



## Tucson Church's G/L Teachings, 'Not So Cool'

TUCSON - Leaders of a growing local congregation that advertises itself as "The Cool Church" are telling their parishioners that being Gay will take 30 years off a person's life, prompting accusations that they are perpetuating "really uncool, deeply homophobic" lies, the Arizona Daily Star reported Monday (July 2).

Wingspan criticized the Tucson Community Church in a recent letter to 7,000 supporters. "Scratch the surface of their clever rhetoric about being hip, welcoming and intellectually curious, and a stream of anti-Gay rhetoric spews forth," Wingspan board President Laura Olguin wrote.

The church's senior pastor, David McAllister, said he's presenting nothing but the truth, and he planned to talk about the Wingspan letter during services over the weekend. He said the subject matter goes along with a July Fourth theme of changing the nation. McAllister was particularly upset with the characterization of his church being uncool. "I can't imagine anything more uncool than supporting a lifestyle or behavior that would be detrimental to the people who practice it," he said Saturday (June 30).

The church's claims about abbreviated life spans for homosexuals, highlighted on its Web site, are not substantiated by science, said Stephen T. Russell, a professor of family studies and human development at the University of Arizona who has looked over the church's Web site and is familiar with the studies it cites.

The claims are one of the reasons Wingspan decided to rebroadcast a television advertising campaign titled "Neighbors You Know," which features eight members of the local Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community, including a Pima County prosecutor, two local religious leaders and a former U.S. Army sergeant. The ads, which aired in June, are not tied to a particular issue or political campaign, but instead ask viewers to consider that some of the people they encounter every day could be Gay.

Wingspan officials are accustomed to seeing policies from various religious denominations that are disapproving of same-sex relationships. But program director Cathy Busha said the Tucson Community Church has gone to an unacceptable extreme. "They use pseudo-science and lies to distort the truth," Busha said.

In addition to saying that homosexuals will have shortened lives, the Tucson Community Church's Web site says that Gays and Lesbians are more likely than heterosexuals to be involved in violence and become addicts of various sorts. Also on the site, the church's leaders, who say being Gay is a choice, urge their

worshippers to "fight" what they call an onslaught of homosexual-sex activists. "Our society has been attacked by homosexual activists at every quarter, lying to us about the reality of homosexual sex when they are fully aware of this sin's implications and dangers - fully!" the online site says.

The church, which caters to young families and has more than 2,000 members, recently opened its fourth location in Midtown and calls itself "one of the fastest-growing churches in America." In 2002, McAllister told the Star that growth had been as high as 40 percent per year. Many of its members praise it as a loving place. The church has been in Tucson since 1992, and county records show it owns local property with a full cash value of \$2.5 million. Some Tucsonans might know McAllister from his church's TV advertisements in which he has appeared with short, spiky blond hair, a gold hoop earring, and jeans, a T-shirt and running shoes - looking more like a rock singer than a pastor.

McAllister said he isn't surprised that critics are discounting extensive literature on the Tucson Community Church's Web site claiming that fewer than 2 percent of practicing homosexuals are in monogamous relationships, and that violence and sexually transmitted diseases are disproportionately high among Gays. The church literature attributes the statistic about homosexuals and their lack of monogamous relationships, for example, to a study written during the 1970s. Many of the studies it cites are more than a decade old.

In contrast, a 2006 study from the UCLA School of Law, based on U.S. Census data, found the number of same-sex couples in the United States surged by 30 percent between 2000 and 2005. Researchers said one of the reasons could be less stigma in society that is prompting more Gays and Lesbians to couple, and also to report their relationship to the government.

The church Web site refers to a study conducted by the Colorado-based Family Research Institute during the 1990s to support its statement that being Gay will result in a shorter life. The study culled its data from obituaries in Gay and Lesbian newspapers. The church's literature says the average age of homosexuals dying of non-AIDS-related causes is 41, and that only 1 percent died of old age.

The Family Research Institute, headed by psychologist Paul Cameron, lists its mission as creating a world "where homosexuality is not taught and accepted, but instead is discouraged and rejected at every level." In 2006, the organization was named a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

The American Psychological Association (APA) expelled Cameron on December 2, 1983 for allegedly

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## Study: Anti-G/L Crimes Widespread

DAVIS, California (Observer Update) - Nearly four in 10 Gay men and about one in eight Lesbians and Bisexuals in the United States have been the target of violence or a property crime because of their sexual orientation, according to a new study, reported 365Gay.com.

"This is the most reliable estimate to date of the prevalence of anti-Gay victimization in the United States," said University of California, Davis, psychology professor Gregory Herek who conducted the study. "The data demonstrate that crimes against sexual minority adults, especially Gay men, are disturbingly widespread."

Herek's findings were based on a survey he conducted in the fall of 2005 with a nationally representative sample of 662 self-identified Gay men, Lesbians and Bisexuals. The study will be published in a future issue of the Journal of Interpersonal Violence.

Overall, 21 percent of the people in the survey reported being the victim of violence or a property crime - including physical assault, sexual assault, theft and vandalism - because of their sexual orientation.

In addition, 49 percent said they had been verbally abused because of their sexual orientation, 23 percent reported being threatened with violence, 12.5 percent reported having objects thrown at them, and 11 percent reported housing or job discrimination.

The total exceeds 100 percent because some individuals reported being the target of multiple attacks.

"These data highlight the continuing need for criminal justice programs to prevent and deter anti-Gay crimes, as well as the need for victim services that will help to alleviate the physical, economic, social and psychological consequences of such crimes," Herek said.

The study found significantly different rates of victimization among Gay men, Lesbians and Bisexuals.

More than a third of the Gay men said they had experienced violence or property crime because of their sexual orientation, or about three times the proportion of Lesbians and Bisexuals.

Gay men also reported the highest rates of harassment and verbal abuse. And Gay men and Lesbians reported two to four times more housing and job discrimination than Bisexuals.

The disparities persisted after Herek controlled statistically for age, race, ethnicity and education he said.

"Men are generally more likely than women to be the targets of most kinds of violent crime, and this pattern seems to hold in anti-Gay hate crimes as well," Herek said.

"The Gay men and Lesbians in the study were much more likely than the

Bisexual men and women to be open about their sexual orientation. Their greater visibility probably also makes them easier targets for discrimination than Bisexuals."

Survey respondents were randomly selected from a panel of more than 40,000 U.S. households maintained by Knowledge Networks, a survey research firm.

The firm recruits panel members via standard telephone sampling methods; in return for regularly completing online surveys, the panel members receive free Internet equipment and access.

Previous studies of anti-Gay hate crimes have relied on samples that were smaller or not representative of the U.S. population, Herek reported.

In the new study, survey respondents had an average age of 39. Most had attended some college. Two thirds were white, 16 percent black and 12.5 percent Hispanic.

Data collection for the study was supported by a grant from the Gill Foundation, a Denver-based organization that supports equal opportunities for people regardless of sexual orientation or gender expression.

Legislation that would add Gays and Lesbians to the categories included under federal hate crime law is currently before Congress.

The Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act passed the House last month and is pending in the Senate.

The White House has threatened to veto the measure if it passes.



# UPDATE

## TKO-Tucson Knight Owls Celebrate 28th Anniversary July 7

TUCSON - T.K.O. - Tucson Knight Owls have been an active social organization for 28 years which makes them the oldest active GLBT club in the state. A big party is planned to celebrate this 28<sup>th</sup> birthday at their home bar - Yard Dog Saloon, 2449 N. Stone, and everyone is invited!

Activities for this special day will include: installation of newly elected officers, followed by a Beer Bust from 2:00 until 6:00 p.m. with a buffet for all their friends. The club members will have their club photo albums showing different highlights from past years. Also members will be available to answer questions on past and future activities of the club.

## TIHAN Update

TUCSON - The Eighth Annual Tucson Sidewinders Baseball Game to benefit TIHAN is coming up on Sunday, July 29, 6:00 p.m., gates opening at 5:30 p.m.

Come out and enjoy "the boys of summer" as the 2006 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, and credit card orders can be taken by phone. . . .

TIHAN is specifically looking for a United Way Day of Caring Co-Chair, Link Specialists, CareTeam Members, Receptionists and a Handyperson. If you want to volunteer and have not already attended an orientation the next Volunteer Orientation is scheduled for Thursday, July 12, 5:15-9:15 p.m. at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 1350 N. Arcadia Ave.

Training will include: HIV 101 and Universal Precautions, Volunteer Opportunities, TIHAN History, HIV/

AIDS and Your Faith Community Group Discussion, and a Living with HIV Panel. If you are interested in volunteering at TIHAN or you just want to know more about HIV/AIDS and related issues, please join us. Your cost is only \$17.00 and includes a light dinner and printed materials. If you are unable to attend the orientation on July 12, TIHAN will have additional trainings scheduled for October 11 and November 8. Feel free to pass this information on to your friends, family, co-workers and congregations. For more information or to RSVP to any of the Volunteer Orientations, please call TIHAN (520) 299-6647 or email kim@tihan.org.

## Boys R Us At Club Congress July 6

TUCSON - What is Boys R Us?? If Saturday Night Live were in drag... and on Friday... Literally: a bunch of queers. Primarily butchier dykes. A few femmes. A couple of Transgender folks. One Gay and one panssexual male. That's Boys R Us!

Philosophically: feminists who value perspectives not typically represented in mainstream media. Boundary pushers and crossers. Thinkers and feelers. Folks who believe in the power of collective voice raising. Activists in the pursuit of awareness, the radical liberation of the body, unrestricted access to uninhibited joy, and equal opportunities for various bodies and minds.

Boys R Us will be at Club Congress, 311 East Congress, Friday, July 6, 9:00 p.m. You must be 21 or older and have ID to show at the door.

## SAGA Speakers Bureau Training July 21

TUCSON - The Southern Arizona Gender Alliance (SAGA) is in need of trained speakers to represent transgender identities and concerns to a wide variety of audiences. SAGA has dozens of speaking engagements per year, and that number is increasing steadily. The next training session will take place Saturday, July 21, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Wingspan, 425 E. 7<sup>th</sup> St., in the Anzaldua Room.

High professional standards are maintained for all of our presenters

and thus training for anyone volunteering to speak on behalf of SAGA or to participate on Trans/LGBT panels through SAGA, Wingspan, and other venues is required. This training is also an excellent opportunity for allies to learn more about speaking on Transgender issues. You do not need prior speaking experience, only the desire to learn. If you have been through the SAGA training before, this is an opportunity to see the new and updated presentation materials and to learn to be a facilitator for next year's round of presentations. Prior to the training, please prepare a personal biography (your "story") to present. It should be no more than 15 minutes in length, but five and ten minutes is better. It would also be helpful to know your availability schedule to help us match presenters with future speaking engagements. We will have an hour for lunch at approximately noon. You may bring your lunch or take advantage of the many local eateries.

Please RSVP so they know how many packets to prepare. For more information or to sign up, call Michael (520) 624-1779, ext. 17, or email speakers@sagatucson.org.

## Rainbow Families Community Forum On Adoption July 22

TUCSON - Join Rainbow Families us at Wingspan on National Parent's Day, Sunday, July 22, 2 - 4:00 p.m. at Wingspan, 425 E. 7<sup>th</sup> St., as they discuss adoption and the LGBT Community.

There will be a panel presentation of LGBT who have adopted children, children who grew up with LGBT families, and agencies in Southern Arizona who want LGBT people as foster and foster-adopt parents.

For more information, contact Cathy (520) 624-1779 or email: cathy@wingspan.org.

## Supreme Court Rules Civil Rights Act Doesn't Cover LGBT

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Supreme Court has let stand a ruling that the 1964 Civil Rights Act does not protect against anti-LGBT harassment or discrimination, gaypeopleschronicle.com reported.

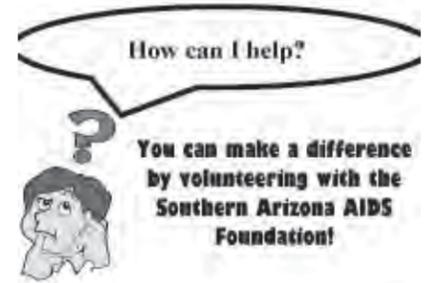
The court, with two George W. Bush appointees including Chief Justice John Roberts, declined to hear a Gay former police officer's case against his former employer, the Fairfield Medical Center in Lancaster, southeast of Columbus, Ohio.

Chris Vickers contends that the hospital, along with his supervisor at the time, two co-workers and a co-worker's spouse, harassed him and put him in physical danger for 14 months because he did not meet their expectation of what a man should act like.

In its June 4 denial without comment, the high court allowed an October 2006 decision against Vickers by the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati to remain in force.

For Vickers and the hospital, however, the matter is not over.

According to Barnabee, of Vickers' 26 claims against the hospital, only three were federal matters. The remaining claims can be filed in an Ohio court now that the federal litigation has concluded, which they intend to do.



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

375 South Euclid Avenue.

Contact Lisa Carter at 628-7223 or [lcarter@saaf.org](mailto:lcarter@saaf.org)  
Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation



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# New Mexico HIV/AIDS Patients To Get State Grown Marijuana

SANTA FE, New Mexico - The state of New Mexico has a new medical marijuana law with a twist: they have to grow their own, reported 365Gay.com. The law, effective Sunday (July 1), not only protects medical marijuana users from prosecution - as 11 other states do - but requires New Mexico to oversee a production and distribution system for the drug.

"The long-term goal is that the patients will have a safe, secure supply that doesn't mean drug dealers, that doesn't mean growing their own," said Reena Szczepanski, director of Drug Policy Alliance New Mexico. The state Department of Health must issue rules by Oct. 1 for the licensing of marijuana producers and in-state, secured facilities, and for developing a distribution system. The law was passed in March and signed by Gov. Bill Richardson, who is running for the Democratic presidential nomination. Other states with medical marijuana laws are Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington. Maryland's law doesn't protect patients from arrest, but it keeps defendants out of jail if they can convince judges they needed marijuana for medical reasons. The distribution and use of marijuana are illegal under federal law, and the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 2005 in a California case that medical marijuana users can be prosecuted. Faced with that dilemma, the health department has asked state Attorney General Gary King whether its employees could be federally prosecuted for running the medical marijuana registry and identifi-

cation card program, and whether the agency can license marijuana producers and facilities. "The production part is unprecedented. ... No other state law does that," said Dr. Steve Jenison, who is running the program for the health department. "So we're trying to be very thoughtful in how we proceed."

In the meantime, however, patients must obtain their own supplies. The state will immediately begin taking applications from patients whose doctors certify they are eligible for the program. Within weeks, approved patients - or their approved primary caregivers - would receive temporary certificates allowing them to possess up to six ounces of marijuana, four mature plants and three immature seedlings. That's enough for three months, the department says. The law allows the use of marijuana for specified conditions including cancer, glaucoma, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy and HIV/AIDS, as well as by some patients in hospice care. An eight-member advisory board of doctors could recommend that other conditions be added to the list. Martin Walker was diagnosed four years ago as HIV positive and uses marijuana to combat nausea and depression. He said he looks forward to being able to obtain the drug legally. "If there's a system in place that's going to allow me to do this treatment without having to break the law ... I'll just be able to sleep better at night," said Walker, who runs HIV prevention and other outdoor-based adult health programs for the Santa Fe Mountain Center.

# U.S. House Anti-Gay Clause Preserves D.C. Funds

WASHINGTON, D.C. - By a surprisingly bipartisan vote of 224-200, the U.S. House of Representatives on Thursday (June 28) passed an amendment banning the use of federal funds to support Washington, D.C.'s local domestic-partner registry, advocate.com reported.

The White House had warned Wednesday (June 27) that it would veto this year's routine appropriations bill to the District of Columbia if it did not include such an amendment, following the district's greatly strengthening its same-sex partner benefits last year.

Officials said the vote will have little practical effect because the city uses local funds for the partner registry, the Washington Post reported. But Gay activists deplored the rhetoric, with Human Rights Campaign president Joe Solmonese calling the veto threat "a new low" in "anti-Gay zeal." The district, though it gets most of its revenue from local taxes, also receives direct funding from Congress, making it more vulnerable than other cities to national political winds.

The anti-Gay amendment was sponsored by right-wing Rep. Virgil Goode, R-Va. Forty Democrats supported it; 12 Republicans opposed. Arizona Representatives Giffords, Grijalva, Pastor and Mitchell voted against the amendment while Congressmen Renzi, Shaddegg, Franks and Flake voted in favor.

"The U.S. House of Representatives should be on record supporting traditional marriage between a man and a woman, and oppose alternative definitions of marriage," Goode told the Post.

"The GOP tried to make this a debate about Gay marriage, which it wasn't," wrote D.C.-based political consultant John Aravosis on his Americablog.com. "It was about more mundane and human things like letting partners make hospital visits when one is having a baby, as the vice president's Lesbian daughter, Mary Cheney, recently did."

The registry is open to same- and opposite-sex unmarried couples and confers hospital visits, medical decisions, joint tax filings and inheritance rights, among other rights.

D.C. public employees also can get health and other benefits for their partners. About 80 percent of the registered partners are Gay. "Then again," Aravosis wrote, "if we follow the GOP logic, that this was a vote on Gay marriage, then the pro-marriage-equality forces got 200 votes today, including a number of Republicans. And that's more than any federal Gay marriage vote to date."





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# Teen Victim Of Hate Crime Last Year Commits Suicide

HOUSTON, Texas (Observer Update) - David Ritcheson hated being known as "that kid" - the teenager who was beaten unconscious and sodomized with a plastic pole during a party where one of his assailants shouted "White Power!"

Ritcheson didn't want to stand out from his classmates because of the assault, but he acknowledged in an interview that "it was just really hard to hold your head up, even to walk outside with everyone almost in the world knowing what happened." That anguish may have contributed to his decision to leap from a cruise ship to his death in the Gulf of Mexico on Sunday (July 1), reported the Associated Press on other media outlets.

Ritcheson, 18, declined to get counseling after being attacked at the drug-fueled party in April 2006. A year later, he testified before Congress in support of a hate-crimes bill. In an interview with the Houston Chronicle in April, he said: "I shouldn't care what people think or say. It's just the fact that everyone knows I'm the kid. It was bigger than Houston. It was bigger than Texas. It was bigger than America. Everybody in the world knew what had happened and everybody knew the details of it."

Ritcheson, a Mexican American, was beaten and sodomized with a patio umbrella pole. He also was stomped and burned with cigarettes, and his attackers poured bleach on him before leaving him for dead. He was hospitalized for more than three months and endured 20 to 30 operations. On Sunday, he was pronounced dead after being pulled aboard the Ecstasy, a cruise ship en route from Galveston to Cozumel, Mexico.

A spokesman for Carnival Cruise Lines said several witnesses saw Ritcheson jump from an upper deck of the ship Sunday morning. Officials aboard the Ecstasy notified the Coast Guard before recovering Ritcheson's body.

Mike Trent, the prosecutor who handled his case, said the small, quiet youth always seemed positive and upbeat about his recovery. "He certainly wanted to see justice done in the case and wanted his attackers punished, but I



David Ritcheson

thought that - considering everything that had happened to him - he had come through things remarkably well," Trent said. Ritcheson's death is "just very tragic because I thought he had turned a corner and was trying his best to make something positive out of what happened to him," Trent said. "He thought that he could handle everything on his own."

Although he remembered nothing of the four-hour attack, Ritcheson testified about his ordeal during congressional hearings. That bill passed the House and is pending in a Senate committee. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Texas, said she hopes to have the measure formally named "David's Bill" in Ritcheson's honor. "I could not have been more moved by his commitment to getting things right," Jackson Lee said Monday (July 2). "He was able to dig deep over all of the pain and all the humiliation and try to be of help to someone else." Two men were convicted of aggravated sexual assault in the attack. David Henry Tuck, then 18, was sentenced to life in prison. Keith Robert Turner, then 17, was sentenced to 90 years in prison. Both must serve at least 30 years before being eligible for parole.

## Tucson Church's G/L Teachings

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refusing to cooperate with their investigation of a complaint filed by psychologists at the University of Nebraska, which is a violation of the Preamble of the Ethical Principles of Psychologists. However, FRI has responded that he had already resigned, and did so without protest from the organization, citing letters he sent to the APA resigning his membership as well as the APA president's letter accepting his resignation, which were both sent before his formal expulsion. In a letter published in the March 1983 edition of the APA Monitor, Cameron stated that his reasons for leaving included his opinion that the organization was becoming more of a "liberal PAC" than a professional society.

In 1986 the American Sociological Association, following a report from its Committee on the Status of Homosexuals in Sociology, passed a resolution condemning Dr. Cameron for "consistent misrepresentation of sociological research". In 1996, the Board of Directors of the Canadian Psychological Association approved a position statement disassociating the organization from Cameron's work on sexuality, stating that he had "consistently misinterpreted and misrepresented research on sexuality, homosexuality, and Lesbianism".

"It's a classic thing to come up with one or two studies that support a point of view rather than quoting the

other 20 or 50 studies on the same subject that would come to another conclusion," said Russell, the UA professor.

While the church talks about addiction and suicide among homosexuals, Russell said, it doesn't talk about one of the widely accepted triggers of such problems: homophobia. And Russell said there's far too little research that's been conducted on the life spans of homosexuals to draw any solid conclusions. "Research is complicated," he said. "This church has chosen a very small number of studies that have been resoundingly rejected by the scientific community, or because of the work itself. Studies of obituaries are a case of a bad study - that's hardly a reasonable way to conduct science."

The Rev. Briget Nicholson, who is the pastor of the First Congregational United Church of Christ and is in a same-sex relationship, has a different biblical interpretation. "Anytime one of us is trying to make a box and create insiders and outsiders in the name of God, that is a dangerous weapon," she said. "As a person who believes Jesus said, 'Love your neighbors as yourself,' I don't think that's their business."

To read more about the Tucson Community Church's beliefs on homosexuality, go to [thecoolchurch.com/](http://thecoolchurch.com/)



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## Favorite Books Of The New Queerlenium

TUCSON - It's an exciting time for GLBT-themed publishing. More and more books reflecting the strength, experience and vision of GLBT people appear on the shelves of book stores and libraries. We on the Pima County Public Library's GLBT Services Committee are proud to offer our favorite recent books that are by and about GLBT people. We hope this offering inspires you to read one or more of these marvelous books.

**Bitch Goddess** by Robert Rodi (Plume, 2002). There are those who love to read about the lives of Hollywood celebrities. Then there's Robert Rodi. His latest novel is a campy take-off on what you might call the Jackie Collins school of fiction. Prime-time soap star Viola Chute decides to publish her memoirs, but the man she hires to ghost write her book asks uncomfortable questions, and Viola's trashy past comes out. This plot is really just a springboard for Rodi's satiric jabs at the omnipresent vulgarity of celebrity "culture." Told through e-mails, interviews, news clippings, and other forms of literary detritus, the book is one hilarious, tawdry joke after another. Sample: a brief review of one of Viola's films, called *The Trial of Joan of Arc*: "Just shut up and burn her!" A quick read - perfect for those who are fed up with People Magazine-style journalism. (Chris Dashiell).

**Briefly Told Lives** by C. Bard Cole (St. Martin's, 2000). Sexual relationships are the focus in this debut collection of short stories. Gay, straight, or sometimes just not sure, Cole's characters—mostly young men living on the edge—struggle with their desires and obsessions, revealed in the book's spare, matter-of-fact prose style. Some of the best offerings include a tale of a brief relationship with a damaged street kid narrated in the form of a case study, and a story of a paraplegic yearning for love—and finding it. The author's technique of reporting the ordinary stuff that goes through people's heads, with dramatizing kept to a minimum, has a strangely provocative effect. (Chris Dashiell)

**Can't Buy Me Love** by Chris Kenry (Kensington Books, 2001). Author Chris Kenry has been a milkman, UPS driver, English teacher and house painter, so you shouldn't get

his book at the library. Go right out and fork over \$23 to buy it, and give him the means to write us some more bawdy and uproarious books. This debut novel features kept boy Jack, whose biggest worry is keeping up with his grueling Stairmaster regimen, until his lover dies without a will. Jack plods through temp misery and restaurant work, inadequate for his shop-a-holic lifestyle, until he meets the handsome hustler Ray. Then Jack takes a business class and starts Harden Up, a male escort service. Jack and Ray attempt to live the American dream in suburban Denver, and you'll find yourself giggling and cheering them on. (Terry Nordbrock). A fun read, chronicling the struggles of Jack Thompson, a lazy, pretty, boy toy who, through a series of unfortunate events, must make a living on his own. Sob. What does a handsome, athletic young Gay man with no skills do? Open an escort service, discover something worth doing and along the way develop character. This delightful romp is a tame lighthearted look at the foibles of the denizens of Denver's Gay scene. Stereotypes? Yes, but written with a flair that makes them endearing to the reader. The plot is well constructed and fully developed within the confines of the story, though the end is somewhat of a let down. A fine first novel by Kenry, a house painter in Denver, who seems to have led a pretty interesting life himself, I look forward to his next book. (Rich DiRusso)

The GLBT Services Committee was established in 1997 to better serve southern Arizona's GLBT library users. It seeks to fulfill this mission by creating exciting programs such as GLBT author visits, and through participation at various outreach events such as OUToberFEST and Tucson's annual Pride Parade. On a daily basis we review, order and make GLBT materials available for all PCPL users, regardless of age, location or sexual orientation. The Pima County Public Library's GLBT Services Committee is dedicated to upholding the library's Mission Statement as well as the Library Users Bill of Rights for all of our customers. PCPL is one of the few public libraries in the country to have an established GLBT Services Committee. For more information, visit your local Pima County library or go online to: [tppl.org/community/glb/index.cfm](http://tppl.org/community/glb/index.cfm).

### AS I SEE IT..... BY CLARK



## What To Look For On Your Credit Report

NEW YORK CITY - Most people have heard that checking your credit report throughout the year is an inexpensive way — under \$30 to view your reports — to help ensure that you haven't fallen prey to various types of identity theft, GFN ([gfn.com](http://gfn.com)) reported. Sure, some fraudulent activity on your report may be easy to spot, like lines of credit opened in your name, but other signs of something amiss may be so subtle we look right past them.

With that in mind, GFN offers a quick primer for what to check when you're cruising through your credit report:

Identity thieves typically use a different address than your own when opening credit in your name, keeping you in the dark about statements for new charge cards. The sneaky identity thieves aren't paying the bills, and neither are you, since you have no knowledge of them. This is something we often don't find out about until we apply for a new line of credit and find ourselves denied because of the delinquent charges someone else stuck us with.

But this is one of the easiest things to spot, to make sure your personal information, like your address and your social security number, are accurate. A credit report may also include a list of your current and previous employers, as well as previous home addresses, so make sure this information is also correct. If it's not, someone may have used your good name, and credit, while simultaneously ruining your credit.

A "hard inquiry" from an unfamiliar lender - There are two types of credit inquiries that may appear on your credit report: hard and soft. Hard inquiries come from a bank, credit card company or auto finance company. They look at your report to see what kind of credit risk you pose. Conversely, a soft inquiry will show up when you request a copy of your credit report.

If a "hard inquiry" shows up on your report, however, and you know you haven't applied for any kind of credit, then you may well wonder if someone is trying to get credit in your name. It is at this point you should alert the credit reporting bureaus about possible fraudulent activity involving your credit history, and offer any proof you have backing up your claim.

A single mistake on a credit report can cut a consumer's credit score dramatically, according to Fair Isaac & Co., the company whose acronym, FICO, gives us our all-important credit scores based on the information provided by the reporting credit bureaus.

What to do if you something is amiss. If you notice mistakes on your credit report or if you believe you've been a victim of identity theft, you should also:

Post a fraud alert with one of the three credit reporting bureaus, it will notify the two others. But just to play it safe contact all three — Equifax ([www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)), Experian ([www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)) and TransUnion ([www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)).

File a victim's statement with the credit bureaus requesting that creditors contact you to verify all applications for credit. File a police report to supply evidence of identity theft to creditors.

Let stores and credit card companies know that your name has been used fraudulently. Request documentation from them to show proof of any bogus activity in your name.

Change account numbers immediately if you suspect your credit accounts or ATM/debit card have been used fraudulently; your bank will instantly authorize new cards and pin numbers for you.

Notify the U.S. Postal Service if you suspect a thief has filed a change of address.

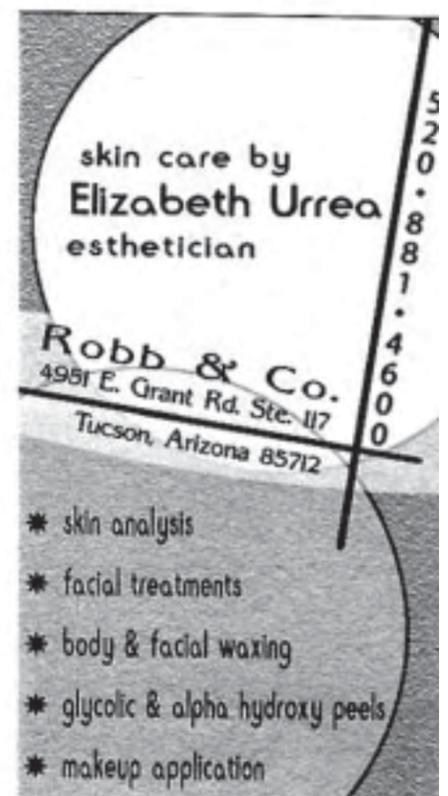
Notify the Social Security Administration to report the fraudulent use of your Social Security number. Call (800) 269-0271 or go online to the Social Security Fraud Reporting site.

Change your driver's license number if you believe someone is using yours fraudulently.

Report the identity theft to the Federal Trade Commission at: (877) 438-4338.

It is vital to keep a detailed paper trail if you suspect anything amiss on your credit reports — it's evidence of your innocence that may save you a lot of money and headache down the road.

The three major credit reporting bureaus don't always have the same information. Some lenders report information to just one or two of the credit bureaus, but not all three. So for a fully accurate take on your credit situation, get copies of your reports from all three bureaus, or google one of the 3-bureau credit reporting companies who gather all the information into one report.



Informing The Community



**COMMENTARY . . .**

**Marriage, Trademarked**

By Kenji Yoshino

A week ago Sunday (June 25), Elizabeth Edwards kicked off the San Francisco Gay pride parade by expressing support for same-sex marriage (taking a position that her husband John Edwards doesn't share, apparently without telling him first). "I don't know why somebody else's marriage has anything to do with me," she said. "I'm completely comfortable with Gay marriage." Her stance is refreshing and laudable. But to persuade others to take it, we need to understand why many Americans think Gay marriage has everything to do with straight marriage. Their intuition may be best understood through an obscure bit of intellectual property law.

Conservatives have long made the argument that Gay marriages will negatively affect straight marriages. In a 1996 congressional debate, Rep. Henry Hyde said the very idea of same-sex marriage "demeaned" his marriage. As if anticipating the more personal question of which of his three marriages would be most demeaned, Hyde jumped up a level of abstraction: "It demeans the institution." He is far from alone in this belief. Many of the 44 states that define marriage as between one man and one woman denominate these statutory or constitutional provisions as "Defense of Marriage" Acts. The name cleverly treats same-sex marriage as an assault on marriage rather than as a more inclusive form of that institution. This objection is importantly distinct from practical objections to same-sex marriage—like the contention that marriage is about procreation. What is being defended is not the purpose of the institution, but its honor.

Elizabeth Edwards is understandably puzzled by this formulation. After all, Gay marriage does not take away any of the rights and duties attendant to straight marriage. Nor are Gays intending to denigrate marriage. To the contrary, in seeking the right to marry, Gays are asking to join an institution they would similarly honor.

But the objection snaps into focus when you look at marriage as a form of intellectual property (as my colleague Carol Rose, an expert in property law, encouraged me to do). The law of trademark, particularly the doctrine of tarnishment, is particularly illuminating here. A trademark is a mark a person or business uses to brand its products or services. A "tarnishment" claim arises when a competitor uses that mark in a way that diminishes its cachet.

The best-known example is the "Enjoy Cocaine" slogan, written in the same font and color to mimic "Enjoy Coke," that one manufacturer put on a poster. Coca-Cola sued over that and won, in part because the court felt some consumers might believe it had produced the shirt. Importantly, however, you can win a tarnishment claim without such confusion about the source of a product. Judge Richard Posner gives the hypothetical example of a strip club that calls itself "Tiffany." No reasonable consumer would think that the jeweler Tiffany had branched out. But "because of the inveterate tendency of the human mind to proceed by association," Posner writes, "every time [consumers] think of the word 'Tiffany' their image of the fancy jewelry store will be tarnished by the association of the word with the strip joint."

same-sex marriage demeans or assaults the institution of marriage is a tarnishment claim. It doesn't matter that he can still marry a woman. If a woman can also get married to a woman, he feels the value of his trademark has gone down. Even those who regard cross-sex and same-sex marriage as separate institutions will conjure up both when they hear the term "marriage." So now we have an answer to Edwards' query about what another person's marriage has to do with hers.

But tarnishment analysis cannot justify the objection it illuminates for at least two reasons. First, intellectual property law seeks to protect intangible goods that belong to people because they have created and built up good will for them. No such claim can be made about state-sponsored marriage, because no individual invented marriage, and no individual owns it. Second, and probably more importantly, the tarnishment analogy reveals the homophobia in Hyde's claim. Tarnishment claims arise only when the mark is being associated with something uniformly deemed unsavory. The paradigm case is a famous mark used in a sexually explicit context, like the 1996 case in which the game manufacturer Hasbro successfully barred a sexually explicit Web site from using "Candyland" as part of its domain name. To say that marriage would be tarnished by including Gays is an oblique way of saying straight marriage is sacred while Gay marriage is profane.

The fear of tarnishment is why some believe Gay marriage will negatively affect straight marriage. But it is also the reason they should not be allowed to prevail. If marriage is changed to include all couples who subscribe to its values, the institution will not be tarnished, but burnished.

(Kenji Yoshino is the Guido Calabresi Professor of Law at Yale Law School and author of the recently published *Covering: The Hidden Assault on Our Civil Rights*. This article is reprinted from the July 2 online edition of slate.com)

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To people like Henry Hyde, the idea that

## Forgotten Inequality: LGBT Prisoners

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Same-sex marriage, Don't Ask, Don't Tell, the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act, ENDA. These are the sexy topics in the LGBT civil rights movement, Jennifer Vanasco reported on 365Gay.com.

We all know about them, we vote according to the way politicians feel about them, some of us give money toward their favorable resolution. But equality has limits. Most of us, for example, don't know about the often dangerous inequality facing LGBT prisoners.

LGBT prisoners are raped. They are isolated. They are denied access to sustaining graces, like hugging a family member during visitation. All because they are Gay, or their gender swerves from the standard. No one knows what percentage of prisoners are LGBT's. Two percent? Ten percent? Higher? There are over 2 million prisoners in the U.S. system at any one time; we are clearly talking about big numbers. How big, no one knows. No one keeps track of those numbers - and even if they did, they wouldn't be accurate, since some (many?) prisoners are reluctant to reveal their sexual orientation or gender identity for fear of becoming prey. Or of being confined to 23-hour lockdown.

What we do know is that one in five men are sexually pressured or raped in prison, usually by other inmates; one in four women are raped in prison, usually by staff members. In 2005, the most recent numbers available from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, there were 6,241 reports of abuse. What we do know is that activists think that LGBT's may be over-represented in prison populations because we are vulnerable: we get kicked out of our homes by our intolerant families, we lose jobs due to employment discrimination (still legal until ENDA is signed) and don't have a safety net.

Yet LGBT prisoners tend to be an aside to the national debate surrounding our civil rights. Why? The answer is complicated. The rights of prisoners is a touchy issue. For one thing, Gay men are sometimes still viewed by straight America as potential criminals or pedophiles; in media portrayals of women's prisons, you'd think that Lesbians are the only women who get arrested.

Some prison activists say that prisoners are ignored because we are worried about mainstream America linking "Gay" or "Transgender" with "prisoner" and so voting down our other pressing needs. Others say it's a class issue: that funding for our organiza-

tions is coming from the white upper middle class, and unless they're the Lesbian equivalent of Paris Hilton, they're not intimately familiar with prison.

Though those issues might play a role, the reality seems to be more benign. Lambda Legal and the ACLU both fight for Gay prisoners' rights. Ken Choe, a senior staff attorney at the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project says that it might simply be "easier for people who go to court for advocacy to deal with prisoner issues" than for the national political organizations, because legal rights groups are fighting individual cases instead of the system.

Matt Foreman, Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force agrees. "I can tell you from 10 years' work in prison administration that it takes expertise, a willing administration, and constant pressure to make any positive change in a penal system," he said. "With few exceptions, our movement lacks the resources to effect and enforce and monitor policy change within a wide range of institutions - from state hospitals, to homeless shelters, to senior centers, to jails and prisons."

He added, "Believe me, winning a lawsuit on prison abuse is just one step - it takes a lot more and neither our community - or the larger community - has ever found the resources to do this in a comprehensive way."

However it happened, LGBT prisoners are invisible in Gay society. Perhaps we don't care about them because we don't know their reality; we don't know the issues they're facing. And so they are left alone in their cells. What are their issues? For adult LGBT prisoners, there are three main ones: violence and rape; quality of life needs, like spousal visitation and isolation; and inadequate health care.

"Rights are necessarily restricted in prisons," said Choe. "The whole point of prisons is to restrain rights, particularly physical liberty. But there is still a floor of basic human rights protected by the Constitution. Prisoners are supposed to be safe."

But prisons are often not safe. And they are particularly unsafe for LGBT prisoners, who are harassed and violated both by fellow prisoners and the guards who are supposed to protect them. The famous example of this is Roderick Johnson, a Texas inmate who brought suit after a prison gang sold him as a sex slave to other inmates. A jury found that prison administrators did nothing wrong, even

though had Johnson complained while he was serving time. Even though guards told him to "fight or fuck." The jury decided that things just couldn't have been as bad as Johnson said they were. Why was Johnson a victim? Because he was Gay. And he's not alone. The organization Stop Prisoner Rape is clear who the victims are:

"Prisoner rape victims are typically among the most vulnerable members of the population in custody. Male victims are often young, nonviolent, first-time offenders who are small, weak, shy, Gay or effeminate, and inexperienced in the ways of prison life. Studies suggest that a typical male prison rapist chooses a victim on the basis of "the weakness and inability of the victim to defend himself."

The stories from prisoners are agonizing. According to testimony from the Sylvia Rivera Law Project, "One young, low-income Transgender woman was placed in a men's county jail, as almost all Transgender women are. She appeared very traditionally feminine and had breasts . . . one time, a correction officer placed her for no legitimate reason in a double bunk cell with a sex offender . . . The other inmate raped her repeatedly while the correction officer ignored her pleas for help."

Jason Lydon, the founder of the website BlackandPink.org, which tries to both raise awareness of LGBT prisoner issues and also connect prisoners to each other, was himself a prisoner for six months. A Unitarian minister, he was arrested for protesting at a military base. "The prison guards were scarier than I had imagined," he said. "Their outward hatred of me and the other prisoners was terrifying at times. Being sexually assaulted by a prison guard in a prison camp was shocking, as that was supposed to be the place where we were 'safe'" Lydon, like other prisoners who are Gay or Transgendered, was placed for a while in a separate facility meant to keep more vulnerable prisoners safe. But often, as in Lydon's experience, the system doesn't work the way it's supposed to.

"It's supposed to be safer, but whether it actually is or not is the question," said the ACLU's Choe. It depends on which prison system we're talking about, as they all have different rules. "Riker's Island [in New York] had separate Gay and trans facilities that were close to the ideal," said the ACLU's Choe. They separated prisoners while still allowing them similar rights as the general population. "It was a haven," Choe said.

But the "Gay Dorm" on Riker's

was shut down. The prison stopped taking Gay and trans prisoners in 2005. However, NGLTF has been working with a coalition of organizations to ensure that vulnerable inmates will have safe housing. "I think the result is a model that can be replicated nationwide," said NGLTF's Foreman. "I am personally very proud of this." Usually, however, "administrative segregation" means "isolation."

"Administrative segregation isolates people who need protection or are at greater risk, but it also cuts them off from all sorts of programs, like work release, that are available to the general population," Choe said. "Segregation is a very difficult choice—do you want to face risk or isolation?"

For a while, Jason Lydon faced isolation. "Solitary confinement was far scarier than I would have guessed," he said of his time in prison. "Being alone all day with no one to talk to and no way of changing my environment was terrifying. I immediately became sure that the worst possible things in the world were happening to my family and our world."

For some prisoners like Lydon, confronting possible or actual violence seems better than having no contact with others. However, even those LGBT prisoners in the general population can be more isolated than their heterosexual counterparts. Some are socially isolated because they were kicked out of their families and so have no outside support. But others are victims of clear inequality in the prison system. One example is conjugal visits.

"In most states, same-sex couples as a general matter don't have the same rights as heterosexual couples" Choe said. "In a place where the point is to restrict rights, that's even more the case." Choe said that conjugal visits are one important example. Visitation is important, because most prisoners will eventually be released - which means that most prisoners will eventually need to be reintegrated into society. Visitation and conjugal rights are ways of helping connect inmates to the outside world.

The ACLU recently won a case in California that granted conjugal visits to same-sex partners. But there are plenty of other arbitrary laws across the country. A few years ago, the ACLU won a case where the Arizona Department of Corrections prohibited, "Same-sex kissing, embracing (with the exception of relatives or immediate family) or petting." Opposite-sex couples were allowed to

Continued on Page Eleven



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# COMMENTARY...

## Unfocused: Focus On The Family Is Whiny Pack Of Babies

By Wayne Besen

The past few weeks my work has taken me to Chicago and New York. I was very fortunate to be asked to speak at the Center on Halsted, a spectacular new GLBT community center that is a national treasure. The \$20 million gem has a basketball court, a computer lab, a technology center, an organic grocery store, a café, a magnificent theater, and a number of other fantastic gathering venues. Plus, views of Chicago's legendary skyline make The Center a tribute to how far the Gay community has come.

Of course, it did not take long for Focus on the Family to exploit the price tag of the Center in their ongoing effort to smear Gay life. Caleb Price, a Focus "research" flunky, said the center illustrates the "deception of homosexual activists" who regularly present themselves as a "disadvantaged community."

"However, with this new \$20 million Gay community center in Chicago we see more evidence that, in fact, the homosexual community is one of the wealthiest, most privileged and powerfully influential groups in the country," Price said. "Yet they continue to demand special rights and recognition from society at large - all based on their self-identification with sexual behavioral preferences."

You have got to be kidding me.

Focus on the Family is the bitchiest, whiniest pack of victim-mongering babies on the planet. If a fundamentalist so much as stubs his toe, they are kvetching and ready to call their army of lawyers. This behemoth unceasingly portrays itself

as a "disadvantaged community" that is surrounded by radical homosexuals, secular humanists and the ACLU. Yet, they have a cavernous Colorado Springs kingdom that consists of five massive buildings with 1,350 employees and runs on an annual budget of \$150 million a year.

Nonetheless, they have the gall to pick on Chicago's center - a building that would likely fit in James Dobson's basement. It is amazing that an organization made of fine crystal castles should balk at the supposed extravagance of a glass house.

What Focus on the Family also failed to point out is that many of the people who visit the center each day are truly disadvantaged and use the site as a lifeline. Focus on the Family consistently makes sweeping generalizations about issues and people, without doing their homework to see if what they are actually spewing is true. When is the last time you have been asked a question by a Focus on the Family "researcher"? If they don't go into the communities they are "reporting" on, what do they actually spend their time researching?

Next, I was in New York at the Gay Pride Parade. While I had a great time and met some fascinating people, I have to admit, it wasn't as wild as I remember in the past. The weekend ended with a frustrated news photographer who was distressed because there were not enough bizarre people to photograph.

Sure, this is progress, but watching marchers in polo shirts is kind of boring.

(Wayne Besen is an author, activist, columnist and public speaker. This article was reprinted from 365Gay.com.)

## Gay Activist/Radio Host Found Murdered

SEATTLE, Washington - Former radio talk-show host and longtime Gay activist Mike Webb was found murdered in his Seattle home Thursday (June 28), [advocate.com](http://advocate.com) reported. The controversial host, who came to prominence covering the riots in San Francisco following Harvey Milk's assassination in 1978, had been missing since April 13.

The body was discovered after Webb's landlord realized Webb had not paid his June rent. Assuming Webb left the property, the landlord hired a cleaner to prepare the property for rental. The cleaner found Webb's "badly decomposed" body wrapped in a tarp, stuffed behind a bookcase and some boxes. The body was confirmed as Webb's during an autopsy late Friday. When Webb originally went missing, police brought a cadaver-sniffing dog to the house, but no findings were produced. The article reports that Webb had gained enemies in angry listeners during and even after his time as a radio host, and obtained a concealed-weapons permit because of death threats. Friends of Webb say he was hindered late in his life by the AIDS-related death of his longtime partner in the '90s as well as the more recent death of his dog. Neighbors reported to police that Webb had been visited by "a series of seedy characters," according to the



Mike Webb

article.

Webb's career following his work covering the Milk riots included a stint as a talk-show host at KWRM FM in Seattle. Webb alleged the station fired him in 1997 for being Gay. He then worked at talk-radio station KIRO as a host until 2005, when he was fired after being convicted of filing a false insurance claim. In his last years he launched his own Internet talk show and freelanced as a radio producer.

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# POLITICS 2007

by Mark R. Kerr

## Q-Politics 2008

During the most recent of the too-numerous to list, scheduled debates for both the Republican and Democratic candidates for the 2008 presidential election, their views on the subject of repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," (DADT) and letting Gays and Lesbians openly serving in this country's armed forces were broached.

All the announced, Democratic candidates are for overturning the policy and letting Gays and Lesbians serve, while all of the announced Republicans want the policy to stay in place.

Sympathetic or negative comments on one issue of many of concern to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) and HIV communities, nor a formation of a group of individuals publicly supporting an individual's effort, and a photo-op at a location of note doesn't a politician make, nor a voter casting their ballot.

So where do the presidential candidates stand on such issues as:

federal recognition and benefits for committed, same-sex couples and their families;

HIV/AIDS research, education, programs and funding;

protecting the rights of workers from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity;

expanding current federal statutes on hate crimes to include sexual orientation and gender identity and,

allowing Gay and Lesbian

binational couples the right to live in this country like their opposite sex counterparts?

Both of the Washington, D.C. based, national LGBT rights groups, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) have released their reports on the 2008 presidential candidates stances and votes on issues of concern.

NGLTF's report, "The 2008 Presidential Candidates' Positions on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues," is based on an analysis of the voting records and public statements of the candidates. HRC's candidate questionnaire outlines where the announced candidates for president stand on issues

"The differences between the Democratic and Republican fields of candidates on LGBT issues are shockingly stark . . ." said Matt Foreman, Executive Director of NGLTF, in a statement.

" . . . It is extremely encouraging to finally see the focus of the debate around the lives of LGBT Americans center around extending the American value of equality to all people. 2008 is not 2004, and the American people have already put out the warning that divisive, wedge politics that pit neighbor against neighbor will not be tolerated," Joe Solmonese, President of HRC said in a statement.

Over the next few columns, the candidates votes, views, statements or actions will be featured.

## Former Leaders Of Ex-Gay Ministry Apologize For 'Bringing Harm'

LOS ANGELES - Three former leaders of a ministry that counsels Gays to change their sexual orientation have apologized, saying that although they acted sincerely, their message caused isolation, shame, and fear, reported the Associated Press on advocate.com. The former leaders of the interdenominational Christian organization Exodus International said Wednesday (June 27) they had become disillusioned with promoting Gay "conversion." "Some who heard our message were compelled to try to change an integral part of themselves, bringing harm to themselves and their families," the three said in a statement released outside the Los Angeles LGBT Center.

The statement was from former Exodus cofounder Michael Bussee, who left the group in 1979; Jeremy Marks, former president of Exodus International Europe; and

Darlene Bogle, founder of Paraklete Ministries, an Exodus referral agency. The statement coincided with the opening of Exodus's annual conference, which is being held this week at Concordia University in Irvine, Calif.

Current Exodus president Alan Chambers said the ministry's methods have helped many people, including himself. "Exodus is here for people who want an alternative to homosexuality," Chambers said by phone. "There are thousands of people like me who have overcome this. I think there's room for more than one opinion on this subject, and giving people options isn't dangerous." Founded in 1976, the Orlando, Fla.-based Exodus has grown to include more than 120 ministries in the United States and Canada and over 150 ministries overseas. It promotes "freedom from homosexuality" through prayer, counseling, and group therapy.

## Suit Over Web Use Of Gaydar

DOVER, Delaware - An international case on the ownership of the word Gaydar is under way after two Web companies claim to have rights to use the term, originally coined to describe the ability to sense if another person is Gay, advocate.com reported.

Qsoft Consulting Limited, a 10-year-old British company, claims to own the name for its Gay and Lesbian dating site and digital radio service, reports the News Journal (Delaware). In November 2006, a U.S. company, with operations in Princeton and San Francisco, started to use similar domain names for the same

kind of service.

The suit was filed with the federal court in Delaware because Teddy Tong, the owner of TDTong Ltd., registered his domain names through a local company, and Qsoft claims that Tong violated spam laws by sending unsolicited messages to Qsoft's customers. Qsoft requested through the court that TDTong refrain from using Gaydar on its Web sites or for commercial purposes.

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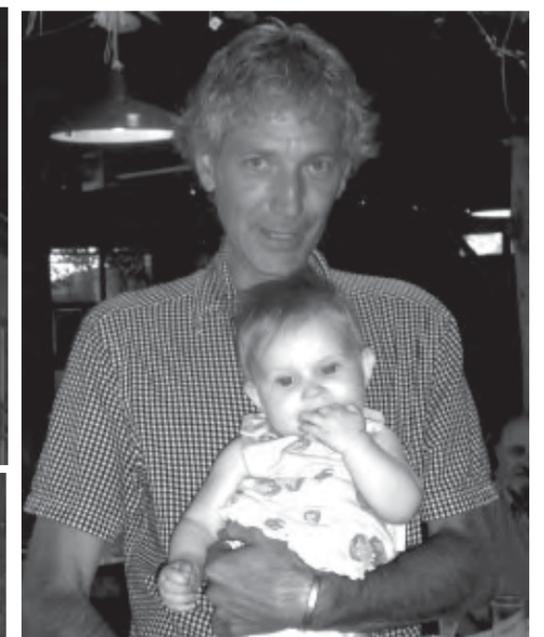
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# But It's A Dry Heat!



## Forgotten Inequality:

Continued from Page

kiss, just not Gay ones.

Transgender inmates have additional complications. They are often placed in the wrong gender facilities, which leaves them more vulnerable to harassment and violence - or more likely to be separated and isolated from the general population. They are also sometimes faced with strange rules. In a Virginia prison, visitors were not allowed to wear wigs, lest they be up to some nefarious business that required disguise. But the rule was enforced against transwomen.

One of the most urgent issues facing Transgender prisoners, however, is access to medication. "Trans people are still being denied access to reasonable medical treatment," said Choe. "The prison system sees hormonal treatments as elective. But there shouldn't be suffering - their medical needs should be met." The ACLU and Lambda Legal are currently working on a case in Wisconsin, which denies hormone therapy to inmates - even though hormone therapy is considered standard treatment for Gender Identity Disorder; even when, like plaintiff Kari Sundstrom - they have been on hormones for 17 years.

There are health issues for Gay prisoners as well. Stop Prison Rape says that HIV rates are up to 10 times higher inside the prison walls as

outside, "making forced sex - where prevention methods are virtually nonexistent - a deadly proposition. Though reliable statistics are unavailable, inmates have contracted HIV through prisoner rape, a phenomenon that has been described as "an un-adjudicated death sentence."

There are no easy answers to combat the LGBT inequality in prisons. Then again, there are no easy answers to fighting any sort of inequality. Just because it's daunting or complicated doesn't mean it's impossible. It doesn't mean it shouldn't be done. There are organizations that are fighting for LGBT prisoner's rights: the ACLU, Lambda, the Sylvia Rivera Law Project, Stop Prison Rape. There is Jason Lydon's one man crusade. But they need significant social help - they need our help, and our funds - to put pressure on the hundreds of local prison boards and on the local, state and federal legislators who make the rules governing prisons. LGBT prisoners are forgotten, but we need to remember them and we need to help. They are part of our community.

"The best relationships I made while in prison were with folks in the queer segregated cell in the Muskogee, [OK] jail," Lydon said. "These folks stick together in order to survive and they welcomed me in to survive with them. It was a blessing for me. Those relationships certainly have a major impact on why I do the work I do today."

## Limits On Partner Perks

BOSTON - A federal judge in Massachusetts has ruled that the state's ban on workplace sexual orientation discrimination is preempted by federal law in any dispute about who has eligibility under a benefit plan governed by the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), Gay City News reported. ERISA-governed plans are typically those providing health coverage and pensions.

The practical impact of the June 25 ruling, which appears to be fully consistent with federal appeals court precedents, is that state non-discrimination laws cannot be applied to compel private sector employers to provide benefits to same-sex spouses, domestic partners, or civil union partners on par with opposite-sex spouses. The ruling by Judge Joseph L. Tauro came in a lawsuit by Partners Healthcare System, Inc. (PHS), which has employees in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire. Jason Webster, a PHS employee in Massachusetts, wanted the company to let him sign up his girlfriend for benefits, but the company, which provides benefits coverage for its employees' same-sex partners, refused. Claiming that he was being discriminated against because of his sexual orientation, he filed a complaint with the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD), which enforces the state's sexual orientation nondiscrimination law.

PHS responded by claiming that ERISA preempted MCAD authority to investigate Webster's charge. ERISA, applicable only to private sector employers, provides that federal law supercedes state law regarding "any employee benefit plan," the aim being to shield multi-state employers from having to comply with differing and potentially contradictory benefit regulations state by state. The U.S. Supreme Court and other federal benches, in cases dating to the 1970s, have found that state and local nondiscrimination laws can be applied to ERISA-qualified benefit plans only if they are matched by a corresponding federal anti-bias law. ERISA benefit plans involve a designated funding mechanism, and usually involve pensions or health insurance. More ad hoc benefits, such as vacation, personal leave, or employee discounts, generally do no qualify under ERISA, but the nature of

the funding arrangement is the key.

MCAD rejected PHS's argument, saying it needed to determine whether all of PHS's employee benefits were covered by ERISA and if its denial of partner benefits to Webster may have violated the federal Civil Rights Act ban on workplace sex discrimination, since it was based on his partner being a woman. PHS in turn went to federal court seeking an injunction to stop the MCAD investigation. Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, the New England gay rights public interest law organization, filed a brief supporting MCAD's position. The legal question is important for married same-sex couples in Massachusetts who continue to confront employer refusals to recognize their marriages for benefits purposes.

Since the federal government has no sexual orientation nondiscrimination law, Judge Tauro concluded that applying the Massachusetts law is preempted by ERISA. Through ERISA, he found, Congress intended to have the determination of benefits eligibility be made by the company, not dictated by state law. Tauro also rejected MCAD's argument that the case also involved sex discrimination. While noting that quite a few courts have found that federal sex discrimination law applies in workplace claims by gay employees subjected to harassment based on sex stereotyping, he argued this was not the case here since Webster, a straight man, was seeking benefits for his girlfriend. In general, courts have found that sexual orientation discrimination is not covered by federal law, and that attempts to re-characterize such claims as sex discrimination amount to improper "bootstrapping" in violation of Congressional intent.

Tauro noted, however, that PHS had conceded that it was not claiming ERISA preemption for benefits not subject to the federal law, so he limited his injunction, by prohibiting MCAD only from investigating the company's ERISA-covered benefits practices. MCAD can investigate questions regarding any other benefits PHS provides. Tauro's ruling is particularly significant in light of recent complaints to the New Jersey Commission Against Discrimination concerning refusals by some employers there to extend workplace benefits to

recently-registered civil union partners of their workers. Employers are claiming that under ERISA they cannot be compelled to recognize civil unions for benefits purposes. This case would say that the employers are correct, provided that the benefits in question come from ERISA-covered employee plans.

This preemption problem would end if Congress passes the version of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) introduced recently. ENDA, which would ban sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination in the

workplace in general, specifically provides that it "shall not be construed" to require employers to treat same-sex partners the same as married employees under their employee benefits program, but it goes on to say local governments "may establish rights, remedies, or procedures for the provision of employee benefits to an individual for the benefit of the domestic partner of such individual." As a result, if ENDA were passed, laws barring sexual orientation discrimination by employee benefit plans could trump ERISA.

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**BRIEF BUZZ**

Comedy legend John Inman - who starred in TV sitcom *Are You Being Served?* - left more than £2.8 million in his will. The 71-year-old actor, who died in March after battling liver problems, left almost his entire estate to his partner of 35 years Ron Lynch. Inman played camp salesman Mr Humphries in the cult BBC comedy which was watched by up to 22 million viewers in the 1970s. His shrill-voiced character was famed for his catchphrase: "I'm free" which became one of the most famous in British comedy. Lynch will not have to pay inheritance tax on the fortune he inherited because he and Inman underwent a civil partnership ceremony in December 2005 at London's Westminster register office. If they had not been in a partnership, the taxman would have taken 40 per cent of everything the actor left over the



**John Inman**

£285,000 inheritance tax limit at the time of his death. . . .



**John Travolta as Tracy Turnblad**

Movie actor John Travolta has hit back at a Gay journalist's assertion that Scientology advocates "curing" homosexuality. Kevin Naff, editor of the *Washington Blade*, criticised Travolta for playing the lead in a remake of camp classic film *Hairspray*. The original 1988 version starred a

young Ricki Lake as Tracy Turnblad. Drag queen Divine played her mother, Mrs Edna Turnblad, the role taken by Mr Travolta in the new movie, to be released this summer. "Travolta, a prominent Scientologist, has no business for reprising an iconic Gay role," wrote Mr Naff. "It's well known that Scientology rejects Gays and Lesbians as members and even operates reparative therapy clinics to 'cure' homosexuality. Divine is spinning in his grave." Travolta has responded to the criticism, claiming that *Hairspray* is not a Gay movie. "There is nothing Gay in this movie. I'm not playing a Gay man. Scientology is not homophobic in any way. In fact it's one of the more tolerant faiths. Anyone's accepted. However, the Church of Scientology is known for its anti-Gay stance. L. Ron Hubbard, the religion's founder, wrote that Gay people are "perverts", "quite physically ill," and "extremely dangerous to society." Scientologists claim that he later changed his view on the issue of homosexuality. . . .

Beverly Sills, whose radiant soprano and vibrant personality made her "America's Queen of Opera," as *Time* magazine called her in 1971, died Monday (July 2). She was 78. It had been revealed a few days ago that Ms. Sills was gravely ill with inoperable lung cancer. Sills never smoked. She was only 50 when she sang onstage for the last time. "I wanted people to say, 'You left too soon,' not 'You left too late,'" she said in a 2002 *Globe* interview. She professed never to regret the decision. "Since I retired," she added, "I've been singing nothing but 'Happy Birthday,' and now even my family doesn't ask me to do that." Retirement from the stage did not mean retirement from opera. Ms. Sills served as general director of City Opera from 1979 to 1989; chairwoman of New York's Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts from 1994 to 2002; and chairwoman of New York's Metropolitan Opera from 2002 to 2005. Ms. Sills was the first woman to hold each of those positions. "While I no



**Beverly Sills**

longer do what made me famous," Ms. Sills said in her 1985 *Christian Science Monitor* interview, "I'm still pretty much of a driving force in the same area." Ms. Sills received the nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, in 1980. A Kennedy Center honoree in 1985, she was a recipient of the National Medal of Arts in 1990. She also won two Emmy Awards. . . .



**Bill Gates**

Bill Gates, operating through his Cascade Investment arm, is among the investors participating in the \$26.2 million funding of the LGBT online community PlanetOut, reported the *Seattle Post Intelligencer*. PlanetOut, which trades on the Nasdaq under the ticker LGBT and also operates the Web site *Gay.com*, went public at \$9 per share in October 2004. But since that time, the stock has been in free fall. It closed Monday (July 2) at \$1.59, up 15 percent. Last year, PlanetOut reported revenue of \$68.6 million - up 93 percent over 2005. But it also reported a net loss of \$3.7 million last year. Gates is not really known for investing in money-losing Internet companies, with some of the Microsoft co-founder's bets including companies such as Six Flags, Four Seasons Hotels, Pacific Ethanol and others.

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# London Celebrates Pride Amid Security Alert



LONDON - Neither rain nor the discovery of two car bombs could deter tens of thousands of people from lining the streets Saturday (June 30) for Gay Pride, reported 365Gay.com. The march left Baker Street and made its way through the West End to Trafalgar Square where Gays and Lesbians and their friends partied and enjoyed music for the remainder of the day.

Police met Friday night (June 29) with Pride organizers with both sides agreeing there was no need to cancel or alter the celebration. Police said they were strengthening patrols in the city, however, to reassure the public. The cars turned into bombs were discovered in area of Saturday's parade - one in the entertainment district the other at Trafalgar Square. A spokesperson for the Metropolitan Police said that it is believed the parade was not the intended target, but "when you are expecting a half-million people in the area you raise the security net". Some 350 police officers were assigned to parade duty on Saturday.

London Mayor Ken Livingstone was joined by members of Parliament from the Labor and Liberal Democrats took part in the pride festivities. Members of the Royal Navy and the Metropolitan Police marched in uniform. And, like pride marches throughout the world there were drag queens, club boys and leathermen.

Following the crashing of an SUV on fire Saturday into the main terminal of Glasgow airport Britain raised its security alert level to critical - the highest possible level indicating terror attacks are imminent. Glasgow police said two people, one in serious condition with burns, are in custody and there was a link to the cars discovered in London.



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# Woman Accuses Bar Of Ejecting Her For Being Too Masculine

NEW YORK CITY - A bouncer at a popular West Village restaurant ejected a lesbian customer from the bathroom after last month's gay pride march because she looked too masculine, the woman charged Monday (July 2), reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

party to pay their check and leave. "I felt embarrassed and humiliated," said Farmer, a Manhattan resident who works as a counselor at a residential program for people with disabilities. "I'm just hurt that even my wanting to prove that I'm female wasn't enough."

Khadijah Farmer, 27, said the incident happened June 24 at Caliente Cab Company on Seventh Avenue South, where she had gone with her girlfriend and another friend to have dinner after the march. Farmer said she was using the women's bathroom when a male bouncer burst in and banged on the stall door, saying a customer had complained that there was a man in the women's room. "I said, 'I am a woman and I am where I am supposed to be,'" Farmer said. "I offered to show him some identification. I was told that's neither here nor there."

Farmer is being represented by the Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund, which is demanding that the restaurant train its staff not to discriminate on the basis of gender identity and expression. No formal complaint or lawsuit has been filed. New York City law prevents discrimination on the basis of gender identity. Farmer is not a Transgender person, but she said her appearance is masculine enough that she is sometimes mistaken for a man. "I'm never upset with that," she said. "I say very kindly, 'I'm female.' Usually I get, 'I'm so sorry.'"

Caliente Cab Company, a Mexican restaurant known for its enormous margaritas and checker-cab decor, did not immediately return a call for comment. Farmer said the bouncer escorted her to her table and forced her



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As hot as July can get, you ain't seen nothing yet. As we move into the month, love takes a wilde turn; Venus changes signs and then retrogrades. Our hearts are in our hands. Yuck. Please pass a paper towel.

**ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)**

There is more intrigue around the office than usual as July gets underway and you will add to it. Proud Rams are apt to sniff out a work-related romance and jump in with both hooves. Venus spreads the love into all cubicles. Things can get hot and heavy before they dissipate and become uncomfortable. Maybe this is what you really want. Then again maybe not.

**TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)**

You are not only the belle of the ball, you are numero uno in the party department. Venus lights your way. Suddenly you find yourself on everybody's A-list. How to choose, how to choose? Queer Bulls should make the most of this rare and enjoyable energy before it evaporates... and it will. Will you dance all night and sleep all day? Better than the opposite.

**GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)**

Pink Twins find themselves staying closer to home. And that may be a good, albeit slightly unexciting idea. Venus encourages you to spruce up your surroundings with not only a few redecorating projects but also with an attractive coterie of pals. Plan a few summer splashes. Don't forget to add a few able bodied pool attendants for that occasional dip.

**CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)**

Not only are you especially charming, you know how to spread it around to get what you want now. Gay Crabs should not be shy and retiring now. Be sure to move fast and feverously into local projects, neighborhood causes and even global platforms. Get the word Out asap. Before you know it Venus retrogrades and your cream curdles. Sniff?

**LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)**

You see what and who you want and can go and get 'em. Success is there for the taking, at least early in July when the wind is in your sails and you are soaring high on confidence. Proud Lions can not only financially benefit from their passions, they can also reach new personal heights in terms of status and influence. Hurry. By the 27th you become just another schlub.

**VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)**

Queer Virgins are social magnets all through July. Go out and attract a few steely characters. It is a great time to expand your sphere of influence by meeting new people and floating some new, impressive ideas. They will be received well and things can start to take off. You can become a legend in your own time. Or is it in your own mind....?

**LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)**

If you "feel" that you have a secret admirer, go with the flow. You find that July brings them Out into the open in surprising ways. Proud Libras have much better attuned intuitive powers which illuminate all dark corners. You divine all sorts of wonders. And that is divine in itself. Plumb the unknown before the 27th. After that you are back on the level of mere mortals.

**SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)**

Nutritionists say that we should eat more vegetables. Well how about an olive? Preferably in a cocktail. July brings you into some of the more exclusive and exciting social circles. Don't waste time trying to be coy. Proud Scorps can find a myriad of opportunities to gather the troops and find new ways to interact and just have fun. And why not? Life is far too short.

**SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)**

Gay Archers can make their mark with all powers-that-be. But of course, you can be a bit contrary and wind up seeking accolades from more underground sources. Status is a funny thing. Often it comes from the most unlikely of sources. Go with your gut and let Venus lead you to fame, fortune and stardom. By the 27th though you may be tossed back in the chorus.

**CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)**

Travel when Venus smooths your path and brings you great adventure. Pink Caps enjoy all types of people and can now take their act on the international road. Not only can you find romance (if you keep your heart open to it) you can also create an interest for some of your pet projects. If money and time are tight, try surfing the internet and catch a wave.

**AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)**

Who is raising your personal temperature to a high sizzle? It will be hard to count that high. Thanks to Venus, Aqueerians have a choice of attractive and randy prospects. You are charming, sexy and very alluring ... for a change. Hurry and cash in your chips before the 27th. After that you revert back into the frog in need of a curse-breaking kiss.

**PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)**

Partnerships hit a high note when both of you are in sync and enjoy every minute of each others' company. Plan a rendezvous or two. Single Guppies who are ready to be hooked can find a few nice nets in which to get tangled. The secret is to make yourself available. Phoning it in will not do the trick ... unless you are into that sort of thing.

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Carol L. Lohmann, P.C.**



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**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.**



[www.wingspan.org](http://www.wingspan.org)

## TUCSON DIRECTORY

The map shows a grid of streets. Major streets include I-10 Freeway, Broadway, University, Speedway, and various north-south streets like Oracle, Stone, Sixth Ave, Fourth Ave, First Ave, Mountain, Grant, Campbell, Tucson Blvd, Country Club, Alvernon, Swain, and Graycroft. Neighborhood markers are labeled with letters A through H. A sign in the bottom right corner reads "TAKE YOUR I.D. TO THE BARS It's The Law!"

- ### 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

**Thursday, July 5th**  
 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, July 6th**  
 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Join Merlin and Lee for an evening of Charades. Come out and totally enjoy putting your acting/miming and pantomime skills to the test. For directions and reservations [(a limited space event, please plan ahead and phone early)], place a telephone call to Lee and Merlin, your gracious yet competitive emcees and moderators, at 207-5336.

**Tucson Prime Timers Cocktails - 5:30 - 7:00, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway**

**Saturday, July 7th**  
**#1 Men's Social Network** Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:30a.m. Join Robert for a morning of Volleyball. This is played for fun, and you'll get to know some nice guys as you play. Two great ways to work on your game! For details and directions, please call Robert at 400-1376.

**#2 Men's Social Network** Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. MSN Potluck and Social Night located at 6801 N. Oracle Road. Just bring your favorite food to share (already fully cooked please) and join us for a relaxed evening of food and conversation.

**Sunday, July 8th**  
 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.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, July 9th**  
 Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Trivial Pursuit. Please call Karol at 744-9017 for information and to reserve your place at this limited seating event.

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

**Tuesday, July 10th**  
 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Enjoy an evening of Bridge twice a month on the second and fourth Tuesdays. Call David at 579-9763 for details.

**Wednesday, July 11th**  
 Men's Social Network Open to men of

all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Hand and Foot with Marvin at 745-0304.

**Thursday, July 12th**  
**#1 Men's Social Network** Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Triangle Tribe-A Men's Circle. According to a recent study, very few people have as many close friends as they would like. Are you as connected with other men as you want to be? Do you get the support you need for issues in your life? Do you wish you had more meaningful friendships and relationships with other men? Join like-minded men at Wingspan to share feelings, thoughts and ideas in a safe, respectful space. For the same experience with both straight and gay men, join us at the regular Circle of Men meetings. Call Tom at 591-2828 for dates and times.

**Friday, July 13th**  
 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00 p.m. Lloyd hosts a word for word fun evening of Scrabble. If you don't know how to play, he will be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please contact Lloyd at 792-8537. If you're loquacious, erudite, or a wordsmith; this man's game just may be a triple word score for you!

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

**Saturday, July 14th**  
**#1 Men's Social Network** Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:30p.m. CLASSIC MOVIE NIGHT! Join Ross for A STAR IS BORN (1954) starring Judy Garland and James Mason plus Jack Carson and Charles Bickford! Cinemascope and Technicolor! Restored in 1983 by Ron Haver. Please call Ross at 299-2135 to let him know you are coming and for driving directions.

**#2 Men's Social Network** Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00 p.m. Marvin for Pinochle. Phone: 745-0304.

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

**Sunday, July 15th**  
 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.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, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway**

Sign up for the monthly Men's Massage Group in its 18<sup>th</sup> year. 3:45 p.m. Spend 2 hours on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month in nude bliss with other men. Call Marc at 881-4582 to sign up and for information.

**Monday, July 16th**  
**#1 Men's Social Network** Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:30p.m. Meet Stephen and the group monthly for dinner and discussion of an agreed upon work of gay fiction. Currently, the group meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday each month at Old Pueblo Grill. Contact Stephen at 546-4047 to add yourself to their e-mail list.

**WATER OF LIFE**  
**Metropolitan Community Church**  
*Reverend Gale Rawson, Pastor*  
**Our Mission . . .**  
**Discover God's Love In All People**  
 Sunday Service - 10:15 AM  
 Fellowship Thursdays - 7:00 PM



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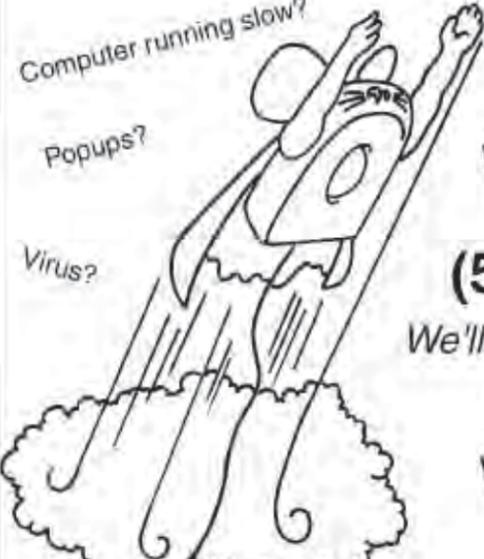
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# DAILY BAR CALENDAR

## 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. 7<sup>th</sup> at 8pm!

COLORS - Open 11am - 11pm Champagne Brunch 11am - 2pm with choice of complimentary mimosa, Bloody Mary or Screwdriver. Dickie Steed on piano during brunch. Brunch served until 2pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm \$3.50 Skyy Cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and well. Reduced price appetizers. Dinner served until 10pm.

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

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

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

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

## MONDAY

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

COLORS - Closed on Mondays.

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

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

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

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

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

## TUESDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## WEDNESDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## THURSDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-2am; Drink What You Want with ½ priced Happy Hour 3-8pm; 'Thirsty Thursday' with Tori Steele & Friends! Drag show starts at 9:30pm with Tori Steele, Janee Starr, Diana Flair and weekly special guests. \$2 Pitchers and Rotating Shot Specials. Followed by a new Surprise guest DJ!

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

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

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

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

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

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

## FRIDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## SATURDAY

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

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

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open 11:00am. Happy Hour 11am-8pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Kitchen open 11am-9pm. \$2.50 Capt. Morgan or Mailbu. Cheeseburger & Fries Special for \$4.50 all day. Best burgers around. Learn to 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

### 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 Andrew Raymer, Amanda Nicole, Veronica Chase, Samorah de Huni and Knokache for a fabulous evening. 10:00 p.m. No Cover

WOODY'S - Join the crowd for dinner and a live jazz performance from Danny Kreiger from 6:00 to 9:00 in the Back Pocket Patio Bar.

YARD DOG - Tucson Knight Owls (TKO) Celebrate their 28<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and everyone is invited to join in the celebration which begins at Noon. Activities include installation of newly elected officers, followed by a beer bust from 2:00 until 6:00 p.m. with a buffet. Two Sons Band 9:00 p.m.

### SUNDAY, JULY 8

HOWL AT THE MOON - Don't forget that Sunday nights are S.I.N. Nights! If you work in the service industry, (bar, restaurant, resort, hotel, etc.) Bring in hour ID or pay stub and get drink discounts all night.

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 11

WOODY'S - Underwear Nite is back. \$1.00 off special for those who participate.

### FRIDAY, JULY 13

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

Woody's - July Birthday Party with free Birthday Cake

### SATURDAY, JULY 14

HOWL AT THE MOON - July Birthday Party - \$1.00 off your drinks all night if your birthday is in July. Two Sons here 9:00 to midnight playing classic rock.

YARD DOG SALOON - Luau VII!!!

### SUNDAY, JULY 15

WOODY'S - Drag Bingo

### 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.

### SUNDAY, JULY 29

WOODY'S - Drag Bingo

## Canterbury's Olive Branch To Gay Bishop

LONDON (Observer Update) - Gay Bishop V. Gene Robinson has been invited to the Lambeth Conference of the Anglican Church for summer 2008, prompting dissenting cries from Anglicans nationwide, 365Gay.com reported. Robinson, who was consecrated as Bishop of New Hampshire in 2003, tried to visit the UK for an Anglican conference in 2004 but canceled at the last minute because of death threats and security fears.

As Robinson withdrew, he noted that his participation in the debate would "not be in the best interests of the Anglican Communion at this delicate moment in its history," referring to the ever-anticipated Anglican schism. The invitation is likely to result in the withdrawal of support from ultra-conservative Nigerian bishops.

Bishop Robinson, an official guest to the conference, will not, however, have the right to vote on motions at the conference. The 2008 conference marks the international meeting of the Anglican community that takes place every 10 years.



# NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### YOUNG AND GAY?

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

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

#### TUCSON GAY INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SPORTS TEAMS** and updates on Gay Games, contact **TEAM ARIZONA** at their website: [teamarizona.org](http://teamarizona.org)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

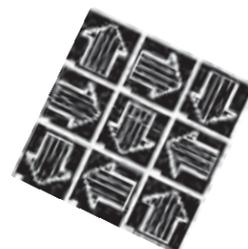
**LGBT SUPPORT GROUP FOR VICTIM/SURVIVORS OF Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Hate Crimes, Bias Acts, Harassment.** Call Lori at Wingspan, 624-1779, ext. 20. Services are free.

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

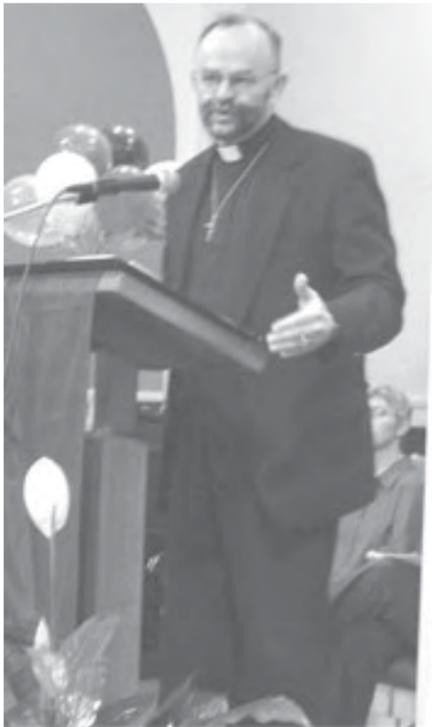
**MEN'S KINK DISCUSSION GROUP** (Open to all who identify as male and are 18 or older) meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at Desert Dominion, 3843 E. 37<sup>th</sup> Street, Tucson, AZ. (Map available at [www.desertdominion.org](http://www.desertdominion.org)) For those who are kinky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

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

**BROTHERS OF THE COMPASSIONATE WAY.** Pagan spiritual group for gay, bisexual, transgendered men. Box 41623, Tucson, AZ 85717.



## Pastor Who Fought For Same-Sex Marriage Receives Canada's Highest Honor



Rev Brent Hawkes

TORONTO, Ontario - The Rev. Brent Hawkes, who conducted a double wedding for two same-sex couples at his Metropolitan Community Church in 2001 and then went to court when Ontario refused to register the marriages in a case that resulted in marriage equality across Canada, has been named to the Order of Canada, reported 365Gay.com. It is the highest civilian honor given in Canada and is awarded in the name of The Queen, by the Governor General, her representative in the country.

Hawkes will celebrate his 30th anniversary as pastor of MCC Toronto - a career that continually has seen him at the forefront of the fight for LGBT civil rights.

In 2001 when he performed the wedding ceremony for Kevin Bourassa & Joe Varnell and Elaine & Anne Vautour, Hawkes wore a bullet-proof vest on the advice of police and following a series of threats from socially conservative activists. To conduct the ceremony without marriage licenses - something that had been denied Gay and Lesbian couples - Hawkes found a loophole in the law. It allowed the ancient Christian practice of Publishing Bannes.

By announcing the impending marriages in church on three consecutive Sundays marriage licenses were not required. The Ontario government refused to register the marriages, citing federal law. Under Canadian law the definition of marriage is a federal responsibility while registering and recognizing them is a provincial matter.

The couples along with seven couples who sought secular marriages in Ontario took the government to court. A judge ruled that the prohibition on Gay marriage was unconstitutional and gave the federal government one year to amend the law. Eight other provinces and territories followed. Finally the federal government abandoned plans to appeal and brought in legislation legalizing same-sex marriage across the country.

Receiving the Order of Canada took Hawkes by surprise. "I'm used to picketing governments," he told the Globe and Mail newspaper.

## N.J. School's Chief Apologizes To Gay Student

NEWARK, New Jersey (Observer Update) - The city schools superintendent apologized to a Gay student Tuesday (June 26) for having staffers black out a picture of the student kissing his boyfriend from the high school yearbook, calling the incident "a homophobic moment," reported the Associated Press on advocate.com.

Superintendent Marion A. Bolden said she spoke with senior Andre Jackson, 18, a day after she issued him a written apology that said she regretted the decision to censor his personal page in the East Side High School yearbook. "We have to own up to the fact that it was a homophobic moment," she said. "That's what everybody's afraid to say. There are sensitivity issues we need to talk about as a result of this."

Jackson on Monday (June 25) had refused to accept Bolden's written apology, saying he wanted her to apologize publicly. Bolden said she arrived at the school Tuesday to find him reluctant to speak with her, but that the two spoke after she made a public apology to the assembled students. "He said he felt a lot better," Bolden said. "He said he's had more issues around his coming out from outside school than in school, so it was particularly hard for him."

During her public remarks, she said the picture of Jackson kissing his boyfriend was not appropriate for the yearbook and that, if it was to be removed, two pictures of heterosexual couples kissing should have been removed as well. Jackson, who paid \$150 for the page, and others noted that the yearbook was filled with pictures of heterosexual couples kissing. The district said it would reissue an

uncensored version of the 2007 yearbook to any student who wants one. Garden State Equality, along with the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey, condemned the censorship, saying it violated the state's Law Against Discrimination.

## G/L Newspapers To Be Distributed Again In Stores

NASHVILLE, Tennessee - Kroger Co. says it will allow a regional Gay and Lesbian newspaper to again be distributed on the free publication rack inside some of its Nashville-area grocery stores. The Cincinnati-based company announced the change Monday, about a month after the Out & About monthly newspaper was removed from racks at 34 of its Nashville-area stores.

A Kroger spokeswoman last month cited a company policy against displaying publications that promote "political, religious or other specific agendas" as reason for the removal. But some supporters of the paper said Kroger allows the display of Gay newspapers at its stores in other markets, such as Atlanta. They also noted that alternative weekly newspapers with political columns and advertisements for strip clubs in the Nashville area were available in the stores. Last month, members of the city's Gay and Lesbian community organized a weeklong boycott against Kroger and Harris Teeter, another grocery store chain where the newspapers were removed. Organizers say the boycott cost the two stores more than \$15,000.

Kroger Co. said in a news release that it has a process for all free publications to be distributed at its stores, and the company that manages its free publication racks - Distributech - did not follow that process with Out & About.

## Kalamazoo Skirts Court Ruling To Continue Partner Benefits

KALAMAZOO, Michigan - The city has found a way around a court ruling that said providing health insurance to the same-sex partners of city workers violated the state amendment banning same-sex marriage, 365Gay.com reported. The solution: don't call it a domestic partner benefit. Under a motion agreed to by City Commissioners Friday the plan now will be called an "Other Qualified Adult" program and is available to any two people living together in a dependent relationship where one person is a city employee.

Earlier this year a Court of Appeal panel ruled the state's constitutional amendment barring same-sex marriage made it illegal to offer same-sex domestic partner benefits for public employees. The constitutional amendment defines marriage as the union between a man and a woman and is the only agreement that can be recognized as a marriage "or similar union for any purpose." The ruling is under appeal to the Michigan Supreme Court but the justices said that until it renders a decision the appellate ruling must go into effect.

As a result Kalamazoo became the first public employer in the state to announce it would strip health benefits from the domestic partners of its Gay and Lesbian employees. The program was to have ended July 1. The compromise worked out by city staff is similar to a plan that was approved for Michigan State University. City commissioners voted to allocate \$40,000 to the scheme. The number of people who might join is not known. Four workers had participated in the same-sex partner plan. Over the next two weeks city staff will go over the details with Kalamazoo unions. Following the vote Vice Mayor Bobby Hopewell said he was pleased with the outcome. "This is an issue of being a good employer," he said.

E.C.I. Presents...

# PRIDE THURSDAYS

## LGBT NIGHT - 9 PM TO CLOSE

### NO COVER 'TILL 11

VIP Service, Reservations,  
Preferred Parking Available

AND EVERY THURSDAY  
STARTING **JUNE 28th** THROUGH **July 26th**

# DISCO DIVAS

Show starts @ 10:30

No Cover until 11,  
\$5 after that...

\$1

Wells & Domestic  
12oz until 10

\$2

Wells & Domestic  
12oz until 11

\$3

Wells & Domestic  
12oz until Close

Additional security will be provided for PRIDE night for the safety of all our customers.

6350 E. Tanque Verde Rd. 721-7074

www.icenightlife.com or visit us at myspace.com/icenightlife