



LGBT Among Slain Virginia Tech Students

BLACKSBURG, Virginia (Observer Update) - Members of the LGBT student group at Virginia Tech joined other students in sharing their grief over the shooting rampage Monday (Apr. 16) that claimed the lives of 33 students, faculty and staff members and were struggling over the discovery that Gay people were among the fallen, the leader of the group said Wednesday (Apr. 18), reported the New York Blade.

"Thirty-three people were killed," said Curtis Dahn, president of the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender) Alliance of Virginia Tech. "Some were queer, and others were straight allies. The GLBT community at Tech grieves in the same way as others—deeply and as part of a greater whole." Dahn declined to disclose the number of Gay or Lesbian students killed or wounded in the incident, nor would he identify them, saying he and the Gay alliance group wanted to wait until they were certain all families were notified about the loss of their loved ones. "Yes, there were Gay people that were killed," he said. "One was a very close friend of mine. But I don't feel comfortable talking about it because I haven't talked to the families and I want to be respectful to the families, first and foremost." Dahn also said he doesn't "want this to be a Gay thing, because it's not a Gay thing," he said. "It's an everybod-

thing." Dahn said that like all others at the college, members of the Gay alliance were grappling with the realization that a Virginia Tech student, 23-year-old English major Cho Seung Hui, unleashed the nation's deadliest shooting rampage on their campus.

Dahn said the incident prompted his group to postpone campus activities associated with Wednesday's (Apr. 18) National Day of Silence. The annual event is sponsored by the New York-based Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network to draw attention to anti-Gay and anti-Transgender bullying, harassment and name-calling at the nation's high schools and colleges. "It's the last thing on our minds right now," he said.

Instead, the Gay alliance is devoting all its time and resources to helping the school and its students deal with the aftermath of the shooting incident, Dahn said. "This is a painful time for all of us, and we really appreciate the huge influx of support from everyone," he said. "We are coming together as Hokies and as human beings," he said, referring to the term used to rally school spirit for its sports teams and student body. "We are sharing in our grief, regardless of minority status or previous social groups. Tragedy has broken down barriers," he said. "We mourn."

Day Of Silence Highlighting Anti-LGBT Harassment Reaching Record Number Of Schools

New York - Hundreds of thousands of secondary and college students from a record number of schools participated Wednesday (Apr. 18), in Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network's (GLSEN) Day of Silence to call attention to the serious problem of anti-Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender bullying, harassment, name-calling and discrimination in schools.

A project of GLSEN, in collaboration with the United States Student Association, the 11th annual National Day of Silence is one of the largest student-led days of action in the country. Students at nearly 5,000 middle and high schools had registered to participate in various ways, including taking a vow of silence, wearing stickers or T-shirts and passing out speaking cards explaining their decision not to speak.

"Every day I go to school and I notice the same thing that everyone notices - students saying 'that's so Gay' and stuff like that," said Ashleigh Pippin, a 17-year-old junior from Sanderson High School in Raleigh, N.C. "I wish I would say something every time, but it's hard to stand up and say don't do that every time someone makes an offensive comment. The Day of Silence is the one day I can stand up, without having to say something every five seconds, and make a difference."

Every student has a right to feel safe in school, and the Day of Silence is about changing the pervasive behavior that LGBT students and their allies experience on a consistent

basis. As recently as two weeks ago, six students in Colorado harassed a student with anti-Gay slurs as he walked home from school. One of the six students threw an object at him, breaking his nose and injuring him badly enough to require surgery.

"Students across the country are acting in solidarity today during the Day of Silence. These students - LGBT and straight - are an example of youth taking constructive action by coming together with a positive message," said GLSEN Founder and Executive Director Kevin Jennings. "As President Bush said after the tragedy at Virginia Tech: 'Schools should be places of safety, sanctuary and learning.' These students are doing their part to accomplish that goal."

Bullying and harassment based on actual or perceived sexual orientation and how masculine or feminine a student is are two of the top three reasons students said their peers are harassed in school, along with physical appearance, according to a 2005 Harris Interactive study, From Teasing to Torment: School Climate in America. Additionally, nearly two-thirds of LGBT students (64%) reported feeling unsafe at school because of their sexual orientation in GLSEN's 2005 National School Climate Survey. The Day of Silence was created by University of Virginia students in 1996 and became a national event in 1997. GLSEN became the event's national sponsor in 2001.

Burbank Named As Victim Witness Program Director; Farewell Party At Wingspan May 10



Kent Burbank pictured here with Comedienne Kate Clinton.

PHOTO: kateclinton.com

TUCSON - Pima County Attorney Barbara LaWall has named Kent Burbank to serve as the Office's Victim Witness Program Director. Burbank's appointment is effective June 4.

The Pima County Attorney's Victim Witness Program, with a staff of more than 20 employees and 90 volunteers, responds to the needs of crime victims, witnesses and their families 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The Victim Witness Program also offers court advocacy and administers Victim Compensation. As the first program in the country to assist victims and witnesses at crime scenes, staff and volunteers of the Pima County Attorney's program pioneered many of the crisis intervention techniques now used worldwide.

According to LaWall, who said in a statement that Burbank was selected because of "his tremendous leadership and administrative skills, his demonstrated concern and care for crime victims, and his well-known ability to foster collaboration among community organizations."

"Kent's experience and education are an excellent fit for him to lead the Victim Witness Program," LaWall said. "Kent has become well-known and universally well-respected in the local community over the past six years during his tenure as Executive Director of Wingspan." His leadership has grown that organization from a staff of three and a budget of \$315,000 to a staff of 20 and a budget of more than \$1.1 million.

Burbank's administrative skills enabled him to create new initiatives in response to community needs while strengthening existing programs. Some of the programs Mr. Burbank developed are now viewed as national models, and his work has made Wingspan one of the strongest lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender community centers in the nation. Under his leadership, Wingspan has organized several large-scale community collaborations, including the coalition that

brought the Holocaust Memorial Exhibit, "Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals," to Tucson, and the coalition that built the LGBT Rainbow Habitat for Humanity House, the first of its kind in the nation.

While serving as Wingspan's Director, Mr. Burbank oversaw its Anti-Violence Project serving victims/survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, hate crimes, harassment, and discrimination. He established positive collaborations with the Brewster Center, Tucson Centers for Women and Children, the Southern Arizona Center Against Sexual Assault, and other agencies that provide services and support for victims of violence in our community - organizations that work very closely with the Pima County Attorney's Victim Witness Program.

Burbank has actively participated in and served as a member of numerous community and civic organizations. He is a member of the board of directors and secretary-treasurer for the Association of Fundraising Professionals Southern Arizona Chapter and also is a board member and treasurer of the National Association of LGBT Community Centers. In addition, he is a member of the University of Arizona President's LGBT Advisory Council and has served on the YWCA of Tucson's Women on the Move nominating committee.

Fluent in Spanish, Burbank worked previously at Sin Fronteras in Mexico City and at United Cerebral Palsy of Southern Arizona. Kent has a Master's Degree in Social Service Administration from the University of Chicago, as well as a Master's Degree in Divinity from Meadville/Lombard Theological School in Chicago. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of North Dakota.

LaWall said, "I am tremen-

Continued On Page Two

UPDATE

Treasures For TIHAN April 28

TUCSON (Observer Update) - 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 for 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.

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.

An Evening With Alex Sanchez May 8

TUCSON - The GLBT Services Committee of the Pima County Public Library will host a free evening with author Alex Sanchez on Tuesday, May 8, 6:30 p.m., in the lower level meeting room of the Joel D. Valdez Main Library, 101 N. Stone Ave.

Sanchez is the author of Rainbow Boys, Rainbow High, Rainbow Road, So Hard to Say, and Getting It. Rainbow Boys was selected as a 2002 "Best Book for Young Adults" by the American Library Association and was a Lambda Literary Award (Lammy) finalist in 2001. His novel, So Hard to Say, won a 2004 Lammy.

Complimentary pizza from Magpies Gourmet Pizza will be on hand and the event will include a question-and-answer session, followed by a book signing. This event is made possible by generous funding from the Friends of the Library, which has supported the GLBT annual author talk since 1998.

Free parking is available after 5 p.m. in the city parking garage below the library, accessible from Alameda Street. For more information, E-mail: Beth.Petrucci@pima.gov.



Author Alex Sanchez

Burbank Farewell Party At Wingspan May 10

Continued from Page One

dously pleased to have found someone of the caliber of Kent Burbank to join my office and build upon the successes of the Pima County Attorney's Victim Witness Program as its new leader."

A goodbye reception for Burbank, will be held on Thursday, May 10, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m., at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th. St. (just east of 4th Avenue;

IN MEMORIAM



Thomas (Tom) Albert Tanner

Thomas (Tom) Tanner, age 48, owner of the Venture-N with his partner, David Wallis, died peacefully at home on Saturday, April 14, 2007.

He was born February 3, 1959 in Roanoke Rapids, SC to the late Thomas Henry and Barbara White Tanner. He attended grade school and high school in Roanoke Rapids. Tom was a U.S. Air Force veteran and lived in California following his separation from the service.

Tom moved to Tucson in April 1993. Shortly after he met David Wallis, his partner for almost 14 years. He was employed by the Doubletree Inn for ten years prior to being employed at the Venture-N.

Tom and David purchased the Venture-N on January 17, 2006 and they have managed the bar together until Tom's untimely death.

The community is invited to a Celebration of Tom's Life next Monday, April 30th at the Venture-N, 1239 N. 6th Ave. from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

David would like to thank the Tucson Veteran's Administration Medical Center's physicians and staff, especially Lisa Graham, for their excellent care and support.

Looking for information
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For more info contact our Volunteer Resources Coordinator at 628-7223 or VolCoord@saaf.org

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20th Annual Reno Gannon Jell-O Wrestling And Auction May 6

TUCSON (Observer Update) - 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. 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 with the proceeds going to the programs and services of SAAF. These wonderful people have lined up pledges in their efforts to help SAAF but there are no limits to the number of sponsors these wrestlers can get, so to pledge, sign up with a wrestler, go online to jello-wrestling.org, or call Mae at SAAF, (520) 628-7223

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.

Woody's, IBT's, Howl at the Moon, The Biz and Colors Food & Spirits have all come out in a big way to support this very entertaining event. Each of these bars will be promoting and supporting at least one wrestling team on May 6th, and will be hosting parties and special events during the next two weeks to raise funds for SAAF.

The Biz will be holding their Jell-O Fundraiser on Friday, Apr. 27, with specials on Jell-O Shots and other fun. And, at their Stoplight party on Saturday the 28th, there will be a variety of ways to help support the team from the Biz while bidding on personal items (very personal if you know what I mean,) from the staff and customers.

Colors Food & Spirits will be holding a fundraiser on Monday, Apr. 30. The bar will open at 7:00 p.m. with a drag show involving servers and customers beginning at 8pm. Cover is \$5 and there will be drink specials through the evening until 10pm.

Howl at the Moon will be offering Jell-O Shots for \$1.00 from now until Jell-O Wrestling with all proceeds going to back their team.

In addition to these events and the Jell-o Wrestling, 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.

Please visit the Jell-O website at jello-wrestling.org to get more information, or contact Mae at (520) 628-7223 or by E-mail at events@saaf.org.

Bill Would Ban Workplace Discrimination Against LGBT

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Legislation to bar discrimination based on sexuality the workplace was introduced in Congress Tuesday (Apr. 24), 365Gay.com reported. The Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) would make it illegal to fire, refuse to hire or refuse to promote an employee based on the person's sexual orientation or gender identity.

Openly Gay Congressman, Barney Frank, D-MA is the original sponsor of the House version of ENDA.

A number of states have varying degrees of protections for LGBT workers. Still it legal to fire someone based on his or her sexual orientation in 33 states, and in 42 states, it is still legal to fire someone for being Transgender.

"Across the board, the majority of Americans believe employment decisions should be based on a person's qualifications and work ethic," Human Rights Campaign President Joe Somonese told a Capitol Hill news conference. "And it goes against our most fundamental American values to fire someone based solely upon who they are."

"This bill isn't about excusing lackluster job performance. It is about giving all hardworking Americans a fair chance to get ahead without discrimination or bias," Solmonese said.

A majority of Fortune 500 companies have already implemented equal workplace protections and policies for their LGBT workers.

As of March 2007, nearly 90% of Fortune 500 corporations

include sexual orientation in their non-discrimination policies and a quarter of the Fortune 500 include gender identity.

But activist groups say there are still too many places where LGBT Americans can be fired.

Solmonese said passage of the bill would make America stronger.

"We will be stronger because millions of Americans will have greater economic security for their families. And, we will be stronger because in cubicles and on factory floors, and at check-out counters all over the country, employees will be more efficient and more productive."

ENDA was first introduced in the 1974, and came within one vote of Senate passage in 1996. Attempts since then have bogged down.

This year, with Democrats in control of both the House and Senate, and with bipartisan support, LGBT advocates are hopeful the workplace bill will finally be passed.





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Reveille Gay Men's Chorus 'Beyond The Border Apr. 27-28-29

TUCSON (Observer Update) - 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 Apr.29 at 3:00 p.m., at the Temple of Music & Art, 330 S. Scott Ave.

and of course, Mexico. Reveille's 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, reveillegmc.com, calling (520) 304-1758, at Antigone Books, 411 N. 4th Ave., or from any chorus member.

"Beyond the Border" will include songs from Africa, Ireland, England, Peru, Cuba, Jamaica, Spain,

Trans Teen Misses Out On Prom King Title

FRESNO, California - A Transgender candidate for prom king made an elegant appearance to the Fresno High School dance in a tuxedo, but missed winning the title, school officials said, the Associated Press reported on 365Gay.com. Cinthia Covarrubias, 17, identifies as Transgender. Gay youth advocates believe it was the first time in the U.S. that an openly Transgender student had run for prom royalty.

lawyers had recommended the change to comply with a state law protecting students' ability to express their gender identity on campus. Covarrubias' peers, however, elected one of her six male competitors, Dan Abril, as prom king on Saturday (Apr. 21) at an outdoor reception hall festooned with Chinese lanterns Saturday night, Fresno Unified School District spokeswoman Susan Bedi said. School officials did not announce runners up, or the number of votes received by any candidate.

A prom is a high school dance held in the spring for students who are about to graduate. School officials added the teen's name to the ballot for prom king Thursday (Apr. 18) although she is biologically female, reversing a previous district protocol allowing only males to run for king and only females to run for prom queen. The district's

Supporters still hailed Covarrubias' campaign as a major victory for gender expression on campus. "I hope this opens up something new," Covarrubias said before the crowning. "I've been really excited about it and feeling a lot of hope."

Spitzer Preparing To Introduce G/L Marriage Bill In New York

ALBANY, New York - Governor Elliott Spitzer will introduce legislation in the coming weeks to legalize same-sex marriage the New York Times reported Monday (Apr. 23), 365Gay.com reported. "The governor made a commitment to advance a program bill, and he will fulfill that commitment during this legislative session," the governor's spokesperson, Christine Anderson told the Times.



NY Governor Elliott Spitzer

Spitzer has been a longtime advocate of Gay marriage - despite as Attorney General being obligated to argue against it in the state high court case that upheld the current ban on Gay marriage. Last July the New York Court of Appeals, the state's highest court, ruled that same-sex couples do not have a constitutional right to marry. It said that the issue, however, could be taken up by the Legislature. Immediately after the ruling Spitzer said that he would draft and propose legislation to legalize Gay marriage in New York State if elected governor. The fight for same-sex marriage rights began two years earlier. Following a move in New Paltz to allow Gay marriages in 2004 Spitzer, then New York Attorney general, said that under state law the marriages would not be legal but said he believed Gay marriage should be legal. He later issued a directive that marriages performed in areas of the world where they are legal must be recognized in New York state.

term married relationships." A month later he handily defeated Republican John Faso an opponent of same-sex marriage. But in his inauguration speech in January Spitzer did not mention the marriage issue or state's LGBT community, raising concerns the governor had abandoned his campaign pledge. Even a week ago, when Spitzer outlined his priorities for the remainder of the legislative session he failed to mention the marriage pledge.

Bills coming before the Legislature are usually penned by members of the Assembly or the Senate, but in New York governor's regularly write their own legislation, called Program Bills which are then filed by members. Anderson did not say which member of the legislature would file the bill. It's chances of passage are considered slim. Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver (D) has avoided taking a position on Gay marriage. In the Senate Joseph L. Bruno (R) the majority leader is opposed to Gay marriage.

In Oct. Spitzer was the keynote speaker at Empire State Pride Agenda's annual dinner. "No New Yorker should be deprived of the right to marry the person of their choice, regardless of gender," he said to thunderous applause. "This is not about forcing any religion to perform or recognize Gay marriage. It's simply about permitting Gay and lesbian couples the right to live in stable, long-

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COMMENTARY . . .

Scrap Abstinence Programs, Try Sex Education

By Deb Price

True or false? Adolescents who've participated in school programs advocating only sexual abstinence until marriage are less likely to have sex than other teenagers? After paying a whopping \$1.5 billion for "abstinence only" programs, we taxpayers finally have a conclusive answer: False.

A congressionally mandated study that tracked 2,057 kids for several years – until, on average, they were almost 17 years old – found that most (51 percent) started having sex, regardless of whether they'd been taught "abstinence only."

"Youth in the (abstinence) program group were no more likely than control group youth to have abstained from sex and, among those who reported having had sex, they had similar numbers of sexual partners," concludes the new report by Mathematica Policy Research Inc. About 49 percent of each teen group remained abstinent. Of those having sex, equal numbers always used a condom (just 23 percent). And the sexually active in both groups, on average, first had intercourse at 14.9 years old.

What else is true? Sexually active teens aren't doing nearly enough to protect themselves. Each year, one-quarter of them contracts a sexually transmitted disease. And about 800,000 teenage girls a year get pregnant. What's also true is that 95 percent of Americans eventually have unmarried sex, according to the Guttmacher Institute, which studies

sexuality.

So we adults are miserably failing our nation's children by allowing Uncle Sam to tell states that it won't help pay for sex education other than "abstinence-only" courses that either don't mention condoms and other ways to make sex safer or mention them only to stress failure rates.

As U.S. Rep. Barbara Lee, a California Democrat, says, "We need to get real about sex education." She advocates a commonsense approach: Federal support for comprehensive, potentially life-saving sex ed – what she calls "abstinence plus." She's introduced the Responsible Education About Life Act, which would give states money to educate kids about pregnancy prevention and avoiding sexually transmitted diseases, not merely about just saying no to sex. Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., has introduced the companion bill. Lee points out, "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."

Children tend to hit puberty around 13. By 15, many are having sex. So we need to arm them early with accurate information. Adults often think kids know everything about sex. It's not true. Mathematica found 28 percent in "abstinence-only" programs either think birth control pills can at least sometimes prevent HIV or aren't sure. (They can't.) And 35 percent didn't know that condoms can prevent HIV. Every year, nearly 20,000 young Americans, ages 13 to 24, contract HIV. In getting real about sex, the

federal government should push states to recognize the needs of Gay youth, who tragically are usually left out. The American Journal of Public Health reported in 2001 that Gay adolescents take fewer risks if they receive "Gay-sensitive" instruction about HIV.

It's time to scrap ineffective

abstinence-only programs. Let's replace them with sex education that benefits all kids.

(Deb Price is a columnist for the Detroit News, from which this is reprinted from their Apr. 23 edition.)

COMMENTARY . . .

Intolerance Greets Day Of Silence

By Carol Lloyd

News from the 11th annual Day of Silence – an event sponsored by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network in which students and teachers take a vow of silence to protest bullying and harassment of LGBT students – made me want to scream. This year's event was to be the most successful yet, with nearly half a million students from more than 4,000 schools and colleges across the nation expected to participate. By virtually any standards of protest, the event seems tame: In addition to staying silent, participants may wear T-shirts or pass out explanatory literature. All in hopes that Gay students will one day be able attend school without being targets of bullying. In a country in which one 2005 poll found that 90 percent of LGBT students had been harassed or attacked in the previous year and were three times as likely as straight teens to say that they do not feel safe at school, this doesn't seem like so much to ask.

But what do I know? Apparently wearing T-shirts and staying silent are insanely threatening – worthy of counter-crusades, vandalism and reprimands.

On the national front, the event has spawned a rebuttal: "Day of Truth," bankrolled by the right-wing Alliance Defense Fund, to counter the "homosexual agenda" and offer an "opposing viewpoint from a Christian perspective." Students participating in the Day of Truth

wear T-shirts inscribed with the misleading motto "The truth cannot be silenced."

And even without the conservative message makers, the day has spawned a rash of random bigotry and official censure. A South San Francisco High School was covered with homophobic, anti-Semitic and racist graffiti referring to the event. At New Castle Chrysler High School in Indiana, the day caused such controversy that school officials called for a lockdown in response to fears that some students who opposed the day might respond violently. And two girls at Gulf Middle School in Cape Coral, Fla., were suspended for disrupting the "educational process." One girl was suspended when other students began yelling about the sticker she was wearing explaining her vow of silence. Another student was suspended after she passed out written material explaining the meaning of the day.

With truths like these, I'd prefer the day of silence.

(Carol Lloyd is a columnist for Salon.com, from which this is reprinted.)

May 6, 2007

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EDITOR:

I have long enjoyed your paper, and find it to be an important source of news for the GLBTQ community. The coverage is comprehensive and thorough. However, there is one feature of The Observer which I find offensive, and detrimental to the community. That feature would be the photo spread. Looking at this page gives one the impression that the center of all Gay life occurs in bars. This presents a negative stereotype to members of the community, the public at large, and to young people who are just beginning to come to grips with what it means to be Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered, or questioning. How can we lead the way with positive images when such a narrow slice of GLBTQ life is portrayed?

You have a wonderful list of non-bar events and activities, yet we don't see photos of the volleyball games, bridge games, dinners, and lunches mentioned there. And what about Wingspan events? Political rallies? Church events? Partnership ceremonies? As the preeminent publication covering the GLBTQ community, you have an obligation to present a more well rounded view of that community, and that means telling your photographers to spend some time outside the bars for a change so that their imagery captures more fully the richness of our diverse community and presents all options to the next generation.

I do not mean in any way to devalue the role drinking establishments play in the community. But they are not the entire community, and many Gays don't go to these places at all. Furthermore, we must recognize that alcohol addiction is a huge problem in the community that can negatively affect the mental health of GLBTQ's, and can lead to very poor decision making, leading to negative health, financial, and legal consequences. Healthy alternatives can and should be promoted, especially for underage GLBTQ's.

Sincerely,
Douglas J. Horner

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Before Wingspan became the organization that it has, thanks to the efforts of Kent Burbank, the Executive Director who was named head of Pima County's Victim Witness Program, where was the first "LGBT community center" essentially located?

Prior to Tucson Pride Inc., where was the annual Pride event planned, subsequent meetings and fund raising events held?

When it comes to Tucson's LGBT community and political candidates and elected officials, the first "meet the candidates" events took place at these locations?

Tucson's LGBT community came together to help those living with or affected by HIV/AIDS when the disease was called the "Gay Cancer," during the Reagan era, with events, forums and fund raisers at what businesses?

For a community breakfast, lunch or dinner, prior to the opening of restaurants and coffeehouses, Tucson's LGBT community went to these places?

During Tucson's Fourth Avenue Street Fair, this specific outlet is one of the most popular stops with the entertainment offered, especially during the Fair is?

If one said or thought an LGBT bar or nightclub, pass "go"

and collect \$200.

Tucson's LGBT nightclubs and bars have played and still play a major part in the LGBT community. Without these places, Tucson's LGBT community would not be part of one of the ten most tolerant and accepting cities according to recent surveys and reports released.

In regard to pictorials and coverage of other events, the Observer has had such for Phoenix's Pride event, Tucson's OUToberFEST, Tucson's Pride Parade, the defeat of Proposition 107, the annual AIDS Walk, Wingspan's grand opening of their 7th Street location, the Freedom to Marry Rally held at El Presidio Park to name a few of many such events in the past year alone. There are times when such happenings take place and others when not much is occurring but this publication welcomes notices and especially pictures sent by E-mail and will gladly publish them. With a core-staff of three, and on occasionally, four severely overworked and underpaid individuals putting together Arizona's only weekly LGBT publication for more than thirty years, some events will fall through the proverbial cracks. This is a community publication and input from the readers is greatly appreciated.

Equality Forum Apr. 20-May 6

PHILADELPHIA - Equality Forum, a weeklong array of symposiums, panel discussions, speeches, and parties exploring and celebrating the LGBT civil rights struggle, in the U.S. and worldwide, will be held Apr. 30 through May 6 in venues across Center City, reported Gay City (N.Y.) News. The gathering, produced by a non-profit organization of the same name, celebrates its 15th anniversary this year and organizers estimate that the nearly four-dozen separate events will enjoy a total attendance of roughly 75,000. Malcolm Lazin, a civic activist and philanthropist in Philadelphia, is the executive director of Equality Forum.

The week is, by any standard, ambitious both in its scope and its seriousness of purpose. While pride celebrations in most cities typically revolve around parades, street fairs, and lavish parties, Equality Forum will host discussions of key LGBT agenda items, for the most part with nationally known leaders in the field under consideration.

The annual gathering is undoubtedly the major thrust of the Equality Forum's work, though the organization has also produced quality historical documentaries including: "Gay Pioneers" about pre-Stonewall activists including Washington's Frank Kameny and Philadelphia's Barbara Gittings; "JIM IN BOLD," an experimental film that juxtaposes the tragic suicide of a young Gay man in rural Pennsylvania with the determined efforts of LGBT activists to reach youth across small-town North America, even if they have to travel to them by car; and Glenn Holsten and Brendan Fay's "Saint of 9/11," a 2006 film about Gay Fire Chaplain Father Mychal Judge, who died at the Twin Towers.

Equality Forum last year launched a video/Internet project in connection with Gay History Month in October that profiled 31 LGBT leaders chosen by a panel of community leaders and academics. Installment two is promised for this October. As well, the group works on promoting workplace fairness in dialogue with Fortune 500 companies. According to Lazin, all of this work is carried out with a budget of \$850,000. For complete information on Equality Forum, at which the panels and talks are all free of charge, with admission fees for dinners, parties, and the choral concert, visit www.equalityforum.com.



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Council Denounces G/L Marriage Ban In Swearing In Protest

MADISON, Wisconsin - The mayor and half the city council denounced Wisconsin's new ban on Gay marriage Tuesday (Apr. 18) by adding a strongly worded statement to their oath of office, reported 365Gay.com. Mayor Dave Cieslewicz and 20 city council members elected Apr. 3 raised their right hands and vowed to uphold the state and federal constitutions and the city charter during a midday ceremony at City Hall.

But then Cieslewicz and 10 council members signed a statement saying they took the oath under protest because the ban approved by 59 percent of voters in November "be-smirches our constitution." They vowed to work to minimize the ban's impact and overturn it in the future. "I cannot in good conscience take office without noting my strong opposition to the recent amendment that so blatantly discriminates against my fellow Wisconsinites who are Gay or Lesbian,"

Cieslewicz said to applause after being sworn in to a second four-year term.

Gay rights groups have said they believe Madison is the first city to allow elected and appointed officials to add a statement to their oath to protest a Gay marriage ban. The optional statement drew criticism not only from conservatives who oppose Gay marriage but scholars and others who said it was inappropriate to tinker with the oath of office. Cieslewicz said he respected the statewide vote that added two sentences to the constitution declaring that marriage is between one man and one woman and that the state cannot recognize other relationships. But he said the same process would one day be used to reverse the amendment and "give all of us exactly the same right to marry, raise a family, and be full members of our communities." The mayor is heterosexual and married.

BYU Revises Student Rules After Soulforce Rider Protest

PROVO, Utah - Brigham Young University (BYU) has loosened its regulations on LGBT students, only weeks after a demonstration by members of the Soulforce Equality Ride, reported 365Gay.com.

Until now the student handbook stated that openly Gay students could be expelled from the Mormon school. In addition the university also could expel people, Gay or not, who advocated for Gay rights. Under the revised regulations, BYU's reasons for expulsion are limited to Gay sexual behavior, rather than sexuality per se, or advocacy. Although the change is small it was welcomed by students. "[It will] remove a lot of the Gestapo

atmosphere from the campus," freshman Brett Condron told the Salt Lake Tribune.

In Mar., two people were arrested at the university, in Provo. They were charged with trespassing when they attempted to deliver a letter to university officials outlining what they said was homophobia at the school. The two, a mother and son, were later released. In 2006, 24 Soulforce demonstrators were arrested at a Gay "die-in" at BYU. "I think that the Equality Ride brought an energy to this," Ride spokesperson Haven Herrin told 365Gay.com. "We've been working with the university for the past year. Certainly we're

not directly responsible but I believe energy around this helped it along." A BYU spokesperson denied that the Ride had anything to do with the

change. Carri Jenkins said the revised rules are part of an ongoing process to reflect student questions and concerns.

To Be Gay In Jamaica Is 'To Be Dead'

KINGSTON, Jamaica (Observer Update) - Amnesty International has publicly condemned recent episodes of violence in Jamaica, the latest at a church on Easter Sunday, against people who are perceived to be Gay, reported Gay.com U.K. The organization is particularly concerned by reports of mob violence against people targeted for their appearance or behavior, reports that seem to be increasing in frequency.

On Apr. 8, a crowd surrounded a church in Mandeville where a funeral was being held and hurled objects through a back window. The attacks were directed at mourners whom the crowd believed to be Gay. Following the murder of Gay activist Brian Williamson in Kingston in June 2004, the Jamaica Observer published a letter that read, "To be Gay in Jamaica is to be dead." Despite the international attention which followed the murder, the situation for LGBT Jamaicans has deteriorated further. On Apr. 2 of this year, a crowd threw stones and bottles at a group of costumed men who were dancing in the carnival procession along Gloucester Avenue in Montego Bay. According to reports, the crowd was angered because the men were gyrating in a sexually suggestive manner. Eyewitnesses said the men were attacked, chased and beaten by the mob of around 30 or 40 people. At least one victim was hospitalized for his injuries.

These two incidents occurred only two months after a group of men were targeted in a similar manner in a pharmacy in Kingston. A human rights defender told Amnesty that a mob of at least 200 people had gathered outside the store, calling for the men to be beaten to death because they were Gay. Amnesty International condemns these attacks and calls on the Jamaican authorities to ensure that a full and impartial investigation of the above-mentioned cases takes

place, in compliance with its international obligations stated in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and in the American Convention on Human Rights, the group said in a written statement.

The homophobic climate has been exacerbated by the enduring popularity of "murder music" produced by unrepentant artists such as Buju Banton, Beenie Man, Vybz Kartel, Elephant Man, Sizzla, Capleton, T.O.K. and Shabba Ranks. An agreement to stop anti-Gay lyrics during live performances and not to produce any new anti-Gay material or re-release offending songs was reached in the United Kingdom in February 2005 between dancehall record labels and organizations opposed to anti-Gay murder lyrics, including the UK groups OutRage! and Stop Murder Music Coalition. Simultaneously, black Gay bloggers in the United States have led an awareness campaign against homophobic artists, and activists have pressured nightclubs in several U.S. cities into canceling their concerts. The Stop Murder Music campaign won the Advocacy Award at the Black LGBT Community Awards 2007 ceremony in London. The Advocacy Award was in recognition that the Stop Murder Music campaign had "brought together activists worldwide in challenging homophobic lyrics which incite people to violence against LGBT people." Dennis Carney, vice-chairman of the Black Gay Men's Advisory Group, collected the award on behalf of the campaign, which involved a partnership between his group, OutRage! and the Jamaican Gay rights group J-Flag. "I thought the BLGBT Community Awards event was fantastic and I was over the moon that the wider Black LGBT community fully recognizes and supports the dedication and commitment of the Stop Murder Music Campaign's work at making homophobic dancehall lyrics a thing of the past," Carney said.

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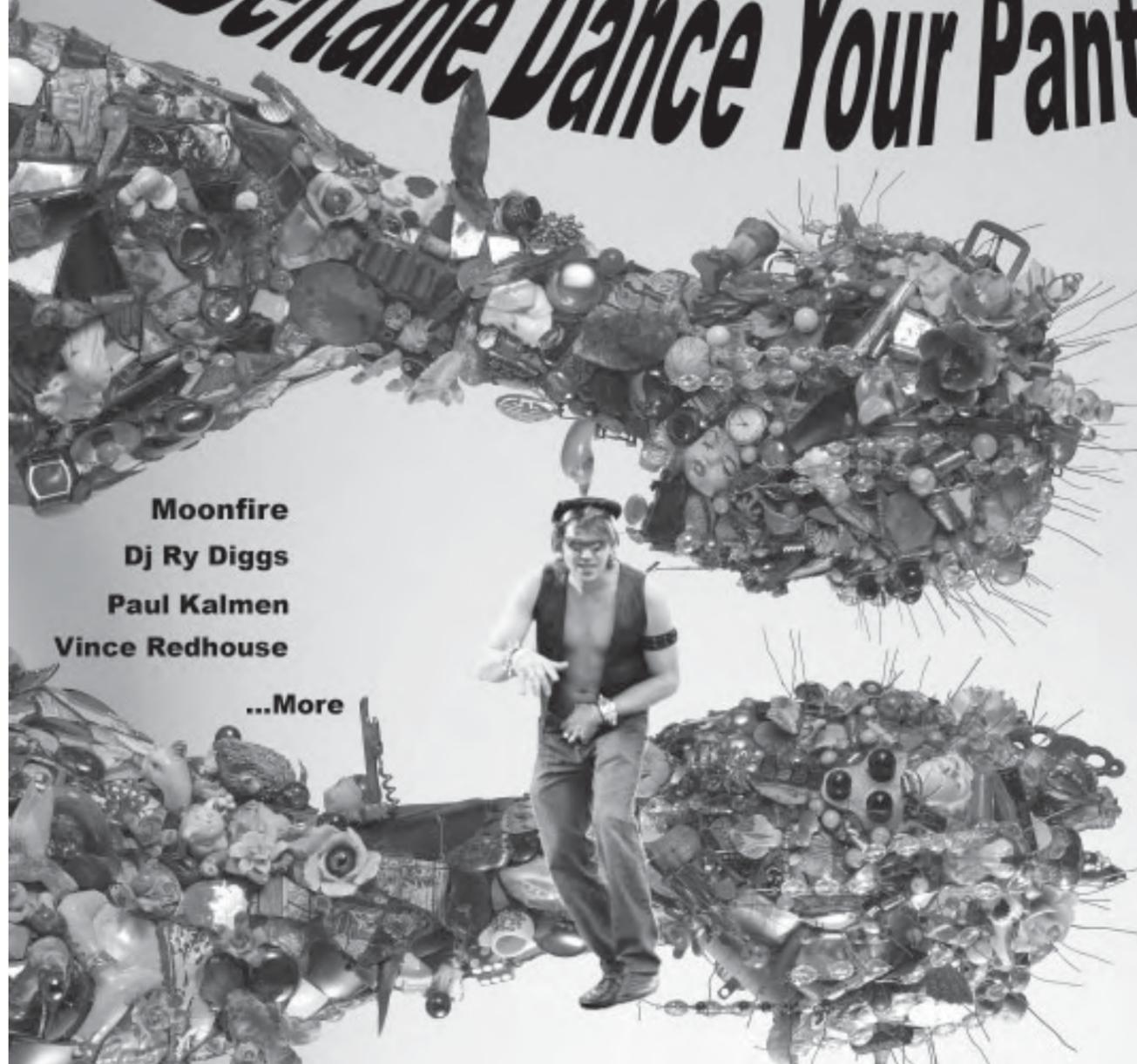
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Washington Governor Signs Partner Bill



Washington Governor Chris Gregoire Signing Domestic Partner Bill

OLYMPIA, Washington - Washington Gov. Chris Gregoire signed into law legislation to give Gay and Lesbian couples some of the rights that come with marriage, 365Gay.com reported. The domestic partnership bill will create a domestic partnership registry with the state, and provide enhanced rights for same-sex couples, including hospital visitation rights, the ability to authorize autopsies and organ donations and inheritance rights when there is no will.

To be registered, couples would have to share a home, not be married or in a domestic relationship with someone else, and be at least 18. Unmarried, heterosexual senior couples would also be eligible for domestic partnerships if one partner were at least 62. Lawmakers said that provision was included to help seniors who are at risk of losing pension rights and Social Security benefits if they remarry. Gregoire signed the measure Saturday morning (Apr. 21) in the state Reception Room in front of LGBT civil rights activists who had fought for passage of the law.

The bill passed its final hurdle earlier this month. In Jan. during Senate hearings a woman whose same-sex partner died as a result of flooding a month earlier told lawmakers that she had difficulty getting into the hospital to see her dying lover. In emotional testimony Charlene Strong told how

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

Last July 2006, the Washington Supreme Court upheld the state's so-called Defense of Marriage Act that limits marriage to opposite-sex couples. The court cited the argument that marriage was designed for the procreation of children. But the court noted the legislature could overturn the law or amend it to include Gay pairs. Gay and Lesbian couples denied marriage licenses filed suit in 2004. Two lower courts ruled that the state law barring Gay marriage was unconstitutional and the the high court heard arguments in the case in Mar. 2005.

trators of this despicable action and bring them to justice."

The 2006 pride march was cancelled following a week of rioting in Jerusalem by the Haredi. Thousands of sect members took to the streets setting fire to garbage cans and injuring more than a dozen people. In the Samaritan settlement of Eli a homemade bomb was found at the doorway of a police station. The device, which had a sign attached to it saying "Sodomites Out!" was disarmed. Instead of holding a march Open House held a pride concert and celebration at Hebrew University where anyone entering the grounds was checked by police. There were no incidents. But the march preceding year was marred by violence. More than a dozen protestors were arrested and three people were stabbed. Almost 1,000 protestors lined the parade route. Bottles of urine and bags containing feces were hurled at marchers. Shortly after the parade began Shai Schlissel, a Haredi member, rushed into the marchers on Ben Yehuda Street stabbing a man and a woman. Others in the parade attempted to subdue him. The third victim was a marcher who went to the aid of the other two victims. Schlissel is in prison for the attack.

The Haredi have become a growing force in Israeli politics, raising fears among some that the country

could turn into an ultra-Orthodox state. Haredi political parties have often held the political power to make or break a government. The men spend their lives in prayer and study, subsidized by taxpayers who can't see why they don't just get a job. Every secular Israeli, male and female, must do military service, the great leveler in a country of immigrants from east and west. But haredim are exempt. They have managed to ban public transport on the Sabbath, grounded El Al, the national airline, on holy days, and has absolute control of all Jewish marriage and divorce. This power was reinforced last month when 12 of 15 new rabbinical court judges were recruited from the ultra-Orthodox - a move that caused a furor among secular Israelis who had hoped more moderate judges would join the court. No one from the sect has claimed direct responsibility for Friday's bombing. Police officials said it appeared the pipe bomb had been planted so it would go off if a tractor rolled over it. The settlement is, police noted, near the ultra-Orthodox settlement of Ramat Beit Shemesh. Investigations are trying to determine if anyone from that community was involved in the incident. The victim was treated for a leg wound and released from hospital.

Aruba Must Recognize The Netherlands' G/L Married Couples

AMSTERDAM, The Netherlands - The country's supreme court ruled that same-sex unions conducted in the country must also be recognized by Aruba's government, advocate.com reported.

According to Agence France-Presse, two Dutch women requested to be recognized as a married couple in Aruba's civil register. Their petition was

denied, prompting them to take their case to court, where they won the case as well as an appeal made by Aruba's government.

The supreme court found that laws drawn up by a civil servant in the Netherlands, Aruba, or the Netherlands Antilles is valid through the Kingdom of the Netherlands, of which Aruba is a part.

International Study Shows Widespread Dislike For Gay Neighbors

NEW YORK CITY - An international study of attitudes towards Gays shows large number of people still do not want Gay neighbors, reported 365Gay.com. The study, "Love Thy Neighbor: How Much Bigotry is there is Western Countries", was co-authored by Prof. Vani Borooah of the University of Ulster and Prof. John Mangan, a professor of economics at the University of Queensland in Australia. It was based on statistics from the Human Beliefs and Values Survey, conducted in 24 Western countries between 1999 and 2002.

People in Northern Ireland showed the most disdain for having a Gay neighbor. Thirty-six percent of those questioned said they did not want a Gay or Lesbian living next door. In Italy opposition to Gay neighbors stood at nearly 29 percent, despite a recent

separate poll that showed a majority of Italians believe same-sex couples should have domestic partner benefits. The disparity between the two sets of numbers shows that people tend to support Gay rights in the abstract but not are not as supportive when confronted in their own neighborhoods.

The research focused primarily on Europe and Australia. In the Republic of Ireland, 27 percent said they did not want a Gay neighbor. In Austria and Greece it was 26 percent. Nearly 25 percent of Australians do want Gays living next door. Overall the most welcoming country was Sweden where six percent said they would object to having Gay neighbors.

Bombing Linked To Anti-Gay

JERUSALEM - (Observer Update) A worker was wounded Friday (Apr. 20) after a bomb exploded when his tractor rode over it in the settlement of Beit Shemesh, near Jerusalem - littering the ground around the bomb site were flyers denouncing this year's planned Gay pride celebration in Jerusalem, 365Gay.com reported. The flyers allegedly came from the ultra-Orthodox Hardei sect. Police said there were trying to determine if there is a connection.

Last Sunday (Apr. 15) Jerusalem's LGBT community center applied for a parade license for June 21. A spokesperson for Open House condemned the bombing. "Morally bankrupt religious bigotry will never deter us from our struggle for freedom of expression and full and equal civil and religious rights," said Noa Sattah, Executive Director of Open House. "We urge the Jerusalem police to find the perpet-



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POLITICS 2007

by Mark R. Kerr

H.R. 1592 Update

On a stage, standing on one of Senator Lindsay Graham's "dollar rugs," wearing a kevlar bullet proof vest with dozens of troops alongside and three Blackhawk helicopters heard overhead, in a safe neighborhood... in Charleston, South Carolina, Dubya's "Desert Poodle," floundering Republican presidential candidate, Arizona Senator John McCain, declared that the country should not have any laws pertaining to gun control (this after the massacre at Virginia Tech), stated his foreign policy in regard to Iran would be like an old, Beach Boy's song, "Barbara Ann," reworked as "Bomb Iran," and expressed his "opinion" against proposed legislation (H.R. 1592, S. 1105) expanding current federal hate crimes statutes.

Despite McCain's ranting on the campaign hustings, the House Judiciary's Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security heard testimony on H.R. 1592, Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act on Tuesday, Apr. 17.

Sponsored by Representative John Conyers, D-MI, chair of the House Judiciary Committee, H.R. 1592 would add sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and disability to federal hate crimes laws that the government already has authority to prosecute crimes committed because of the victim's race, color, religion and national origin and because the victim was attempting to exercise a federally protected right.

Conyers' bill broadens the classes covered and extends protection in cases that do not involve a federally protected activity, creating a federal backstop to assist local law enforcement upon request or when local authorities fail to adequately investigate or pro-

ecute such crimes.

Subcommittee witnesses included Republican Utah Attorney General Mark Shurtleff; George Washington University Law School Dean Frederick Lawrence; hate crime victim David Ritcheson of Harris County, Texas; and Jack McDevitt, associate dean at Northeastern University, all of whom testified in favor of H.R. 1592.

Congressman Jerrold Nadler, D-NY, chaired the hearing. "Hate crimes attack more than just the individual victim: they are an assault against an entire group of Americans," said Representative Nadler. "No American should have to live in fear because they are threatened with violence simply because of who they are." Representative Robert Scott, D-VA, the chair of the Subcommittee was in Virginia to attend a memorial service for the victims of the tragedy at Virginia Tech.

H.R. 1592 has been sent to the Judiciary Committee to be "marked up," where consideration of the legislation and proposed amendments, if any, will take place. This hearing, as of press time was expected to take place sometime during the week ending Apr. 28.

To express your support and urge your Members of Congress (House and Senate) to vote in favor of H.R. 1592 and/or S. 1105, go online to: thetaskforce.org/hatecrimes07/hatecrimes07.html and capwiz.com/hrc/home/.

Gay Men Urged To Go Vegetarian

LONDON - UK animal rights group Viva! is urging the Gay community to give peas a chance and save animals from suffering by going veggie, Gay.com U.K. reported.

A new ad shows a sexy lad cuddling a lamb with the words, "Because being a man means more than having meat and two veg." It promotes Viva!'s second Incredible Veggie Show - the biggest vegetarian event in Europe - in London on June 30. One in five of Viva!'s staff is Gay and the group has great support in the Lesbian community, with women making up 80 per cent of the membership. Viva is now targeting Gay men with the somewhat ambitious claim that going veggie can make a man more attractive and improve his sex life.

Meat and the fat it contains can clog the arteries, says Viva!, which makes lovemaking harder because things are softer, can produce stinky breath, make you obese and cause your hair to fall out prematurely. While the above may be true, it will be hard to convince the chicken breast-chomping muscle-Mary contingent. Perhaps the next question the veggies need to address is, 'Can you be a buff hunk on nothing but pulses and vegetable?' A report by the U.S. National Institutes of Health confirmed that vegetarians actually smell better than meat-eaters. But the good news is, carnivores who cut out meat can improve their odor, clear their arteries, cut their risk of heart disease and a string of other illnesses, keep their hair sprouting and soon start feeling themselves again.

Justin Kerswell, Viva!'s campaigns manager, is getting hitched to his long-term partner, Stuart, in August. After the civil ceremony, there will be a fun Mexican theme party where all the food will be decadent vegan. "I've been vegan for the last three years and before that I was vegetarian for 20 years," Kerswell said. "The only meat in my life now has got a pulse! Got to say, I've never felt better - and at 37 I'm glad to report I'm still the same weight I was at 18. I suffered discrimination as a Gay man when I was younger and so developed

an interest in Gay rights. At the same time, I began to learn about the appalling treatment of today's farmed animals. I was shocked to find that in the UK we kill and eat around a billion animals every year. I didn't want to be a part of that and felt that injustice was unacceptable whoever or whatever was the target. So come on GLB&T people, join up the dots and ditch the meat - Viva! is here to help."

Jane Easton, cookery coordinator at Viva!, is also getting hitched this year - to Mary, her partner of 22 years. The food will be vegan, of course, but not cooked by her this time - she's having a rest! "I was veggie for over 15 years and have been vegan for six years," Easton said. "My initial reasons for changing my diet were about feeding the world - vegetarianism was so much more efficient than wasteful meat production. Like many Gays and Lesbians I saw the links between oppression of animals and people and thought there's enough cruelty and violence in the world without me adding to it. Compassion obviously pays as I've never felt better or eaten better. I'm 52 but don't feel it and, if I can believe my mates, I don't look it."



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Haggard Moves From Colorado Springs To Phoenix For 'New Beginning'

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado (Observer Update) - The Reverend Ted Haggard moved Wednesday (Apr. 18) from his longtime home in Colorado Springs, Colo., to Phoenix, where the disgraced minister will join the same church that helped fallen televangelist Jim Bakker, reported the Associated Press on advocate.com.

Haggard, 50, resigned as president of the National Association of Evangelicals last year, after a former male prostitute alleged a three-year cash-for-sex relationship. The man also said he saw Haggard use methamphetamine. Haggard confessed to undisclosed "sexual immorality" and said he bought meth but never used it. As part of his severance package from New Life Church, a 14,000-member congregation he started in his basement, Haggard agreed to leave Colorado Springs, a city he helped make an evangelical center. "When he moved out of town, there was a kind of relief on the part of the church that life can get back to normal," said the Reverend H.B. London, one of three ministers overseeing what has been called Haggard's "restoration." "For the

Haggards, it is the beginning of a huge new chapter. It's a brand-new start for them, the beginning of a new beginning."

Before his fall, Haggard was an emerging voice in evangelical politics. He took part in White House conference calls and fought to broaden the movement's agenda to include environmental issues. In Phoenix, Haggard plans to pursue a graduate degree in counseling at an area university, said London, who heads an outreach effort for pastors through Focus on the Family, the Colorado Springs-based conservative Christian group. London was not sure where Haggard would be studying. The Haggards and two of their children—another three are grown—are expected to live in a home made available by a supporter. Ted and Gayle Haggard have ties to Phoenix. The couple spent three weeks at a secular treatment center in the area after the scandal broke. And the Pentecostal church they will attend, Phoenix First Assembly of God, is led by the Reverend Tommy Barnett, another member of Haggard's restoration team. Bakker, the televangelist, found refuge at

Barnett's church after being released from federal prison for bilking supporters of \$158 million. He volunteered at a Los Angeles church mission run by Barnett's son. London said he believes Barnett told his congregation that Haggard would be joining them. Barnett and officials at his church did not return calls seeking comment. Haggard faces a test in going from being on the pulpit to becoming just another face in the pews, London said. "Once you were in charge of a megachurch and a megastaff and making mega-decisions, now your main decision is where you're going to school, where to eat, and what you're going to do on your day off," London said.

The Reverend Mike Ware, a member of a separate panel of pastors that investigated the claims against Haggard, said, "We've all been in agreement that Ted should have a fresh start, gain some fresh perspective, and it's very difficult for them to get the kind of healing they need staying in Colorado Springs." Ware said Haggard is continuing to receive counseling, which officials said will

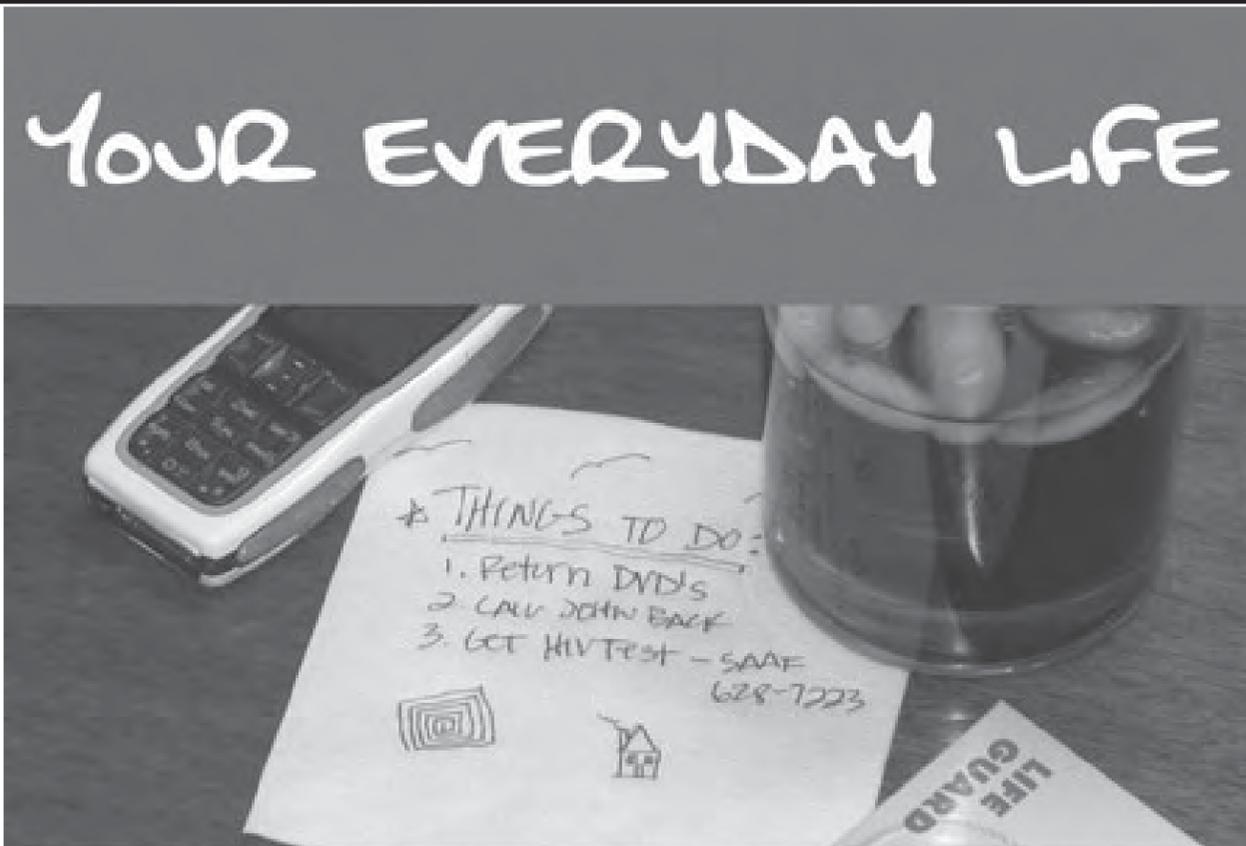
include an exploration of his sexuality. Haggard has told his advisers he does not believe he's Gay. As part of a severance package that will pay Haggard through 2007, Haggard agreed not only to leave town but to refrain from discussing the scandal publicly. He did not return messages. Haggard's most recent annual salary was about \$138,000, benefits excluded. His former congregation has felt the sting of the scandal. Since Haggard's fall, attendance has fallen 20% and giving has dropped 10%, said Rob Brendle, an associate pastor. As a result of the decline, the church laid off 44 employees, or 12% of its work force.

Rosie Drops Bermuda From Gay Family Cruise Following Threats Of Protest

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico - A summer cruise for Gay and Lesbian families organized by Rosie O'Donnell has cut Bermuda from its planned itinerary because of possible protests by church groups in the British island territory, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. O'Donnell's charter company said it wanted to avoid the type of protests that greeted passengers when one of its cruises stopped in Nassau, Bahamas, in 2004.

The tour is scheduled to leave New York in July on a ship owned by Miami-based Norwegian Cruise Line. But the charter company, R Family Vacations, said on its Web site that it would replace the Bermuda stop with two other ports of call in Florida. In the statement, the company said Bermuda's prime minister had assured them they would be welcome as tourists and they had also received hundreds of supportive e-mails from people who live in the wealthy British enclave. Still, organizers felt they could not be certain there would be no protesters greeting them upon arrival. "We feel that our cruise would be more enjoyable with an alternate itinerary to ports where we know we are welcome by everyone."

In 2004, about 100 protesters chanting anti-Gay slogans met one of the company's cruises when it arrived in Nassau, Bahamas, with about 1,150 passengers. O'Donnell is a co-host on ABC's "The View." R Family Vacations has offices in Nyack, N.Y. It was founded by Gregg Kaminsky and Kelli O'Donnell, partner of the talk-show host.



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

Testing is from 7-10pm at each location, last test is at 9:30pm

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Amaechi Gets Warm Response At Penn State

STATE COLLEGE, Pennsylvania (Observer Update) - John Amaechi hasn't heard a word from any former NBA teammates since becoming the first former league player to acknowledge his homosexuality, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. "Not one," he said Thursday night (Apr. 19).



John Amaechi

It's the exact opposite when it comes to his former Penn State teammates. The ex-Nittany Lion said he's received messages from every former college teammate. "Every single one," Amaechi said during a 90-minute appearance at the campus student union, speaking in front of a banner that read "Welcome Home John. Penn State's Finest." Amaechi, 36, who was raised in England, played in 301 NBA games over five seasons and averaged 6.2 points and 2.6 rebounds. He had NBA stops in Cleveland, Orlando, Utah, Houston and New York. But Amaechi holds an affinity for Penn State, where he played from 1993-95 and was an academic All-American.

Coach Ed DeChellis recruited Amaechi while he was an assistant. The two have kept in touch, and DeChellis called Amaechi after the release of the book "Man in the Middle" and invited his former player back to campus to talk. "It's a good thing for our players to be around a guy as classy as John Amaechi," DeChellis said recently. "He had the courage to talk about his sexuality openly and how he's dealt with it." In his talk to students, Amaechi said he was a "geek" and "gym rat" in his college days. He encouraged students to strive for perfection, and to not be apathetic about issues of diversity.

Amaechi was critical of former Penn State women's basketball coach Rene Portland, who resigned last month. Portland and the university in March settled a lawsuit from a former player who claimed Portland had a "no-Lesbian" policy on her team. "She, anyone like that is incongruent with what this university and society ... should stand for," Amaechi said, drawing applause. "The job of this institution is to be so good, so malleable, so flexible that it's an environment where all people can perform at their peak," he said. "Anybody who doesn't want that, doesn't belong here, at all."

McGreevey Says Wife Knew He Was Gay

TRENTON, New Jersey (Observer Update) - The estranged wife of former New Jersey Gov. James E. McGreevey knew he was Gay before they married, he claimed in court papers filed Monday (Apr. 23), reported the Associated Press. McGreevey wrote that Dina Matos McGreevy "knew of my sexual orientation before our marriage, she chose to either ignore it or block it out of her mind, even when questioned by her friends."



Fmr. Gov. James McGreevey and wife Dina Matos

The former governor doesn't detail how she knew he was Gay, but objects to his wife's contention in recent court papers that he is bisexual. "On the off-hand chance she wasn't paying attention, I AM A Gay AMERICAN," he wrote, referencing the term he used to describe himself when he announced his resignation in August 2004. "She is in deep denial."

McGreevey resigned after saying he was Gay and had an affair. The former governor also defended his parenting skills in the filing. He said despite the demands of being governor he was never "indifferent" to their 5-year-old daughter, as his

estranged wife claims. Matos McGreevy claimed in court papers that he exposed their young daughter to erotic artwork at the home he now shares with partner Mark O'Donnell, an Australian money manager. She is seeking primary custody. McGreevy countered in the filing that his wife "HAS NEVER SEEN THE PHOTOGRAPH" of the nude male model. Matos McGreevy's memoir is scheduled to reach bookstores May 1



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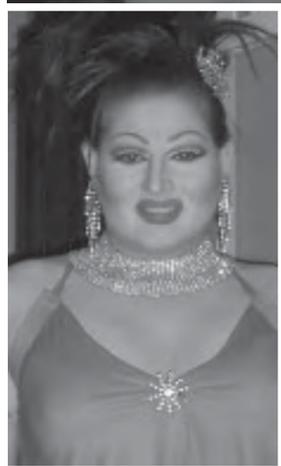
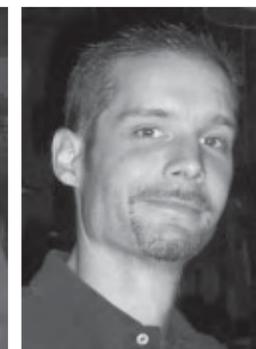
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Pelosi Honors Hattoy At Capitol Ceremony

WASHINGTON, D.C. - (Observer Update) Fellow Democrats and others were led Wednesday (Apr. 18) by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi as they honored longtime activist Bob Hattoy with a memorial at the U.S. Capitol, advocate.com reported. Hattoy, an advocate for Gay and environmental issues, in 1992 became the first out Gay person to speak at a major party's national convention, accusing the first President Bush of doing nothing about AIDS. He died Mar. 4 of complications of the disease. At his death, Hattoy was president of the California Fish and Game Commission.

Here is a transcript of Pelosi's remarks:

"Today we celebrate the life and contributions of Bob Hattoy - environmentalist, activist, and friend. We also pay tribute to the many who loved him, and grieve his loss. As an environmentalist, Bob considered courage and creativity and courage to be renewable resources. A committed progressive, he built bipartisan coalitions, working across the aisle to bring people together to protect our natural resources. We Californians, for whom the environment is an ethic, are so proud of the national work Bob did with the Sierra Club, with the Clinton-Gore administration, and with the California Fish and Game Department to protect our precious national resources. Today, Californians and visitors who look out at our beautiful coastline have Bob to thank for his years of work to help save our coast from offshore oil drilling. For the environment, Bob was a force for nature.

"As an activist, he was a force of nature. Intensely patriotic, Bob believed that our country's greatness was reflected in the inclusion of all people in the American family; in human rights and health care, particularly AIDS; and in the dignity and respect with which we treat each other. Bob's courage and creativity were manifest in the work he did for people with AIDS. Before he became sick, Bob was active in promoting HIV/

AIDS awareness and resources for Gay and Lesbian people who were facing severe discrimination and being denied lifesaving treatments. Bob understood that battling AIDS meant battling a disease as well as battling discrimination. And when he personally became part of that struggle, Bob made a life-changing decision: Rather than retreat, he stepped forward, shining a light on his situation and challenging the conscience of the country. With his historic address to the 1992 Democratic National Convention and his work with the White House Office on AIDS, Bob was a public face of equality: serving as a Gay man with AIDS at the leadership table at the highest levels of politics and government; helping shape a public health response to this national tragedy. I worked with him from the House Appropriations Committee to create a national and bipartisan response to the crisis of AIDS.

"Bob was always a voice for resources, and a voice for dignity. I am proud to have called Bob my dear friend for many years. Since we lost Bob, many of us here have been sharing years of stories, anecdotes and witticisms. Bob's insights were often off-color, yet always on the mark. Bob loved people and had a gift for using humor to face the most serious of life's challenges with a light heart. When I saw Bob just over 100 days ago at the beginning of the new Congress, he was, as usual, witty and hopeful. We reflected briefly - and humorously - on some of the political events of the past 20 years, and Bob expressed great hopes for the new Congress, and for the challenges we were preparing to address. Although he lived with AIDS for more than 15 years, AIDS took Bob from us too soon. Today, as we grieve, we recognize Bob Pellham, Bob's longtime partner, as well as his brother, Stephen and his sister, Debbie, who all feel his loss acutely. As we go forward, we recommit ourselves to finding a cure, to providing treatment with dignity, and to bringing America another step closer to the full equality that is our heritage and our hope."

Foley Paying Page Scandal Legal Fees From Campaign Funds

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida (Observer Update) - Former U.S. Rep. Mark Foley is using leftover campaign cash to pay for the huge legal bills he's racking up defending himself in the congressional page scandal that led to his resignation, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. Foley spent \$206,000 in campaign cash on attorneys from November to January, according to recent filings with the Federal Election Commission. That left about \$1.7 million in the

Florida Republican's campaign account March 31, even after he returned more than \$110,000 from donors.

"Many congressmen, when they resign, they keep the money and do good things with it. But paying for your legal bills? I don't think so," said Robert Starr, chairman of the Charlotte County Republican Party. The FEC has ruled in other cases that such expenditures generally are lawful. "I got my 500 bucks back. ... I gave him money because I believed in him. It's not that way anymore," Starr said.

Foley's criminal defense attorney, David Roth, declined comment. A telephone message left with the Washington-based law firm that got all the legal payments from Foley's campaign account was not immediately returned. Foley resigned from Congress in September after being confronted with sexually explicit Internet communications to male pages who had worked on Capitol Hill. Soon after, he checked himself into an Arizona facility for what his attorneys said was for treatment of "alcoholism and other behavioral problems." His attorneys at the time announced Foley was Gay and alleged he had been molested by a priest as a teenage altar boy. They maintain Foley never had inappropriate sexual contact with minors. State and federal authorities continue to investigate whether Foley broke any laws through some explicit communications with minors.

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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE All Roads

by Lee Thorn

ALL ROADS...BUT THIS ONE is a book of poetry and short prose by four very dissimilar writers. The first thing I noticed about it is how physically beautiful it is as an object. The covers are fuzzy black fabric tied with a black, possibly silk, ribbon. The cover art on both front and back is a tangle of suspended roads that somehow reminds me of bamboo. The title lettering is in soft red and black waves. I can't remember ever seeing a prettier book.

In the interests of full disclosure, I've been publishing two of the writers of ALL ROADS in my own monthly avant-garde poetry journal for years. I'm so much a fan of their work that I eagerly read it even when I feel they're going astray. I know they'll go astray more interestingly than other writers will keep from going astray. They're both essentially willing to try new things, to stray, to go astray.

I've written of Jon Cone's poetic process that his fussiness often leads to poems that have a feel of inevitability. I experienced the poems in this collection very differently, sensing a kind of wrestling match in which a powerful and meticulous mind grapples with difficult decisions, now making the cautious move, now the bold one. I felt as though I'd been invited into the process to struggle along with the poet, a high-octane endeavor. Here are some Cone lines from various poems to give you the flavor: And the weeks go by like strung wire you old span of feathered oil. It is the brilliance of snow/ that it gracefully converts/ to a religion intent on reaching/the paradise of ice. The world was a sad place crowded with small things. Then we startled each other awake as we lay in our cool skins.

klipschultz (his small k), the other poet I've frequently published, is someone whose work I think of as a presence, a personality. It has become a clever mensch, a good-natured wise guy. Reading him is like having a few beers with a friend who happens to be a brilliant conversationalist with a mischievous sense of humor. Some lines from various

poems: A man kills himself trying to kill his dog. A grin. Her mother's Derbyshire grin./ Full of monkeyshine and brass and Midlands cold. A young girl studies/ The horizon like a schoolbook./ For homework, the moon.

If you like melodrama, the poems of Claudia Grinnell may amuse you. Examples: . . . and a surgeon rushes to amputate both my legs. I believe in blood/ sacrifice. Strange, to hear the news/ of my death. This is where you will die.

Aside from the melodrama, Grinnell's is pretty typical academic poetry, the emptiness of which is exemplified by this passage: He bought a shovel. He bought a shovel and laid it/ Next to his bed and became aware of it as one becomes/ Aware of a snake, carefully stepping over or around it./ On a fresh yellow pad, he wrote shovel and placed the note/ On the handle. Some days, he worried about forgetting nouns.

Albert Sgambati provides the short prose pieces, some of which convey a very convincing sense of place in a fluid, muscular style. His "Chinatown Forever!" creates a living locale via poetry: Open the window in Chinatown -/the weather is hysterical./ Traffic jams all over the radio./ Oh fish! Water towers!/ Like I've been on hold forever./ Is the car alarm inside my head? He then does something very different with the striking musicality of "At My Door in the Twenty-First Century."

ALL ROADS is a beautiful book containing a substantial amount of good work and frequent touches of brilliance. It's available (116 pages) for \$32 plus \$5 shipping/handling from Luddite Kingdom Press, 610 Leavenworth St., #406, San Francisco, CA 94109.

(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.)

Leader Of SLDN Steps Down



Dixon Osburn

end of this month to pursue new career opportunities.

Osburn was one of the co-founders of the organization which fights discrimination and harassment of service members under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." "It has been an honor, privilege and inspiration to work with our men and women in uniform who fight for our freedom even when denied their own," Osburn said in the statement. "I leave proud of our record of accomplishment together and confident that the days of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' are numbered. After thirteen years of work here, it is time for me to explore new opportunities."

During his tenure at the helm of SLDN the organization has provided legal assistance to 8,000 service members harmed by the Gay ban. The group also has filed a constitutional challenge to "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" which is still before the courts. In addition, Osburn has been instrumental in lobbying Congress for repeal of the ban. Congressman Marty

Meehan (D-MA), chair of the House Armed Services Sub-Committee on Oversight and Investigations, reintroduced legislation to repeal the law. Meehan said that more than 120 Members of Congress from both parties have signed on to co-sponsor the bill, called the Military Readiness Enhancement Act.

"Dixon Osburn is at the top of his game," said Zoe Dunning, SLDN Board Co-Chair. "His commitment to our troops has been unwavering." Kathleen DeBold, past Executive Director of the Mautner Project, has been named to serve as interim SLDN Executive Director while a search is made for a permanent successor for the group. SLDN's statement said that the Board favored DeBold because of her track record of excellent management and responsible stewardship most recently at The Mautner Project, and also her experience in advocacy and public affairs during her tenure at the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund. The statement said that DeBold agreed to serve as interim director but expressed a desire not to be considered for a permanent appointment as executive director.



Court Throws Out Libel Suit Against Moscow Mayor

MOSCOW, Russia (Observer Update) - A court Friday (Apr. 20) tossed out a lawsuit accusing mayor Juri Lushkov of libel over claims he made that Gay rights marches were "satanic," reported 365Gay.com. The court ruled that Moscow Pride leaders had failed to prove that the remarks were incendiary or intended to vilify Gays in general.

"The court did not find any grounds to meet the claim," a court spokesman told the Novosti news service. Moscow Pride said it would appeal. It wants an apology from the mayor and a fine of 1,000 rubles (about \$39). In January during a Kremlin meeting before leaders of the Russian Orthodox Church Lushkov said that Gay rights marches were "satanic." The speech was broadcast on Moscow television. Lushkov then went on to blast Gay unions. "Some European nations bless single-sex marriages and introduce sexual guides in schools," Lushkov said in the speech broadcast on Moscow television. "Such things are a deadly moral poison for children."

Moscow Pride called Lushkov's remarks a "smear campaign" against Gays and Lesbians and filed the lawsuit. Last May, Lushkov refused to give a permit for the Gay parade citing security concerns. Despite the ban, marchers attempted to hold a parade on May 27. Police quickly moved in arresting marchers and counter protestors. Most of the 200 people detained were Gay. Charges against them also have been dropped. Pride organizer Nikolai Alekseev was arrested as he was preparing to lead a group to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier outside the Kremlin. Police pushed the Gays from the area, and into the hands of militant anti-Gays who had gathered for a counter protest. As more than 1000 police attempted to clear the area at least one tear gas canister was set off by an anti-Gay protestor.

Alekseev was charged with violating the order denying Moscow Pride the right to "gather, meet, demonstrate, march or picket. This month the charges were dropped. If convicted he could have faced

imprisonment. Lushkov was criticized for banning the pride march by his counterparts from London, Paris and Berlin at a summit of European mayors in February. Moscow Pride has applied for a parade march to celebrate pride this May, and Lushkov has said he will again ban it. The festival is scheduled for May 26 and 27. Alekseev said it will be held with or without official recognition.

Canada Airs First Commercial Radio Station For LGBT Audiences

TORONTO, Canada - Toronto launched Canada's first commercial radio station for Gay and Lesbian audiences on Monday (Apr. 16), reports CBC Arts Online on advocate.com.

The programmers at 103.9 Proud FM hope to promote diversity on the radio by giving a voice to the Gay and Lesbian community in Canada. The hosts are Ken Kostick and Mary Jo Eustace, who are well-known for their CBC-TV cooking show What's for Dinner? and will host Proud FM's morning show, What's for Breakfast? The station is run by Rainbow Media group and hopes to bring in more than 400,00 local listeners around Toronto as well as others elsewhere via live streaming on the Internet.

Proud FM has been in the works for about 10 years and was granted a license by Canada's broadcast regulator last year. Some have criticized the project already, claiming the station's employees may not represent the entire LGBT community.



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Non Bar Calendar

Wednesday, April 25

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

Thursday, April 26

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

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

Friday, April 27

Reveille Gay Men's Chorus Spring production "Beyond The Border" 8:00 p.m. at the Temple of Music and Art. Tickets \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Call (520)304-1758 for more info.

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. 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 Merlin and Lee at 207-5336. If you're loquacious, erudite, or a wordsmith; this man's game just may be a triple word score for you!

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

Saturday, April 28

The tenth annual "Treasures for TIHAN" benefit auction will take place at 6:30 p.m. at the Westin La Paloma Resort and Spa. Tickets \$65 (\$32 tax-deductible) can be purchased by calling (520)299-6647.

Reveille Gay Men's Chorus Spring production "Beyond The Border" 8:00 p.m. at the Temple of Music and Art. Tickets \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Call (520)304-1758 for more info.

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 of each Month MSN Pot Luck. Phone host Marvin at 745-0304 for location, driving directions, and info.

Sunday, April 29

Reveille Gay Men's Chorus Spring production "Beyond The Border" 3:00 p.m. at the Temple of Music and Art. Tickets \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Call (520)304-1758 for more info.

#1Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 12:30p.m. Head East young man (on

Speedway) and we will see you at about Noon for our latest bite of Buffet Heaven at Historic Tanque Verde Guest Ranch! Call Lloyd at 792-8537 or dflatlloyd@highstream.net for more information. MSN sends grateful Thanks to Lloyd for creating and hosting this fun and delicious MSN semi-annual visit to TVG Ranch. (And for being Dessert!)

#2Men'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 - Noon, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Monday, April 30

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

Sunday, May 6

20th 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.

Father Says Sons Traumatized By Library Book

BENTONVILLE, Arkansas - A Bentonville, Arkansas man is demanding the city pay him \$20,000 for the pain and suffering of his sons after they discovered a book on sex in their local library, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. "[They were] greatly disturbed" said Earl Adams his letter to the city. "[We had] many sleepless nights in our house." Adams wants \$10,000 per child, the maximum allowed under the Arkansas obscenity law. Adams also wants the city to fire library director Cindy Suter.

The boys, aged 14 and 16 came across the book while the 14-year-old was looking for material on military academies. The book, "The Whole Sex Book" by Felice Newman was moved to an inaccessible area of the library after Adams first complained, and then removed altogether following a second complaint from the man. In a letter to Mayor Bob McCaslin, Adams said the book is "patently offensive and lacks any artistic, literary or scientific value."

A city attorney said that Adams' demand for money is without merit. The city library board in removing the book said it will look for another volume on s and if something "more appropriate" is not found "The Whole Sex Book" will be returned. "Any effort to reinstate the book will be met with legal action and protests from the Christian community," Adams stated in an e-mail to the Morning News newspaper. The paper said that Adams asked to answer questions by e-mail because he said he feared being misquoted. Meanwhile, Suter has announced her intention to resign effective May 31, but she told the Morning News the decision had nothing to do with the controversy. The job is part time and she said she needs to devote more time to her business.

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to the FIV cats but they tend to have a shorter lifespan. Many people adopt these cats because they want to give them loving homes whether it is for a long time or only for a while. These cats are really deserving of your love.

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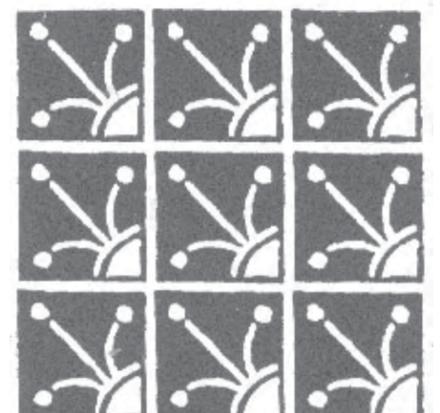
Jury Spares Life Of Black Lesbian Killer

PIERRE, South Dakota (Observer Update) - A jury Wednesday (Apr. 18) sentenced a woman to life in prison without parole for kidnapping an acquaintance and hacking up her body with a chain saw, reported the Associated Press on the PlanetOut Network. Daphne Wright, 43, smiled after the verdict was read. Wright was convicted of kidnapping and murdering Darlene VanderGiesen, 42, in Feb. 2006.

VanderGiesen's mother, Dee, told Wright that God had helped the family forgive her. "We pray for you every day asking that God may touch your heart, that you may come to know his love and that you repent of your sins and seek God's forgiveness," she said. Dee VanderGiesen told Wright's mother, Carolyn Tucker: "We both have lost our daughters. One to death and the other to prison time for as long as she lives. "May God's grace be shown to you at this time of pain in your life," she said.

In closing arguments earlier in the day, prosecutor Dave Nelson said Wright deserved to die by lethal injection because the mutilation was the act of a depraved mind. Prosecutors said Wright was jealous of the friendship VanderGiesen had with Wright's former lover and it turned to rage that drove Wright to kidnap VanderGiesen, kill her, burn the body and cut it apart with a chain saw. Wright's public defender, Jeff Larson, argued that she burned and cut the

body as an afterthought and that the slaying was an isolated act motivated by jealousy. Nelson told jurors their verdict will be just if they treat both women equally. VanderGiesen was white and heterosexual. Wright is black and homosexual. After about eight hours of deliberation, jurors found that Wright had the depravity of mind, but they decided that she should not be executed by lethal injection for it. The jury forewoman read the verdict, not the judge. It means Wright will spend the rest of her life at the women's prison in Pierre or the penitentiary in Sioux Falls. It was South Dakota's first capital punishment case with a female defendant.





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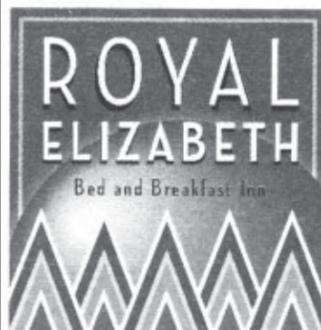
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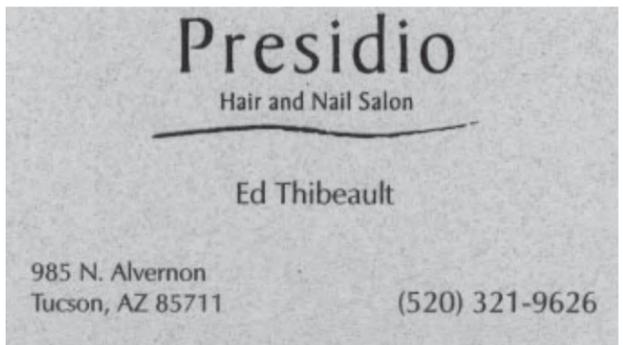
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Philadelphia Mayor Dedicates 36 Street Signs In 'Gayborhood'

PHILADELPHIA - The city of Philadelphia and Mayor John F. Street dedicated 36 new street signs on Wednesday (Apr. 18) in a ceremony to designate the city's "Gayborhood," which is defined as Chestnut to Pine streets between 11th and Broad streets, according to a press release from the Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation, advocate.com reported. The signs are each affixed with the rainbow flag and are meant to demonstrate the city's commitment to inclusiveness and diversity.

Philadelphia's "Gayborhood" has Gay-friendly businesses, clubs, bars, and restaurants. The Philadelphia Gay Tourism Caucus has been pushing for the new street signs for over two years and gained support from the city, the Washington Square Civic Association, and Frank DiCicco, a Philadelphia city councilman.

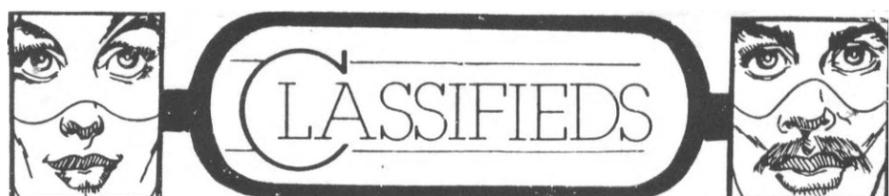
Four other cities—Chicago, San Francisco, Montreal, and Toronto—have officially designated Gay-friendly neighborhoods.

Lynch Will Sign N.H. Civil Union Bill

CONCORD, New Hampshire - Gov. John Lynch said Thursday (Apr. 19) he will sign legislation establishing civil unions for Gay couples in the state, the Associated Press reported on the PlanetOut Network. "I believe it is a matter of conscience, fairness and preventing discrimination," Lynch told AP in Concord, the capital.

The Senate votes (week ending Apr. 27), and Lynch said he is confident the legislation will pass. It would authorize civil unions beginning next year. Fergus Cullen, the state Republican Party chairman, was not happy with the Democratic governor's decision. "The Democrats are going too far, too fast, and Gov. Lynch is going along with them," Cullen said. "These are not the actions of a moderate governor. Democratic state Rep. Bette Lasky disagreed. "It's never going too far when you give people their rights," she said, "and I honestly believe that the majority of people in this state want to do just that and do not want to discriminate."

New Hampshire would become the fourth U.S. state to adopt civil unions, following Connecticut, Vermont and New Jersey. Only Massachusetts allows same-sex marriage. Lynch had previously declined to take a public position on civil unions, though he has supported expanding health benefits to same-sex partners of state workers. He came under fire from both sides for not weighing in — especially after a delay of the Senate vote on the House-passed bill.



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Friday	12:30 – 3:30 P.M.

DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

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

COLORS - Open 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 1st, 2nd, 3rd 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 2nd Tuesday of every month at 5:30pm. Please RSVP by the first Monday of the Month. Wine bottles will be for sale after the tasting at a special discounted price.

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

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

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

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

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

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. 50¢ off any Top Shelf Tequila until 8pm Dart Tourney at 9am. Beer Bust 4-8pm. Patio Bar Opens 7pm.

WEDNESDAY

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

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

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.

**CARD ADS IN THE
RESOURCE SECTION
OF THE OBSERVER
GET RESULTS**

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

Wednesday, April 25

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

Thursday, April 26

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

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

Friday, April 27

Reveille Gay Men's Chorus Spring production "Beyond The Border" 8:00 p.m. at the Temple of Music and Art. Tickets \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Call (520)304-1758 for more info.

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. 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 Merlin and Lee at 207-5336. If you're loquacious, erudite, or a wordsmith; this man's game just may be a triple word score for you!

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

Saturday, April 28

The tenth annual "Treasures for TIHAN" benefit auction will take place at 6:30 p.m. at the Westin La Paloma Resort and Spa. Tickets \$65 (\$32 tax-deductible) can be purchased by calling (520)299-6647.

Reveille Gay Men's Chorus Spring production "Beyond The Border" 8:00 p.m. at the Temple of Music and Art. Tickets \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Call (520)304-1758 for more info.

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 of each Month MSN Pot Luck. Phone host Marvin at 745-0304 for location, driving directions, and info.

Sunday, April 29

Reveille Gay Men's Chorus Spring production "Beyond The Border" 3:00 p.m. at the Temple of Music and Art. Tickets \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Call (520)304-1758 for more info.

#1Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 12:30p.m. Head East young man (on Speedway) and we will see you at about Noon for our latest bite of Buffet Heaven at Historic Tanque Verde Guest Ranch! Call Lloyd at 792-8537 or dlatlloyd@highstream.net for more information. MSN sends grateful Thanks to Lloyd for creating and hosting this fun and delicious MSN semi-annual visit to TVG Ranch. (And for being Dessert!)

#2Men'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 - Noon, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Monday, April 30

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

Sunday, May 6

20th 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.

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. 22nd Street, Tucson.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



The Biz

#318-4838

Cinco de Mayo

DJ HILL shakes it up Saturday
(Cinco de Mayo)

May 4th, 5th and 6th



Beach Party

\$3 drinks:
Sex on the beach
Bay Breeze
Sea Breeze

Saturday
May 19th



Latin Night

\$2 tequila shots

Every Sunday!



Every Wednesday

18 and over night

Doors open at 930 pm

2900 E. Broadway / www.thebiztuc.com



The Biz

May 2007

The Biz

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1 Booze-Day Tuesday Pool Tourney	2 18 & Over Hip Hop w/ DJ Shorty	3 Thunder Thursdays Drag Show DJ HILL	4 FAC* 3-8p LATIN w/ DJ Dennis the Menace	5 Cinco de Mayo w/DJ HILL	6 LATIN w/ DJ Dennis the Menace
7 Poker Night	8 WINE TASTING Booze-Day Tuesday	9 18 & Over Hip Hop w/ DJ Shorty	10 BACK IN OUR DAY 80's w/ DJ HILL	11 FAC* 3-8p Hip Hop w/ DJ Shorty	12 Hip Hop w/ DJ Shorty	13 LATIN w/ DJ Dennis the Menace
14 Poker Night	15 Booze-Day Tuesday Pool Tourney	16 18 & Over Hip Hop w/ DJ Shorty	17 Thunder Thursdays Drag Show DJ HILL	18 FAC* 3-8p Latin w/ DJ Dennis the Menace	19 BEACH PARTY w/DJ Shorty	20 LATIN w/ DJ Dennis the Menace
21 Poker Night	22 Booze-Day Tuesday Pool Tourney	23 18 & Over Hip Hop w/ DJ Shorty	24 Drag Fundraiser DJ HILL	25 FAC* 3-8p Hip Hop w/ DJ Shorty	26 STOPLIGHT PARTY w/DJ Shorty	27 LATIN w/ DJ Dennis the Menace
28 Poker Night Memorial Day	29 Booze-Day Tuesday Pool Tourney	30 18 & Over Hip Hop w/ DJ Shorty	31 Human Project 18 & Over DJ HILL	Check out the poker playing on Mondays, pool tournament on Tuesdays, Drag Shows on Thursdays, HUGE parties on Saturdays, and Latin Sundays.		

