute were discharged for being Gay in a highly publicized case in the fall of 2002.

MISS GAY TUCSON AMERICA 2007 PAGEANT
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