



Observing Tucson And  
The Greater Arizona Community

# OBSERVER

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WEEKLY OBSERVER

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## G/L Families Brave Cold For Easter Egg Roll



WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Abnormally cool weather didn't dampen spirits as hundreds of families took part in the annual White House Easter Egg roll on Monday (Apr. 9) - among them several dozen Gay and Lesbian families, 365Gay.com reported.

About 50 same-sex couples and their children lined up late Friday night (Apr. 6) for tickets and with the help of volunteers another 50 tickets were secured for families who could not make it to line. Monday morning all 100 tickets were spoken for.

With families being allowed through the gates at 15 minute intervals it was impossible to get an accurate count of how many Gay families actually participated - even though they wore rainbow leis. Despite the cold, there were more people than last year when it rained throughout the day, Family Pride spokesperson Cathy Renna told 365Gay.com.

Family Pride, which advocates for Gay families helped organize the Gay continent - not as a protest, said Renna, but to show LGBT inclusion at the event.

First Lady Laura Bush read to

children in a sheltered area but had left by the time the first Gay families got onto the lawns.

The Easter Egg Roll has been a tradition at the executive mansion since 1878 when Rutherford Hayes was President. Children compete in the egg roll races using giant spoons. There was an egg hunt and entertainment.

The event kept the White House kitchen busy. About 7,200 eggs were used in the egg roll races. Another 3,000 dyed eggs were used for the egg hunt and 4,200 were boiled for children to dye.

This year's participation by Gay families did not have the huge vocal outcry by conservatives that marred last year's event. Publicity surrounding last year's Roll angered social conservatives pushing for a federal constitutional amendment to ban Gay marriage, calling it a publicity stunt and a protest. Despite President Bush's support for an amendment to Constitution to ban same-sex marriage First lady Laura Bush's office issued a statement to quell the conservative outrage saying all families are welcome to attend.



## Phoenix Pride Parade And Festival This Weekend Sat. & Sun. Apr. 14-15

PHOENIX - The twenty-sixth Phoenix Pride Parade & Festival will take place this Saturday and Sunday, April. 14-15 at Steele Indian School Park, Central Avenue and Indian School Road in Phoenix. The two-day event will kick off at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday with the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Phoenix Pride Parade which begins at 3rd Street and Virginia and will proceed to Indian School Road. There are more entries this year than ever before which means a great time will be had by all. You can complete your parade applications online - [www.phoenixpride.org](http://www.phoenixpride.org) - there are no entry fees!

This annual event promotes unity, visibility, and self-esteem among Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered persons; and to promote a positive image in the Valley of the Sun and throughout Arizona through community activities and services. Single day tickets are \$15, weekend passes \$25. For more information, call (602) 277-7433 or [phoenixpride.org](http://phoenixpride.org).

The Pride Party itself will be bigger and better than ever. More than 250 vendors, plus 3 stages and 2 covered dancing areas, an International Food Court with a great variety

of food and a space for the kids too. There's an Arts Exposition for local artists, and for those who are interested there's a Mexican restaurant and Margarita bar!

The Festival stage emcees are Serious Radio's OutQ Channel 103 Derek and Romaine. Top notch performers scheduled to entertain over the two day period include singers Taylor Dayne ("Tell It To My Heart", "Can't Fight Fate") (Saturday, 8:00 p.m.). Ari Gold brings his soulful R&B dance music to the stage. Also of note, En Vogue, the all girl group performing plenty of R&B, rock, rap and reggae on Sunday at 6:00 p.m.. 'Betty', among other hit records, the five piece rock band, is well known for their controversial theme song for Showtime's 'The L Word'. And if that's not enough, wait until "The Love Goddess" comedienne Judy Tenuta hits the stage with her brash and hilarious view of the world. Also appearing are American Idol and Broadway star Frenchie Davis and comedienne/vocalist and Wigstock hostess Lady Bunny. Plus there's lots more!

So the story is come early - stay late and celebrate your pride the Arizona way.

## Disney To Host Same-Sex Fairy-Tale Weddings

ORLANDO, Florida - The Walt Disney Co. has changed its policy and will allow same-sex couples to take part in its Fairy Tale Wedding program at its California and Orlando, Fla., resorts and cruises, a Disney spokesman confirmed Friday (Apr. 6), reported [advocate.com](http://advocate.com). The change follows criticism from LGBT news outlets, which noted that Disney has long hosted same-sex nuptials and other Gay events on an unofficial basis, but did not allow Gay couples to use its dedicated wedding venues or services.

It anticipates Disney World's unofficial but wildly popular Gay Days in early June, when tens of thousands of LGBT mouseketeers converge on the Orlando resort. "We want everyone who comes to Disney to recognize their special occasion to feel welcomed and respected," Disney Parks and Resorts spokesman Donn Walker told Gay.com on Friday (Apr.6).

Social conservatives have sometimes seen a "Gay agenda" or other moral flaws in the entertainment giant's business dealings, such as its health benefits for employees' same-sex partners or the ABC TV series "Desperate Housewives." The Southern Baptist Convention, among others, boycotted all things Disney from 1997 to 2005. Walker said the latest move was prompted by a same-sex couple's asking for a commitment ceremony at one of the parks. "We believe our guests will understand that

we're not making judgments about people," he said. "We're recognizing the diversity that already exists among our guests."

Same-sex couples now can command a huge arsenal of wedding options of varying degrees of Disney-ness. Packages start at \$8,000, including a wedding planner, the ceremony, food, beverages and table decorations. They range up to include the fabled pony-drawn Cinderella wedding coach (\$2,700) and the expertise of celebrity event maven David Tutera. Couples can bring in their own celebrant or have one provided for what is officially dubbed a commitment ceremony. For some time, Disney has offered Fairy Tale vow-renewals for same-sex couples at the parks. One thing that's not possible, however, is to have a reception graced by two Mickey Mouses, or two Minnies. (The hetero mouse couple is a sometime wedding-dance request.) "This never happens in any circumstance at any of our parks," Walker said. "Because, you see, there's only one Mickey."

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# UPDATE

## Stonewall Democrats Meet April 16

TUCSON - The Southern Arizona Stonewall Democrats will meet Monday, April 16, at Colors, 3305 E. Speedway at 6:30 p.m.

Lisa Markkula, Executive Director of the Pima County Democratic Party will discuss the upcoming fall elections and the get-the-vote-out campaign. All are welcome to join the group and get involved.

For more information: [sasdtucson@yahoo.com](mailto:sasdtucson@yahoo.com) or call Maurice 323-2293

## Arts Fest April 21

TUCSON - Join in on Saturday, Apr. 21, 11:00 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Wingspan (425 E. 7<sup>th</sup> St.) back parking lot for this inaugural Arts Fest.

Mingle with local artists and experience some of the incredible creative talent the community has to offer. The event will include a crafts corner for kids of all ages to have a creative moment and play with some fun art materials, as well as live music and free refreshments. As a benefit for Wingspan, 20% of all art sales will be donated to the LGBT community center.

For more information, contact Anna Deligio at [adriana.deligio@gmail.com](mailto:adriana.deligio@gmail.com).

## Hands Across Campus April 17

TUCSON - Hands Across Campus will take place Tuesday, Apr. 17, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., on the U of A Mall in front of the Student Union Memorial Center.

Hands Across Campus symbolizes the U of A and Tucson communities coming together to fight racism, bias, and bigotry, holding hands as a part of a display of unity and solidarity. There will also be various performances by diverse groups, trainings, activities, and booths put on by Diversity Initiatives and other organizations.

Please contact Dustin Cox for comments, questions, or concerns at [uabeod@email.arizona.edu](mailto:uabeod@email.arizona.edu).

## Desert Voices Concert April 21-22

TUCSON - Desert Voices ([desertvoices.org](http://desertvoices.org)), Tucson's LGBT Mixed Chorus (under the direction of Chris Tackett) presents its last show of the 2006-2007 season, "Coming Out Under Fire," Apr. 21-22. This is their eighteenth season of bringing Tucson and Southern Arizona the finest in choral singing and theatrical presentations. This year the chorus is looking at the World War II years of 1939-1945 in a season they're calling "Changing History."

This final show of the season takes a more poignant look at the trials that Gay and Lesbian people faced around the world, on the front lines and on the home front here in Tucson during the darkest days of World War II through the Allied victory in 1945. Join the chorus as it sees how people managed to keep a Gay outlook even in the darkest of times. They'll be singing even more fabulous vocal big band music (It's Been a Long, Long Time, Any Bonds Today?, Sentimental Journey) as well as some of the most beautiful choral music created in response to the hardships of the era (Randall Thompson's Alleluia, and a new setting of the prayer for the dead, El moley rachamim).

The show is presented at the Proscenium Theater on the Pima Community College West campus, 2202 W. Anklam Road, on Saturday, Apr. 21 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Apr. 22 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are available through any chorus member, through the Box Office, (520) 791-9662 and at Antigone Books on Fourth Avenue. Advance sales are \$18 (\$12 for senior citizens and students); \$20 at the door.

## Rainbow Families Cook-Out April 15

TUCSON - Rainbow Families will be having a Cook-Out on Sunday, Apr. 15, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Reid Park. They will be reserving a ramada and enjoy food and fun.

Rainbow Families is a volunteer-driven monthly social group and resource for LGBT and Allied people who have children or are interested in starting families.

For more information, contact Sue (520) 624-1779, E-mail: [sdolence@wingspan.org](mailto:sdolence@wingspan.org).

## AHRF So. Arizona Garden Party, April 23

TUCSON - The Arizona Human Rights Fund will be holding their annual, Southern Arizona Garden Party, Monday, Apr. 23, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the Tucson Botanical Gardens, 2150 N. Alvernon.

This event is the local membership drive for the statewide LGBT rights organization. In addition, people will have a chance to mingle in one of the best gardens of the Old Pueblo and find out the latest in the political movement.

For more information call (602) 650-0900, and to register, go online to: [eqfed.org/ahrf/events/gardenparty/details.tcl](http://eqfed.org/ahrf/events/gardenparty/details.tcl).

## GLBT Commission Meeting April 17

TUCSON - The Tucson Commission on Gay Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Issues will be holding their monthly meeting, Tuesday, Apr. 17, 5:30 p.m. at EOO Conference Room, 100 N. Stone, first floor.

Meetings are open to the public. There will be a call to the audience at each meeting. Meeting agendas are posted each month at both the City Hall and at the Wingspan Community Center a day or more before the monthly meeting of the commission.

The Commission complies with open meeting laws. Please remember that the GLBT Commission, under the open meeting laws cannot discuss or take other action on a matter raised at a meeting, unless that matter is on the posted agenda for discussion or action. However, you may raise a matter to the Commission, and may request follow up attention from the Commission, including placement on a future agenda or follow up action from a subcommittee of the commission.

## Reveille Spring Concert Apr. 27-29

TUCSON - Reveille, Tucson's premier Gay men's chorus will be taking to the stage once again to perform their Spring 2007 production, "Beyond the Border," a tribute to musical traditions from around the world, Apr. 27 and 28 at 8:00 p.m., and April 29 at 3:00 p.m., at the Temple of Music & Art, 330 S. Scott Ave.

"Beyond the Border" will include songs from Africa, Ireland, England, Peru, Cuba, Jamaica, Spain, and of course, Mexico. Their special guests will be Tucson's own Mariachi Serenata. Reveille will be performing several songs with the spectacular mariachi group as they prepare for their musical tour of Mexico in June.

Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Advance concert ticketing can be done online, [reveillelegmc.com](http://reveillelegmc.com), calling (520) 304-1758, at Antigone Books, 411 N. 4th Ave., or from any chorus member.

## AHRF Caucus Meeting In Tucson April 19

TUCSON - The Arizona Human Rights Fund (AHRF) Southern Arizona Caucus is a regional group that functions as an AHRF subsidiary. All community members are invited to discuss the Legislature, the 2007 Tucson City Council elections and upcoming AHRF events Thursday, April 19, 6:00 p.m., at the Wingspan Community Center, 425 E 7<sup>th</sup> St.

For more information, contact Barbara McCullough-Jones at [publicaffairs@ahrf.org](mailto:publicaffairs@ahrf.org) or call (602) 650-0900.

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Informing the Community  
**The Observer**

## Howl at the Moon


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*upcoming events*

**Sat., April 14th** - Benefit show with **Jasmine Bouvier**. 9 pm

**Sat., April 21st** - **Kimi San Dumi** and guests. Show starts at 9 pm

**Sat., April 28th** - **Boys R Us** is here. Show starts at 10 pm

**Tues., May 1** - **Ayida Cox** and friends. Show starts at 8:30 pm

**Sat., May 5** - **Cinco de Mayo! Rosa's Travesti Drag Show** starts at 8:30 pm followed by **DJ Michelle** playing your favorite cumbias, corridos, and Reggaeton

**Sun., May 6** - Support the Willy Coyotes, Pat & Laura, as they **Jell-O wrestle for SAAF**

**Sat., May 12** - **Tori Steele** is your hostess for an evening with great female illusionists. 9 pm



# COMMENTARY. . .

## 'Day Of Silence' Will Seek To End Hate

TUCSON - Faggot. Lesbo. Sissy. Dyke. Tucson's Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual teens have heard those words and worse shouted to their faces and whispered behind their backs, reported Anne T. Denogean of the Tucson Citizen on Apr. 10.

They will fight back with silence April 18. Students at at least nine schools and possibly as many as 22 where there are Gay-straight student alliance groups will observe a "Day of Silence." Gay and Lesbian students and their straight allies will keep silent for the day, wear buttons and hand out cards explaining they are protesting harassment, prejudice and discrimination.

The message is simple, said Rebecca Carrier, adviser to the Cienega High School Gay-straight student alliance: Stop hate. "Day of Silence" is a national event, now in its 11th year. In 2006, students from more than 4,000 middle schools, high schools and colleges participated in "Day of Silence," according to the national Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, which promotes the event.

Bullying, harassment and name-calling are huge problems in America's schools, said Daryl Presgraves, a spokesman for the network. According to a study on bullying released by the network in 2005, the second most common reason for harassment, behind physical appearance, is sexual orientation. Ninety percent of the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual students polled for the study said they had been harassed or assaulted in the previous year.

It would seem to me, despite the polarized social views held in our nation, that Americans could agree

bullying is bad. That's why I was surprised to hear from the American Family Association on this issue. The Tupelo, Miss.-based association sent out a news release warning parents to keep their children at home on the "Gay" Day of Silence.

The event subjects "traditional students to pro-'Gay' activism that violates their religious beliefs and right to a non-politicized education," the release said. "These school-sanctioned activities promote intolerance and bigotry toward any student who holds a Biblical view of the dangerous and unhealthy lifestyle," AFA Chairman Donald Wildmon is quoted as saying.

Huh?

The event is about promoting tolerance and discouraging bullying and name-calling. After all, you don't have to believe homosexuality is moral to believe that abusive behavior toward people based on their race, sex, religion or sexual orientation is immoral. "It's about changing behavior, not beliefs," Presgraves said.

I called the AFA for clarification and spoke with Cindy Roberts.

Though her name was on the news release, she said neither she nor anybody else in her organization had anything to say about it.

That leads to my top unanswered question: Why on Earth did they put out a news release if they're afraid of speaking to the media?

Maybe they were observing their own Day of Silence to protest those who would protest their

intolerance. I jest, but it's not a joking matter. Ugly words of intolerance are just a step away from deadly acts of intolerance.

In June 2002, a 24-year-old Gay Tucson man, Philip Walsted, was robbed and beaten to death with a bat. He was found on East Fifth Street near North Hoff Avenue. His murderer, David Higdon, convicted in 2005, was a skinhead who hated minorities and homosexuals.

In Jan. 2004, 21-year-old Tucsonan Mark Fontes was brutally

beaten and left in an alley outside a local Gay bar. Though his attacker was never caught, Fontes and many in the LGBT community believe he was attacked because he's Gay.

It's no stretch to believe the assailants in both cases were possibly once students who tormented other students with ugly slurs. You know - faggot, lesbo, sissy, dyke.

(Anne T. Denogean is a columnist for the Tucson Citizen from which this op-ed is reprinted from the Apr. 10 edition.)

## Alaska Tells Lawmakers To Ban G/L Benefits

JUNEAU, Alaska (Observer Update) - Voters have passed a referendum calling on the legislature to begin work on a constitutional amendment to prevent the same-sex domestic partners of state workers from receiving health benefits, reported 365Gay.com. The nonbinding resolution passed 56 percent to 44 percent in a special election Tuesday (Apr.4). If an amendment passes the legislature it would still need to go on the next ballot and be approved by voters. "The people have said, 'Let us vote,' and I'm pleased with that," said Rep. Mike Kelly (R) who backs an amendment. The state already has a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.

In 2005 the state Supreme Court ruled the state must establish benefits to same-sex partners of its employees in response to an action filed by the American Civil Liberties Union and nine Alaska couples. The high court ruled that because the state constitution has been amended to bar same-sex marriage, denying Gay and Lesbian couples insurance rights extended to married couples deprives them of equal protection guaranteed under the Alaska Constitution. For the next year the legislature delayed implementing

the court ruling. Last December the court chastised lawmakers for and said the benefits must be available on the Jan.1 deadline it originally set. In one of his last acts as governor Frank Murkowski called the legislature into special session to approve a benefits package worked out by the Department of Administration to comply with the court order declaring the lack of health and pension benefits violated the Alaska constitution.

But rather than approving the plan the House and Senate passed legislation prohibiting the Alaska Commissioner of Administration for implementing the court ruling. Both houses then voted to endorse a move putting the issue to a statewide plebiscite, asking voters if a constitutional amendment barring Gay benefits should go on the 2008 ballot. Shortly before the Jan.1 deadline the new governor, Sarah Palin, vetoed the bill that would have blocked the state from giving the benefits and the plan kicked in at the first of the year. But Palin endorsed the referendum. LGBT civil rights groups in the state said that the closeness of the vote showed they had a strong chance of defeating the measure an amendment goes on the ballot. The cost of seeking the electorate's opinion was estimated at \$1.2 million. The cost of providing the benefits to 77 workers' partners: an estimated \$313,562 a year.



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# PERSPECTIVE

## College Coach Comes Out: One Gay Athlete's Story

COLUMBIA, Missouri - Alone with his secret, the college lacrosse coach sat down at his computer seeking others like himself: Gay men who played and coached competitive, high-level sports but remained trapped in the closet, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. "I am totally closeted, not married, totally Gay and no one would guess," he wrote in an online chat room for Gay athletes, coaches and fans. "My family, my team, my university and my career are not even remotely Gay-friendly."

Over the next two years, Frustrated Coach revealed his hopes, fears and secrets with his trusted, but similarly anonymous peers on Outsports.com. The 33-year-old coach shared his regrets about pursuing "serial one-night stands" with strangers as he grappled with his identity. He disclosed a recent bout with colon cancer. His upbringing in a fundamentalist Baptist church that scorned homosexuality. The emotional void he felt in hiding. How a psychologist urged him to date women to make sure he was truly Gay. Alcohol binges he sought to dull the pain. The 24-hour involuntary commitment on suicide watch in a psychiatric hospital.

Gradually, the coach grew more comfortable in his own skin. On Halloween 2004, he told his parents, both devout Baptists and the children of missionaries. The coach's parents were devastated. So were his older brother and sister. The family's youngest child was a sinner, an abomination in the eyes of God. Communication stopped. Frustrated Coach returned to his computer, gaining more confidence even as his family shunned him. Over the ensuing 18 months, he began to confide his secret to a select group of friends - but no one connected to lacrosse. On June 10, 2006, Frustrated Coach again logged on to Outsports. This time, he signed his online post using his real name: Kyle Hawkins. Head coach, University of Missouri men's lacrosse.

The practice fields at the Mizzou lacrosse summer camp were a stew of sweat, testosterone, juvenile humor and adolescent chest-thumping. "What are you, some kind of fag?" one camper said to another who messed up a drill. "Get off me, you have AIDS!" another shouted to a chorus of teenage laughter. Hawkins remained silent. He knew that these were high school students, with all the immaturity that entails. He also knew the locker room's unforgiving culture, and that anti-Gay insults are common in team sports, from junior high hallways to NFL stadiums.

At the camp, Hawkins revealed his secret to some ex-players working as assistants, and a few returning players, team leaders with compassion and sensitivity. Still, when the entire team returned to school in Sept., he kept quiet. "If you're treating it as special, you're still not treating it as equal," Hawkins said. "If I sit my kids down and say, 'Let's talk about my sexuality' ... What straight coach does t h a t ?"

The players knew anyway. There were whispers he'd been seen at one of the few Gay bars in the town. Then some reporters trolling the Web saw his Outsports posts and sought out Hawkins when Chicago White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen called a reporter "a fag." The online lacrosse community began its own debate. Among the questions: Should a Gay coach be allowed in the same locker room as his straight players? For the team, Hawkins' status as the only openly Gay men's coach of a major college sport became the two-ton

elephant in the room. Everyone knew, but no one was talking.

"It's awkward," said Blaine Skrainka, a junior attackman and the team's vice president. The Tigers' lacrosse program is a club sport; players buy their own equipment and uniforms and pay annual dues of nearly \$2,000. But while the team lacks varsity status, the players are just as committed. They practice five days a week and must abide by NCAA rules, from grade requirements to mandatory study halls on road trips. "Everybody who plays on our team loves lacrosse," said sophomore attackman Charles Nagel. "They love the sport enough where they're not going to quit just because the coach is Gay."

Still, a dozen key players, including the team's star goalie and co-captain, didn't return to the team this season. None cited Hawkins' sexuality as the reason they left. They said they wanted to devote more time to school or internships, or they complained of the financial burden or a lack of playing time or personality conflicts with Hawkins. One former player wrote derogatory comments about Hawkins on Facebook, the social networking Web site. The coach attributed the outburst to immaturity and alcohol, not hatred. He acknowledged, though, that the number of players who left is higher this year. "They're young people and they have an issue with me," he said - whether the issue is his sexual orientation or something else. Sophomore Sam Fosdick said he quit the team after chafing under Hawkins' leadership. "I left because of a disagreement with the coach," he said. "His being Gay had nothing to do with i t."

Hawkins grew up in a St. Louis suburb, in a household so strict he was forbidden to cross the street alone or play cards and games of chance. He was the good kid, the one who found acceptance in his church youth group - even as he struggled with a reality he wouldn't acknowledge for years. He maintained the charade at Arizona State University, where he was president of a Baptist student group. Summers were spent as a missionary back in Missouri. His eyes opened to the possibilities beyond a life devoted to the church on a 1991 mission trip to Russia. He learned Russian and watched the fall of communism. Back in St. Louis after college, he lived with his parents and taught high school h i s t o r y .

No one knew the first thing about lacrosse, and the school needed a coach for its new team. Hawkins, passingly familiar with the sport, got the job. Four years later, he was recruited by Missouri to steady a program in disarray. He relied on his teaching skills as a coach; he took pride as a communicator, even as he hid his personal life. And he was successful: In his first eight years, his teams compiled a record of 112-49, including a conference championship in 2004. But that all happened before he came out of the closet. What would happen now? Hawkins knew that he would be watched: "If I grab a kid on the sidelines and have a hand on his shoulder and point with the other hand at the field, which hand is he worried a b o u t ?"

University leaders vowed to stand behind him, citing a school non-discrimination policy that includes sexual identity. But his first season as the nation's first openly Gay male coach on the collegiate level was not an easy one. Oct. 14, 2006: Time was running out in the first quarter of a game against archrival Kansas.

Continued on Page Five

# COLORS

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# College Coach Comes Out:

Continued from Page Four



**Coach Kyle Hawkins**

Hawkins and the opposing coach sought more time on the clock from the referee. "We don't care what faggots think," the official said. He then compared Gay men to child molesters. Hawkins didn't hear the insult - but others did, and told him afterward. The coach was outraged. He quickly complained to the Great Rivers Lacrosse Conference's commissioner and head of officials. The referee sent an apologetic e-mail to Hawkins, calling the matter a botched joke. He was suspended for at least one year - a punishment that won't affect his other job, coaching a local high school's freshmen. The slur and variations on it have been something of a theme. In September, at a game at Illinois, Hawkins heard a fan call him a fag. And at one practice, a member of his own team referred to the Fighting Illini as faggots; his teammates glared. It's all "a learning experience" for his players, says Hawkins.

When a player asked Hawkins to volunteer at a fraternity blood drive,

the coach replied that sexually active Gay men aren't allowed to donate blood, because there was too great a risk that the sample could be contaminated with HIV. The player's response - a mixture of compassion, curiosity and outrage at what he perceived as an injustice - heartened Hawkins. It also made him angry. "Why weren't you asking those kinds of questions before you knew I was Gay?" the coach thought to himself. In Oct. 2006, the NCAA hosted a meeting related to Gays in college sports. Among the topics: "negative recruiting," in which coaches urge prospects to reject a rival school because its coach is Gay. Hawkins worries about negative recruiting. But the most visible change for the Gay coach trying to convince adolescents to play for him is a surprising one: Missouri has become a magnet for Gay high school lacrosse players. Three such athletes have already committed to Missouri next year. The connection makes Hawkins uncomfortable. "If you're gonna make a decision based on a coach, make a decision based on the coach's coaching ability," he said. He doesn't want those players to assume they'll receive preferential treatment simply because they're playing for a Gay coach. "If there are a couple of kids who are shortsighted enough to make a decision to come here because of my sexuality, there are bound to be a couple of kids who have decided not to come here (because I'm Gay)," he said. "That's just as shortsighted and stupid."

So life outside of the closet is still complicated, though in different ways. And regardless, Hawkins says, life is better. At 36, Hawkins is in his first committed relationship, dating a man for the past six months. The two spent the Christmas holidays in Ireland. And he insists that disclosing his true identity has made him a better coach. Keeping the secret took its toll, and kept his mind off the playing field. "Instead of being able to focus on lacrosse, I focused a significant amount of (energy) worrying about who thinks I am Gay, who knows I am, who will react poorly if they find out, who will not," he said. "I don't think about those things anymore."

# Judge Orders School District To Allow GSA

OKEECHOBEE, Florida (Observer Update) - A Federal judge has ruled the Okeechobee County school board cannot prevent students from organizing a Gay-Straight Alliance on campus, reported 365Gay.com. U.S. District Court Judge K. Michael Moore agreed with the American Civil Liberties Union that barring the GSA violated the Equal Access Act. It also is the first ruling in Florida to find that GSAs are not by definition "sex-based" clubs, something that the school board had claimed. Moore rejected the school's argument that the club would violate what the board said was a state abstinence-only education policy. Moore issued a temporary injunction allowing the club to meet while the ACLU and the Board continue their legal battle.

In a 12 page ruling the judge said that the litigants showed they would likely succeed in their lawsuit against the school district. "This decision sends a clear message to other schools that they face a similar fate in federal court if they choose to discriminate by deliberately misrepresenting GSAs as something they're not," said lead attorney Rob Rosenwald,

Director of the ACLU of Florida's LGBT Advocacy Project. "Violence and harassment against Gay students is a rampant problem in Florida."

The Okeechobee High School Gay-Straight Alliance has been blocked from meeting on campus by the school district since its members first tried to form the club in Sept. 2006. The students began the struggle to form the club after student Yasmin Gonzalez and her girlfriend were told they could not attend the school prom as a couple. The rejection was one of several incidents targeting LGBT students at Okeechobee High School. When the students were told they could not form the club on school property they went to the American Civil Liberties Union which filed the lawsuit. Over 100 GSAs currently exist in Florida, according to recent data from the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN). "This is great news," said Gonzalez, when she learned of the ruling. "Even though I am graduating this year, I now know that by standing up to intolerance today, future students at OHS will benefit from a more open environment and not have to endure the same treatment from our school in the future."

# HIV Patients Names To Be Tracked In All States By Year End

CHICAGO (Observer Update) - The names of people infected with HIV will be tracked in all 50 states by the end of 2007, marking a victory for federal health officials and a quiet defeat for AIDS advocates who wanted to keep patients' names out of state databases, reported 365Gay.com. Vermont, Maryland and Hawaii, the last states not tracking the names of HIV-positive people, are quickly moving toward adopting names-based surveillance. Washington, D.C. and eight other states, including Montana, Washington and Oregon, began collecting the names of HIV patients last year. Massachusetts switched in January.

The states are bowing to federal pressure so they won't lose money for medications and health services for patients. This is the first year federal funding

has been tied to names-based surveillance of HIV. More than \$1.4 billion in federal money will be distributed this fiscal year based on new formulas that include numbers of people with HIV counted by states using names. In some states, including Illinois, millions of dollars are at stake.

That's why advocates say they've quit fighting - although they still worry that collecting names will deter some people from getting tested and seeking treatment, and about the possibility of names being released due to security breaches. "I have patients who are very high-profile individuals - physicians in practice, people who are politicians" who don't want their real names reported, said Dr. Dan Berger, medical director of NorthStar Healthcare in Chicago's Lincoln Park.

April 2007

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Poker Night	Booze-Day Tuesday 25 cent drafts	18 & Over Hip Hop w/ DJ Shorty	Thursdays Drag Show DJ Hill	NELS Live Performance Latin	Hip Hop w/ DJ Shorty	L WORD Latin w/ DJ Dmenace
9 Poker Night	10 Wine Tasting Booze-Day Tuesday 25 cent drafts	11 18 & Over Hip Hop w/ DJ Shorty	12 BACK IN OUR DAY 80's w/ DJ Hill	13 DRAGSTAR Pink Ribbon Benefit w/DJ Hill	14 Hip Hop w/ DJ Shorty	15 Join The Biz @ the Komen Race for the Cure®
16 Poker Night	17 Booze-Day Tuesday 25 cent drafts	18 18 & Over Hip Hop w/ DJ Shorty	19 Thunder Thursdays Drag Show DJ Hill	20 FAC* 3-8p Latin w/ DJ Dennis the Menace	21 TOGA PARTY w/DJ Shorty	22 L WORD Latin w/ DJ Dmenace
23 Poker Night	24 Booze-Day Tuesday 25 cent drafts	25 18 & Over Hip Hop w/ DJ Shorty	26 Rep Ya Step w/Human Project DJ Hill	27 FAC* 3-8p Hip Hop w/ DJ Shorty	28 STOPLIGHT PARTY w/DJ Shorty	29 L WORD Latin w/ DJ Dmenace

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**Treasures For TIHAN April 28**

TUCSON - The tenth annual "Treasures for TIHAN" benefit auction will take place, Saturday, Apr. 28, 6:30 p.m. at the Pavilion at The Westin La Paloma Resort and Spa.

"Treasures for TIHAN" benefit auction is one of the year's largest events in the LGBT and HIV communities, which proceeds will go to sustain TIHAN's programs and services. TIHAN is an organization that receives no government funding, and is supported solely through generous donations from individuals, foundations and fundraising events.

Each year TIHAN raises more than one-third of their annual budget through the "Treasures for TIHAN" auction. In 2006, the event raised \$106,000. For more than 12 years, TIHAN has been at the forefront of a compassionate response to the AIDS crisis. TIHAN is a coalition of faith communities committed to a compassionate response to AIDS. TIHAN is a volunteer-based program that offers vital support services for those who are infected with HIV, providing very personalized support, focusing its AIDS education efforts in the faith communities, TIHAN addresses the stigma of

AIDS, targeting groups with huge potential for compassion.

In 2006, TIHAN served 244 people living with HIV/AIDS, provided AIDS education to 6,065 adults and 997 youth, and served over 1,300 meals at Poz Cafe, our monthly lunch program for people living with HIV. TIHAN is the largest privately-funded provider of support services for HIV+ persons in Arizona.

More than 300 people from the LGBT and allied communities will be at La Paloma for this special event. Under the leadership of co-chairs Richard Bolanos and Kim Talerico and a great team of volunteers, this promises to be a fun and exciting evening of great music, fantastic food, and wonderful auction items to raise funds to support TIHAN's programs and services. Attire for the evening is urban chic. If you can't attend the event, please consider making a donation in support and/or purchase tickets for some clients who can't afford to purchase a ticket. Tickets for the event (\$65, of which \$32 is tax-deductible), can also be purchased by calling (520) 299-6647, or go online by clicking on TIHAN's secure auction website, [tihan.org/treasures](http://tihan.org/treasures).

**Jell-O Wrestling Enjoys Community-Wide Backing**

TUCSON - The 20th Anniversary of the Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling and Live Auction Extravaganza will be held on Sunday, May 6, 2:00 p.m., at Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle to raise funds for the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF).

The Extravaganza will begin entertainment from afternoon hostesses Bunny Fu Fu and Ajia Simone, fun games for great prizes, a silent auction and terrific food. Starting at 4 p.m., hostesses Lucinda Holliday and Diana Flair will rev up the crowd for the main event. Teams of wrestlers will wrestle in a pit of Jell-O, often with extraordinary costumes and characters. Between wrestling matches, our hostesses will run a live auction of a variety of unique items selected.

Local businesses have generously signed on as sponsors to help underwrite the costs of holding the event including: Title Sponsor Woody's; Champion Sponsors Fascinations and Dean Groth of Long Realty; Patron Sponsors Speedway Veterinary Hospital, Those Feng Shui Guys, Century 21-Centra Realty, Colors Food & Spirits, IBT's and

the Tucson GLBT Chamber of Commerce; and Supporter Sponsors All You Do Is Pack Travel, Stand Firm Personal Training, Tucson Pride Inc., Reveille Gay Men's Chorus, and Professional Bartenders Unlimited. Media Sponsors include ION Arizona Magazine, 'N Touch News and The Observer and In-Kind Sponsors La Cocina Restaurant, Bentley's and WhiteSpace Design helped to keep costs low.

The event also includes a raffle with a marvelous prize of \$1,000 in cash, sponsored by John Swain. Tickets for the raffle are \$1 each and are now on sale at SAAF and the participating bars and restaurants: Woody's - 3710 N. Oracle, The Biz - 2900 E. Broadway, IBT's - 616 N. 4th Ave., Colors - 5305 E. Speedway and Howl at the Moon - 915 W. Prince. Tickets for this year's Extravaganza are \$20, which includes the afternoon party, a gift from one of our Champion Sponsors, and a meal ticket for a burger, veggie burger or hot dog, chips, a beverage and sweet, or \$10 for entrance only. Please visit the Jell-O website at [jello-wrestling.org](http://jello-wrestling.org) to get more information, or contact Mae at (520) 628-7223 or by E-mail at [events@saaf.org](mailto:events@saaf.org).

**High School PTA Rejects PFLAG Ad**

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah - A high school's Parent-Teacher Association is deliberating with the National PTA over the inclusion of an ad from a Gay family group, [advocate.com](http://advocate.com) reported. The advocacy group Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays placed an advertisement in the National PTA magazine, highlighting its scholarship program.

According to the Salt Lake Tribune, Bountiful High School PTA's letter to the national organization says that the ad promotes "alternative lifestyles" to the nation's youths. The ad states that parents must "stand up for and celebrate the innateness of biological gender and the decency and tradition of heterosexual relationships." The letter was posted on the school's Web site and then removed after principal Ryck Astle realized it was up, according to the article. Anna Weselak, president of the National PTA, told the Salt Lake Tribune that the organization focuses more on children than reflecting political points of view. "We make it very clear we work with and partner with a lot of organizations and it doesn't mean we're endorsing them at all," Weselak said in the article. "I

know there are PTAs who may not agree with everything we do as a national organization, but it's a very big country and there's a lot of issues we need to deal with."

Bountiful's PTA president, Rose Marie Murray, told the Tribune that she did not want to come across as condemning. "But we do not support or encourage the promotion, the advertising, the encouraging of alternative lifestyles," she said. PFLAG's national communications director said the purpose of the ad was not to spread an agenda but instead to promote the scholarship to a base of parents and teachers.



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# Miss Gay Western States Pageant Crowns Alina Malletti MGWSA 2007

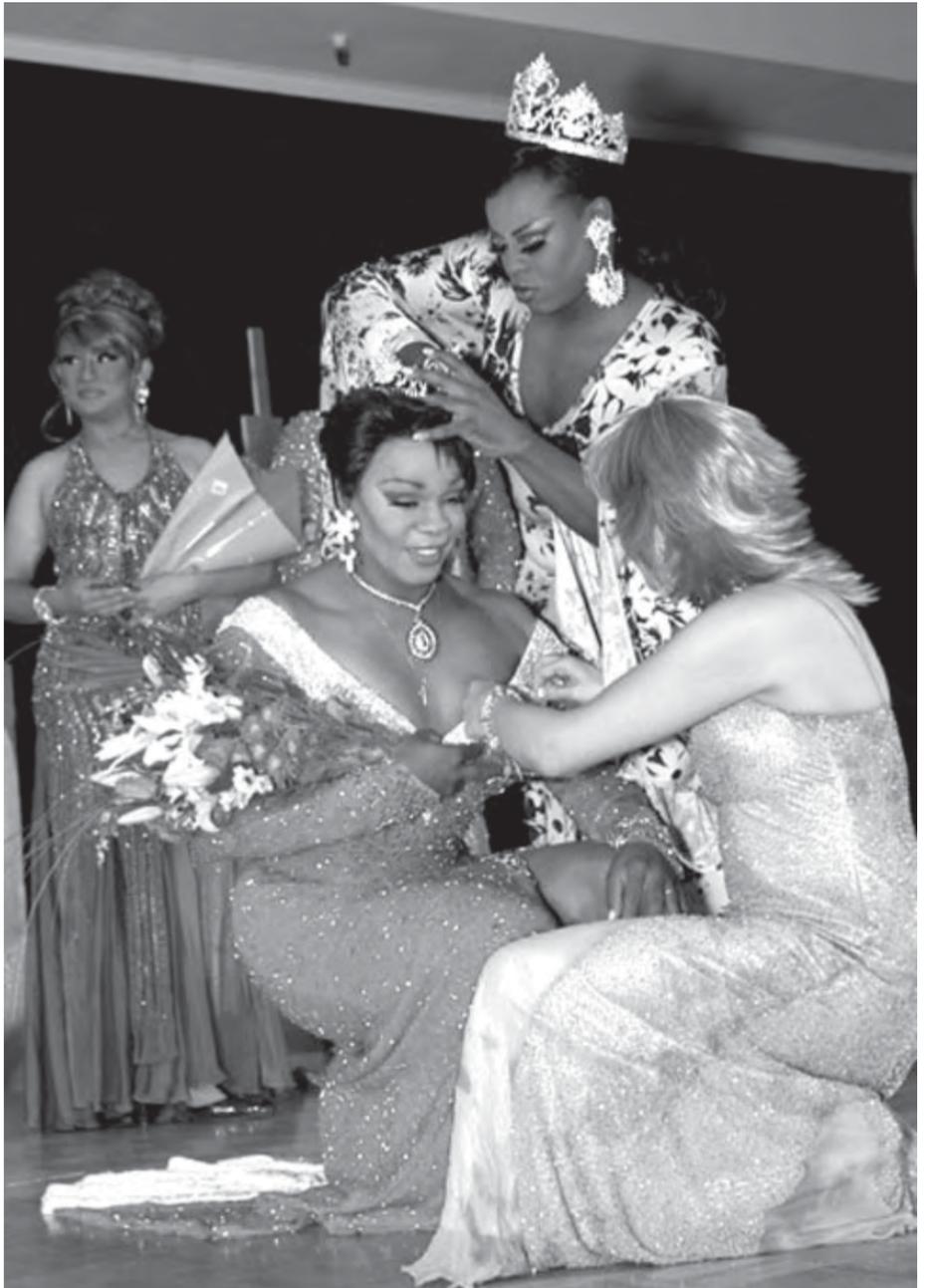
TUCSON - Last Saturday evening, April 7, in the beautiful ballroom at The Doubletree Hotel, a pageant was held to name the winner of Miss Gay Western States, America 2007. It was a highly successful event with a large crowd from both Phoenix and Tucson in attendance.

included Luscious, Miss Gay Western States 2006, who went on last year to become the reigning Miss Gay America 2007. Nicole Dubois, Miss Gay America 2006; Raquel Chevallier Miss Gay America 2005, Vicki Vincent Miss Gay America 1989, and of course the emcees for the evening Lucinda Holliday and Ajia Simone.

There were five contestants, Miss Alina Malletti from San Jose, California; Chacha Chalez from Los Angeles, CA; Jessica Deveraux of Tucson, Miss Model of Tucson, and Mikaila Kay of Phoenix. Alina Malletti won the Pageant becoming Miss Gay Western States 2007, Mikaila Kay became 1st Alternate. Both of them will be going on to compete for Miss Gay America 2008 in Memphis, TN in October.

In attendance for the event were Larry Tyger and Terry Eason from Nesbitt, MS, owners of the Miss Gay America Pageant system. There were 21 VIP tables fully decked out with Easter Baskets and a selection of finger foods. Congratulations to Miss Alina Malletti, and all the contestants and to the Pageant promoters Danny Scott and Daniel Eckstrom

Performers for the Evening



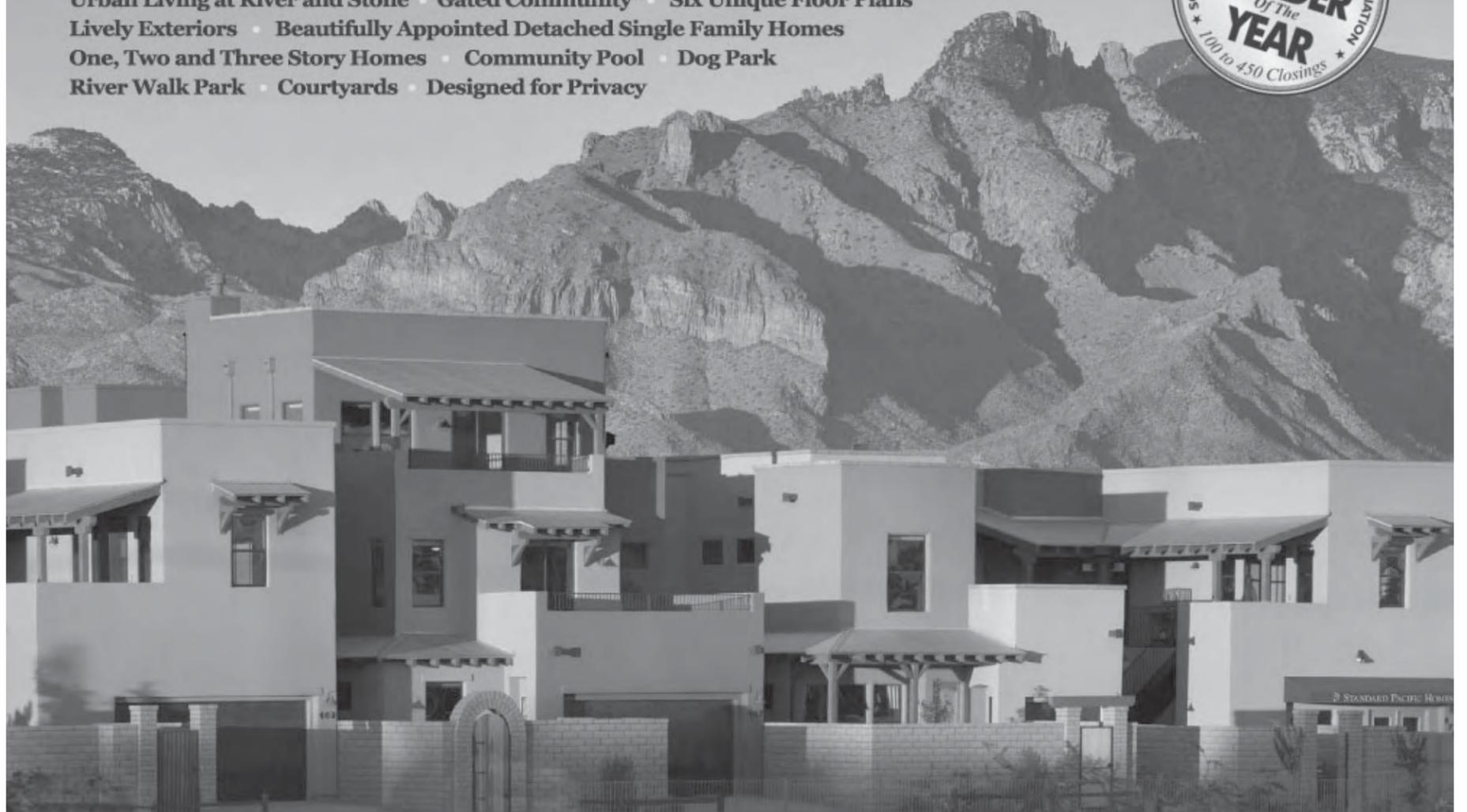
Miss Alina Malletti being crowned by Luscious, Miss Gay America 2007 and last year's Miss Gay Western States 2006

Miss Gay Western States 2007 Alina Malletti and Promoters Danny Scott and Daniel Eckstrom.

Miss Gay Western States 2007 Alina Malletti being crowned by Luscious, Miss Gay America 2007 and last year's Miss Gay Western States 2006, and Raquel Chevallier, Miss Gay America 2005.

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# Alger Hiss Spy Trial's Gay Angle Revealed



Alger Hiss

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Scholars probing anew into the Cold War's most famous espionage case suggested Thursday (Apr. 5) that another U.S. diplomat, not Alger Hiss, was the Soviet agent code-named Ales, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. Meanwhile, a stepson of Hiss said his chief accuser invented the spy allegations after his sexual advances were rejected. The two claims, presented at the daylong symposium "Alger Hiss & History" at New York University, provided startling new information that, if true, could point toward a posthumous vindication of Hiss, who was accused of feeding U.S. secrets to Moscow and spent nearly five years in prison for perjury before his death in 1996 at age 92.

old retired surgeon who was Hiss' stepson and grew up in the family home in Washington, D.C., said that Whittaker Chambers, whose bombshell allegations against Hiss broke the case open, had lied about his personal relationship with Hiss and had never visited the home as he claimed. Hobson said that as a 10-year-old boy, he suffered a broken leg and was in a cast for months, during which time he met everybody who came calling. Chambers was a former American Communist Party member who spied for the Soviets during the 1930s. He defected before World War II and accused others of being spies, but his claims did not attract FBI interest until after the war. He joined Time magazine in 1939 and as a writer and editor was a severe critic of communism. He died in 1961. "It is my conviction that he was in love with Alger Hiss, that he was rejected by Alger Hiss and he took that rejection in a vindictive way," Hobson said. Hobson said Chambers' sexual orientation had been mentioned in a book and was recorded in unreleased FBI files.

Hobson shared the platform with his younger half-brother, Tony Hiss, who has written two books that make the case their father was innocent. Hobson was close to tears as he said that he, as a gay man, was given an undesirable discharge from the U.S. Navy - and said that was what kept Hiss' defense lawyers from calling him as a witness in court. "This puts it all on the record," Hobson said, to a partial standing ovation from the audience, including university faculty and students.

The key, according to Bird, was that Ales' contact at the Soviet embassy in Washington would have known that Hiss, a top-tier diplomat who later played a key role in founding the United Nations, had returned from Mexico City, whereas Ales was known to have remained there. That information was in a secret Soviet cable that was intercepted and decoded by U.S. intelligence agencies and is now part of the so-called Venona Papers, a collection of such documents made public several years ago. In a telephone interview, Bird said that more research would be required to prove that Foote was Ales but that "he fits the itinerary in every way, and Hiss simply does not." Bird quoted the elder Foote as saying earlier, "I am confident that the actions of my father will ultimately be proven to be above reproach."

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## Lesbian Couple Denied Communion

GILLETE. Wyoming - Leah Vader and Lynne Huskinson, a couple who got married in Canada in August, sent a letter recently to their state legislator decrying a Wyoming bill that would deny recognition of same-sex marriages, reported the Associated Press on the PlanetOut Network. The lawmaker read the letter on the floor of the Legislature. Soon after, the local paper interviewed the couple on Ash Wednesday and ran a story and pictures of them with ash on their foreheads, a mark of their Roman Catholic faith. It wasn't long after that that the couple received a notice from their parish church telling them they have been barred from receiving Communion.

"If all this stuff hadn't hit the newspaper, it wouldn't have been any different than before - nobody would have known about it," said the couple's parish priest at St. Matthew's, the Rev. Cliff Jacobson. "The sin is one thing. It's a very different thing to go public with that sin." Catholics deemed sinners in the eyes of the church are sometimes taken aside and privately advised not to take Communion. But Cheyenne Bishop David Ricken, Gay Catholic organizations and a national church spokeswoman said they could not recall any previous instance of a U.S. bishop denying the sacrament to a Gay couple in writing.

Now Huskinson and Vader say they are struggling to reconcile their devotion to the church with their devotion to each other. "You spend half your time defending your Gayness to Catholics," Vader said, "and the other half of your time defending your Catholicism to Gays." The couple, who regularly attended Mass and took Communion, have not been back to St. Matthew's since they received the letter a month and a half ago. Vader said they did not want to make a scene. The 46-year-old newlyweds - Vader is a supervisor at a recycling center, Huskinson a coal miner - ran afoul of a sort of "don't ask, don't tell" policy on the church's part.

"I told my wife in good conscience that if I had known those ladies, and we'd have been having a beer, I'd have just told them to keep everything to themselves," parish music director John Chick said. He added that once news like this hits the papers, "someone's forced to deal with it now, aren't they?" The parish priest said that after the couple put their engagement and marriage announcements in the local paper, he ran reminders of the church's teachings in the parish bulletin as a warning. After the Ash Wednesday story, the priest sent this letter: "It is with a heavy heart, in obedience to the

instruction of Bishop David Ricken, that I must inform you that, because of your union and your public advocacy of same-sex unions, that you are unable to receive Communion." The bishop said the couple's sex life constitutes a grave sin, "and the fact that it became so public, that was their choice."

Last fall, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops overwhelmingly approved new guidelines that say parishes should welcome Gays while telling them to be celibate because the church considers their sexuality "disordered." The bishops said that anyone who knowingly persists in sinful behavior, such as Gay sex or using artificial contraception, should refrain from taking Communion.

Professor Carl Raschke, chairman of religious studies at the University of Denver, said of the Cheyenne bishop's decision: "It's no more surprising that the Catholic Church would deny Communion to an openly Gay couple than a Muslim mosque would deny access to somebody who ate pork."

Sister Mary Ann Walsh, spokeswoman for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the church allows local bishops to handle decisions on who may take Communion, so there is no record of how many have been barred from receiving the sacrament. Walsh said most cases she has heard of involved public figures. During the 2004 presidential campaign, the St. Louis archbishop Raymond Burke said he would deny Communion to John Kerry, a Catholic who supports abortion rights.

Vader said the couple never made any secret of their relationship. She pointed to statuettes of two kissing Dutch girls in front of their single-wide trailer home. She also said that the couple posed for a church directory family photo with Vader's children from a previous marriage, and that the church has sent mail to both of them at the same address for years. Huskinson questioned why Catholics having premarital sex and using birth control are not barred from receiving Communion, too. But the parish priest said the difference is this: The other Catholics are "not going around broadcasting, 'Hey I'm having sex outside of marriage' or 'I'm using birth control.'"

## POLITICS 2007

by Mark R. Kerr

### S. 972, H.R. 1653

According to recent federal research and reports:

Nineteen million cases of sexually transmitted diseases annually in the United States;

Half of the reported cases strike young people ages 15 to 24;

Close to 50 young people a day - an average of two young people every hour, are infected with HIV and,

This country has the highest rates of teen pregnancy in the industrialized world.

Despite these troubling numbers, more than \$1 billion in abstinence-only-until-marriage (defined as only a legal union between one man and one woman as a husband and wife), heterosexual education only, through 2008.

Federal funding is denied to educational institutions that provide facts about homosexuality, same-sex marriage, condoms to prevent sexually transmitted diseases or any form of birth control.

These provisions were approved by Congress when it was controlled by the Republicans and signed into law by George W. Bush.

"The needs of the vast majority of American students, especially Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender students, are currently completely ignored by federally funded sex education programs," Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign, said in a statement. "Sex education must be based on public health, not narrow right-wing ideology . . ."

To change these health policies that have been shown not to be working, Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA) introduced the Responsible Education About Life or "REAL" Act (S. 972, H.R. 1653), measures that would create a grant program administered by the Department of Health and Human Services that would award \$206 million per year to states for comprehensive and age appropriate, sexuality education.

"Growing up isn't easy and our kids find themselves in tough situations every day. They need all the information to make smart choices and "abstinence-

only" programs are not enough," Senator Lautenberg said in a statement. "It's time to bring sex education up-to-date to reflect the real life situations facing young Americans."

"We need to get REAL about sex education. We should absolutely be teaching young people about abstinence, but we shouldn't be holding back information that can save lives and prevent unwanted pregnancies. Instead of 'abstinence only,' what we're proposing is 'abstinence-plus,'" said Representative Lee in a statement.

Organizations such as the Human Rights Campaign, the Sexuality Information Education Council of the U.S., AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth and Families and the National Education Association, the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS), Advocates For Youth, NARAL Pro-Choice America and Planned Parenthood Federation of America have all come out in support of the REAL Act (S. 972, H.R. 1653).

S. 972 has seven cosponsors and has been assigned to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. H.R. 1653 has thirty cosponsors and has been assigned to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.



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## First Openly Lesbian Legislator Prefers Low-Key



Patricia Todd

MONTGOMERY, Alabama (Observer Update) - Other than a small photograph of Patricia Todd with her partner on a shelf above her desk, there's nothing in Todd's small Statehouse office to indicate she is Alabama's first openly Gay legislator, reported the Associated Press. Likewise, in her first month in office, Todd has remained low-key, attending committee meetings, studying the issues and doing little to remind anyone of her high-profile election last year.

It's not that the 51-year-old Todd wants to hide the fact that she is a Lesbian. She said she will speak out on issues related to the Gay community - such as a bill to make it a hate crime to assault a person because of their sexual orientation. "I will voice my opinion and speak personally to other representatives on issues like that where you're talking about me," Todd told The Associated Press during a recent interview in her legislative office. But for now, she said, she wants to concentrate on passing legislation that will benefit her diverse district, which ranges from some of Birmingham's poorest neighborhoods to some of its most prosperous. Her first priority, she said, is to pass legislation establishing a state minimum wage. "I like to say I'm a representative

who happens to be Gay. I'm not the Gay representative," Todd said.

She said she has been pleasantly surprised at how well she has been accepted by her fellow legislators. "They are treating me like everybody else," Todd said. Todd's earnest effort to learn how the Legislature works has not gone unnoticed. "Patricia Todd is very involved in the process and is working hard to represent her district," House Speaker Seth Hammett said. Hammett said Todd's vote on a legislative pay raise - she was one of only seven Democrats to vote against a 62 percent pay hike - showed that it will be hard to label her. "I think she's a person who's going to think for herself," Hammett said. While most Democratic leaders supported the Legislature's first pay increase since 1991, Todd said she just couldn't do it. "I couldn't in good conscience represent so many people who live in poverty and vote myself a pay raise as one of my first actions in the Legislature," Todd said.

While Todd is not making a big deal about being openly Gay, her victory has given people in the Gay community a sense of pride, said Dennis Dison, a spokesman for the national Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund. Howard Bayless, the board chairman of Equality Alabama, an advocacy group for Gays and Lesbians, lives in Todd's Birmingham district and hopes her work as a legislator will change the image some have of Gays. "The reality is there are other people in government who may be Gay, but are not out. Hopefully she will dispel all the myths and stereotypes," Bayless said.

So far, Todd has faced more controversy because she is white and represents a majority black district than because she is Gay. She survived a heated challenge to her Democratic Party primary victory last year by some black party leaders, who were concerned that blacks were losing a seat in the House. "That makes me extremely sad, that race is still so much of our

conversation," Todd said. "I understand the black community's concerns about losing a seat. But I like to think they have not lost a seat, they have gained an ally."

Todd, who is the longtime director of AIDS Alabama, said she has in the past come to the Statehouse as an advocate for various issues. But she said being a legislator is giving her a chance to do more than "tilting at windmills." "This has been a blast. I've been a public policy geek since I was a teenager," Todd said. "I've been coming down here for many years and no one would listen to me. Now I'm sitting at the table." She said she wants to be defined as a lawmaker by pursuing issues that she believes the Legislature should address - such as women's health care, reforming Alabama's 1901 Constitution and fighting poverty.

But Todd said she won't be afraid to talk about issues of concern in the Gay community, such as the constitutional amendment adopted last

year to ban Gay marriage. "Why do people think their right to marry is better than my right to marry?" she said. And she said she is watching a movement that has surfaced in some Legislatures around the country - proposals to ban adoptions by Gays and Lesbians. She said she will be out front to fight that proposal if it becomes a bill in the Legislature. "I have tons of friends that would effect," Todd said.

There have been a few disappointments for Todd in Montgomery. She said she has a strong religious faith, but said she has been surprised how religion seems to be used "as a weapon" in the Legislature. "I don't like that we start every meeting with prayer. I have tried to live my life as a good Christian, caring for the poor and caring for others," Todd said. "If you always act like a Christian, you don't have to pray in public to prove it." She said there seems to be an attitude among some legislators that "if you don't believe what I believe, I won't support you."

## Mary Cheney To Have Baby Boy

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - It'll be a boy for Mary Cheney AS Vice President Dick Cheney revealed the gender during a radio interview, reported [washingtonpost.com](http://washingtonpost.com).

"I'm delighted I'm about to be a grandparent for the sixth time," said Cheney. "I'm looking forward to the arrival of a new grandson." He confirmed that the baby is due next

month; this will be the first child for Mary and partner Heather Poe.

But he wasn't touching the question about the same-sex family's legal standing. "I think each state ought to have the capacity to decide how they want to handle those issues," he said. "... And I obviously think it's important for us as a society to be tolerant and respectful of whatever arrangements people enter into."

## NCAA President Wants Equal Treatment For LGBT Coaches And Players

ATLANTA, Georgia - NCAA president Myles Brand announced he was working to address same-sex discrimination against LGBT coaches and players, reports the Associated Press on [advocate.com](http://advocate.com). "What the NCAA can do is make sure all people are treated respectfully whatever their sexual

orientation," Brand said.

The announcement comes in the wake of last month's resignation Penn State women's basketball coach Rene Portland, who quit after a 27-year tenure that included numerous accusations that she discriminated against Lesbian players.

# Ellen: 10 Years Out



in more than 1,500 households nationwide, inviting fans to support DeGeneres and one another.

While anti-Gay activists launched their own campaign to keep the episode from airing, only one affiliate, ABC 33/40 in Birmingham, Ala., refused to show the historic episode. GLAAD worked with Birmingham Pride Alabama to help 3,000 local fans see the banned telecast via satellite. Ultimately, 42 million people tuned in to "The Puppy Episode," making it the most-watched program of the week – and ABC's most-watched program of the season. The episode went on to win an Emmy® for Outstanding Writing and a Peabody Award, and the series was awarded a GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding TV Comedy Series.

LOS ANGELES - Throughout the month of April, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) is celebrating the landmark 10-year anniversary of Ellen DeGeneres' coming out. DeGeneres appeared on the April 14, 1997, cover of Time magazine with the headline, "Yep, I'm Gay." Her onscreen character, Ellen Morgan, would come out as well during the April 30, 1997, episode of the ABC sitcom Ellen. Though performers like Melissa Etheridge and k.d. lang had come out years prior, it was unprecedented that both an actor and such a high-profile television character would come out simultaneously.

"Ellen coming out ten years ago kicked off a tremendous decade of visibility for Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender people," says GLAAD President Neil G. Giuliano. "Ellen opened the closet door for shows like Will & Grace, The L Word and Ugly Betty to succeed, and for other out performers to live their lives openly and honestly. We know that with this kind of visibility comes understanding and acceptance."

In 2005, the University of Minnesota released three separate studies which concluded that exposure to positive depictions of Gay television characters reduces prejudice.\* Indeed, polls have shown a shift in public opinion over the past decade about issues relating to Gays and Lesbians. A 1996 Pew Research poll found 65 percent of respondents opposed same-sex marriage, versus 56 percent ten years later. Also in 2006, Pew found 48 percent oppose allowing Gays to adopt, down from 57 percent in 1999.\*\*

In late 1996, when GLAAD received the news that DeGeneres' Ellen character would be coming out that season, it launched a "Let Ellen Out!" campaign to create grassroots support and developed "Ellen Watch," a Web page dedicated to following the title character's journey in her coming out process. For the April 30, 1997, episode, entitled "The Puppy Episode," GLAAD organized "Come Out With Ellen" house parties

DeGeneres' courage to come out in such a public forum has undoubtedly helped countless people come out as well to live open and honest lives. Grey's Anatomy actor T.R. Knight appeared on The Ellen DeGeneres Show as a guest on Jan. 17, 2007. He talked about his own experience in coming out, crediting DeGeneres for paving the way for others like him to come out as well. To mark the 10th anniversary of Ellen's historic "The Puppy Episode," The Oxygen network will air an Ellen marathon on Apr. 30, 2007 from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. ET/PT, re-airing the two-part historic episode at 1:00 p.m. ET/PT.

For a timeline of major events in LGBT television history since DeGeneres came out, please click here. Here are highlights: Apr. 14, 1997 - DeGeneres appears on the cover of Time with the declaration, "Yep, I'm Gay." Apr. 30, 1997 - Ellen's "The Puppy Episode" airs, and 42 million people tune in to watch Ellen come out. GLAAD coordinates "Come Out With Ellen" house parties in more than 1,500 households nationwide. After the local ABC affiliate refuses to air "The Puppy episode," Birmingham Pride Alabama, with the support of GLAAD, organizes a live telecast of the historic Ellen taping attended by 3,000 people. April 23, 1998 - Despite GLAAD's vigorous letter-writing campaign, "Save Ellen!," the show is ultimately cancelled due to low ratings. Sept. 24, 2001 - DeGeneres' new sitcom The Ellen Show premieres on CBS. She plays a Lesbian Internet executive. The show is cancelled after 13 episodes. Sept. 8, 2003 - DeGeneres launches her daytime talk show, The Ellen DeGeneres Show, which goes on to win a total of 15 Daytime Emmy® Awards during its first three seasons. Now, in its fourth season, is currently nominated for 12 Daytime Emmys®. Feb. 25, 2007 - DeGeneres is the first openly Gay entertainer to host the Academy Awards®.

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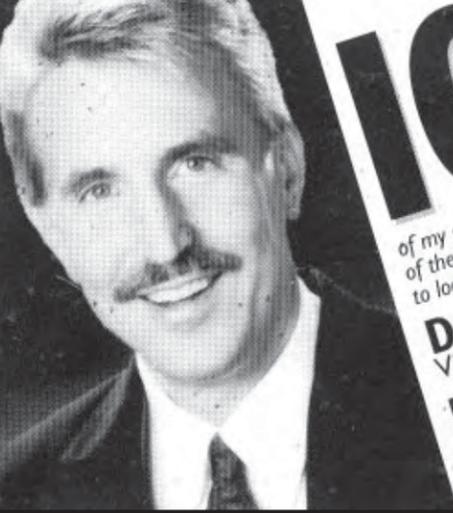
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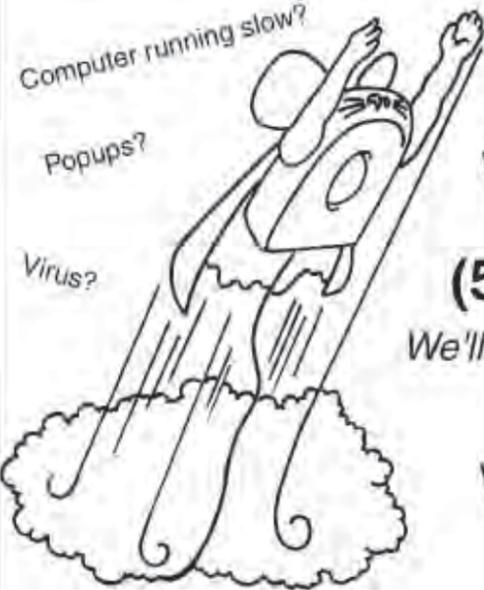


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# Grin And Bare It . . .



# COMMENTARY . . .

## Jumping The Couch

By Wayne Besen

For nearly six years, Richard Cohen was the Tom Cruise of the so-called "ex-Gay" movement. His book, *Coming Out Straight*, was all the rage and catapulted him into the realm of superstar status. In 2000, he was even a featured therapy trainer at the National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality's (NARTH) annual convention in Washington's prestigious Mayflower Hotel.

Many of the religious right's elite, such as Rev. Lou Sheldon and Bob Knight, graced the gilded conference hall, which I also attended while working on my book, *Anything But Straight*. During Cohen's presentation, he discussed how men who are "transitioning into heterosexuality" must find mentors.

"I solicited all three of my straight male mentors," Cohen recalled. "Would you like me to service you? I'm really good at it, I told each one of them. When they rejected me, I knew they loved me for who I am."

Most of the middle-aged conservatives in the crowd looked stunned and a tad sickened by Cohen's inappropriate remarks. Still, they followed his orders to take off their shoes and massage each other's backs while new age music piped through the speakers. "Touch, Yes! Sex no!" Cohen bellowed.

Following his demonstration, there was a mad rush to Cohen's booth where he was hawking his book. The right wing was so infatuated with their new Gay-healing guru they ignored passages in his book that revealed he once belonged to a bizarre sex cult. They even "overlooked" disturbing pictures of him banging a tennis racket against a pillow while yelling out his father's name.

Cohen was soon catapulted to the board presidency of Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays (PFOX). Until Cohen's arrival, the group was primarily an outlet for its leader, Regina Griggs, to vindictively get back at her son for coming out to her as Gay. Cohen quickly seized

control of the message and ludicrously cast ex-Gays as victims of discrimination and set PFOX's sights on getting their theories into the public schools.

Like Tom Cruise, Cohen's bright star eventually crashed because people started to realize that this guy just might be nuts. The wheels began to fall off the car when I got a tip that Cohen had been kicked out of the American Counseling Association in 2002. He managed to hide this career suicide from the public until I informed the media in 2005.

With his counseling career in ruins, Cohen turned to the media as his only channel to attract new clients to his "healing" seminars. However, his act that played so well at the NARTH convention made him look like a quack to mainstream Americans. On his appearance on CNN's Paula Zahn Now earlier this year, Cohen actually performed his tennis racket routine to the guffaws of million of viewers.

He made a further buffoon of himself on ABC's Jimmy Kimmel Live where boxer George Foreman, who was also a guest, looked as if he wanted to give him a left hook. He further disgraced his image on Showtime's *Bulls\*\*t*, starring comedians Penn and Teller.

"However, Cohen's "jumping on Oprah's couch moment" came on his appearance with me on Comedy Central's *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart. To prove he was heterosexual, Cohen belched and cursed and when he was feeling the heat, he got up in the middle of the interview to "shake it off." Cohen's antics were even more than PFOX and NARTH could take and they heaved him overboard, purging their websites this month of his kooky books and articles. The largest ex-Gay group, Exodus International, even put out a statement saying they do not endorse the counselor's work.

In kneecapping their Top Gun, these groups have been quite disingenuous. Richard Cohen did nothing wrong other than make public what the right wing strongly endorsed and applauded behind closed doors. Cohen's only real sin is that he went on television. As far as his outrageous and ridiculous therapies, NARTH and PFOX intimately knew about them for at least six years, as they are vividly discussed in his book. So, these disloyal groups are not dumping Cohen because he is off his rocker, they are dumping him because he is off-message. Cohen may be the fall guy, but the fact that conservatives fell in love with him in the first place demonstrates how they will embrace practically anyone who is willing to make their living condemning homosexuals.

(Wayne Besen is an author, activist, columnist, public speaker and founder and executive director for Truth Wins Out, an organization that counters the ex-Gay movement and right wing disinformation campaigns. This op-ed is reprinted from 365Gay.com.)

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## NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

### The Sopranos

by Lee Thorn

I saw, in the newspaper the other day, that somebody is going to give a prize to whoever correctly guesses what the demise of Tony will be when the HBO series THE SOPRANOS ends. What I'd like to know is, "Why does Tony have to have a demise?" The obvious answer is that the bad guy has to die at the end of a pop culture drama.

That brings up some hopefully interesting questions. Is Tony really the bad guy? If he is, why do little old ladies yell at the actors who play FBI agents, "You leave Tony alone!"? Furthermore, is THE SOPRANOS really pop culture? If the demographic center of pop culture is the 13-year-old, can you call a show "pop culture" if it's written way over the heads of that age group? If the show is pop culture, why are its bosses obliged to wind it up according to pop culture conventions? What if they don't? Will the mob come after them?

People like Tony because he's a traditional family man. The traditions of his family may not be the traditions of your family, but they guide and inform and limit Tony's essentially nurturing paternal behavior. People like Tony so much that the bosses of the show decided that they had to give him some cruel, irrational, kind of crazy behavior to remind the audience that he is the bad guy. That ploy didn't work. Given a character who's 99% traditional family man of pragmatic bent, viewers regarded the irrational nonsense as just what it was — bad writing — and told each other, "Tony wouldn't have done that."

Where does THE SOPRANOS stand vis-a-vis pop culture? I think it comes down to the question of who makes the decision on whether or not to have HBO. I'm guessing that, while the decision to go to this or that movie is left to the individual moviegoer, the decision to have HBO is made by heads of households. If that's true, HBO becomes the pop culture of adults with some disposable income. Even more than THE SOPRANOS, HBO's DEADWOOD reflected an adult and educated audience, one that was familiar with the dramatic conventions of Western Civilization and was interested in expanding the possibilities of those conventions.

THE SOPRANOS took the soap opera formula and gave it a mob family. This is an expansion of an established genre. The show was bravely experimental in its uses of

humor. It often used parody and self-parody without destroying its essentially dramatic thrust. My favorite parody was the one they did on the old TV cop show called DRAGNET. It involved a cop questioning a pizza parlor owner about a "custom pizza" in the same laconic deadpan style that DRAGNET's leading character, Joe Friday, made famous.

A lot of wonderful self-parody comes out of Christopher trying to get involved in show business and show biz trying to portray the mob.

After a long run of brave innovation marred by occasional unsuccessful cave-ins to conventional pop culture morality, do the bosses really have to end the show with Tony's demise? If they really wanted to be conventional, they could have Christopher kill Tony. Live by the sword; die by the sword. We plant the seeds of our own destruction. Blah, blah, blah.

One of the best exchanges of the series occurred when Christopher was complaining that his life had no "dramatic arc." When Pauley asks what he means, Christopher cites characters whose lives have dramatic arcs and Pauley points out that all those characters are fictional. It's left for the viewer to observe and ponder the fact that Christopher and Pauley are also fictional. If they chose to be a little unconventional and follow their anti-dramatic arc idea, the show could have Tony's demise be nothing to do with his character, e.g. he gets hit by a bus.

Or how about something really fun? How about having Tony's character itself change, perhaps by an epiphany? How about he has a religious vision that's totally out of (his old) character and he decides to become a monk? Fast forward to where his natural leadership abilities have made him an abbot and he's drinking wine with his novices and regaling them with tales of his naughty days.

The bravest and most dramatically sound ending, the most dramatically satisfying to my taste, would be another well crafted episode without any demise or hoopla or cuteness tied up with a little bow.

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

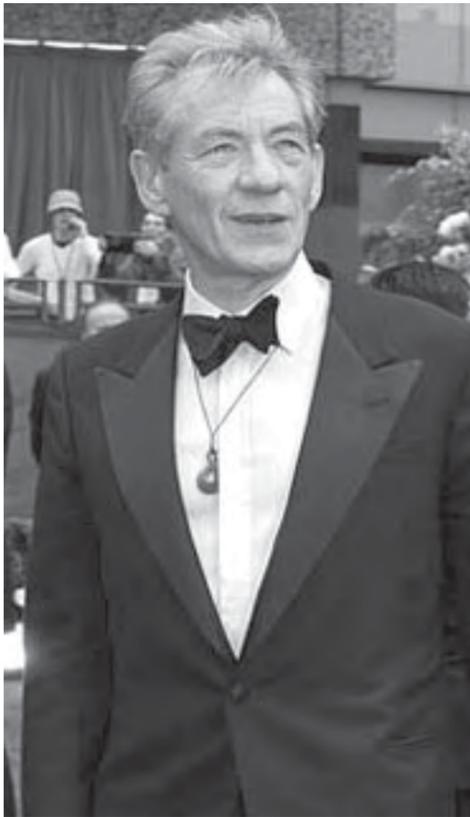
## View From The Rock

This past week, Holy Week was celebrated, involving many ups and downs in the life of Jesus' disciples, as they: witnessed him entering Jerusalem triumphantly, enjoyed the last supper with him, saw Jesus arrested, tried, executed and discovered the empty tomb and learned that he was resurrected from the dead. During this time they promised to support him and defend him, but they denied him, failed to pray with him and ran away when he was arrested. Just like the disciples, people have the same ups and downs with their intentions and with events in their lives. If people take Jesus into their lives, they can overcome the troubles and deal with the various ups and downs, as Jesus tells us in

John 16:33, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

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# King Leer? Ian McKellen Strips For Shakespeare



Ian McKellen

Now, for those who felt guilty and uncomfortable leering at a naked teenage boy, a forthcoming cultural experience offers nudity of a more mature nature.

Sir Ian McKellen has caused a few gasps in Stratford by flinging off his clothes in a scene in "King Lear," in which he has taken the lead role. It's a sensational return to form for the celebrated Shakespearean connoisseur who's known to most people through "Lord of the Rings." Sir Ian tears off his clothes in the "storm scene" as a disturbed Lear says, "Off, off you lendings! (clothes) Come unbutton here." In previous productions, Lear is usually prevented from getting naked by a Shakespearean fool.

At previews, it seems some members of the audience were a little unprepared for Gandalf's gonads. Following a raft of raised eyebrows and some middle-England pearl-clutching, the Royal Shakespeare Company will post warning notices in the foyer regarding the nudity. The production opened Tuesday (Apr. 3) and runs through June 21 at the Royal Shakespeare Company's Courtyard Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon. "The nudity takes place in the storm scene where Lear is going mad and is a very moving part in the play. However, they do intend to warn school groups in advance when the play opens on April 3," London's Telegraph quoted a spokesman as saying.

LONDON - Returning in Stratford to the Bard that made his name, Sir Ian tears off all his clothes as a disturbed Lear, saying, "Off, off you lendings!" Gay.com U.K. reported that audiences were shocked and a little thrilled at the sight of "Harry Potter" actor Daniel Radcliffe showing his wand off in the current production of "Equus."

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## Coach's Contract Not Renewed After Anti-Semitic, Homophobic Remarks

ALBANY, New York (Observer Update) - The Albany Patroons declined to renew the coaching contract of former NBA player Micheal Ray Richardson on Wednesday following his suspension for using a Gay slur at heckling fans and controversy over allegedly anti-Semitic remarks, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

Richardson was suspended for the team's last two Continental Basketball Association playoff games on Mar. 28, a day after he told the Times Union of Albany that he had "big-time Jew lawyers" working for him. The coach yelled at hecklers during the first playoff game, using a profanity and Gay slur. "We had spoken prior to all this hoopla. He had been negotiating with other teams," Patroons general manager James Coyne said. "We

pretty much agreed earlier on he wouldn't be coming back to the CBA."

However, Richardson's lawyer said the suspension for allegedly anti-Semitic and anti-Gay remarks has put his client's entire career in jeopardy, including other coaching opportunities. "Now all the sudden he gets his contract canceled," attorney John Aretakis said. Richardson had been expected to coach for Coyne in the upcoming U.S. Basketball League season that starts in a few weeks, and that's not happening either, he said. "Now he's labeled the rest of his life as anti-Semitic, and he's not," Aretakis said. "He's got two kids who are being raised Jewish. He's got an ex-wife he has a good relationship with who is Jewish." Richardson made the comments in a newspaper interview last week. "They got a lot of power in this world, you know what I mean? Which I think is great," Richardson told the Times Union. "I don't think there's nothing wrong with it. If you look in most professional sports, they're run by Jewish people. If you look at a lot of most successful corporations and stuff, more businesses, they're run by Jewish. It's not a knock, but they are some crafty people." Richardson apologized for his remarks, but said he didn't think it was fair and he isn't bigoted. The team also issued an apology, with Patroons owner and CBA chairman Ben Fernandez saying the league will not tolerate bigots.

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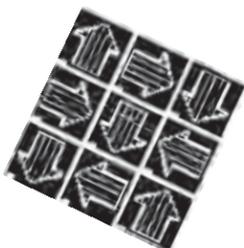
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Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Canasta hosted by Marvin at 745-0304. MSN Canasta is played every Wednesday at 7pm, but check back here for the specific host.

Thursday, April 12

#1Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. o host Coffee Night at Rainbow Planet on fabulous 4th Avenue.

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

Friday, April 13

#1Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.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!

#2MSN Reminder: Mail your reservation check to Lloyd NOW for this month's visit to Tanque Verde Guest Ranch Brunch on Sunday, April 29th. Lloyd must receive your check by April 18th to reserve your 'place at the table'!

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

Saturday, April 14

#1 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Classic Movie Night with Ross. A new MSN event which we hope will become a regular monthly MSN event. (No, you don't have to watch the same movie each month!) To kick things off, Ross is presenting "The Letter" (1940), one of the best Hollywood Golden Age Melodramas produced at Warner Bros. Studio. You can't Miss with Miss Bette Davis, and she doesn't miss in the most fantastic, existential opening scene in Hollywood History. See Murder in Cold Blood, Deceit, Intrigue, and a 'so bad it's good' moralistically altered ending imposed by the Catholic Church's Production Code. This Code ending fails to detract from the film, and adds an actual hilarious sample of how the Breen team imposed their theocratic censorship on the film industry. Ross requests a call from you to enable him to plan all of the goodies for this MSN Premiere. Call Ross now at 299-2135 for directions to his home and more information. Hooray for Hollywood!

#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 Monthly Pot Luck. Phone host Jack at 887-3736 for location, driving directions, and info.

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

Sunday, April 15

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:30p.m. Thom and/or Ken host Dinner Out at one of Tucson's Ultra-Fabulous Buffets. For reservations and directions, contact Thom 623-2941, e-

mail thomsepals@hotmail.com, or Ken at 294-6606. Please contact Thom or Ken by Sunday at Noon to facilitate reservations. Price is usually under \$10. Check the MSN Yahoo on-line calendar for the scheduled location. 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, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Monday, April 16

#1 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:30p.m. Eastside Gay Men's Book Club! Dinner and discussion on an agreed-upon work of gay fiction. Contact Stephen at 546-4047 or e-mail: sjreidy@raytheon.com .

#2Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Join Karol for Hearts by phoning to reserve your place at this limited seating event. Contact 744-9017.

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

Tuesday, April 17

#1Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm. Hand and Foot with Bruce. Call for info and directions: 743-3890. Please call ahead to assist your host in planning the evening.

Wednesday, April 18

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

Thursday, April 19

#1Men's Social Network Open to men of

all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. No host Coffee Night at Rainbow Planet on fabulous 4th Avenue.

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

#3Please call Lloyd BEFORE NOON today to reserve for tomorrow's Pizza Night at 792-8537.

Friday, April 20

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Pizza Night! Call Lloyd for directions at 792-8537! 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 PM, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Saturday, April 21

#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

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## Conservative Christian Law Group Threatens Schools Barring Anti-Gay Speakers

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A socially conservative legal organization is warning schools which observe The National Day of Silence that they face legal action if they bar speakers opposed to homosexuality, 365Gay.com reported.

A high school in Danbury, Connecticut rescinded its ban on an ex-gay preacher after the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) threatened to take the school district to court. "According to the law, a school cannot allow students to promote one viewpoint and then prohibit promotion of another viewpoint," said ADF Legal Counsel Matt Bowman. "School officials also cannot ban speech just because they think it's unpopular or controversial."

The student Bible-study group at Danbury High School had invited Valerie Pinnex, a North Carolina pastor who considers herself to be a "former homosexual", to speak at an event at the school leading up to "The Day of Truth", a conservative Christian response to the Day of Silence. Danbury High Principal Catherine

Richard initially objected saying the event was "too controversial."

Student Rosemary Shakro who had invited Pinnex contacted the Arizona-based ADF, which opposes LGBT civil rights across the country. In a letter to Richard, the ADF asserted that banning Pinnex would violate the students' First Amendment rights. The letter threatened that if Pinnex were not allowed to speak the organization would go to federal court. Pinnex was allowed to speak to the Bible group, telling a handful of students that in high school she was gay. After graduation, she said, she became a police officer and worked on security details for presidents Bush and Clinton. Later, she said, she became a born-again Christian and then embraced the so-called ex-gay movement.

This year The National Day of Silence - the day LGBT students and their supporters draw awareness to homophobia in classrooms by keeping silent in school - will be observed on Apr. 18. The decision by Danbury school officials to allow conservative Christian speakers to denounce ho-

mosexuality is expected to be cited as a precedent in other school districts to allow speakers to opposed the Day of Silence. Last month conservative activist Linda Harvey called on parents to take their children out of school on The National Day of Silence.

A study released by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network to coincide with last year's National Day of Silence, showed that homophobia is widespread in the nation's schools. Nearly one-in-five students reported they had been physically assaulted because of their sexual orientation and over a tenth because of their gender expression. Three-quarters of students surveyed said that over the past year they heard derogatory remarks such as "faggot" or "dyke" frequently or often at school, and nearly nine out of ten reported hearing "that's so gay" or "you're so gay" - meaning stupid or worthless - frequently or often. Over a third of students said they experienced physical harassment at school on the basis of sexual orientation and more than a

quarter on the basis of their gender expression.

The study also showed that bullying has had a negative impact on learning. LGBT students were five times more likely to report having skipped school in the last month because of safety concerns than the general population of students. Students who experience more frequent physical harassment were more likely to report they did not plan to go to college, the study found. Overall, LGBT students were twice as likely as the general population of students to report they were not planning to pursue any post-secondary education. In addition, the average GPA for LGBT students who were frequently physically harassed was half a grade lower than that of LGBT students experiencing less harassment.



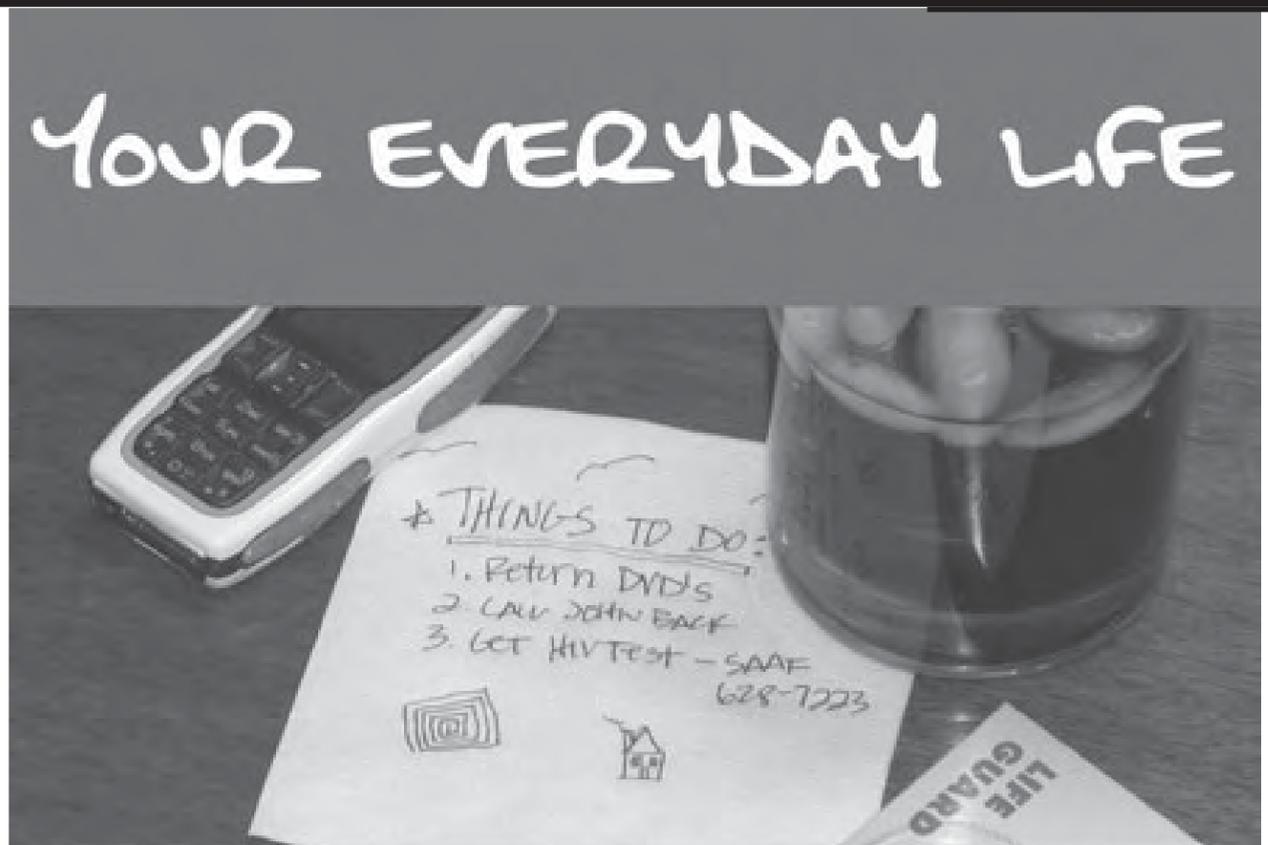
## Out Lists Its Power 100

NEW YORK CITY - Out magazine has named actress Jodie Foster and CNN anchorman Anderson Cooper among its "Power 50" most powerful Gay men and Lesbians in America, despite the fact that neither of them is, well, out, reported Gay.com U.K. An image of Foster (well down the list at No. 43) appeared alongside one of Cooper (No. 2) on the May 2007 cover, headlined "The Glass Closet: Why the Stars Won't Come Out and Play."

In the controversial issue, the magazine addresses and attempts to confirm the widespread belief that Foster, who is intensely private about her personal life, is a Lesbian. Speculation also surrounds Cooper, son of famed socialite and blue-jeans designer Gloria Vanderbilt. Cooper, host of his own TV news show, "Anderson Cooper 360°," has kept a low profile compared to his famed mother. When once asked about his sexuality, he said, "I just don't talk about my personal life. 'It's a decision I made a long time ago, before I ever even knew anyone would be interested in my personal life. The whole thing about being a reporter is that you're supposed to be an observer and to be able to adapt with any group you're in, and I don't want to do anything that threatens that."

In the article "The Glass Closet," gossip columnist Michael Musto examines the way celebrities stay closeted in public view. "It's true that stars are free to put up whatever walls they want in order to maintain boundaries with the public," says Musto. "But even at their most controlling, straight stars never seem to leave out the fact that they're straight in interviews. Whenever a subject tells me, 'I won't discuss who I'm dating' or 'I resent labels,' I generally know not so much that they're passionate about privacy but that they're Gay, Gay, Gay."

Also on the list are billionaire entertainment mogul David Geffen (No. 1); Ellen DeGeneres (No. 3); Rosie O'Donnell (No. 6); Human Rights Campaign president Joe Solmonese (No. 14); blogger Perez Hilton (No. 17); photographer Annie Leibovitz (No. 29); porn director Chi Chi LaRue (No. 36) and Vanity Fair editor Ingrid Sischy (No. 39). Some might ask how the above outranked less prominent but equally influential figures such as philanthropists Tim Gill (No. 4) and Mitchell Gold (No. 49); bloggerati John (Americablog) Aravosis (No. 19) and Nick (Gawker) Denton (No. 22) or film producer Christine Vachon (No. 44). "We awarded scores based on (1) political clout; (2) pop-culture resonance; (3) individual wealth; and (4) current personal profile," explain the magazine's editors.



## 2007 Mobile HIV/Syphilis Testing Schedule

April 19 - The Yard Dog

May 16 - IBT's

June 15 - Ain't Nobody's Biz

July 20 - Woody's

August 16 - Venture-N

September 21 - Howl at the Moon

October 17 - IBT's

November 14 - Woody's

December 13 - Venture-N

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# Eight Years Imprisonment In Gay Performer's Brutal Beating



**Kevin Aviance leaving the hospital after a brutal Gay bashing**

guilty plea to first-degree gang assault. When he gets out of prison the Bronx man will be subject to five years of parole supervision. Had he not made a deal with the DA and found guilty in a trial, George could have faced 25 years behind bars. Still awaiting sentencing are Jarell Sears, 21, of Newark, N.J.; and Gregory Archie, 19, and Gerard Johnson, 17, both of Manhattan. Sears also pleaded guilty to first-degree gang assault and is expected also to receive a prison term of eight years followed by five years of parole. Johnson, described as the ringleader, pleaded guilty to first-degree assault as a hate crime. He is expected to be sentenced later this month to 15 years in prison and five years parole. Archie pleaded guilty to second-degree assault as a hate crime. He is expected, under the plea agreement, to be sent to prison for six years to be followed by three years of post-release supervision.

Aviance was attacked as he left the Phoenix bar last June, 2006. The four beat him unmercifully, breaking his jaw, doing serious damage to one leg and leaving him with cuts and bruises over most of his body. As they attacked him the four young men yelled homophobic slurs. Days later, with his jaw still wired shut and his leg in a brace, Aviance made a surprise appearance at a rally against homophobic violence. "You can't keep a good queen down," Aviance told the crowd. But he warned against meeting violence with violence. "We can't fight any of these people with arms and bullets and drama. We have to fight all these people with love, every single day," he said. Aviance's song "Alive" hit the top of the chart in 2002. Other popular songs by the singer have included "Give It Up," released in 2004, and "Din Da Da," which topped the Billboard dance chart in 1997.

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - One of the man responsible for the brutal beating of Gay entertainer Kevin Aviance last summer has been sent to prison for eight years. Three others who took part in the attack are awaiting sentence, 365Gay.com reported. All four pleaded guilty in a Manhattan court last month after reaching plea agreements with the district attorney's office.

Akino George, 21, pleaded

## Study Says Gays And Lesbians More Likely Than Straights To Be Left Handed

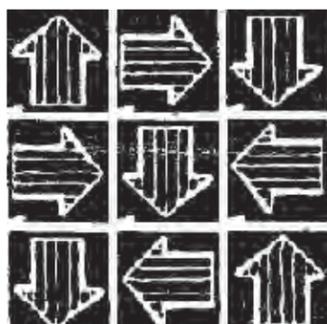
FULLERTON, California - Gay men and Lesbians are more likely to be left-handed than heterosexuals. The preference for left-handedness isn't huge. But it's distinct, and it might have a basis in human biology, reported 365Gay.com. So says Richard Lippa, a veteran Cal State Fullerton psychologist who has been poring over the sex, gender and behavioral data contained in a BBC Internet survey that involved more than 200,000 people. The "Beeb" used the data as part of its highly praised 2005 documentary "Secrets of the Sexes." And it comes amid growing efforts by scientists to examine everything from the length of a person's fingers to hair patterns for signs of sexual orientation.

Lippa, who helped craft the BBC survey, says the data shows that: More Gay men (13 percent) than heterosexual men (11) and more Lesbians (11) than heterosexual women (10 percent) reported being left-handed. More Bisexual men (12 percent) than Gay or heterosexual men (8 percent) describe themselves as ambidextrous, and more Bisexual women (16 percent) than Lesbians (12 percent) and heterosexual women (8 percent) reported "mixed hand preferences."

Lippa, who reports his findings in this month's edition of the journal Archives of Sexual Research, said the data are statistically significant. But explaining why the differences exist is far tougher. "There seems to be something biological going on here," says Lippa, author of "Gender, Nature, and Nurture." "It might involve prenatal hormones, but we just don't know." Lippa is continuing his research, but with a slightly different focus. He's studying

whether the patterns of hair on the back of a person's head can be used as an indicator of sexual orientation. To be specific, he's looking whether people who have swirly hair that trends counter-clockwise are more likely to be Gay than men whose swirly hair trends clockwise.

"This sounded like something out of the 'Twilight Zone' when I first heard about this research," Lippa says. "But there might be biomarkers that are linked to sexual orientation. As I said in our phone conversation, all of these associations (e.g., between finger-length ratios/handedness/hair whorls/birth order and sexual orientation) are relatively variable and weak. You have to look at large numbers of people to see statistically significant associations. And it's never the case that you can tell with any degree of certainty whether a person is Gay or straight by looking at his/her finger lengths, handedness, hair whorls, etc. I think the word 'identify' suggest much stronger relationships than really exist."



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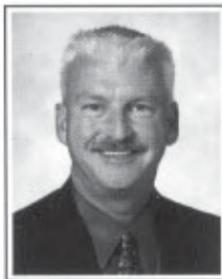
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# Deaf Lesbian Faces Death Penalty

SIOUX FALLS, South Dakota - A hardware cashier testified that a deaf woman accused of dismembering a rival bought a chain saw two days after the victim disappeared, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

Daphne Wright, the first female defendant in a South Dakota capital punishment case, is charged with kidnapping and killing her lover's friend, Darlene VanderGiesen, on Feb. 1, 2006. Denee Daniels, a cashier at Ace Hardware store, said that Wright paid cash for a \$52.99 electric chain saw the morning of Feb. 3, 2006, and came back that afternoon to buy oil for the blade. According to prosecutors, Wright became upset when her girlfriend, Sallie Collins, befriended VanderGiesen. The three women were deaf and knew each other through the deaf community.

Detective Keith Gries also took the stand, saying he saw striations, or lines, on the concrete floor of Wright's basement. Prosecutors have said those lines are similar to the type of damage a chain saw would leave. Detective Steve Schaefer testified that when he searched Wright's basement, he spotted what turned out to be fragments of bone and tissue matching VanderGiesen's DNA on the wall of a room. He said the fragments were similar to flecks he had seen during autopsies. "What I have seen on the saw blade after they have conducted the autopsy was very similar, I felt, to what I saw on the wall of this small room," Schaefer said. He also testified that as

investigators peeled away fresh blue paint from the room's floor, he smelled petroleum.

Prosecutors said part of VanderGiesen's body was burned. Her remains were found in a Minnesota ditch and a Sioux Falls landfill. Lt. William Fluit also testified that orange carpet found near VanderGiesen's remains in the landfill matched some carpet in Wright's basement. An autopsy determined VanderGiesen was killed either by suffocation or a blow to the head. Wright was arrested Feb. 10 after a search of her basement yielded bone fragments, muscle and fat that matched DNA taken from VanderGiesen's toothbrush.



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FREE SERVICES. WM 50s wants to provide free help for Gay men. Willing to help with household chores, yard work, general assistance. Will be your helper, assistant, houseboy. Write with any questions and to get contact info. Available evenings and weekends. Write Box holder, P.O. Box 57476, Tucson, AZ 85732 1185

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WEDDINGS & CIVIL UNIONS: Church of the Free Spirit. Reverend C. W. Schlitz DD churchofthefreespirit.com 520-400-1742 1186

**HOUSING/FOR RENT**

Charming & Beautiful 3BDR, 2BA home with big yard in Central Tucson. Reid park, U of A and shopping is close by. \$1100/month. call 520-320-0194. 1184

**REAL ESTATE**

AN ADULT PROPERTY FOR THOSE WITH A DISCRIMINATING TASTE. 2 to 4 bedrooms or studio exercise room with home office, library, entertainment area with wet bar, great room, formal dining, country kitchen & breakfast area. Plus 3 bedroom 1 bath guesthouse. Possible bed and breakfast - \$180,000 below appraisal. For pictures and details visit www.charliecookproperties.com. Priced at \$699,999. 1185

**MASSAGE**

Various **BODY TREATMENTS** - Massage, Body Rubs and More... Thorough - Anytime Ric 520-981-1141 1211

QUALITY THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE. Real Tantric sensual stimulating energy. Strong hands leave you ecstatically alive. Not rub down at cheap prices. An exceptional experience for 25 years. Call Marc - 881-4582, appts: 8AM - 8PM 1184.

INTUITIVE BODY WORK DESIGNED TO AROUSE YOUR MOST SACRED SENSES. Swedish, Sports, Body Electric, Tantric and more. \$45 in, \$60 out. Afternoons & evenings. Christopher 631-8509. 1187

# DAILY BAR CALENDAR

## SUNDAY

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

COLORS - Open 11am - 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.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 10am. \$2.50 Smirnoff Vodkas all day. Free Texas Hold-'Em Poker Tournaments at 4:00, and 7:00 pm. Play for points and prizes - no cash involved.

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

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

WOODY'S - Open 11am. Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events); Brunch 11:30am-2:30pm; Back Pocket Patio Bar 2pm til 2am. Beer Bust 2-7pm; Bar-B-Que 5-9pm; Karaoke with Michael D. 9p.m.; DJ Jeff in the Back Pocket 9pm; Drag Bingo every other Sunday 8-9pm Watch for special events.

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

## MONDAY

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

COLORS - Closed on Mondays.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour all day & night with \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Kitchen closed. \$3 taco & tostada bar 4-8 pm. GLBT Movie Nite with shows at 6 & 8 pm. Free pool all day.

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

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

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

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

## TUESDAY

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

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7 \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and well and reduced price appetizers. Dinner served until 10pm.

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

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

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

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

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. 50¢ off any Top Shelf Tequila until 8pm 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.

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

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

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

WOODY'S - Open 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 4pm-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and Well and reduced price appetizers. Dinner served until 10pm.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Kitchen open 4 - 9 pm. Karaoke with Rosemary at 8:30pm. \$2.50 Mexican Beers all night, \$1.00 Jello shots.

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

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

WOODY'S - Open Noon-2am; Happy Hour Noon-8pm (excl Spec Events); Free Pool all day. Nacho Chip Buffet 5-9pm; \$1 PBRs Longnecks and \$2 Tecate Longnecks; Back Pocket Bar open 8-close.

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

## FRIDAY

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

COLORS - Open 4pm-1am. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and Well and reduced prize appetizers. Dinner served until 10pm. "Hot Jazz, Cool Martinis" with Susan Artemis and Craig Faltin 6:30-9:30pm. "Guys & Dolls" comedy drag show hosted by Lucinda Holliday at 10pm.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Kitchen open 4 - 9 pm. \$4.50 Fried Chicken dinner with fries and slaw. Free Two-Step lessons with Amanda every other Friday. Call 293-7339 for schedule. DJ Pat plays the best of contemporary and classic country 8:30 to close. Kitchen open 9 pm - midnight serving late night munchies menu.

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

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

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

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

## SATURDAY

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

COLORS - Open 4pm-11pm, 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.

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

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

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

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

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

# BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

### FRIDAY, APRIL 13

THE BIZ - Drag-star Cabaret' a Benefit for Breast Cancer starts at 9:00 p.m. Tickets \$5.00 pre-sale and \$6 at the door. Pre-sale tickets are available at The Coffee Vein 1545 N. Stone and at The Biz..

WOODY'S - April Birthday Party.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 14

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

### SUNDAY, APRIL 15

WOODY'S - Join the crowd for Stella Virgin's Last Drag Bingo. She has something special planned for the event!

### FRIDAY, APRIL 20

WOODY'S - Bio Hazard / Earth Day Party.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 21

HOWL AT THE MOON - Join Kimi San Dumi and guests for a big show at 9:00 p.m.

WOODY'S - Annual Pool Party today. Watch for details.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 22

WOODY'S - April Drag Show. Check for special guests. 8:00 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY APRIL 25

WOODY'S - Suck and Blow Party with special Hosts.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 28

HOWL AT THE MOON - Boys R Us show at 10:00 p.m. Tickets available soon.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 29

WOODY'S - Drag Show. Come out and see who replaces Stella Virgin!

### TUESDAY, MAY 1

HOWL AT THE MOON - Special show with Ayida Cox and her guests. Starts at 9:00 p.m.

### SATURDAY, MAY 5

HOWL AT THE MOON - It's Cinco de Mayo! Rosa's Travesti Drag Show at 8:30 p.m. followed by DJ Michelle playing cumbias, corridos and reggaeton. Drink specials all night. \$5.00 Cover.

### SUNDAY, MAY 6

20<sup>th</sup> Annual Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza and Benefit Auction at Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle. Pre-event Party 2:00 p.m. wrestling starts at 4:00 p.m. Tickets on sale now. For more information call SAAF, (520)628-7223.

### SATURDAY, MAY 12

HOWL AT THE MOON - Tori Steele is your host for an evening with great female illusionists. 9:00 p.m. \$5.00 cover.

### SATURDAY, MAY 19

HOWL AT THE MOON - Miss Desert States Pageant at 7:00 p.m. Come and see who wins the crown!

### SATURDAY, MAY 26

HOWL AT THE MOON - Viva! Latino Drag Show starting at 10:00 p.m. \$3.00 Cover.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 9

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

## TIHAN JOB OPENING DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) seeks a full-time Director of Education and Community Relations responsible for HIV awareness programs for faith communities, training programs and continuing education for volunteers, as well as agency publicity and relationships with congregations and the general community. Requires Bachelor's degree, 3-5 years experience in volunteer coordination, public speaking abilities, public relations experience, and a sensitivity to HIV-related issues, interfaith and multi-cultural issues, and confidentiality. Full-time position requiring evening and weekend hours. Minimum salary of \$30,000; benefit package includes health and dental insurance. Bilingual persons and persons living with HIV encouraged to apply. AA/EOE. Complete job description with minimum qualifications detailed below. Submit resume and list of three professional references to TIHAN, 1011 North Craycroft Road #301, Tucson, Arizona 85711 or e-mail to [scott@tihan.org](mailto:scott@tihan.org). Open until filled; initial review of resumes begins April 18.

# NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

**TUCSON KNIGHT OWLS (T.K.O)** Openly invites new members to our monthly meetings which occur on the first Saturday of every month at 12:00 pm., followed by a beer bust from 2pm to 6pm., at our home bar the Yard Dog saloon. T.K.O.'s annual spring/summer fling is now called owls fling. This year we will be going to Holly Lake July 27th - 30th. The run fee is \$60 for members and \$70 for non-members. Applications will be available at our next beer bust. You can also pick one up from any T.K.O. member.

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

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

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

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

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

#### YOUNG AND GAY?

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

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

#### TUCSON GAY INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**AA Meeting with HIV/AIDS focus,** Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., Wingspan Annex, 425 E. 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](http://teamarizona.org)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### "OUT ON THE TRAILS - EQUESTRIAN FUN!"

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## G/L Iraqis Still Subject To Terror

LONDON (Observer Update) - Iraqi Lesbians and Gays continue to be subjected a systematic reign of terror by Shia death squads, Ali Hili, the coordinator of the human rights group Iraqi LGBT, said, U.K. Gay News reported. "The government of Iraq refuses to crack down on the killers or to take any action to protect its Gay citizens. It is a regime that is dominated by Shia fanatics and homophobes," he pointed out.

"Supporters of the fundamentalist Sadr and Badr militias boast that they are cleansing Iraq of what they call 'sexual pervers'. They are open about terrorising Gay Iraqis to make them flee the country and murdering those who fail to leave. Their goal is a queer-free, pro-homophobic Iraq. They are dragging our country back to the dark ages," said Hili, who is also Middle East spokesperson for the Gay human rights group, OutRage!

"Some members of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's government are linked to the anti-Gay death squads. They are the political representatives of the Muqtada al-Sadr movement and the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI). Both these parties have militias, respectively the Mahdi army and the Badr brigades, who are responsible for the execution-style killing of Lesbian and Gay Iraqis - and the murder of many other Iraqis, including Sunni Muslims, trade unionists, unveiled women, journalists and men wearing shorts, jeans or western-style haircuts. The murder of Gay Iraqis has the support of highly influential religious leaders, such as Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani. He issued a fatwa in late 2005, calling for the execution of Gay

people in the 'most severe way possible'. After international protests, he removed the fatwa from his website, but the fatwa itself has not been rescinded. It remains in force and is the spiritual sanction for the death squads to murder Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender people," said Hili.

The United Nations Assistance Mission to Iraq (UNAMI) has corroborated Iraqi LGBT's claims of "sexual cleansing" by the death squads and Islamist courts: "Armed Islamic groups and militias have been known to be particularly hostile towards homosexuals, frequently and openly engaging in violent campaigns against them," January's UNAMI report said. "There have been a number of assassinations of homosexuals in Iraq..At least five homosexual males were reported to have been kidnapped from Shaab area in the first week of November (2006) by one of the main militias. The mutilated body of Amjad, one of the kidnapped, appeared in the same area after a few days. [We were] also alerted to the existence of religious courts, supervised by clerics, where homosexuals allegedly would be 'tried,' 'sentenced' to death and then executed," UNAMI said.

This UNAMI report provoked a hostile reaction from the government of Iraq, which suggested that Gay people are unIraqi and unIslamic: here was information in the report that we cannot accept here in Iraq. The report, for example, spoke about the phenomenon of homosexuality and giving them their rights," said Mr al-Dabbagh, a spokesperson for the Iraqi government. "Such statements are not suitable to the Iraqi society. This is rejected. They (the UN) should respect the values and traditions here in Iraq."

## Aussie Localities Move For Partner Recognition

MELBOURNE, Australia (Observer Update) - The city's out deputy mayor opens the city's domestic-partner registry with a big splash, while the state of Victoria begins its own registry plans, Gay.com U.K. reported.

Melbourne, Australia, took a major step toward the recognition of same-sex relationships with the official launch of the City of Melbourne Relationship Declaration Register. The launch took place Monday (Apr. 2) in the grand surrounds of the Melbourne Town Hall's Regent Room under the stern gaze of several portraits of past Lord Mayors adorning the walls. Much-loved Gay-friendly comedian Tracy Bartram hosted the event, providing plenty of laughs as well as poignant observations, while Melbourne's Gay and Lesbian choir performed to the 100-plus crowd of council mayors, Gay activists, journalists and same-sex couples and their families on a day filled with emotion.

Openly Gay Deputy Lord Mayor Gary Singer, a major advocate of the register, told the crowd that 2007 was finally the time to treat same-sex couples equally to their heterosexual counterparts, and that it was a landmark day for Melbourne and the city's commitment to diversity. "A dedicated committed relationship exists by the force of love, not law," in reference to the fact the register cannot legally protect the rights of a couple in a same-sex relationship, but is a means of recognizing the relationship status of couples, irrespective of gender.

On the same day Melbourne declared the register officially open, the positive news for Victoria's same-

sex couples continued. Later on Monday, it emerged that Victoria Premier Steve Bracks has asked Attorney General Rob Hulls to provide advice on whether a relationship register open to same-sex couples could be set up statewide. Melbourne is Victoria's capital and largest city. According to government sources, it is likely that a Victorian register would be based on the Tasmanian model, in effect since 2004, in which same-sex couples can achieve legal recognition by lodging an application with a government authority. In Tasmania, couples who register receive a certificate that grants them legal rights to make medical decisions for their partner or to deal with government agencies. It also gives partners access to relationship rights such as wills, property division, some adoption rights (though only to adopt children already under their care), health care and state superannuation and pension schemes.

Despite widespread support among government ministers, Hulls confirmed reform would not include the right to same-sex marriage or any type of civil union, such as the Australia Capital Territory reform blocked last year by Prime Minister John Howard's government. "Gay marriage is not on the agenda here," Hulls said. However, according to a recent major survey by the New South Wales Gay and Lesbian Lobby, most of Australia's same-sex couples prefer a civil-union model that would enable them to recognize their relationships in a more traditional, ceremonial format.



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