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OBSERVER

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Massachusetts Keeps Marriage Ban From Vote

BOSTON, Massachusetts (Observer Update) - State Legislators have blocked a proposed constitutional amendment Thursday (June 14) that would have let voters decide whether to ban same-sex marriage in the only state that allows it, the Associated Press reported on the PlanetOut Network.

The narrow vote was a victory for same-sex marriage advocates and a blow to efforts to reverse the historic court ruling that legalized same-sex marriage in the state. More than 8,500 Gay couples have married in Massachusetts since it became legal in May 2004.

To get the proposed ban on the 2008 statewide ballot would have required 50 votes. It got 45, with 151 lawmakers opposed. There was no debate. As the tally was announced, the halls of the Statehouse erupted in applause.

"We're proud of our state today, and we applaud the Legislature for showing that Massachusetts is strongly behind fairness," said Lee Swislow, executive director of Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders.

Opponents of same-sex marriage vowed to press on, but Thursday's defeat after more than three years of sometimes wrenching debate could prove insurmountable. Any effort to mount a new ballot question would take years at a time when political support in Massachusetts is swinging firmly behind same-sex marriage.

For Gay couples, the vote marked what could be the end of a struggle that began in 2001, when seven same-sex couples, denied marriage licenses, sued in Suffolk Superior Court.

Outside the Statehouse, hundreds of people rallied on both sides of the issue.

"We believe it's unconstitutional not to allow people to vote on this," said Rebekah Beliveau, 24, of Lawrence, a student at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary who stood with fellow college-age amendment supporters across the street from the Statehouse.

Advocates of the amendment said they gathered 170,000 signatures supporting the amendment, although the secretary of state's office accepted only 123,000. "We're standing up not necessarily on the issue of same-sex marriage, but our right to vote," Beliveau said.

Across the road, same-sex marriage advocates stood on the front steps of the capital waving signs that read, "Wrong to Vote on Rights" and "All Families Are Equal."

Jean Chandler of Cambridge, came with fellow members of her Baptist church in an effort to rebuff the image that strict followers of the Bible are opposed to Gay marriage.

"I think being Gay is like being left-handed," Chandler said. "If we decided left-handed people couldn't marry, what kind of society would we be?"

In contrast to previous joint sessions, there was no debate. Senate President Therese Murray opened the constitutional convention by calling for a vote, and the session was gaveled to a close immediately afterward.

The vote came without debate after House Speaker Salvatore F. DiMasi (right) and Governor Deval Patrick conferred and concluded that they had the votes to kill the proposal.

UPDATE

Gay West Returns June 23

TUCSON (Observer Update) - After a four year hiatus and in true Pride tradition, Gay West returns Saturday, June 23.

Imagine having the ability to descend upon the park by the thousands, convert it with rainbow decor, be entertained by cowboys, showgirls, singers and drag queens and dance with your partner. And all the funds raised benefit Wingspan.

Come celebrate Pride Month with Wingspan at Old Tucson Studios: Hollywood in the Desert since 1939.

From western movie heroes like John Wayne to current box-office stars such as Leonardo DiCaprio, many of Hollywood's legends have walked these rugged streets, the setting for hundreds of major motion pictures.

You're invited to retrace the bootsteps of your favorite stars and spend a day in the life of an 1880's Western town. To complete your Western experience, take a trail ride along scenic desert mountain trails!

Tickets are $15 prior to the event and $18 at the door. To purchases tickets prior, check the Old Tucson website for information on where to purchase presale tickets at oldtucson.com. For more information contact Madeline Porta at Wingspan, (520) 624-1779, or E-mail: mporta@wingspan.org.

June 27 Is Stonewall Day At KXCI Community Radio

TUCSON - Tune in to Stonewall Day Programming on KXCI Community Radio 91.3 FM Tucson, Wednesday June 27, 9 a.m.- 6 p.m.

They will commemorate Stonewall Day with historical and herstorical milestones, special interviews with local people, and updates on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender issues twice each hour from 9am to 6pm. Event Details Jun 27, 2007, 9:00am - 6:00pm Event Sponsor KXCI Community Radio.

As a special treat, Mark Rosenbaum will host the Home Stretch from 4pm-6pm. Join us for a look back and ahead as we celebrate LGBT pride and the cultural diversity that helps make Tucson so special. You can also listen on line at kxci.org. For more information contact Amanda Shauger, (520) 903-0949.

LGBT Group Launches New Name

PHOENIX - Arizona's statewide Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender advocacy organization launched a new name at its annual awards dinner. With more than 1,000 in attendance, Arizona Human Rights Fund & Foundation became Equality Arizona. "Our new name, Equality Arizona, comes with a new look and a new attitude," said Equality Arizona Executive Director Barbara McCullough-Jones. "Equality Arizona connects us to our peer statewide advocacy organizations across the country while more clearly defining the scope of our work in Arizona. Equality Arizona recognizes our progressive partners as we all march on the same path towards equality."

With the new name comes a new, distinctive logo and an updated interactive website at equalityarizona.org. Visitors to the new website will find it easier to navigate and access information, resources and advocacy tools. The evening's events also included a keynote address by Sandra Bernhard and an awards ceremony honoring the businesses and individuals that have demonstrated leadership in the movement for equality in Arizona.

The honorees included U.S. Representatives Gabrielle Giffords, Raul Grijalva, Harry Mitchell and Ed Pastor, who received the Barry Goldwater Human Rights Individual Awards. Google received the Barry Goldwater Human Rights Corporate Award, presented to a company or organization with a national presence that has demonstrated a commitment and taken specific measures to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity/expression. The Equality Arizona Individual Award, which is presented to an Arizona resident annually, was awarded to Gerrie Mayer Gibbons, a long-time activist and leader in Arizona's LGBT political scene. For its role in a community initiative to open a facility serving Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender homeless youth, Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development was awarded the Equality Arizona Corporate/Organization Award. Linda Virden, an Arizona educator and mother of a Gay son, was awarded the Equality Arizona Activist Award for developing an educational series to challenge her Lutheran Church congregation to embrace the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community.

IN MEMORIAM

Lillian "Sunshine" Wright

I Remember . . .

The crazy woman I called a Dyke
The dog Eatin' Sioux I really liked

The crazy things that we went through
Defies the question, are they really true?

Happy Valley I can't ignore
Or the coffee table on the floor!!

A bobcat kitten that sucked your tit
Your big heart,and endless wit.

The Mother's Day - where flies abound
You shocked the table all around.

The Gucci bag dropped on the floor
A gun went off - wait, there is more

The dental teeth dropped on the ground
By IBT's, where they were found.

If she liked you, all was well
If she didn't - just go to Hell.

Our Sunshine bird has flown away.
But her legacy is here to stay

. . . .for Chopce with love
Ron (Granny) Jordan

(A Memorial Service was held from 6 to 8 p.m. at El Presidio Park in downtown Tucson Wednesday, June 20th)

TIHAN Benefit July 29

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The 8th Annual Tucson Sidewinders Baseball Game to benefit TIHAN is coming up on Sunday, July 29, 6:00 p.m. (gates open at 5:30).

Come out and enjoy the boys of summer as the Triple-A Baseball Champion Sidewinders play the Albuquerque Isotopes.

Admission includes a ticket to the game, hamburgers/hot dogs and all the fixings, sodas, and support of TIHAN (part of each ticket is a tax-deductible donation to TIHAN). Enjoy limited press-box seating or open air seating at the ballpark.

Tickets are $30 in advance or $35 at the door, and are now on sale at the TIHAN office (520) 299-6647. Credit card orders can be taken by phone.

Looking for information on HIV/AIDS?

Our Speakers Bureau provides free presentations to the community about HIV transmission, testing, risk reduction and living with HIV/AIDS.

For more info contact our Volunteer Resources Coordinator at 628-7223 or volcoord@saaf.org

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Informing the Community
The Observer

State Victories Hearten Rights Leaders

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The U.S. same-sex marriage debate has created an oddly divided America, with only the country's Northeast corner and Pacific Coast recognizing same-sex unions, the Associated Press reported on the PlanetOut Network. But Gay rights leaders are encouraged by progress on other parts of their agenda across the American heartland.

Three states – Oregon, Iowa and Colorado – have enacted laws this year outlawing discrimination against Gays, raising the total to 20 states that account for more than half the U.S. population. Twelve of those states extend those protections to Transgender people.

Elsewhere, politicians who became the first openly Gay members of their state legislatures have had an impact, helping pass Gay rights bills or thwarting measures they viewed as anti-Gay. In Arkansas, for example, state Rep. Kathy Webb's heartfelt arguments played a role in the rejection of a bill to bar Gays from adopting or foster-parenting.

"It makes a difference when it's personal," Webb said in a telephone interview. "It's harder to ignore the evidence when it's a friend and colleague who's talking."

In Dallas, openly Gay City Councilman Ed Oakley emerged from an 11-candidate field to reach Saturday's (June 16) runoff election for mayor. Though he lost, activists were pleased by his 42 percent support in what traditionally has been considered a conservative city.

Other trends have buoyed Gay rights leaders, including:

Bright prospects for congressional passage of two Gay rights bills: a hate-crimes bill that would cover offenses motivated by anti-Gay bias, and a measure that would outlaw workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Intensifying demands for repeal of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy that bars openly Gay people from serving in the military. The Bush administration supports the policy; all the Democratic presidential candidates oppose it.

The broad repudiation of anti-Gay remarks by several national figures, notably TV actor Isaiah Washington, commentator Ann Coulter and the outgoing chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Marine Gen. Peter Pace.

Same-sex marriage, however, remains the highest-profile issue.

Activists have been elated by some recent developments, including New Hampshire's approval of civil unions and the 151-45 vote by Massachusetts lawmakers last week blocking a proposed ballot measure to ban same-sex marriagein the only state where it is legal. Nine other states have approved spousal rights in some form for same-sex couples – Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Maine, California, Oregon, Washington and Hawaii.

California, which now has a domestic partnership law, will probably be the next major battleground. Its legislature is expected to pass a bill this year allowing Gay couples to marry, although Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has said he would veto it.

A separate legal challenge to California's one man-one woman marriage law is headed to the state Supreme Court.

In response, some conservative groups hope to place a constitutional amendment on the ballot in 2008 that would ban same-sex marriage. Such a campaign would trigger massive spending from both sides.

"The outcome of that race will have a huge impact on how quickly we'll be able to move forward in other states," said Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "If we lose in California, marriage equality is going to be limited to just a handful of states for the foreseeable future."

A similar ban is expected to be on Florida's ballot next year, although under state law it would need at least 60 percent support to prevail.

With Democrats controlling Congress, conservative leaders have scaled back their campaign for a federal constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, and acknowledge that recent political momentum has, in many cases, not been with them.

"The homosexual lobby is receiving some payback for putting their time and resources into electing liberals to office," said Matt Barber, cultural issues policy director for Concerned Women for America. "That lobby has managed to label anyone who'd defend marriage as bigots and homophobes."

Looking ahead, both sides are aware of opinion polls showing that that while a majority of older Americans oppose same-sex marriage, half or more of young Americans support it. Barber blames this on Gay rights "propaganda" in the public schools and on television – resulting in what he called the "'Will and Grace'-ification of America,'' referring to the TV comedy about a Gay man and a straight woman who are best friends.

Evan Wolfson, who heads the advocacy group Freedom to Marry, says public opinion is shifting inexorably toward recognition of same-sex couples as Americans observe the experiences of Massachusetts and states with civil unions.

"When people push past the politics and look at the reality, they realize families were helped and no one was hurt," he said. "The other side may continue to score a few points, but I think most of them now understand they are going to lose."

The president of the largest national Gay rights group, Joe Solmonese of the Human Rights Campaign, attributed much of the momentum on his side to the results of the 2006 election – when liberal gains led directly to the passage of Gay rights legislation in states such as New Hampshire, Iowa and Colorado.

"Fear has given way to fairness in terms of how people view these issues," he said.

Opposition Growing To Holsinger As Surgeon General Over Anti-Gay Views

Dr. James Holsinger

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Former U.S. Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders has added her name to a growing list questioning President Bush's nomination of Dr. James Holsinger to be the nation's next top doctor, reported 365Gay.com.

Elders said that Holsinger's views on homosexuality should not matter but how he squares those views with the job of promoting "a sexually healthy nation" should. Elders, in an interview with the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, said that it would be difficult for her to feel confident that Holsinger could lead the nation in promoting healthy sexual behavior.

LGBT medical and civil rights groups are opposing Holsinger's nomination. And some senators say he will be in for tough questioning when he appears before a Senate confirmation hearing.

Holsinger, an MD and professor at the University of Kentucky, is a former head of Health and Family Services in Kentucky. In addition to his medical degree he holds an MA in biblical studies from Asbury Theological Seminary and is one of nine members of the United Methodist Church Judicial Council. As a member of the council he opposed a decision to allow a lesbian to be an associate pastor, and supported a pastor who would not permit an openly gay man to join the church.

In a document titled "Pathophysiology of Male Homosexuality," Holsinger stated that in his capacity as a physician biology and anatomy precluded considering LGBT equality in the United Methodist Church. In the document he took lengths to say that his opinion was his scientific view and that his theological views are separate.

Elders said "his views on homosexuality should not matter, but how he uses those views to educate and promote attitudes and feelings" in the country should matter.

As surgeon general under President Clinton, Elders also was controversial and resigned in 1994 after suggesting that it might be appropriate to teach masturbation as a way to avoid the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. As surgeon general, she also advocated the distribution of condoms to young people; endorsed gay and lesbian adoptions; and accused conservative Christian critics of "selling out our children in the name of religion."

Gay Councilmember Misses Bid To Become Dallas Mayor

DALLAS, Texas (Observer Update) - Openly Gay longtime Dallas city councilmember Ed Oakley has lost a runoff vote for mayor to retired businessman Tom Leppert, reported 365Gay.com. Had Dallas picked Oakley it would have become the largest U.S. city to elect an openly Gay mayor.

"I can't tell you what it's been like ... to serve Dallas, change Dallas and put Dallas on a path of greatness," Oakley said in conceding defeat. "I truly believe I've been part of that." Oakley and Leppert went into Saturday's (June 16) runoff after emerging at the top of a crowded 11-candidate field that included another openly Gay man and a transgendered woman. "They say 'close' doesn't count in politics, but Ed Oakley's historic campaign may have changed politics forever," said Chuck Wolfe, president of the Victory Fund which helps Gay candidates run for election. "That an openly Gay man was a serious contender to become mayor of one the largest cities in America is a testament to the fair-mindedness of this country, and a wake-up call for the political establishment"

Oakley's campaign was run on just over $800,000 compared to Leppert who spent about $1.1 million. While the candidates themselves stayed clear of making Oakley's sexuality at least one group mounted an anti-Gay telephone campaign targeting conservative voters. "Being openly Gay simply is not an issue to the vast majority of the electorate," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "Unfortunately, opponents of equality tried to play the politics of fear and bigotry, but the strong support for Oakley's candidacy in both the primary and run-off demonstrates that such tactics no longer work. Dallas, with a population of 1.2 million, is home to a growing Gay community with an estimated 120,000 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and transgendered households. The city has nondiscrimination policies covering sexual orientation and gender identity and offers health insurance to the domestic partners of city employees.

COMMENTARY. . . .

The Quiet Gay Revolution

By Michael Kinsley

When William F. Buckley Jr. revived American conservatism by founding National Review in 1955, he said the magazine's job was to stand "athwart history, yelling stop." At that time, history did seem to be moving in the wrong direction if you were a conservative, and Buckley was gutsy to admit as much. Later, during the Reagan era and after, conservatives enjoyed thinking that history was on their side. They saw themselves as riding it like a bronco, yelling not stop but faster! faster!

That's not how they look now. On no issue is history moving faster than on "Gay rights"—an already antiquated term for full and equal participation and acceptance of Gay men and women in American life. The work is not finished, of course, but what took black Americans more than a century, Gays have accomplished in two or three decades (thanks in no small part to blacks, who designed the template for this kind of social revolution). We still argue about it, but the whole spectrum of debate has moved left. A right-wing thug like Tom DeLay or Newt Gingrich probably has more advanced views about homosexuals than dainty liberals of the past century like Adlai Stevenson or Hubert Humphrey. And whatever the actual views, public expressions of overt homophobia are now unacceptable from any national politician.

The debate of 14 years ago about Gays in the military seems almost quaint. Kids grow up today with Gay friends, Gay parents, Gay parents of friends and Gay friends of parents. If only blacks and whites were as thoroughly mixed together in society as Gays and straights are. Kids are also exposed constantly to an entertainment culture in which Gays are not merely accepted but in some ways dominant. You rarely see a reality show without a Gay cast member, while Rosie O'Donnell is a coveted free agent and Ellen DeGeneres is America's sweetheart. The notion that Gays must be segregated out of the military for the sake of our national security must strike Americans younger than, say, 40 as simply weird, just as we of the previous generation find the rules of racial segregation weird. (O.K., run that by me again: they needed separate drinking fountains because ... why?)

For 14 years the GOP has stood still as history has gone charging past. In the CNN-sponsored debate, every Republican presidential candidate said he supports "Don't ask, don't tell," the arch compromise of 1993. This ridiculous policy allows servicemen and -women to be Gay in some existential sense but tosses them out if they talk about it or do anything about it. Most congressional Republicans voted for "Don't ask, don't tell," but the party platform for the 1996 presidential election retreated from it: "We oppose Bill Clinton's assault on the culture and traditions of the armed forces, especially his attempt to lift the ban on homosexuals in the military. We affirm that homosexuality is incompatible with military service." This last formulation, repeated in the GOP platforms of 2000 and 2004, is especially head in the sand. They can "affirm" anything they want, but homosexuality is obviously not incompatible with military service. There have always been Gays in the military. The question is what conditions they serve under.

This used to be an issue that Republicans employed to torture Democrats. No longer. While Democrats hardly build their campaigns around it, in the CNN debates every Democrat was happy to go on record as favoring lifting the ban once and for all. By contrast, every Republican cowered behind "Don't ask, don't tell," patently wishing the whole thing would go away. Rudy Giuliani and Mitt Romney agreed that now "is not the time" to reopen the issue. Mike Huckabee blathered nonsensically about the "uniform code of military conduct." John McCain was almost campy, practically bursting into song about our "most wonderful military." Not one of them attempted to defend the ban on its merits. But not one would oppose it.

And yet not one, I suspect, has any doubt about where this issue is going. When opponents of Gay rights talk ominously about a "Gay agenda," they are not completely wrong. There has been an agenda in the sense of a long-term strategy, not unlike the carefully plotted strategy of Thurgood Marshall and others in the civil rights movement that ended formal racial segregation. It was a brilliant decision to start with the military rather than attempt to outlaw discrimination generally or push right away for Gay marriage. Twenty years from now, maybe sooner, Gays will have it all.

On bigger issues too, today's Republicans find themselves on the wrong side of history. On the advice of my fellow TIME columnist Bill Kristol, Republicans killed any health-care reform 13 years ago with the slogan "There is no crisis." No candidate of either party is saying that now. In fact, the crisis has gotten worse and will be harder to solve than it was in 1994.

Of course, you shouldn't change your principles just to be on the right side of history. Standing athwart history and yelling stop can be noble, and sometimes even works. But that's not what today's Republicans seem to be doing. They are chasing after history from a few yards behind.

(Michael Kinsley is a columnist for Time Magazine, from which this is reprinted from their June 14 online edition.)

London's Top Gay Cop To Pen Memoir

Brian Paddick

LONDON (Observer Update) - England's highest-ranking openly Gay police officer has signed a six-figure deal with Simon & Schuster to publish his memoir, advocate.com reported. Brian Paddick, who resigned last month as deputy assistant commissioner, is likely to release his book by spring 2008, according to The [London] Independent. Simon & Schuster's editorial director, Andrew Gordon, bought the rights and arranged for the former cop to write the book with crime writer Kris Hollington.

"Brian has left the force and has no restraint on what he can say apart from the libel laws," Gordon told the Independent. "He'll say exactly what he thinks about how the [Metropolitan Police Service] is run and how it might be better run in the future."

Paddick left the force after a falling-out with Commissioner Sir Ian Blair over the police shooting of Jean Charles de Menezes. According to the article, Paddick challenged Blair's statement that he didn't know for 24 hours that an innocent man had been shot.

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LGBT Demonstrate In Rome For Marriage Rights

ROME (Observer Update) - Tens of thousands of LGBT rights activists marched through the streets of Rome Saturday (June 18) marking gay pride and demanding legal rights for same-sex couples, 365Gay.com reported. Carrying rainbow-colored flags, the demonstrators held banners criticizing the Vatican, which under Pope Benedict has been conducting a fierce campaign to protect traditional marriage.

The Italian government has proposed a bill that would grant some legal rights to unmarried and same-sex couples, such as hospital visits and inheritance rights. The bill, which has angered the Vatican, stops short of legalizing same-sex marriage, as was done in other European countries, such as Spain. It is yet to be taken up by parliament.

The march ended up in the same Rome piazza where a massive rally in defense of the traditional family was held weeks ago.

McKellen Told To Keep His Shirt On In Singapore

SINGAPORE - The madness of King Lear is not a welcome addition to the organized and authoritarian city-state of Singapore, especially when it involves public disrobing, reports the U.K. newspaper the Telegraph on advocate.com. The London-based Royal Shakespeare Company is bringing its critically acclaimed adaptation of King Lear to the island nation next month.

At the request of the host, award-winning Gay actor Sir Ian McKellen will not reveal himself to the audience. At the play's climax, McKellen's King Lear, becoming increasingly insane, addressed his clothes, demanding, "Off, off you lendings! Come unbutton here." The Singapore Reparatory Theatre asked McKellen not to take the lines literally, expressing concern that nudity will warrant an age restriction on the audience. Gaurav Kripalani, the artistic director, explained to the Telegraph that over 1,000 students have booked for the event.

The Singaporean government is known for its harsh restrictions on public behavior, including fines or jail time for public urination, littering, and gum chewing. Controversy was caused in the 1990s when an American teen was subjected to lashes for vandalism.

Sir Ian McKellen

COMMENTARY. . . .

Marching Left

By Paul Waldman

Michael Kinsley (of Time Magazine) noted something that has been apparent for some time: On no issue is history moving faster than on "Gay rights"–an already antiquated term for full and equal participation and acceptance of Gay men and women in American life. The work is not finished, of course, but what took black Americans more than a century, Gays have accomplished in two or three decades (thanks in no small part to blacks, who designed the template for this kind of social revolution). We still argue about it, but the whole spectrum of debate has moved left. A right-wing thug like Tom DeLay or Newt Gingrich probably has more advanced views about homosexuals than dainty liberals of the past century like Adlai Stevenson or Hubert Humphrey. And whatever the actual views, public expressions of overt homophobia are now unacceptable from any national politician.

Kinsley is right that the speed with which the debate on Gay rights has shifted to the left is simply incredible. Think about where we were on this issue just five years or so ago. Howard Dean, we were told by the sage pundits, would inevitably be seen as outside the mainstream, because he signed a civil unions bill in Vermont. Now support for civil unions is the position of the moderate middle. Remember what an enormous to-do it was when Ellen DeGeneres came out? Magazine covers, thousands of articles, much hand-wringing - and that was April 1997, just ten years ago.

And the Republicans? They're just racing to keep up. Find me a Republican politician today who'll say what conservatives used to say - that Gays should be prevented from teaching in public schools, or that they should be fired from their jobs. (Note how the hapless Tommy Thompson had to backtrack when he took the latter position). No, today they say they're just drawing the line at marriage, but they don't want anyone to be discriminated against. As Kinsley notes, a couple of decades back they would have been seen as crazy liberals, upending the social order with their radical homosexual agenda.

Not that Democrats have exactly been models of moral righteousness on this subject - they've generally been content to keep a step or two behind public opinion, gripped as usual by fear of offending the people who dislike them the most. Listening to them proclaim their support for civil unions but their opposition to marriage equality, it's hard to avoid the conclusion that they're keeping their actual beliefs secret lest they be tarred as radicals. History won't be kind to that positioning, either.

Though Gay rights is the hot-button social issue of the moment, it's important to keep in mind that on a whole range of social issues, the country is moving steadily to the left, and will continue to do so. Forty years or so ago, "conservative" beliefs held that women belonged in the home, not in the workplace - and if they had to work, they should be paid less than men; and that blacks and whites should be strongly discouraged, if not prohibited by law, from marrying, to name just two. Today those beliefs belong to a dwindling number of reactionary bigots (and a couple of Supreme Court justices).

And there is simply no doubt which direction opinions will continue to move: issues like these show a strong "cohort effect," meaning a divide between generations that results in steady change over time. The most socially conservative Americans are the oldest, those who are now in retirement. Each successive generation is more progressive than the one before it, down to today's young people, for whom a racially and sexually diverse environment is a given. I graduated from a public high school in New Jersey in the mid-1980s, and there was not a single out Gay person in my class of 500. Today, there are Gay-straight alliances in schools all over the country. Those kids aren't going to become more conservative when they get older - this country is simply not going back.

Just as today Republicans call themselves "the party of Lincoln" in order to obscure their (and their ideological brethren's) despicable history on race (as though there is any doubt which side the likes of George W. Bush and Newt Gingrich would have been on in the Civil War), in years to come they will try to distance themselves from the Gay-baiting and bigotry in which they currently wallow. My guess is it'll happen sooner than we think.

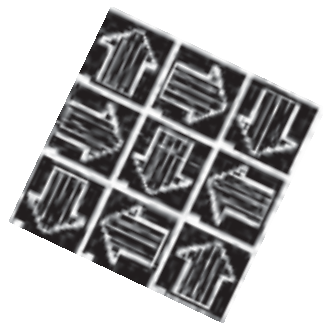
(Paul Waldman is a writer for the American Prospect and this op-ed is reprinted from the June 15 post on tapped.org (the American Prospect blog.)

Three Reggae Artists Sign Tolerance Pact

LONDON (Observer Update) - Reggae artists Beenie Man, Sizzla and Capleton have signed a "Reggae Compassionate Act" and promised to ban their use of anti-Gay lyrics in their music, the music paper NME reported. Advocate.com reported the pledge is to "respect and uphold the rights of all individuals to live without violence due to their religion, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity or gender," according to NME.

UK Gay rights group OutRage! and other activists there and in the United States had conducted a three-year Stop Murder Music campaign against the artists and the record label that carries them. OutRage! co-founder Peter Tatchell said the move was a positive step for ensuring tolerance. "The singers' rejection of homophobia and sexism is an important milestone," he told NME. "We rejoice at their new commitment to music without prejudice . . . Having these major reggae stars renounce homophobia will influence their fans and the wider public to rethink bigoted attitudes."

The act does have its faults: Many artists have not signed the agreement and some activists are skeptic over whether the promise will be adhered to. A similar pact was agreed upon two years ago with Beenie Man and other artists. The other five "murder music" artists – Elephant Man, TOK, Bounty Killa, Vybz Kartel and Buju Banton – have not signed the Reggae Compassionate Act and boycotts against them will continue, Tatchell said.



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Cartoonist Causes Controversy With 'Male Bashing' Comic

NEW YORK CITY - With Father's Day fast approaching, cartoonist Berkeley Breathed caused quite a stir with a comic that appeared to criticize fathers while celebrating Lesbian moms, reported advocate.com. The latest installment of Breathed's "Opus the Penguin" strip, which ran in Sunday's comics, has elicited a wide range of responses from outrage on the right to bemusement on the left, according to Townhall.com, reported advocate.com.

The strip shows two boys, with their avian companion, Opus, talking about third-grader Davie Dinkle having two moms. "Multiple moms," comments one boy. "Cool," agrees the other. "No dad?" asks Opus, as they wonder how Davie Dinkle will do without a male role model in the house. Then–crash!–a television set showing a baseball game is hurled through the window by one of the boys' foul-mouthed, cigarette-smoking, beer-chugging fathers. "Breathed's message is clear–dads are useless as role models (when they're not outright destructive), and kids have little need or use for them," commented columnist Glenn Sacks in the American Chronicle.

Critics cite a growing trend of male-bashing, emphasized by the approaching holiday intended to celebrate rather than denigrate fathers. Some point to same-sex relationships as the root of the problem. Says writer Jennifer Morse on Townhall: "The cartoon...was appalling not only for its unadulterated, unapologetic male-bashing. The cartoon is also a sickening foretaste of what awaits us as same-sex parenting becomes normalized." Morse went on to publish a letter on the DailyCartoonist blog asking that Opus be discontinued from the Web site.

Many rallied to the cartoonist's defense, explaining that the father has appeared in several of Breathed's comics and is meant to be a rough-and-tumble character who often resorts to comic violence. And while responses have been a mixed bag, it seems that Opus will be making his usual appearance in the Sunday paper for Father's Day.

U.K. Gay Celebrity Arrested In Murder Probe

LONDON - British television star Michael Barrymore was been arrested by police investigating the murder of a man found dead in his swimming pool six years ago, reported advocate.com. The 55-year old Barrymore was brought to a police station in Essex along with two other men.

Michael Barrymore

Stuart Lubbock was found dead in the pool at following a late night party at the celebrity's home in March 2001. Lubbock had attended a party with a number of other people where a large quantify of drugs were reportedly used. An autopsy showed that Lubbock he had suffered severe internal injuries and the coroner suggested he had been the victim of a sexual assault. Alcohol, Ecstasy and cocaine were found in his bloodstream.

Despite a long police investigation no one was ever charged in the death, but publicity surrounding it virtually ended Barrymore's career. The performer who hosted a number of television reality and game shows later moved to New Zealand but recently returned to the U.K. In December the case was reopened. British press reports said Barrymore and the others were brought in for questioning after seizing tapes belonging to Tony Cowell, the brother of American Idol judge Simon Cowell. Tony Cowell, a literary agent allegedly recorded interviews with Barrymore for an autobiography. It is believed those tapes contained a lengthy discussion about Lubbock's death.

The case has received wide publicity in the British media. In a statement Thursday Barrymore said that he hopes "the media treat the issues involved as fact not fiction. This story has been too seductive in the past and I have had to endure extraordinary and preposterous accusations. Perhaps now the media, particularly the tabloids, will consider their tone and also try to consider the proper facts rather than heating up sensation and innuendo." Barrymore was read his rights and questioned, but has not been charged. A police spokesperson said the investigation is "far from over."

Homeless Man Says Shelter Threw Him Out Because He's Gay

DENVER, Colorado - A 34-year old homeless Fort Collins man says that he was told to leave a shelter because the pastor who runs it will not allow Gay men to stay there, reported 365Gay.com. John Garon tells the Coloradan newspaper that he had been staying at Open Door Mission for about three weeks when he was suddenly told by the director, the Rev. Richard Thebo, that he was no longer welcome. "He said 'I don't allow homosexuals to use these facilities,'" Garon told the Coloradan. "I was blown away ... To be put out for something I can't change has profoundly impacted me."

Thebo does not deny he told Garon to leave. He said that Garon had "hit on" another man at the shelter and a fight ensued. He also told the paper that Garon would "flaunt his sexuality." The pastor said that he will allow Gays and Lesbians to use the soup kitchen and shower at the shelter but not sleep there. "I will not let them exert their sexuality here," he told the Coloradan. "Men have to sleep next to

Continued on Page Nine

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POLITICS 2007

by Mark R. Kerr

'Nineteen Going On Twenty'

With the flurry of recent articles on courageous, openly Gay and Lesbian individuals serving their country, and the positions of the announced candidates for the 2008 Presidential election, attention has turned to "don't ask, don't tell" (DADT)

DADT has been in effect since 1993, for which the Department of Defense (DoD) has fired more than 11,000 service members under DADT - on average, two to three people are dismissed under the law daily.

According to the Government Accountability Office (GAO) at least 800 of those had skills deemed "mission-critical" by DoD, including more than 300 linguists, of which at least 58 were proficient in Arabic.

American taxpayers have paid between $250 million and $1.2 billion to investigate, eliminate and replace qualified, patriotic service members who want to serve their country but can't because expressing their sexual orientation violates DADT.

During the recent round of presidential debates held for the announced Democratic and Republican candidates in Manchester, New Hampshire, the question on the fourteen year old law was brought up and the entire field of eight Democratic presidential candidates indicated their support for repealing DADT while the ten announced Republican presidential candidates stated they would maintain it.

Legislation to overturn DADT had been introduced in the current, 110th Congress, as the Military Readiness Enhancement Act, H.R. 1246.

It was announced that Representative Ellen Tauscher, D-CA, Chair of the House Armed Services Strategic Forces Subcommittee will succeed Representative Marty Meehan, D-MA, as the lead sponsor of the Military Readiness Enhancement Act (H.R. 1246) when Mr. Meehan leaves the House of Representatives later this summer to become President of the University of Massachusetts - Lowell.

"Equality in our military is a vital part of equality in America. For too long the policy of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' has prevented talented and otherwise qualified men and women from serving their country. It's a discriminatory policy that runs counter to the most fundamental American values of patriotism and equality. And, in today's threat environment, 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' is impacting the overall readiness and effectiveness of our Armed Forces," said Rep. Ellen Tauscher in a statement.

"Congresswoman Tauscher is a natural choice to continue the Congressional fight against 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,'" said Sharra E. Greer, director of law and policy for Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), in a statement. "A respected voice on both issues of national security and equal opportunity, she has a long history of fighting to strengthen our armed forces and advance our nation's promise of liberty and justice for all. Servicemembers Legal Defense Network is honored to work alongside Congresswoman Tauscher to end the unfair and un-American exclusion of lesbian, gay and bisexual patriots from our armed forces."

"We are thrilled that Congresswoman Tauscher is stepping up to lead the efforts in the House to end 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,'" said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese, in a statement. "For years now, Congresswoman Tauscher has fought for the right of all Americans to live safely and honestly. Her commitment to our nation and its ideals of fairness and equality ascends to a new level today as she takes the reigns of the Military Readiness Enhancement Act."

To take action on H.R. 1246 and help get this discriminatory overturned, go online to: hrcactioncenter.org/campaign/dont_ask_dont_tell.

Civil Union Terminated Between Warring Lesbians

RUTLAND, Vermont (Observer Update) - In the latest twist in an ongoing battle between two women over a child they intended to raise together a Family Court judge in Vermont has terminated their civil union, 365Gay.com reported. At the heart of the dispute between the women was a little girl named Isabelle who was conceived through artificial insemination to Lisa Miller-Jenkins. At the time she was in a relationship with Janet Miller-Jenkins which had been formalized by a civil union in Vermont where they resided. When the relationship between the two women soured and they split up a lengthy legal battle in two states ensued.

Lisa Miller-Jenkins fled with her daughter to Virginia which has some of the most anti-gay legislation in the country. She then went to court in that state seeking sole custody of the child. Janet Miller-Jenkins fought the application on the grounds that the case was already before the court in Vermont. Last November the Virginia Court of Appeals ruled that the state of Vermont has jurisdiction in the case, and threw out Prosser's ruling and in May the Virginia Supreme Court allowed that ruling to stand. The U.S. Supreme Court declined to become involved in which state had authority in the case.

In dissolving the civil union between the women Rutland County Family Court Judge William Cohen awarded custody of Isabella Miller-Jenkins to Lisa Miller, her biological mother. But Cohen also granted regular visitation between the child and Janet Jenkins. Starting in August, Jenkins and Isabella are to spend every other weekend together, alternating between Vermont and Virginia. Miller noted in his decision Cohen noted that Miller agreed to abide by the ruling Attorneys for the women declined to comment on the case.

Homeless Man Says Shelter Threw Him Out Because He's Gay

Continued from Page Eight

other men (in the shelter)." According to Garon there had been a fight but he denies "hitting" on anyone. As for "flaunting" he says he made occasional passing comments about his former partner. Garon said that he came to Fort Collins from Florida with the hope of attending graduate school at Colorado State University but fell on hard times.

Last month Gov. Bill Ritter signed into law legislation making it illegal to discriminate in the workplace on the basis of sexuality but the law does not cover accommodation. "The new law is a step forward, Judy Calhoun the executive director of the LGBT Center in Denver told 365Gay.com. "But it needs to be expanded to cover accommodation as well."

The case is the second where a Gay person has been denied room at a shelter. A Chicago woman says she was denied access to a City-funded homeless shelter on a cold November evening because she is a Lesbian. With the help of the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois, Michelle Wang has filed a civil rights complaint with the City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations and the State of Illinois Department of Human Rights. Wang later discussed her case with 365Gay.com's Jennifer Vanesco in an exclusive interview.

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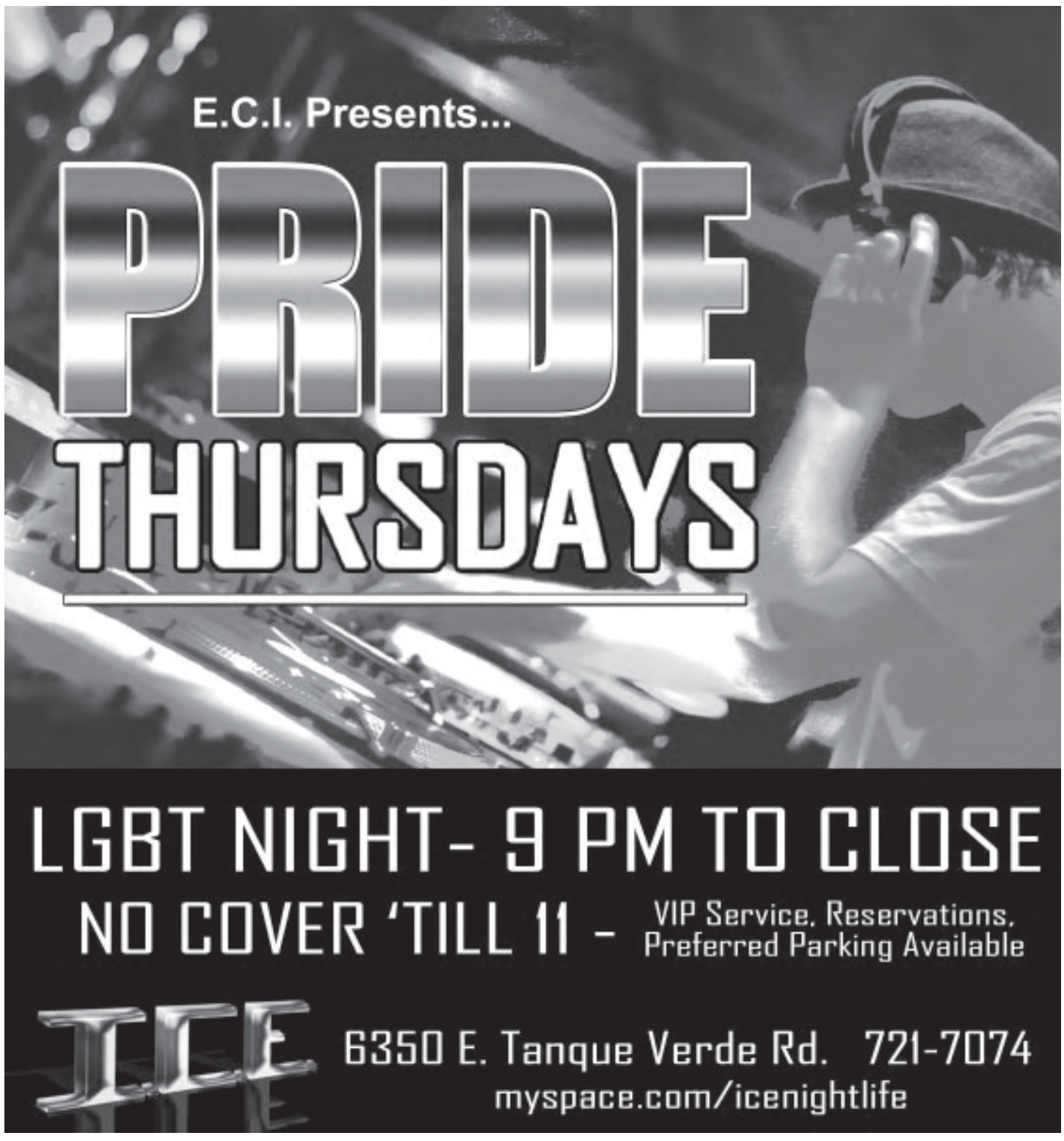

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Country Store

Grocer Pulls LGBT Newspaper Off Shelves

NASHVILLE, Tennessee - A regional LGBT newspaper has been pulled from Kroger grocery stores in Nashville, and the publisher is calling the action discriminatory, reported the Associated Press on advocate.com. “This is a clear case of discrimination based on the fact that we provide news for the Tennessee GLBT community,” Jerry Jones, the publisher of Out & About, said in an article published on the newspaper’s Web site.”It’s astonishing that this level of corporate discrimination exists in today’s society.” Kroger had begun carrying the paper May 9, but on May 31, Jones was notified it would no longer do so.

A Kroger spokeswoman told the Associated Press that the company, to remain neutral, has a policy of not displaying publications that promote “political, religious, or other specific agendas.” However, Kroger supermarkets in other areas, such as Atlanta, carry Gay publications. Not only do Kroger’s Atlanta stores carry the Gay paper Southern Voice, but the company advertises in the newspaper. Kroger distributes the Nashville Scene, an alternative weekly that publishes political columns and has ads for strip clubs and dating phone lines. Jones said the weekly and his publication should be equally regarded. “Out & About newspaper does cater to a target audience, just like the Nashville Scene and Nashville Parent,” he said in the article. “But like those publications, our mission is to provide news and information for our community and to serve as a watchdog and newspaper of record for that community.”

According to the Associated Press, the May issue of Out & About was on stands for three weeks at the supermarket, and about 3,500 issues were picked up. The newspaper has no sexually explicit ads. “If Kroger were to review the paper, they would find it is a very clean and well-produced newspaper,’’ John Wade, the president of the Nashville GLBT Chamber of Commerce said in the article. “The public perception of anything within the Gay community is that it’s sexual in nature. I think they are reacting to perception, which is not necessarily the reality.” Kroger operates 2,468 supermarkets and multi-department stores in 31

Sonny & Band = ‘Two Sons’ Sounds Great

TUCSON - Local musician Sonny Smith has been singing and playing rock music on his acoustic guitar for some time. Most recently he has been playing on the Patio Stage at the Yard Dog using his name only.

Now he has teamed up with drummer Jesse to lend a solid beat to Sonny’s classic rock vocals and acoustic sound. And now the duo is known as the “Two Sons”.

Apparently the word is spreading and the size of his audiences continues to grow. This Friday, June 22, the Two Sons will be playing at 9:00 p.m. at the Yard Dog, 2449 N. Stone. And Tuesday, June 26 they will be performing at Howl At The Moon, 915 West Prince beginning at 9:00 p.m. No cover at either establishment. Check it out.

Sonny

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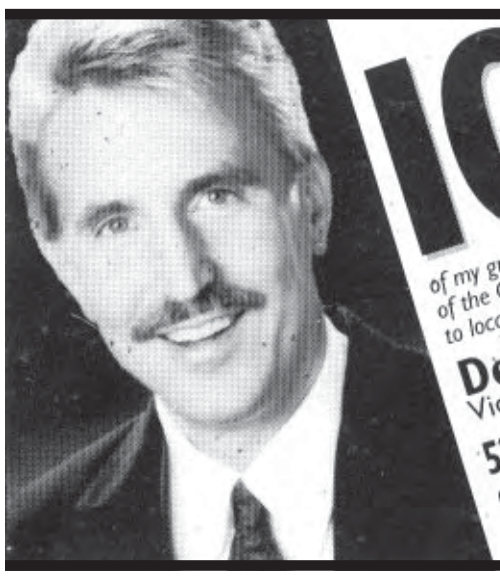

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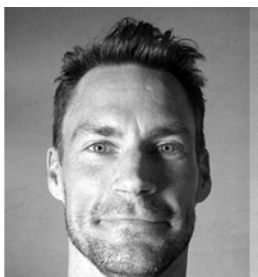

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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

New York! New York! by Lee Thorn

THE ARIZONA DAILY STAR gets its TV criticism from New York? Why? Because New York is a wonderful town where the people ride in a hole in the ground. And besides, how could they possibly find a local yokel who could write TV criticism? I have no doubt that critic Alessandra Stanley is a genuine New Yorker and that the generally genuine NEW YORK TIMES is what it is, which is not quite what it used to be.

However, Stanley's critique of the final episode of THE SOPRANOS is so staggeringly inept that it screams out for rebuttal. She begins by saying that there could be no good ending so the show left off without one. Rubbish. There was in fact a brilliant, almost inevitable ending and David Chase, creator of the series, found it. Stanley ends her piece by saying Chase's ending lacked melodrama "or even a splashy denouement." She's correct here, but TV viewers wanting melodrama and splashy denouements were never part of the show's audience. They're watching much less sophisticated fare, stuff like COURT TV and PRIZE FIGHTING.

Between its obtuse beginning and its banal ending, Stanley's analysis is filled with incredible piffle, for example, the idea that Tony would join the witness-protection program. Anyone who'd been paying the slightest attention to the development of Tony's character over the many years would know that Tony in witness protection is less probable than Tony in a tutu. As for Stanley's "ever-darker shadows of...impeding (sic) doom: an indictment and most likely a trial," indictments and trials and, for that matter, getting shot in the guts are all normal parts of Tony's territory, the price of doing business, a day at the office.

To understand THE SOPRANOS, its start, its run, and its final episode, one must first understand that it's a soap opera in the tradition of radio's ONE MAN'S FAMILY. The reason that you go easy on the melodrama and splashy denouements in a well written soap opera is that the subtext of all good soaps is, "Life goes on." The stock and trade of the soap's dramatic technique is known as "stirring the pot," having something seemingly innocuous happen in one episode that the audience knows will lead to dire repercussions in a future episode. In spite of some frighteningly uneven writing over the years, THE SOPRANOS stirred the pot continuously and beautifully.

So how do you end a soap opera that's based on a family? Chase's well-reasoned choice was to recapitulate the family's values and its character. On the issue of values, the family was solidly middle-class. They wanted the kids to get respectable jobs and live more middle-class lives than the parents. Is there irony in a mob boss and his family wanting to be middle-class? Yes, and irony was the principle comedic characteristic of the entire series.

Character was also crucial. What kind of people, as family heads, were Tony and Carmela? They were, above all else, extremely pragmatic and extremely persistent. Consider Carmela's heroic campaign to get daughter Meadow into a good university. Consider both parents' endlessly heroic efforts to make hapless son AJ a little less hapless. We come to the last episode and find that these principle characteristics, pragmatism and persistence, have paid off for the family in gigantic ways. Most importantly, in terms of literal survival, Tony wins the war with the New York mob. He does it by persistently negotiating the demise of its boss with an underboss, by persistently feeding the FBI anti-terrorist tidbits, by pragmatically hiding himself and his family. He also reestablishes the working relationship with the New York mob so that he can bring his family back to its luxurious home. After several failed attempts to find a plausible path for AJ, the parents not only talk him out of joining the army in wartime, they create a job that appeals to him, at least in the short term.

In the final scene the family is happily eating onion rings because Carmela and Tony never quit trying to make things work, and also because they're both very smart cookies. If plan A doesn't fly, you go to B, C, D, etc. until something does fly. Tony's continues to be a high-risk business. His kids continue to be exposed to the vicissitudes of youth. Carmela continues to be a rock for the family, looking for and building family consensus. Life goes on.

What has really irritated the critics of THE SOPRANOS over the years, the reason they'd like to see some melodrama and splash – especially of Tony's blood – is that the show is not a morality play. It's more like life, where the good guys don't always win and the bad guys sometimes do the right thing. Many critics prefer uplifting fantasy.

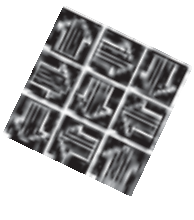
(Thorn welcomes comments, suggestions for future columns, and tips on local skulduggery that ought to by exposed. Write to Box 85571, Tucson, AZ 85754. E-mail: Doid3@aol.com.)

'Neighbors You Know' on TV !

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Wingspan has relaunched the media project titled "Neighbors You Know" to coincide with June, which is LGBT Pride Month. This project features local LGBT people and the invaluable contributions that they make to Southern Arizona's community every day through a series of eight television commercials.

Each commercial features a different "neighbor," telling their real-life stories of community service through work and volunteerism, and urges viewers to speak up for the neighbors they know. The commercials will begin running this week on local cable and network television and will continue through June 30. Look for the commercials during the morning and evening news on KOLD 13 and KGUN 9. Also look on cable channels CNBC, CNN, Discovery, Bravo, Comedy Central (The Colbert Report and the Daily Show), ESPN, TNT (Law and Order, the Closer, movies), TBS, USA, TLC (What Not to Wear), Lifetime, and the Food Network for "Neighbors You Know."

To help with the advertising costs, make your check payable to "Wingspan," and mail them to 425 East Seventh Street, Tucson, Arizona 85705. To make a donation with your credit card, call (520) 624-1779.



Toronto Aims To Be Gay Tourism Capital

TORONTO, Canada - Just days before Toronto kicks off its annual Pride Week celebrations the city's tourism board has announced it's going all out in an effort to attract Gay travelers from the United States, 365Gay.com reported. Tourism Toronto said Friday (June 15) it has launched a "Gay Marketing Advisory Group" comprised of 12 local community leaders that will help sell the city to foreigners.

"The Gay travel market is one of the fastest-growing segments and is a $55 billion industry. This represents a major opportunity for Toronto," said David Whitaker, president and CEO of Tourism Toronto. "Toronto offers a great deal to Gay visitors, who tend to travel more often, stay longer and spend more in a destination." The tourism board said it has boosted its marketing budget designated to Gay travelers by 50 per cent to $300,000, targeting cities like New York, Chicago, San Francisco and Los Angeles. Plans include buying advertising in restaurants, bars and local Gay publications, as well as sponsoring events.

Tourism Toronto said that research has found that U.S. Gay travelers are far more likely to hold passports. The board said that 71 per cent of travelers that identified themselves as Gay held a valid passport, almost three times the U.S. average of 24 per cent. Last year more than a million people celebrated Gay pride in Toronto.

Commission Begins Examining Civil Union 'Inequities'

TRENTON, New Jersey (Observer Update) - A commission created when New Jersey legalized civil unions to examine its effectiveness has been told the law is a failure, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. Last Oct. 2006, the New Jersey Supreme Court ruled same-sex couples must have all the rights of marriage.

The Court gave the New Jersey State Legislature 180 days to act on the decision to grant same-sex couples the rights and benefits enjoyed by different-sex married couples but left it up to the legislators to decide whether to call it marriage or civil unions.

The legislature opted for civil unions but the bill also mandated the establishment of a commission to report every six months on whether the law was meeting the requirements of the court ruling.

The law creating civil unions went into effect Feb. 19. Since then more than 1,000 same-sex couples have applied for civil union licenses.

At its first meeting on Monday (June 18) the Civil Union Review Commission elected as its chair J. Frank Vespa-Papaleo, the director of New Jersey's Division on Civil Rights, as as its vice-chair, longtime Gay activist Steven Goldstein the head of Garden State Equality.

Vespa-Papaleo told the 12 other commissioners that the Division on Civil Rights has had about 360 inquiries, but only one official complaint - from a medical assistant who said the two firms he works for had both refused to provide health benefits for his civil union partner that are available to married spouses.

In his complaint Robert S. Kleid said he had been turned down by the New York City-based Tri-State Professional Employment Organization and by Minimed Care of Chester, N.J..

Goldstein said that despite only one official complaint to the Division his organization has had nearly 150 complaints of companies not abiding by the law and said the legislation is flawed and not working.

Although the civil unions law gives same-sex couples the same rights and responsibilities as marriage it is not recognized by a growing number of companies - all with federally regulated benefit plans.

Under the federal so-called Defense of Marriage Act the federal government does not recognize same-sex marriage. The law allows those insurers to reject same-sex couples.

Nearly one in eight couples who have had civil unions have been turned down for company benefits Goldstein said.

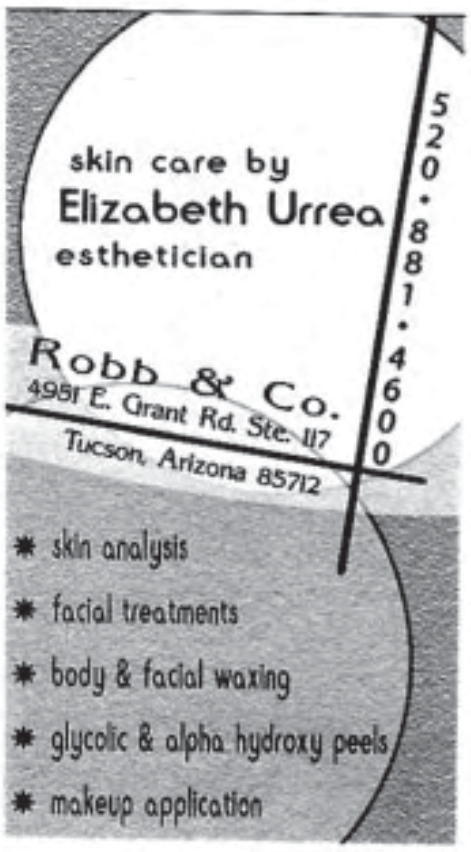
Garden State Equality wants the civil union law amended to be called marriage - something he said would force businesses to comply.

A number of state lawmakers, including the Speaker of the Assembly, Joseph J. Roberts, Jr. (D) appear to share Goldstein's concerns.

Roberts has sent letters to state agencies, business groups and insurers reminding them of the provisions and intent of the law.

"The civil union law was not enacted to be a symbolic gesture," Roberts wrote in the letters. "It was passed with the expectation that its various provisions would be complied with and respected."

When completed the commission will deliver its report to the Legislature. It is generally expected the report will call for the legalization of same-sex marriage in New Jersey.



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To help protect your dog, the Humane Society of Southern Arizona offers Snake Avoidance Training from March through September at the Companions for Life Center. These valuable classes teach dogs to recognize snakes by sight, scent and sound. All dogs, ages 10 months through ten years, are eligible for training.

- *Classes are conducted in a safe and controlled environment*
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- *Visit www.hssaz.org for a class description*

Classes fill up quickly! Call 795-6181 or 795-6225 to make your reservations today.

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Companions for Life Center
3465 E. Kleindale Rd.
www.hssaz.org (520) 795-6225

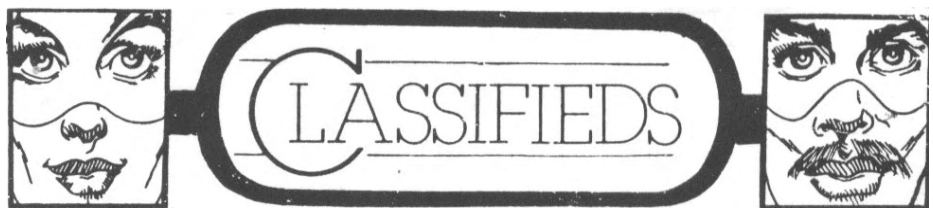
the humane society of southern arizona

Man Sues Chicago Police For Brutality

CHICAGO - A Gay man is seeking $50,000 in damages after being brutally beaten in March by police who spewed anti-Gay epithets and left him in a holding cell for two days without food or water, advocate.com reported. Alexander Rupert was originally taken into police custody on a charge of disorderly conduct at a bar; he pleaded guilty to that charge, the Chicago Tribune reported.

Officers Vincent Torres and Kent Pemberton asked Rupert to leave the bar and placed him in their squad car; he had not been arrested or handcuffed. While the officers drove off with the 120-pound man, they allegedly used anti-Gay slurs while hitting him in the face and head. "It was only until he told them he had AIDS that they stopped," one of Ruppert's lawyers, Michael Oppenheimer, told reporters.

Meanwhile, Rupert used his cell phone to call his partner, who overheard the beating and slurs. He was eventually taken to a hospital, where he received 16 stitches under his eye, WMAQ-TV reported. After his hospital release, he was taken into custody and thrown into a police lockup. The suit filed in Chicago's federal court said Rupert resorted to drinking water from the toilet to avoid dehydration during his two days behind bars. He was also charged with two counts of aggravated battery of an officer, but was never tried because Torres and Pemberton did not want to testify about the incident in court.



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HIV NEVER LEFT!

If you have had sex, you could be at risk for **Syphilis, HIV** and other **STD's.** Although, condoms used correctly each and every time can reduce your risk, why not go the extra mile. Protect yourself, your health and your community by getting tested today.

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic Schedule
Theresa Lee Health Center
332 S. Freeway
Tucson, AZ 85745
(520) 624-8272

Monday	12:30 – 3:30 P.M.
Tuesday	8:00 – 10:30 A.M.
Tuesday	12:30 – 3:30 P.M
Wednesday	12:30 – 3:30 P.M
Thursday	4:00 – 6:30 P.M.
Friday	12:30 – 3:30 P.M

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Tucson's hottest nightclub I.C.E. is looking for video DJs. Must be familiar with the Pioneer dvj-1000's. Also immediate openings available for knowledgeable door staff. Apply in person at 6350 E. Tanque Verde on Tues. & Wed. between 11-4 or call 721-7074.
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DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE

HOROSCOPES

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If we get a bit more emotional this week, chalk it up to the Sun which enters moody Cancer. But we needn't get overly crabby. In fact we may get more cuddly. Any hug can help.

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Sun in Cancer makes you more appreciative of the delights of home. There is no need to take on the world in the global arena this week. Put aside all external static and enjoy the quiet surroundings of your pink palace. There are those proud Rams who ache for the media glare, but if you take the time to recharge your batteries now, you can brightly light the world later.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

You speak from the heart and can emotionally attach any message to a series of actions. Sun in Cancer makes all queer Bulls compelling speakers. It is said that actions speak louder and prouder than words but you now have talents in all ways and means. Melt all hard hearts and expand Gay outreach. Do you go with the carrot or big stick? Show-off!

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Having all the money in the world does not guarantee happiness or fulfillment. It doesn't even guarantee affirmation. Sun in Cancer requires accountability and balance in the lives of pink Twins. Put your money and possessions to better use than merely defining your place in high society. The bottom line is that enrichment begins deep in the soul, not in the wallet. Darn.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Pink Crabs are placed in the epicenter of the social storm. All eyes are on you. Take a peek in the mirror and review your "look" to note how the world sees you. Everything you do and say has greater impact. If you feel that you don't measure up, don't panic. Displaying a few vulnerabilities can be ennobling ... and maybe a bit manipulative. But then you know that.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

Be ready to give a hand to those in need, proud Lion. The more you give, the more you eventually get. This energy goes beyond writing a check to a worthy charity or impactful cause. It requires physical action and hands on intervention. Make a discernable difference in our community with real sweat equity. You may even find someone with equity to sweat with.

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

Queer Virgins benefit from Sun in Cancer in several ways. You increase your ability to reach out to and connect with all stratum of society and create a sense of community. If you concentrate on one particular thing this week, let it be smashing the barriers of societal ignorance with a strong but compassionate public display. And display it all with pride.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Sun in Cancer highlights interactions with those of a higher authority and greater power. Sway the power elite, Gay Libra, and mold the power structure to make it more relevant and less threatening. A political path may prove successful. Who knows? After the storm, you may find yourself on top of the heap and calling the shots. Assume the position!

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

Proud Scorps can tackle a global issue or travel to a new, exotic destination when Sun enters Cancer. Your voice is carried to the far reaches of the earth so make yourself loudly and proudly heard. Who knows what peaceful solutions can be discovered? You are the now the humanitarian of the zodiac. Hurry before you revert back to your old self-interested self.

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

Sun in Cancer illuminates the dark corners of the soul and demands that you clean out the cobwebs of your closet. Drop all that excess psychological baggage and free yourself up for some fun. Thankfully you have a few weeks to make some progress and savor the full intensity. Show 'em what you're made of, Gay Archer... and I don't mean 98% water.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

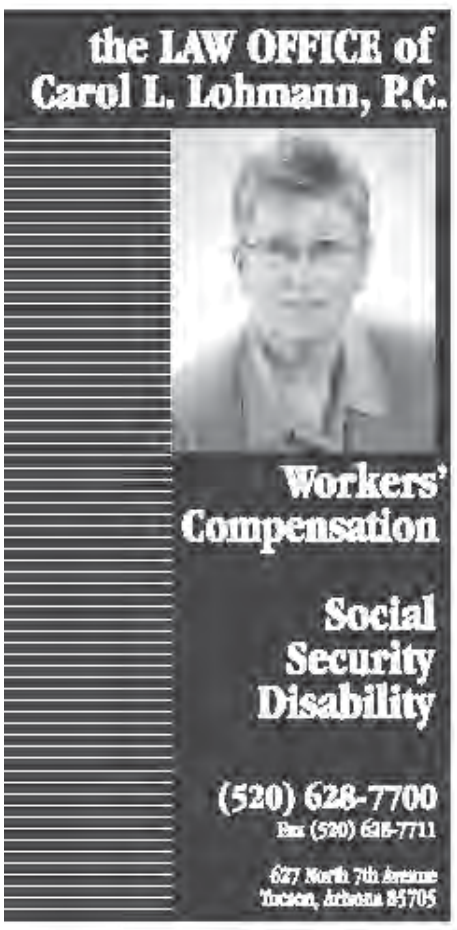
Pink Caps are advised to review and revise their one-on-one relationships when the Sun moves into Cancer. Connection, compromise and understanding are the keystones of successful partnership. Try to avoid your usual tendency to control and boss the course. Preemptive royalty is no longer in fashion, poopsie. Create a true democracy.

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

You can run but you can't hide, Aqueerius. This week you are buzzing with labor intensive activities. It's a great time to finish off a languishing nasty task. Not only are you especially energetic, you are also interested in creating something useful. Put your efforts to work either on the job or in a personal pet project. There is work to be done and you are the one to do it.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Creativity and abundance are yours for the taking when the Sun enters Cancer. Guppies can use this time to put a new twist on the old theme of personal vs public enrichment. Auctioning off vast art collections for charity is a good example of the possibilities, but even us common-folk in our thrift store jeans can do our bit. Simply use your imagination.



Ending the violence.

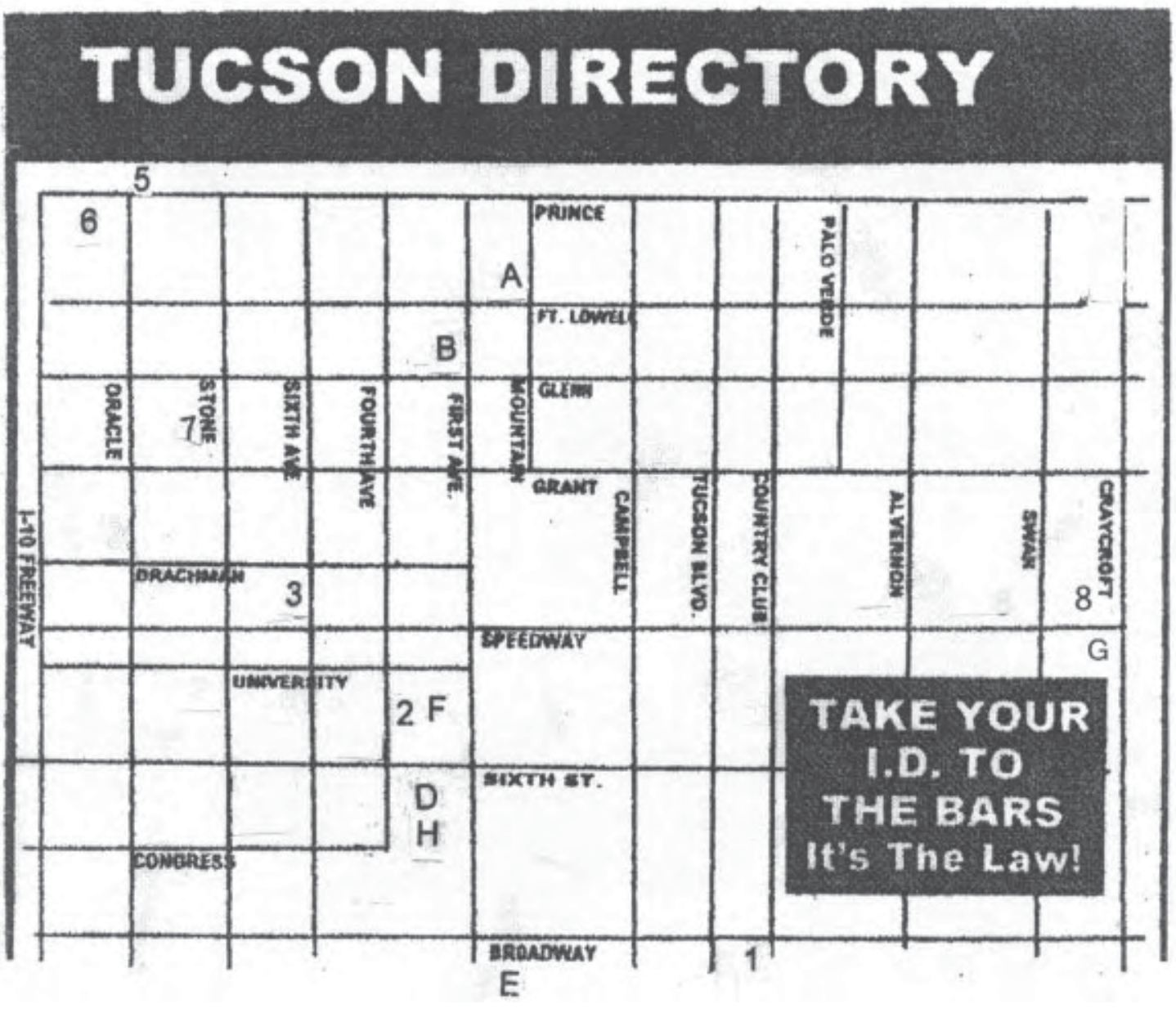
Wingspan launches the Anti-Violence Project – a community initiative to assist lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender victims of discrimination, domestic violence, sexual assault and hate crimes.

Call the Anti-Violence Project 24-Hour Crisis Line at 624-0348, or toll-free 1-800-553-9387.

WINGSPAN
Southern Arizona's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center

www.wingspan.org

TUCSON DIRECTORY



Community Bars

1. THE BIZ
   2900 E. Broadway 318-4838
2. IBT'S
   616 N. 4th Ave. 882-3053
3. VENTURE-N
   1239 N. 6th Ave. 882-8224
5. WOODY'S
   3710 N. Oracle Road, 292-6702
6. HOWL AT THE MOON
   915 W. Prince Rd. 293-7339
7. YARD DOG SALOON
   2449 N. Stone, 624-3858
8. COLORS FOOD & SPIRITS
   5305 E. Speedway 323-1840

Community Organizations

A. MCC - METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
3269 N. Mountain - 292-9151

B. CORNERSTONE FELLOWSHIP
2902 N. Geronimo - 622-4626

D. WINGSPAN - 425 E. 7th St. - 624-1779

E. S.A.A.F. - 375 S. Euclid Ave. - 628-7223

F. RAINBOW PLANET COFFEE HOUSE
606 N. 4th Ave. - 620-1770

G. TIHAN -Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network
1101 N. Craycroft, Ste 301. 299-6647

H. EON YOUTH CENTER 620-6245

Non Bar Calendar

Wednesday, June 20
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Hand & Foot with Jack 887-3736

Thursday, June 21
Tucson GLBT Chamber of Commerce June Breakfast meeting today from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. Hotel Congress $15/ Members and guests. Founders Day Meeting and Anniversary in celebration of Pride Week. Come meet some of the original members of your chamber. www.tucsonglbtchamber.org or call 520-615-6436

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

Friday, June 22
Antigone Books, 411 N. 4th Avenue, 7:00p.m. for an event celebrating the collection, "What Wilderness Is This; Women Write About The Southwest." The volume includes nearly 100 poems and essays by more than 90 women. For more information call 792-3715.

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

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00 p.m. Merlin and Lee host a word for word fun evening of Scrabble. If you don't know how to play, they will be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please contact Merlin and Lee at 207-5336. If you're loquacious, erudite, or a wordsmith; this man's game just may be a triple word score for you!

Man to Man Club 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. join us for a wonderful potluck dinner party to see what the club is all about. This very popular group of quality men is going to close the membership soon. It's a great way to meet healthy attractive men in a balanced environment, with increased awareness and presence. Call Marc at 881-4582 between 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Space is limited. Only 10 men per event. This is a structured experience of what intimacy is all about.

Saturday, June 23
Gay West returns after a four year hiatus in true Pride tradition. Imagine having the ability to descend upon the park by the thousands, convert it with rainbow decor, be entertained by cowboys, showgirls, singers and drag queens and dance with your partner. And all the funds raised benefit Wingspan. Tickets are $15 prior to the event and $18 at the door. To purchase tickets prior check the Old Tucson website for information on where to purchase presale tickets at oldtucson.com. For more information contact Madeline Porta at Wingspan 624-1779 or email: mporta@wingspan.org

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:00p.m. MSN AT GAY WEST! OLD TUCSON VISIT OUR MSN TABLE + HAVE FUN!

Sunday, June 24
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:30p.m. Dinner Out at one of Tucson's Ultra-Fabulous Buffets. For reservations and directions, contact Thom 623-2941, e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com , or Ken at 294-6606. Please contact Thom or Ken by Sunday at Noon to facilitate reservations. Price is usually under $10. Check the Yahoo MSN on-line calendar for the scheduled place. The venue is rotated to include all parts of town, and may occasionally be held at a full-service menu restaurant.

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

Monday, June 25
Tucson Prime Timers Lunch – 12:30 P.M., The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

#1Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Newsletter Night & Movie! Help us bend, fold, spindle, mutilate, and mail the MSN Newsletter, and enjoy snacks and the 2005 movie "HATE CRIME".

Tuesday, June 26
Enjoy an evening of Bridge with Terry at 577-3545.

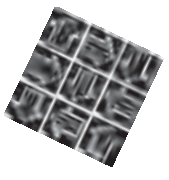
Wednesday, June 27
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Canasta hosted by Merlin and Lee at 207-5336. MSN Canasta is played every Wednesday at 7pm, but check back here for the specific host.

Thursday, June 28
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Triangle Tribe-A Men's Circle. According to a recent study, very few people have as many close friends as they would like. Are you as connected with other men as you want to be? Do you get the support you need for issues in your life? Do you wish you had more meaningful friendships and relationships with other men? Join like- minded men at Wingspan to share feelings, thoughts and ideas in a safe, respectful space. For the same experience with both straight and gay men, join us at the regular Circle of Men meetings. Call Tom at 591-2828 for dates and times.

Friday, June 29
Tucson Prime Timers Cocktails – 5:30 PM, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Saturday, June 30
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Shuffle over for Floating Pinochle every Saturday of the month except for first Saturday MSN Monthly Pot Luck. Contact Steve at 664-2076.

Sunday, July 29, the 8th annual Tucson Sidewinders Baseball Game to benefit TIHAN is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. (Gates open at 5:30 p.m.). Tickets are $30 in advance or $35 at the door and are now on sale at the TIHAN office 299-6647. Credit card orders can be taken by phone.



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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

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

COLORS - Open 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 Domestics and well. Reduced price appetizers. Dinner served until10pm.

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

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 Domestics 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 Domestics 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 - Open3pm-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 - Open4pm-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm,$3.50 Skyy cocktails, $2.75 Domestics 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 Domestics 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 Domestics and Well, reduced price appetizers. Dinner served until10pm. 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 plau Texas Hold-Em Poker Lessons at noon with a friendly game to follow - no money involved. DJ playing dance mix or check our ad for special events. Kitchen open 9pm to midnight serving late night munchies menu.

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

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

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

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

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20
YARD DOG SALOON - Texas Hold-Em begins at 6:30 p.m. with a Dart Tourney at 8:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 22
HOWL AT THE MOON - Two Step Lessons with Amanda 7:30 p.m.

YAR DOG SALOON - Two Son's (formerly Sonny & Band) playing on the patio starting at 9:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23
THE BIZ - White Party tonight with $3.00 drink specials.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Mark your calendars for Gay West at Old Tucson. Bar is open from 6:00 p.m. until Midnight. Tickets available here, $16.25 (includes tax). Get them early or pay more at the door. Afterwards, dance off the dust here with DJ Johnny D.s

WOODY'S - Arthur Migliazza performs on the patio from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Join the crowd after Gay West for "Ho Down" with your favorite country and dance music til 2:00 a.m. in the Back Pocket. Also check out the cabanas in the patio.

SUNDAY, JUNE 24
YARD DOG SALOON - Texas Hold-Em Poker at 4:00 and 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 26
HOWL AT THE MOON - Enjoy the acoustic sounds of Two Sons, playing classic rock from 9:00 p.m. until midnight. No Cover.

FRIDAY, JUNE 29
HOWL AT THE MOON - Line dance lessons with Libby at 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 30
HOWL AT THE MOON - An evening of amazing entertainment and the bet in female impersonation. A Lucinda Holliday Production! Starts t 10:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4
HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3:00 p.m. All-American Burger & Fries $4.50 all day. Ladies onlh Texas Hold-Em Poker at 4 & 6:30 p.m. Regular Poker co-ed games at 7 & 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 6
HOWL AT THE MOON - Two Step Lessons with Amanda at 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 7
HOWL T THE MOON - Join Amanda Nicole and special guests for a fabulous evening. 9:00 p.m. No Cover

FRIDAY, JULY 13
HOWL AT THE MOON - Line Dance Lessons with Libby at 7:30 p.m.

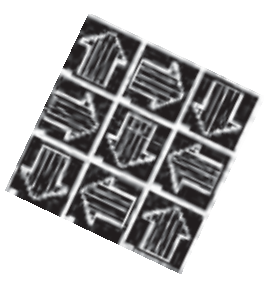
SATURDAY, JULY 14
HOWL AT THE MOON - July Birthday Party - $1.00 off your drinks all night if your birthday is in July. DJ playing dance mix featuring old school.

FRIDAY, JULY 20
HOWL AT THE MOON - Two Step lessons with Amanda at 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 21
HOWL AT THE MOON - Benefit show for the Water of Life Metropolitan Community Church (MCC),

FRIDAY, JULY 27
HOWL AT THE MOON - Line Dance lessons with Libby at 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 28
HOWL AT THE MOON - Too Much Information is back for a rockin' evening. 9:00 p.m. $5.00 Cover.



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 avaible 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; Dezert Girlz (MTF Support) meets 2nd Mondays at 7pm; Dezert Boyz (FTM Support) meets 3rd Tuesdays at 7pm. Also serving partners, youth, intersex, service providers and allies. Call (520)624-1779 x26 for more info.

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

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

DESERT DOMINION, whose focus is providing information and education for people interested in the BDSM lifestyle, meets monthly for group discussion and social events. Visit our web site http://www.desertdominion.org or call (520)792-6424
SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS. Starting this February, the Tucson Rape crisis Center will be providing free confidential group services for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender survivors of all manner of sexual assault. Interested persons please call Mirto Stone, MSW, at 327-1171 (if unavailable leave message with phone number.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

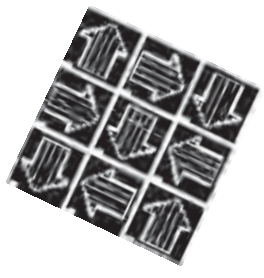
LGBT SUPPORT GROUP FOR VICTIM/SURVIVORS OF Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Hate Crimes, Bias Acts, Harassment. Call Lori at Wingspan, 624-1779, ext. 20. Services are free.

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



Turing Tribute Leaves Much Unmentioned

LONDON (Observer Update) - Alan Turing is possibly the most significant Gay hero of the 20th century – an undisputed genius, mathematician and father of computer science who helped win World War II for the Allies, Gay.com UK reported on the PlanetOut Network reported. In the 1930s, Turing conceived of a "universal machine" to carry out processes similar to thought processes using numbers, and suggested that such a machine should be called an electronic computer.

During the war, at Britain's cryptanalytic headquarters, Bletchley Park, he invented techniques for breaking German ciphers, including an electromechanical device that could find settings for the Enigma machine. In advance of the annual Turing Memorial Lecture, Bletchley Park unveiled a statue of Turing in his honor. But the lab's publicity makes no mention that he was Gay. In 1952, Turing was burgled by the friend of a man he was sleeping with. Unintimidated and unashamed, he reported the crime to the police. During the investigation, he made no attempt to conceal his sexuality. On learning he had a male lover, the police denounced him as a pervert and charged him with gross indecency. He was given the choice of chemical castration or prison. Turing was then subjected to regular injections of the female hormone estrogen. Despite his prior achievements, he was sidelined by the defense establishment – "known homosexuals" were considered a security risk.

Most biographers agree that Turing committed suicide two years later by eating an apple laced with cyanide. He was 41 years old. Gay.com's Stewart Who? asked officials at Bletchley Park, now a historic site and science museum, why Turing's bio was thus bowdlerized, and got the following response from spokeswoman Caroline Murdoch: ". . . The press release relates entirely to his invaluable work during the war years and is not in any way an attempt to whitewash his sexuality," Murdoch wrote. "This isn't to say that his sexuality isn't important in the overall story of the man and that he wasn't treated abominably in later years. However, with very limited funds and resources, the park is not able to tell the full life stories of the many heroes and heroines who made such a difference to the outcome of the war. . . . I sometimes feel that what is really interesting is that to my knowledge . . . and bearing in mind how little original information we have from that period, in the less enlightened times in which he worked at (Bletchley Park), his sexuality did not appear to hinder his work, or stop him being accepted by colleagues and the establishment. In fact, from what I've read, his eccentricities, such as wearing a gas mask to ward off pollen when riding his bicycle, made him stand out far more than his sexuality."

Who?, unmollified, suggested that the British government owes Turing an apology. He wrote, "I'm far from a militant and rarely get on my high horse due to Gay politics, but there's little doubt in my mind that omitting his sexuality is akin to not mentioning the fact that Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks or Nelson Mandela were black. ". . . Gay teenagers, especially, are bereft of positive role models and in an era where "Gay" is playground shorthand for "crap" or "rubbish," it might be nice to have an example where "Gay" actually transpired to be associated with someone strong, lifesaving, inspired and genius."

Alan Turing