Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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WEEKLY OBSERVER | AUGUST 29, 2007 | ISSUE 1206

TurnAbout For TIHAN Sunday, Sept. 2

TURNABOUT CIRCA 2005 Don't Let It Scare You Off!

TUCSON (Observer Update) - One of the Tucson's HIV/AIDS Action Network's (TIHAN) biggest fundraisers, the eleventh annual "Turnabout for TIHAN" will take place this Sunday, September 2, at the Doubletree Hotel, 445 South Alvernon with the doors open at 5:30 p.m., and the show starts at 7:00 p.m, and will be emceed by Bunny Fufu and Janee Starr!

Turnabout is a fun benefit show put on by Tucson's LGBT clubs and their bar owners/staff. The staff request donations from their friends and customers in order to do a "turnabout" from male to female (or vice versa) and put on a show for the community. It's the biggest drag show of the year in Tucson, and it's not the "professionals," it's the bar owners, managers, bartenders, security folks who do this once a year.

All the money raised goes to support the work of the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN). "Turnabout for TIHAN" is the second-largest benefit for TIHAN, and last year this event raised over $17,000.

For 13 years, TIHAN has been at the forefront of a compassionate response to the AIDS crisis. TIHAN is a diverse coalition of faith communities committed to a compassionate response to AIDS, and is the largest non-federally-funded provider of support services for people living with HIV/AIDS in Arizona.

TIHAN is a volunteer-based program that offers vital support services for those who are infected with HIV, providing very personalized support. And by focusing its AIDS education efforts in our faith communities, TIHAN is addressing the stigma of AIDS, and targeting groups with huge potential for compassion. TIHAN receives no government funding, and is funded solely through generous donations from individuals, foundations, and fundraising events such as "Turnabout for TIHAN."

"Turnabout for TIHAN 2007," according to event organizers, is always one of the wildest nights of the year, since you will see your favorite bartender in "drag" and performing a real number for charity. Event organizers announced that this year's theme is "Puttin' On the Ritz" and it takes place

Reserved seats are available now. Tickets are only $15.00. Admission includes a light finger food buffet (from 5:30 p.m. until it's gone!), and the show. The evening also features a raffle and silent auction with some great prizes. Tickets can be purchased now by calling (520) 299-6647 (credit card orders can be taken over the phone) or at participating bars: Ain't Nobody's Bizness, Colors, Howl at the Moon, IBT's, Woody's, and Yard Dog Saloon.

The Turnabout performer who raises the most money in sponsorships wins a $100 gift certificate for dinner at the restaurant of their choice, so

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GOP U.S. Senator Flushed, Busted In Washroom

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota - Sen. Larry Craig of Idaho pleaded guilty this month to misdemeanor disorderly conduct after being arrested at the Minneapolis airport.

A Hennepin County court docket showed Craig pleading guilty to the disorderly conduct charge Aug. 8, with the court dismissing a charge of gross misdemeanor interference to privacy.

The court docket said the Republican senator paid $575 in fines and fees. He was put on unsupervised probation for a year. A sentence of 10 days in the county workhouse was stayed.

Roll Call, a Capitol Hill newspaper, which first reported the case, said on its Web site Monday (August 27) that Craig was arrested June 11 by a plainclothes officer investigating complaints of lewd conduct in a men's restroom at the airport.

Citing the arrest report, Roll Call said Sgt. Dave Karsnia made the arrest after an encounter in which he was seated in a stall next to a stall occupied by Craig. Karsnia described Craig tapping his foot, which Karsnia said he ''recognized as a signal used by persons wishing to engage in lewd conduct.''

According to the report: Craig then entered the stall next to Karsnia's and placed his roller bag against the front of the stall door.

"My experience has shown that individuals engaging in lewd conduct use their bags to block the view from the front of their stall," Karsnia stated in his report. "From my seated position, I could observe the shoes and ankles of Craig seated to the left of me." Craig was wearing dress pants with black dress shoes.

"I could see Craig look through the crack in the door from his position. Craig would look down at his hands, 'fidget' with his fingers, and then look through the crack into my stall again. Craig would repeat this cycle for about two minutes. At 1216 hours, Craig tapped his right foot. I recognized this as a signal used by persons wishing to engage in lewd conduct. Craig tapped his toes several times and moves his foot closer to my foot. I moved my foot up and down slowly. While this was occurring, the male in the stall to my right was still present. I could hear several unknown persons in the restroom that appeared to use the restroom for its intended use. The presence of others did not seem to deter Craig as he moved his right foot so that it touched the side of my left foot which was within my stall area," the report states.

Craig then proceeded to swipe his hand under the stall divider several times, and Karsnia noted in his report that "I could ... see Craig had a gold ring on his ring finger as his hand was on my side of the stall divider."

Karsnia then held his police identification down by the floor so that Craig could see it.

"With my left hand near the floor, I pointed towards the exit. Craig responded, 'No!' I again pointed towards the exit. Craig exited the stall with his roller bags without flushing the toilet. ... Craig said he would not go. I told Craig that he was under arrest, he had to go, and that I didn't want to make a scene. Craig then left the restroom."

In a recorded interview after his arrest, Craig "either disagreed with me or 'didn't recall' the events as they happened," the report states.

Craig stated "that he has a wide stance when going to the bathroom and that his foot may have touched mine," the report states. Craig also told the arresting officer that he reached down with his right hand to pick up a piece of paper that was on the floor.

"It should be noted that there was not a piece of paper on the bathroom floor, nor did Craig pick up a piece of paper," the arresting officer said in the report.

Senator Craig had handed the arresting officer a business card that identified him as a member of the Senate. ''What do you think about that?'' Craig is alleged to have said.

Craig, a social conservative, supported both attempts to advance a proposed constitutional amendment banning Gay marriage and opposes adding sexuality to the groups covered under hate crime laws and to a bill protecting LGBT workers, overturning "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and received a zero rating from the Human Rights Campaign.

Craig, 62, is married and in his third term in the Senate. He is up for re-election next year. He was a member of the House for 10 years before winning election to the Senate in 1990.

He has been one of Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney's top Senate supporters, serving as a Senate liaison for the campaign since February. As word spread of Craig's guilty plea, a Romney campaign spokesman, Matt Rhoades, said in a statement: "Senator Craig has stepped down from his role with the campaign. He did not want to be a distraction and we accept his decision."

The three-term senator, who has represented Idaho in Congress for more than a quarter-century, is up for re-election next year. He hasn't said if he will run for a fourth term in 2008 and was expected to announce his plans this fall.

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UPDATE

Tucsonan Employment Discrimination Case Against Pima County Delayed

By Mark R. Kerr

TUCSON (Oberver Update) - Mike Pollack's employment discrimination lawsuit against Pima County has been delayed due to a death in the family of the Pima County attorney who will represent the county government in court.

Pollack, according to court documents, filed suit against the Pima County Government for wrongful termination of the employment contract as an employee of the Pima County Health Department (PCHD), discrimination against Pollack in violation of the County's anti-discrimination policy and the law of the State of Arizona and for defamation of character.

In the lawsuit, Pollack alleges that his supervisors created a hostile work environment since efforts to terminate his employment contract could not happen, according to the Pima County Attorney's office, and he resigned his position with PCHD.

Pollack is seeking damages and a jury trial is scheduled to commence on Tuesday, August 28 in Pima County Superior Court.

Equality Arizona Radio

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - Equality Arizona Radio is designed to provide the listener with insights into the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) experience in Arizona.

Equality Arizona Radio's topics, guests and special guest hosts all focus on fulfilling Equality Arizona's mission to secure, protect and defend the rights and welfare of LGBT individuals and can be heard on Saturdays, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. on KPHX 1480 AM or online at aaphx.com or novamradio.com.

Upcoming shows: September 1: It's Labor Day! Workplace Equality. The show will explore workplace equality for LGBT people. Who has domestic partner benefits? How do Arizona businesses treat LGBT people? Listen in to explore these and many other workplace issues. If you want to join the conversation call (602) 258 - 8800 in Metro Phoenix; outside the area call (800) 989 -1480.

For more information, call Equality Arizona (602) 650-0900 or go online to equalityarizona.org.

Observer Wants Your Rant & Rave

TUCSON (ON) - Is there something or someone you like or dislike? Perhaps, there is issue that you feel is important and needs to be "brought to the table?" Maybe you wish to just "get on the soap box."

In the most recent edition of The Observer, the paper launched a new column called "Rant & Rave," and the staff wants to give the readers a chance as well to rant or rave.

If you are interested, send you submission (less than 600 words), in an E-mail to: info@tucsonobserver.com.

Precinct Election Board Officials Needed For City 2007 Primary & General

TUCSON - Precinct Election Board Officials are needed to help at City of Tucson polling places on Tuesday, September 11, and on Tuesday, November 6.

Hours of service are from 5:00 a.m. to approximately 9:00 p.m. Precinct Election Board Officials are usually paid $140.00 for each day of service. Requirements for an Election Official include: Must be a resident and registered to vote in the City of Tucson. Should have good handwriting, normal eyesight and hearing. Have transportation to and from the polling place. Must be able to work from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Must attend an instructional class

Call (520) 791-5957 for further information.

Romero, Glassman Worth The Vote In Primary

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The City of Tucson will be holding their 2007 primary election on Tuesday, September 11.

Of the elections to be held, only two will be contested, for the City Council seats in Ward 2 which comprises Tucson's northeast side and Ward 1 that comprises the west side of the city.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) and HIV/AIDS Tucsonans have a clear choice for this important election, which won't be utilizing the questionnable electronic voting machines from Diebold (now known as Premier Elections Solutions).

In Ward 1, Regina Romero has an outstanding record of community activism. She is a southern Arizona native raised in a farmworker family in Somerton, Romero learned early the importance of engaging in the democratic process from her father, who was active in the United Farm Worker's movemen and has worked with the Board of Supervisors, school districts, Pima Community College and private agencies. Most recently, Romero worked on community development issues as an aide to Tucson City Council Member Karin Uhlich. Romero was an opponent of Proposition 107 and has reached out to the LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities to be an integral part of her bid and any members of the LGBT, HIV/AIDS and straight supportive allies are supporting Regina's effort to be the next Councilmember for Tucson's Ward 1.

When Rodney Glassman announced his Ward 2 Council candidacy, he said he plans to have everyone from all aspects of the community at his political table, equally, regardless of position, sex, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, HIV status. Everyone is equal and welcome, something the Observer considers a refreshing change. Glassman is living up to this promise by only taking donations of $20 each from individuals, no money from businesses and political action committees and raised the maximum allowed, with donations averaging $19.69, under the City's matching fund program for political campaigns.

Rodney graduated from the University of Arizona in 1997 where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics. Rodney continued his studies, at the University of Arizona's prestigious Eller College of Business and Management where he received an MBA as well as a Master of Public Administration degree. In January 2003, Rodney joined U.S. Representative Raúl M. Grijalva's staff as Legislative Aide for Business and Agriculture, working on legislation pertaining to the business and agricultural community in the District. He served as a liaison for Congressman Grijalva to the agriculture and business communities by organizing monthly round-tables and analyzing legislation.

Glassman was opposed to Proposition 107, giving funding and more importantly time, by walking to spread the word about the proposal. As a Board member of the Boy Scouts, Glassman led the fight to change the policy and personally lead a local effort to reach out to the GLBT community and built relationships with leaders of the City of Tucson Commission on GLBT Issues. As a Councilmember, he will give his support and affirmation for funding for HIV/AIDS organizations.

To request an early ballot, either call (520) 791-4213 or go online to: tucsonaz.gov/clerks/ballotrequest.php. For more information, call (520) 791-4213. For more information, go online to votereginaromero.com and rodneyglassman.com.

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Office Hours: 9a.m.-6p.m.
Monday thru Friday

Office Closed Thursdays

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Informing the Community
The Observer

GOP U.S. Senator Flushed,

Sgt. Dave Karsnia

Senator Larry Craig

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Addressing the media in a brief press conference, Idaho's Republican Senator Larry Craig denied that he was Gay, even though he pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct in a men's room in June, during a police sex sting at a Minneapolis airport.

"First, please let me apologize to my family, friends, staff, and fellow Idahoans for the cloud placed over Idaho. I did nothing wrong at the Minneapolis airport. I regret my decision to plead guilty and the sadness that decision has brought to my wife, family, friends, staff, and fellow Idahoans. For that I apologize.

"In June, I overreacted and made a poor decision. While I was not involved in any inappropriate conduct at the Minneapolis airport or anywhere else, I chose to plead guilty to a lesser charge in the hope of making it go away. I did not seek any counsel, either from an attorney, staff, friends, or family. That was a mistake, and I deeply regret it. Because of that, I have now retained counsel and I am asking my counsel to review this matter and to advise me on how to proceed.

"For a moment, I want to put my state of mind into context on June 11. For 8 months leading up to June, my family and I had been relentlessly and viciously harassed by the Idaho Statesman. If you've seen today's paper, you know why. Let me be clear: I am not Gay and never have been.

"Still, without a shred of truth or evidence to the contrary, the Statesman has engaged in this witch hunt. In pleading guilty, I overreacted in Minneapolis, because of the stress of the Idaho Statesman's investigation and the rumors it has fueled around Idaho. Again, that overreaction was a mistake, and I apologize for my misjudgment. Furthermore, I should not have kept this arrest to myself, and should have told my family and friends about it. I wasn't eager to share this failure, but I should have done so anyway.

"I love my wife, family, friends, staff, and Idaho. I love serving Idaho in Congress. Over the years, I have accomplished a lot for Idaho, and I hope Idahoans will allow me to continue to do that. There are still goals I would like to accomplish, and I believe I can still be an effective leader for Idaho. Next month, I will announce, as planned, whether or not I will seek reelection.

"As an elected official, I fully realize that my life is open for public criticism and scrutiny, and I take full responsibility for the mistake in judgment I made in attempting to handle this matter myself.

"It is clear, though, that through my actions I have brought a cloud over Idaho. For that, I ask the people of Idaho for their forgiveness.

"As I mentioned earlier, I have now retained counsel to examine this matter and I will make no further comment."

Fortune 500 Companies: 92% Provide Nondiscrimination Policies

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania (Observer Update) - Equality Forum, a GLBT rights organization, has announced that more than 92% (463) of the 2007 Fortune 500 companies include sexual orientation in their employment nondiscrimination policies, advocate.com reported.

According to the press release, when Equality Forum began contacting Fortune 500 companies in the fall of 2003, only 323 companies– or about 65%– provided sexual orientation protections.

Equality Forum, along with professors Louis Thomas of University of Pennsylvania and Ian Ayres of Yale Law School, contacted 177 CEOs and human resources directors of companies that didn't offer nondiscrimination policies. By the fall of 2004, 405 (81%) had adopted protections.

Of the 37 Fortune 500 companies that have not adopted protections, 38% (14 companies) are headquartered in Texas, the press release noted.

A Gallup poll in May found that 89% of U.S. citizens believe that Gays and Lesbians should have protection against workplace discrimination. For more information, go online to equalityforum.org.

TurnAbout For TIHAN Sunday, Sept. 2

Continued from Page One

sponsor your favorite bar owner or bar staff now! If you'd like, you can even made an online sponsorship donation in honor of your favorite performer on TIHAN's website (tihan.org), a secured VeriSign Secured website.

For more information on how you can participate in the fun, contact Scott Blades at (520) 299-6647. Tickets are on sale now through the TIHAN office (credit card orders can be taken), or at participating bars: Ain't Nobody's Bizness, Colors, Howl at the Moon, IBT's, Woody's, and Yard Dog Saloon.

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Foley, House Block Teen-Chat Scandal Probe

Former U.S. Rep. Mark Foley

TALLAHASSEE, Florida (Observer Update) - The state's top police agency said Wednesday (August 22) its investigation into former U.S. Rep. Mark Foley's lurid Internet communications with teenage boys has been hindered because neither Foley nor the House will let investigators examine his congressional computers.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement says it hopes to conclude its investigation next week (ending September 1). Foley, a Florida Republican, resigned from Congress on September 29, 2006 after being confronted with the computer messages he sent to male teenage pages who had worked on Capitol Hill.

"We have requested to review federally owned computers that Mr. Foley used during his time as a representative, but the U.S. House of Representatives . . . cited case law restrictions that prohibited them from releasing those computers," said Heather Smith, a spokeswoman for the Florida law enforcement agency.

Smith said that the House claims the computers are considered congressional work papers, and that only Foley can release them for review.

A federal appeals court ruled this month that the U.S. Justice Department violated the Constitution in its 2006 raid of the office of Rep. William Jefferson, D-La. The FBI crossed the line when it viewed every record in the office without allowing Jefferson to argue that some involved legislative business, the court ruled.

Florida investigators were working with the FBI and Foley's attorney, David Roth, to try to reach an agreement, Smith said. At the investigation's conclusion, its findings will be forwarded to prosecutors to determine if charges are warranted.

Under Florida law, the age of consent is 18. A crime may have been committed if Foley is simply found to have seduced or attempted to seduce a minor using lewd or explicit language.

Roth declined to comment, citing the continuing investigation. He has previously maintained his client's innocence and said Foley never had inappropriate sexual contact with minors.

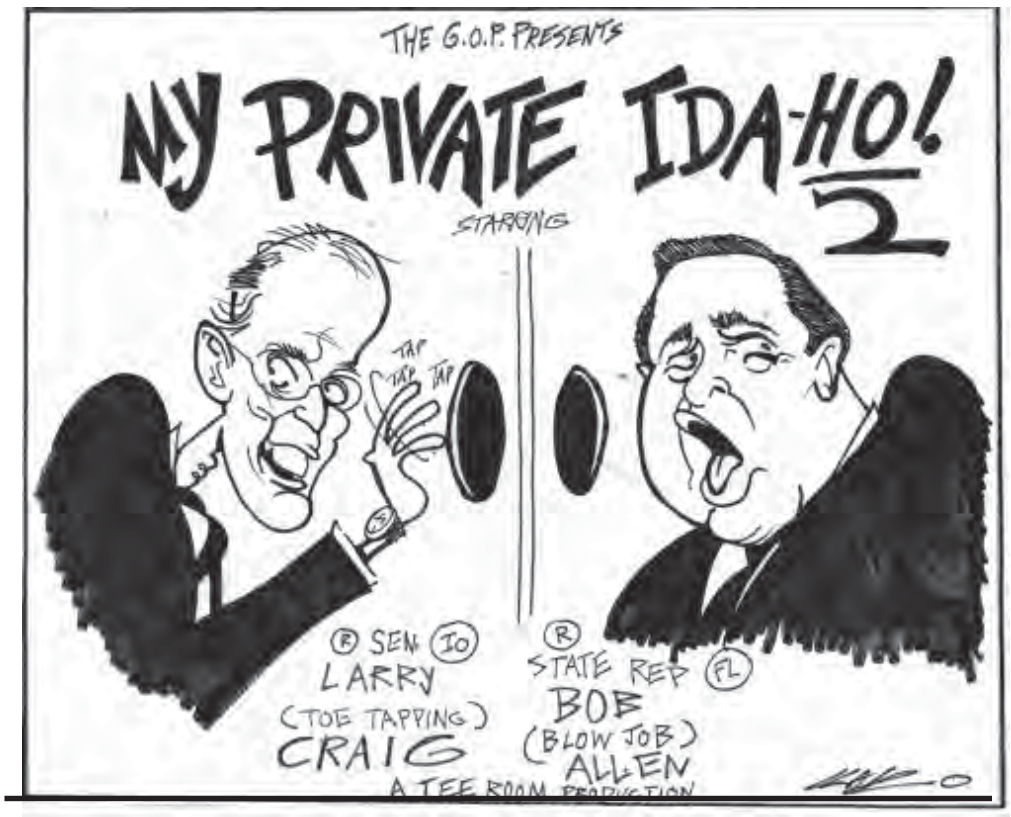
A message left after hours at the Committee on House Administration, which oversees daily functions of the House, was not immediately returned. A telephone message left for the House general counsel was also not immediately returned.

Smith wouldn't comment on whether investigators have already reviewed Foley's personal computers. She also couldn't say how many federal computers the agency was seeking.

After his resignation, Foley checked himself into an Arizona facility for what his attorneys said was treatment of "alcoholism and other behavioral problems." At the time, his attorney said Foley was gay, an alcoholic and had been molested by a priest as a teenage altar boy in Florida.

Foley has kept a low profile since coming out of rehab but has been seen occasionally in the Palm Beach area.

AS I SEE IT..... BY CLARK



Italy May Rescue Iranian Lesbian Being Deported From UK

ROME, Italy - Politicians said Rome could grant asylum to an Iranian Lesbian who faces deportation from Britain and a possible death sentence back home. Meanwhile, Gay rights proponents and left-wing politicians rallied for her cause in a protest Monday (August 27) outside the British embassy here, reported 365Gay.com. Pegah Emambakhsh fled to Britain from Iran in 2005 after her partner was arrested and tortured, is due to be expelled after her bid for residency was rejected, according to a British advocacy group.

Supporters in Britain are lobbying immigration authorities to show leniency. And activists in San Francisco have met with British representatives to press Emambakhsh's claim for asylum. "If returned to Iran, she faces certain imprisonment, likely severe lashings and possibly even stoning to death. Her crime in Iran is her sexual orientation," said Peter Tatchell, of London-based Gay rights charity OutRage. The main Italian Gay rights group, ArciGay, led about 100 people in a protest Monday evening outside the British embassy. Some left-wing politicians from parties in Premier Romano Prodi's center-left coalition joined the demonstration. ArciGay has called on Prodi's government to offer Emambakhsh asylum. "This life needs to be saved," Aurelio Mancuso, an ArciGay leader, yelled through a megaphone.

Government officials, including Justice Minister Clemente Mastella, have told reporters that Italy is ready to welcome the woman. Italy, like other EU countries, does not have the death penalty, and began a push at the United Nations earlier this year for a worldwide moratorium on capital punishment. Homosexuality is considered a crime in Iran and can carry the death penalty. In 2005, the Islamic regime hanged two teenagers on charges of involvement in homosexual acts. Britain's Home Office declined to comment on Emambakhsh's case, saying it cannot discuss individual asylum cases. Richard Caborn, a former British sports minister and a lawmaker for the northern English city of Sheffield, where Emambakhsh has lived since 2005, said he had won a temporary delay of her deportation and was planning to press British Home Secretary Jacqui Smith over the case.

"Maybe they wanted proof, but I don't know what proof I could have offered," Italian daily La Repubblica quoted Emambakhsh as saying in an interview. "I'd rather die than go back to Iran, where something more terrible and painful than death awaits me." Emambakhsh was arrested in Sheffield and sent to an immigration detention center in London before her planned deportation. EU Justice Commissioner Franco Frattini told the Italian news agency ANSA on Monday that Britain should look at the case "in depth." He acknowledged Emambakhsh's case was difficult to prove but added that "even if there is a doubt, a reasonable suspicion, protection must prevail and the repatriation to Iran must be suspended."

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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

Good For TUSD

by Lee Thorn

Hold the presses! Thorn has something nice to say! I don't know what's gotten into me. Maybe it's just the wonderful mountain air at 8,000 feet on Mt. Lemmon where I'm reclining on the deck of a luxury chalet and feeding bits of dried bread to giant blue jays.

Anyway, the Tucson Unified School District has done something brilliant. Yes, the same TUSD that recently lost $777,000 – give or take – in an accounting error, is about to implement a serious institutional reform that could serve as a model for any number of local government bureaucracies. It's the five-member TUSD Governing Board Audit Committee.

This is going to be a volunteer board whose job will simply be to keep TUSD honest. What a concept! And here's the kicker: the district has eleven candidates to pick the five board members from who include an attorney, an accountant, a business manager, a professor of economics, a CPA, a retired business consultant, and a director of forecasting and analysis for Tucson Medical Center Health Care.

What we have here is a permanent (hopefully) body of expert watchdogs who TUSD won't be able to bribe or fool. The next time the district is in danger of making a $777,000 accounting error, there'll be somebody to say, "Oops, we think you dropped a decimal point somewhere," and to say it BEFORE any damage is done.

I'm not sure why TUSD has figured out how to create this ingenious safety net for itself while other government agencies have not. I suspect that it may have something to do with their superintendent, Roger Pfeuffer, a man totally devoid of charisma. They're used to having these fabulously charismatic prima donnas as superintendents who never accomplish anything. Perhaps we can all draw a lesson here - charisma in a superintendent is a liability.

Stepping back a bit from TUSD, let's revisit the old question of why Tucson has always had such wretched local government. And I'm not just alluding to our pols being little more than cheerleaders for our developers. I'm talking about the staggering regularity of their garden-variety incompetence. The only answer to the abysmal quality of local government that I've ever been able to come up with is that the average Tucsonan simply doesn't care about local government.

If that's our problem, TUSD may have just handed us our solution. Why not have committees of volunteer experts auditing all kinds of government agencies? Let us average Tucsonans continue to slumber and put the expert watchdogs to work for us. Why would they, the experts, do it? That's a good question, but, given the eleven expert volunteers that TUSD came up with, we know that they WILL in fact do it. Who cares what their motives are, as long as they're honest? Back in the '70s when I was a volunteer for an outfit called VD Hotline, one of my fellow volunteers who was in her 60s told me, "The only reason I do this is to avoid being bored and lonely." I doubt if the many frightened people she helped would have objected to her motives.

Imagine the possibilities: What if we had had expert volunteers overseeing the jail some years ago when an elderly drunk's head was fatally used as a battering ram to entertain the guards? What if we'd had expert volunteers overseeing the county attorney's office when they lost 700 or so felony cases, not lost the cases at trial but mislaid the files somewhere so that the defendants could never be brought to trial? How about some expert volunteers to look at the recent "buddy punching" scandals who could have explained to the buddy punchers and their approving bosses that another word for what they were doing is "theft"?

Wouldn't it be great to have a permanent body of volunteer experts to oversee the police department? Even with a police department that's squeaky clean, the very nature of its vast powers cries out for objective oversight. And then there's the big enchilada – the fiasco formerly known as Rio Nuevo. Fear not; I'm not going through its sad litany again, but to think that this mayor has the brass to run again! Only in slumbering Tucson. How about a committee of experts to look at the panoply of expensive Rio Nuevo studies resulting in nothing at all?

And then there's zoning and the very generous, almost automatic, granting of zoning variances. There's compensation and our horde of city workers making over $100,000 a year with no conceivable justification. Save us, you volunteer experts. SAVE US!

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

TIHAN
Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network

11th Annual Turnabout for TIHAN

"Puttin on the Ritz"

Sunday September 2nd, 2007

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Straight Man Says He Was Fired For Not Being Gay

LOS ANGELES - The former executive director of a cycling event that raises money for AIDS research sued two predominantly Gay groups claiming he was fired because he is straight, according to court papers, cbs2.com reported. Jeffrey Shapiro filed his lawsuit in Los Angeles Superior Court, alleging sexual orientation discrimination and intentional infliction of emotional distress by the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

The two organizations co-produce AIDS/LifeCycle a 545-mile cycling event to fund research in the fight against AIDS. Shapiro alleges he was fired because he is heterosexual and that officials there wanted someone who "better fit into the culture." According to the lawsuit, Shapiro was hired in March and received praise for his work, which generated a record $11 million compared to $8 million the previous year. But he claims LAGLC and SFAF leaders held a meeting with Shapiro in June and fired him, telling him that "everybody liked him as a person, but they needed somebody who better fit into the culture."

He said that when he asked for a clarification, a LAGLC director told him "things like this happen and that they made a mistake to think this could work." Shapiro said he was given two weeks pay and money for unused vacation. He is asking for unspecified compensatory and punitive damages, and a permanent injunction preventing the two groups from engaging in further such alleged discrimination.

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE

Putin Gay Sex Idol?

Russian President Vladimir Putin

MOSCOW, Russia - When he flexes Russia's diplomatic and military muscle, President Vladimir Putin always makes headlines. But few could have predicted the squall of gossip and speculation that would follow after Putin stripped off his shirt for the cameras while on holiday with Prince Albert of Monaco in the Siberian mountains.

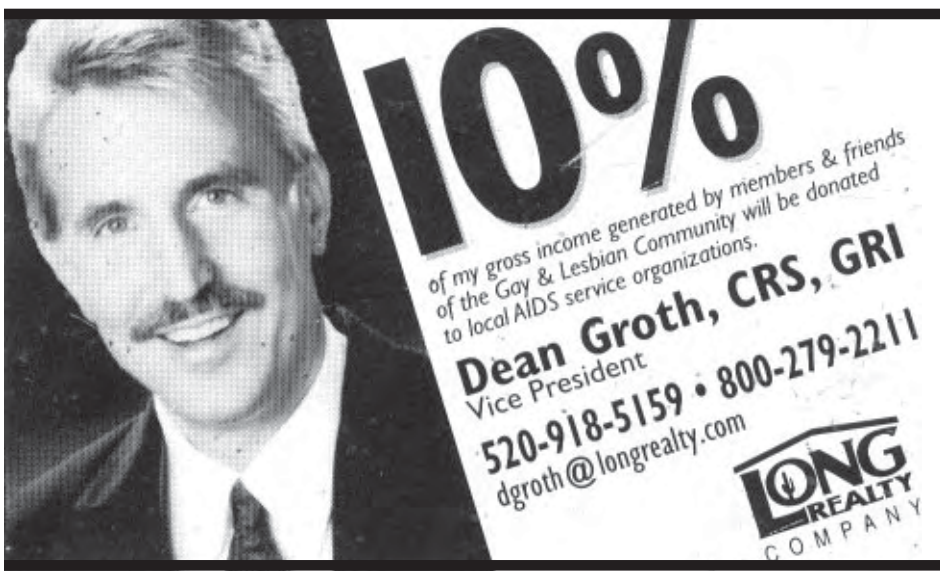
The resulting images of the presidential abs, prominently enshrined on the presidential website, inspired admiration, criticism and some racing pulses among his admirers. The Russian media still can't get enough. The mass market tabloid Komsomolskaya Pravda on Wednesday published a huge colour photo of the barechested president, under the headline: "Be Like Putin." The newspaper's excuse? A guide showing exactly what exercises were required to build up a torso like that of the Russian leader. Meanwhile, Kremlin watchers have been busy trying to guess what kind of political message the pictures might send, given that Putin has insisted he plans to step down at the end of his second presidential term next year, as required by the constitution.

One radio talk show host speculated that the pictures were meant to enhance Putin's personal appeal to voters, a strong signal that he doesn't plan to relinquish power. But when the commentator, Yevgeniya Albats, went on to suggest that the barechested photos were unbecoming of a Russian leader, female listeners peppered her with e-mails expressing admiration for Putin's physique. Komsomolskaya Pravda reported that women who visited its website posted comments on Putin's "vigorous torso" and said they "were screaming with delight and showering (him) with compliments." Russian Gay chat rooms and blogs were particularly intrigued by the photos: Some claimed that Putin, by stripping to his waist, was somehow pleading for more tolerance of homosexuality in Russia, where Gays and Lesbians, for the most part, remain in the closet.

One satirical photo circulating on the Internet jokingly compared Putin's mountain adventure with Prince Albert to the movie "Brokeback Mountain," a love story about Gay cowboys. The 54-year-old Russian leader, who is married with two daughters, has long cultivated an image of machismo and manliness. Well-known as a downhill skier and black belt in judo, Putin has appeared on national television driving a truck, operating a train, sailing on a submarine and copiloting a fighter jet. All these exploits have been widely publicized. In contrast to his predecessor Boris Yeltsin, notorious for drunken antics, Putin has established an image as serious, energetic, sober and sharp-witted. In a country that worships its Olympic and other world-class athletes, he has also taken care to stay physically fit. In interviews, he speaks avidly about judo and athletics. "Sport has helped me form my own personal point of view on the world, on people and my approach to them," he said in an interview posted on the Kremlin website. Some say it's all part of the Putin mystique. "He's cool. That's been the image throughout the presidency, cool," said Sergei Markov, Kremlin-connected head of the Moscow-based Institute for Political Research.

But Putin's outdoor outing took this manly public persona to a new level. The prince and the president spent several days on vacation in the mountainous southern Siberian region of Tuva. Dressed in fatigues, fingerless gloves, a bush hat

Continued on Page Fourteen



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Ted Haggard's Cash-For-Heaven Offer

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - Have some extra cash? Feel like going to heaven? Then you might consider sending Ted Haggard and his family some monthly checks for the next two years while they move into a halfway house and get psychology and counseling degrees from the University of Phoenix, coloradoconfidential.com reported.

If you haven't had enough of the Haggard/New Life Church saga, KRDO Channel 13 in Colorado Springs aired a story about a letter that Haggard sent to consumer reporter Tak Landrock, letting him know of the Haggard family plans to move into the Phoenix Dream Center to minister to ex-cons, recovering alcoholics, drug addicts, prostitutes, and "other broken people," Haggard writes. "I identify."

Baaron Pittenger, assistant news director for KRDO, says that Landrock has been communicating with the fallen former pastor of New Life Church via e-mail. The station broadcast the story about Haggard's new life and request for donations on the 10 p.m. news last night. Pittenger says he's not aware that there's been much response to the story. Haggard, the charismatic former head of the National Association of Evangelicals, was fired last Nov. 4 from the 14,000-member New Life Church that he founded after he admitted buying meth and getting massages from a male escort. After three weeks of intensive "restoration" therapy, Haggard claimed he was "completely heterosexual"; he and his family subsequently moved to Arizona.

In his most recent communiqué with the Colorado Springs TV reporter, Haggard indicates that he and his wife Gayle, along with their two underage younger sons, are planning to move into a one-bedroom apartment in a Phoenix halfway house to minister to the residents. They are both, he wrote, enrolled at the University of Phoenix.

In what is clearly a fundraising letter, Haggard indicated, "we need to raise our own support." However, he doesn't mention that when he left the church, New Life Church leaders agreed to pay his salary through 2007 - estimated at about $138,000 annually. In addition, as Colorado Confidential reported earlier this month, El Paso County Assessor property records show that the Haggard's still own their 5-bedroom, 3-bath home in Colorado Springs. Sitting on 5.1 acres, its current market value is listed at $715,051. The home is not currently on the market for sale.

An independent confirmation with the Colorado Secretary of State's office shows that the organization's corporate offices were moved from Kailua-Kona, Hawaii to the Town of Monument, north of Colorado Springs, in July, 2003. Its Colorado Springs mailing address is the same one to which Haggard is asking people to send donations. However, Secretary of State records show that Families With a Mission was administratively dissolved earlier this year, on Feb. 23.

The man who is listed as the president of Families With a Mission, Paul Gerard Huberty, appears to be the same Paul Huberty who was convicted in 1996 of having sex with a 17-year old girl while he was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Force stationed in Germany, and who later registered as a sex offender in Hawaii. The organization Family Watchdog, which tracks sex offenders, currently lists Huberty at the same Monument address that was the principal address of Families With a Mission.

To Avoid Divorce, Move To Massachusetts

BOSTON, Massachusetts - If blue states care less about moral values, why are divorce rates so low in the bluest of the blue states? It's a question that intrigues conservatives, as much as it emboldens liberals, reported the Boston Globe. As researchers have noted, the areas of the country where divorce rates are highest are also frequently the areas where many conservative Christians live.

Kentucky, Mississippi and Arkansas, for example, voted overwhelmingly for constitutional amendments to ban Gay marriage. But they had three of the highest divorce rates in 2003, based on figures from the Census Bureau and the National Center for Health Statistics. The lowest divorce rates are largely in the blue states: the Northeast and the upper Midwest. And the state with the lowest divorce rate was Massachusetts, home to John Kerry, the Kennedys and same-sex marriage. In 2003, the rate in Massachusetts was 5.7 divorces per 1,000 married people, compared with 10.8 in Kentucky, 11.1 in Mississippi and 12.7 in Arkansas.

"Some people are saying, 'The Bible Belt is so pro-marriage, but gee, they have the highest divorce rates in the country,' " said Barbara Dafoe Whitehead, co-director of the National Marriage Project at Rutgers University. "And there's a lot of worry in the red states about the high rate of divorce."

Favorite Books Of The New Queerlenium

The GLBT Services Committee was established in 1997 to better serve southern Arizona's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender 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 they 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. I'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. 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.

Rag and Bone by Michael Nava. Henry Rios, a Gay Hispanic lawyer, is shocked to learn his sister, a Lesbian, has a daughter, who is now missing. Henry locates Vicky and her 10-year-old son Angel. When Vicky is charged in the murder of Angel's father, she turns, reluctantly, to Henry for help. Meanwhile, Henry is falling in love, for the first time in many years. And he's discovering a new role for himself, that he's not sure he wants: as a father figure for Angel. It's really a shame that Nava has announced that this is the end of the Rios series and his career as a mystery writer. (Laura Thomas Sullivan)

She Loves Me, She Loves Me Not by Lesle Newman. This is a very enjoyable collection of eleven romantic short stories with Lesbians as the protagonists, exploring a variety of perspectives, subjects, and moods. "Keeping a Breast" explores a fear common to all women whose doctor discovers a suspicious lump and mentions the dreaded C word. "Bashert" tells the story of a woman's self-discovery on a kibbutz in 1977, and how it culminated in a showing of her paintings many years later. In "Mothers of Invention," the final story of the collection, a butch partner recounts her struggle to accept her femme's desire to have a child. I rarely read short stories, but I reacted to these the way I do to salted nuts – I just couldn't stop. (Laura Thomas Sullivan)

The Sissy Duckling by Harvey Fierstein, illustrated by Henry Cole. Elmer, with his modern coif and pink backpack, is not your average boy duckling. The other ducklings make fun of him because he prefers to bake, create puppet shows, play with the girls, and lead cheers. But when he flees from a bully, his father is angered by what he perceives as weakness and adds to the name-calling. Elmer's heart crumbles. Much like GLBT youth today, Elmer runs away from home. After he has masterfully decorated his new hollow tree home, he is still sad and lonely. He decides to take one last trip home to see his mom and dad fly south for the winter, and watches as his father is badly wounded by hunters, unable to join the rest of the flock. Courageously, he carries his father to safety and nurses him back to health, showing everyone just what a sissy is capable of. The Sissy Duckling is a must-have children's book for anyone desiring to eliminate gender stereotypes or boost their child's self-esteem. (Karyn Prechtel)

Stay: a novel by Nicola Griffith. This is Griffith's second mystery featuring tall blonde killing-machine Aud Torvingen, a former Atlanta police officer now in deep grief for her lover Julia, whose death she caused in the 1998 book The Blue Place. Aud fled to her cabin in the Appalachian mountains for emotional healing, but an old friend ferrets her out to track down his missing fiance, Tammy. The pace picks up when Aud finds Tammy in a Soho loft, along with the madman Geordie Karp who has enthralled Tammy as his sexual and psychological slave. Aud uses her grief as a weapon to stop Karp, and along the way confronts her own violence and brutality. Dubbed by the Village Voice a literary "Femme Nikita," Griffith's has won the praise of mystery readers, including crime writer Dennis Lehane. (Terry Nordbrock)

For more information, visit your local Pima County library or go online to tppl.org/community/glbt/index.cfm.

Cop Busted In Hustler Ring

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania - When police began a sting operation to catch suspected prostitutes they had no idea they would be arresting one of their own, 365Gay.com reported. Levi Gibbon Jr, a part-time police officer with Newport Township in northeastern Pennsylvania, has been charged with prostitution.

An informant told the state police Organized Crime Unit about a man working as a hustler and an undercover officer set up a date to meet the man at a local motel. The criminal complaint against Gibbon, 40, says that he discussed various sex acts with the undercover officer and the fees involved. The officer allegedly accepted $200 and began to undress. The money was in marked bills and the officer sent a signal to waiting troopers who arrested Gibbon.

Police say that after his arrest Gibbon gave a written statement saying he had been working as an escort and had expected to be paid for sex. The was charged by the Organized Crime Unit with a single count of prostitution and released on bail. Gibbon has been suspended without pay until the case is heard.

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COMMENTARY. . . .

By Richard Kim

The GOP's Bathroom Problem,

NEW YORK CITY - What's up with Republican politicos getting arrested by undercover cops for soliciting sex in public restrooms? First, Florida state representative Bob Allen, formerly John McCain's state campaign co-chair, was arrested in July after he offered a police officer $20 for the privilege of performing oral sex. And today, news broke that back in June, Senator Larry Craig ? (R-Idaho), long the subject of Gay rumors, was arrested in a Minnesota airport by a plainclothes cop investigating lewd conduct in the men's bathroom. Both men are married–to women. (See Max Blumenthal at Campaign Matters for more details.)

The moment is so thick with irony, I scarcely know where to begin. But let's start with their incredibly lame attempts at damage control. Upon arrest, both Allen and Craig attempted to use their positions of power to escape charges (Craig handed over his US Senate business card to the officer and asked, "What do you think about that?).

Post-arrest, Allen, appealing at once to homophobia and racism, mounted a "black (Gay) panic" defense. You see he wasn't really interested in giving head, he was just trying to save his neck. Apparently, the cop was "a pretty stocky black guy" and "there were nothing but other black guys around in the park." Fearing he was "about to become a statistic," Allen did what any other, rational, straight (straight!), white man would do if he just so happened to find himself cruising a public restroom full of black men: fork over a Jackson and drop to your knees.

Less hysterical, but equally flimsy, is Craig's story. Through his spokesman, Craig said that the whole incident was just a "he said/he said misunderstanding." Last year, when Gay blogger Mike Rogers alleged that Craig had engaged in same-sex relations, Craig called the story "absolutely ridiculous, almost laughable." I wonder if Craig was laughing on August 8–when he plead guilty to misdemeanor disorderly conduct charges in a Minnesota County Court.

Of course, both Republicans have a long history of support for anti-Gay legislation–in Craig's case votes for the Federal Marriage Amendment and in Allen's a court brief against Gay adoption and authorship of a failed bill to ratchet up penalties for "unnatural and lascivious acts."

I'm sure as the press digests the Craig scandal, you'll hear a lot about "hypocrisy," "repressed homosexuality" and "internalized homophobia." Good enough, I suppose, for making a somewhat cheap political point and sweeping these undeniably creepy, tragic guys back into the Brokeback Mountain days from whence they apparently came. But I wonder if the GOP's burgeoning "bathroom problem" isn't reflective of something larger than just a bunch of conservative dudes who couldn't come out of the closet. There's something palpably sad to me about what happened to Allen and Craig too, something oddly touching about their misplaced faith in the fading world of secret, anonymous Gay sex. That world–once found in bathrooms, parks, piers and adult bookstores; the furtive refuges of adventuresome queers, married men, the curious–has been swept away by so many police raids, privatization schemes, quality of life campaigns and internet dating services. But mostly, it's fallen away as Gays have become increasingly integrated into the mainstream, and also, paradoxically, more marked than ever. "You're either Gay or you're not" seems to be the equation.

Until someone like Craig, Allen, Mark Foley, Ted Haggard or Jim McGreevey shows up to ripple momentarily the waters of public discourse on sex. These guys have problems, no doubt. But we might also pause to wonder if there's some cultural knot that Gay liberation–despite its original and best intentions–has left in place. At the very least the link between public power and domestic heterosexuality–with all the fetishistic displays of family life that entails–has yet to be completely severed. Just ask Rudy Guiliani, or Hillary Clinton! Moreover, that knot, perhaps best described as sexual propriety, is what fuels the moral campaigns against homosexuality that have become one of the Republican Party's identifying causes–loyally supported by the likes of Craig, Haggard, Foley, et. al. It's also what leads Bob Allen to the stunning and revealing calculation that it would be better to be seen in the public eye as an avowed racist than as someone who likes to have sex with men sometimes.

(Richard Kim is an associate editor at The Nation. He writes frequently about race, sexuality and popular culture. Kim is a co-editor of the forthcoming anthology A New Queer Agenda (NYU Press), and this oped is reprinted from the Nation blog).

COMMENTARY. . . .

End Ban On Gays And Lesbians In Military

Justice demands that Congress recognize the contributions of thousands of men and women in the armed forces by ending the ban against Gays and Lesbians serving openly in the military.

The current policy of "don't ask, don't tell," adopted in 1993, forces homosexuals to keep silent about their sexual orientation or else face expulsion from the military. It is a hollow and cruel ruse that denigrates the humanity of an entire class of people who serve their country, often with courage, honor and distinction.

In the past 14 years, thousands of Gay men and women have been dismissed because of their sexual orientation - resulting in a considerable loss of talent to the armed forces. Other servicemen and women have been forced to lead double lives, as if they or their contributions could be somehow lessened should their secret escape.

Military leaders and many in Congress have sought to defend the ban on homosexuals serving openly, arguing, as did then-Chairman of the Joints Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Colin L. Powell, that the presence of homosexuals in the military "would be detrimental to good order and discipline."

That was in 1993. Fortunately, such attitudes are changing. When the current Joint Chiefs chairman, Marine Gen. Peter Pace, said during an interview earlier this year that allowing Gays to serve openly in the military would be condoning "immoral behavior," the resulting controversy was enough to get moderate Republicans to start calling for a re-evaluation of the military's policy.

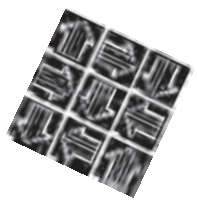
In June, Mr. Powell told NBC's "Meet the Press" that his attitude on Gays in the military has changed significantly. And during a recent debate, eight Democratic presidential hopefuls said they would work to repeal the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

In addition, polls show that a whole new generation of service members, raised during a time when homosexuality has gotten broader social acceptance, is more willing to serve with openly Gay recruits.

The "don't ask, don't tell" policy was enacted in 1993 in a compromise reached between the Clinton administration and Congress. Its removal will require either a court ruling or new legislation. The House is considering such a bill.

Congress should end this discrimination. A military policy imbued with the principle of fairness and that grants equal career opportunities to Gays - as it now does for minorities and women - will also yield a stronger and better armed services.

(The above was the reprinted editorial in the August 26 edition of the Hartford (CT) Courant.)



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POLITICS 2007

by Mark R. Kerr

Q-Politics 2008: Governor Bill Richardson

It has been reported that more Members of the current, 110th Congress are announcing their public support for the soon-to-be and announced Democratic and Republican presidential wannabees.

Members of Arizona's Congressional Delegation have expressed their support as well for the presidential candidates (as of press time):

Senator Jon Kyl (Arizona Senator John McCain); Senator John McCain (just guess); Representative Jeff Flake (Senator John McCain), Representative Rick Renzi (Senator John McCain); Representative John Shaddegg (Senator John McCain); Representative Trent Franks (Representative Duncan Hunter); Representative Raul Grijalva (Senator John Edwards) and Representative Ed Pastor (former Congressman, U.N. Ambassador and current Governor of New Mexico, Bill Richardson).

Pastor is one of seven Members of Congress who have gotten on board the Richardson bandwagon, also known as "the Gaffe-mobile," since in recent weeks, Governor Richardson has been numerous questionable or erroneous remarks.

From his baseball prowess, praising of the late Supreme Court Justice, Byron "Whizzer" White, a "Maricon Moment" on a morning cable talkshow, declaring homosexuality as "a choice to equating his 1996 vote on the proposed federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) law, as an action to defeated a proposed constitutional amendment that wasn't the case, since DOMA was a reaction to a 1993 Hawaii Supreme Court decision recognizing same-sex relationships, when Richardson speaks, his supporters have had to resort to "what he really meant to say" or "Richardson's record and postions are better . . . "

Some may think this to be lame excuse but is it for Governor Bill Richardson?

As Governor, Richardson would initiate laws that would practice non-discrimination in employment on the basis of sexual orientation.

During his first term as Governor, Richardson signed a virtual panoply of LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) rights protections that include expanding civil rights laws to include sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as inssued an executive order to extend access to health insurance and benefits to the domestic partners of state employees.

Richardson supports HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. In 2005, Governor Richardson supported increases in state funding for HIV/AIDS in New Mexico, $1-million was allocated to expand access to medications and insurance coverage to more people living with HIV/AIDS and maintain in-statute programs for HIV/AIDS patients.

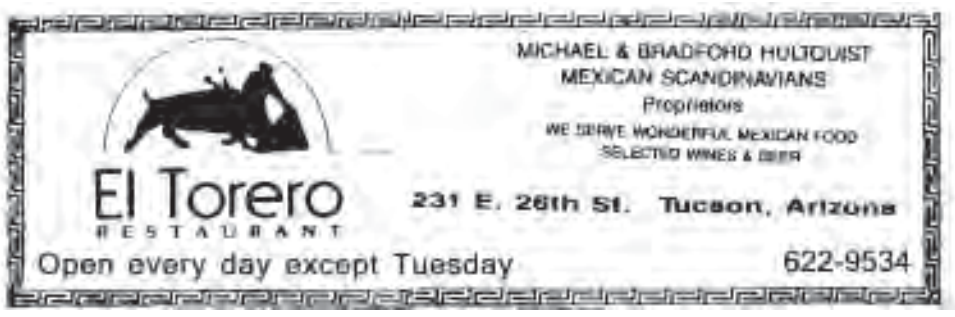
Though Richardson is now vocal about supporting the repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" ban on open Gays and Lesbians from serving in the military, his past record on the issue is complicated.

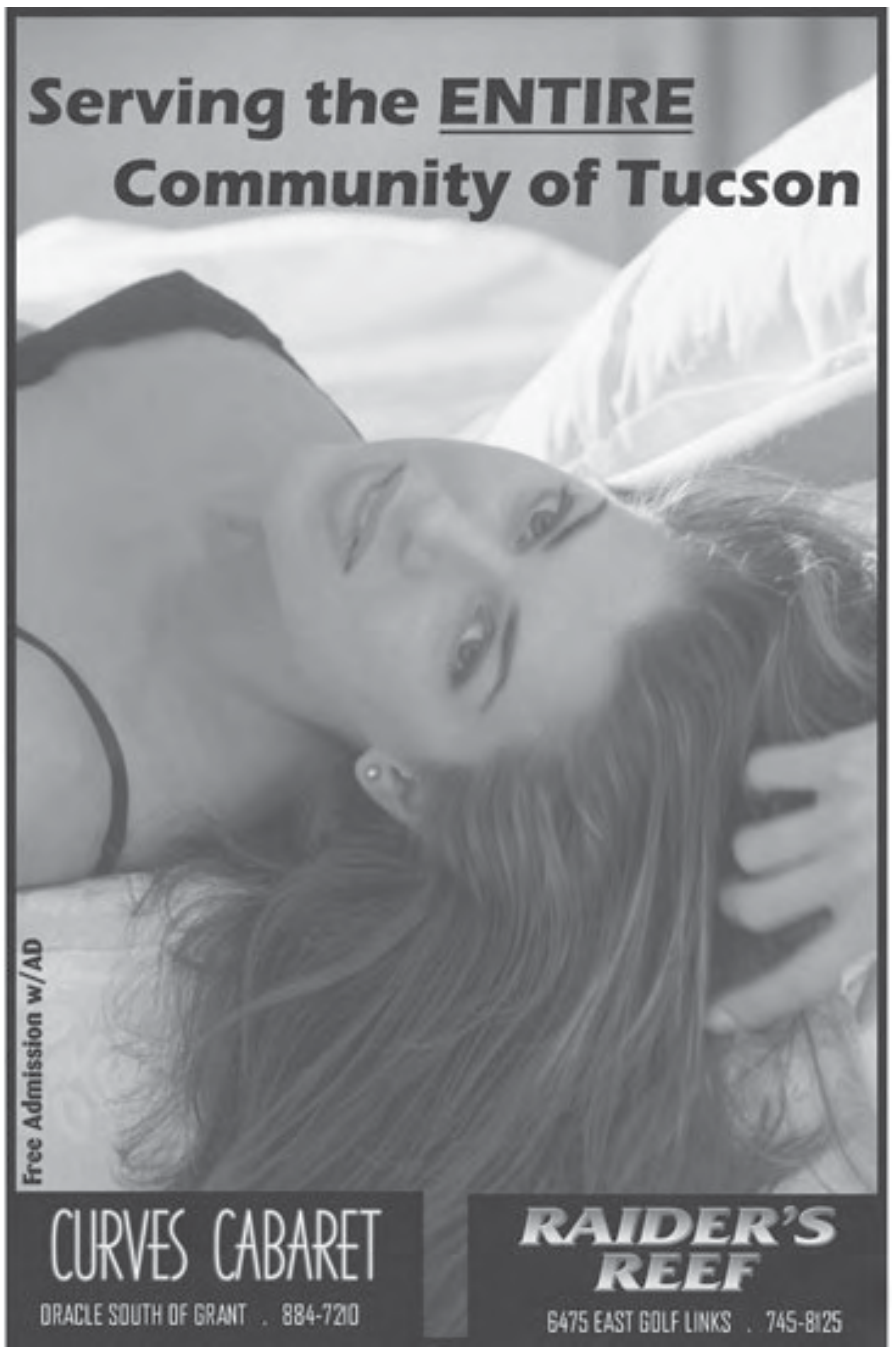
At one point, Richardson voted in support initially but there was another vote, according to the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, considered a key vote which Richardson voted the correct way.

If elected, Richardson would support and sign legislation expanding current, federal hate crimes statutes to cover sexual orientation and gender identity.

Richardson supports same-sex relationships, calling them either civil unions or domestic partnerships, for which these relationships should have the same rights that opposite-sex couples currently receive. Richardson opposes same-sex marriage but he also opposes adding an amendment to the U.S. Constitution, such as the proposed, Federal Marriage Amendment.

Governor Richardson's presidential campaign website is located at richardsonforpresident.com. For more information on Governor Richardson's positions or votes, go online to issues2000.org/Bill_Richardson.htm, ontheissues.org/Bill_Richardson.htm and vote-smart.org/bio.php?can_id=26964.





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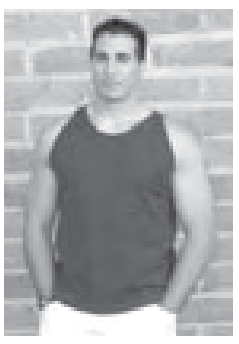

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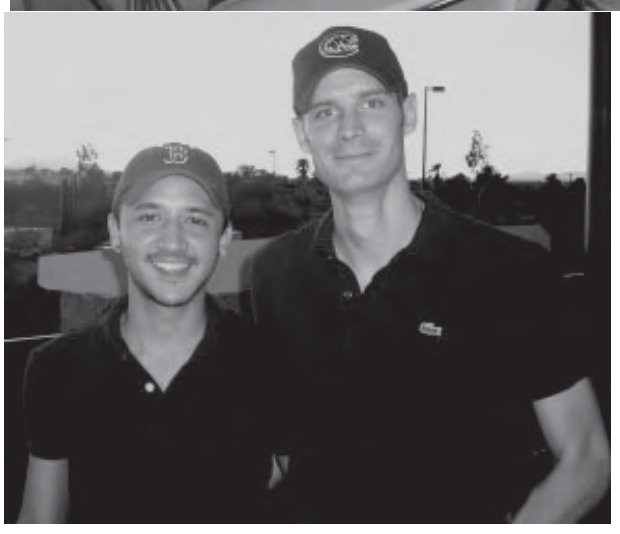

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Stanton Seeks City Manager Job In Tempe

TEMPE (Observer Update) - A woman fired by the city of Largo, Florida after revealing plans to begin sex reassignment reportedly is seeking the job of city manager of Tempe, Arizona, reported 365Gay.com. The Arizona Republic reports that Susan Stanton is one of 23 people who have applied for the job.

Stanton, who at the time was using his birth name, Steve, was fired in February as Largo's city manager after announcing in a newspaper interview she was transsexual and was intending to transition. Stanton decided to go public after the paper began asking questions about rumors that had begun circulating that Stanton had been seen at out of town locations in women's clothing. Stanton told the paper she has begun receiving hormone therapy and counseling - a requirement for transitioning.

Following the publication of the interview Stanton issued an E-mail statement to all staff at Largo City Hall outlining the reasons behind the decision to transition and pleaded for tolerance. City Council said it placed Stanton on suspension because the issue of transsexuality was dividing the staff. But after it voted to fire Stanton councilors said that was not the reason, claiming Stanton was difficult to work with. After her firing in Largo Stanton was thrust on the national stage - something she took seriously, traveling to Washington to lobby for workplace anti-discrimination legislation and passage of the Matthew Shepard hate crime act.

Susan Stanton

In May Stanton narrowly lost out for a similar job in Sarasota. Officials at Tempe City Hall will not confirm Stanton is a candidate for the job, saying that none of the names will be disclosed until the list is whittled down to the finalists. Stanton has not commented on the report. Tempe is one of three Arizona cities that includes sexual identity in its non-discrimination ordinance.

Gay Singer Denies Racism Charge

LONDON - Openly Gay singer Darren Hayes has been released on bail after being questioned by police about an incident at a Thai restaurant in London, reported 365Gay.com. The former frontman for Savage Garden is facing a charge of making a racist attack on a waiter at the restaurant.

Police say the incident involved a verbal altercation. Uttering hate speech in the UK is a crime. The Australian-born Savage is on tour promoting his third solo CD called This Delicate Thing We've Made A spokesperson for the Busaba Eathai restaurant in the Soho district said that staff reported the incident to police. Hayes, in a statement through is attorney, denies using a racial slur. "Darren is unable to comment to any extent as the incident is presently under investigation by the police, with whom he has cooperated fully," the statement said. "However, he is deeply upset at the allegation, which he strenuously denies, and anyone who knows Darren will recognize that the particular nature of the allegation is totally abhorrent to him and contrary to everything for which he has stood

Last year Hayes entered into a civil partnership in England with Richard Cullen. An outspoken supporter of LGBT civil rights Hayes a week ago on a trip to his native land lashed out at Australian Prime Minister John Howard over Howard's opposition to legalizing same-sex relationships. "I'm Australian and the way the law sits I can't bring my partner home as my partner, he told an Australian newspaper. "That to me is an infringement of my civil rights - a very un-Australian thing. I would never have voted for John Howard and I encourage people not to. I don't think he speaks for this country in the same way I don't think George Bush speaks for the U.S." Hayes formed Savage Garden with producer Daniel Jones in 1994. The group produced the hits Truly, Madly, Deeply, To The Moon And Back and I Knew I Loved You.

Putin Gay Sex Idol?

Continued from Page Seven

and chic sunglasses, television networks broadcast scenic footage of Russia's most powerful man riding horses, rafting down a river, fishing for grayling and off-roading in a sport utility vehicle. Amid all the outdoor posturing last week, the image-handlers were careful to make sure Putin was shown staying on top of major events _ a lesson he learned after he was criticized for failing to immediately interrupt his vacation after the Kursk submarine sank in August 2000. Putin's Siberian holiday coincided with the bombing of a passenger train near St. Petersburg earlier this month. This time, the TV networks showed him reportedly issuing orders to top ministers by cellphone from his vacation retreat. Stanislav Belkovsky, head of the National Strategy Institute think tank, said the pictures from Tuva were nothing more than an effort to reassure Russians that Putin knows how to relax _ and was preparing for retirement. Yevgeny Volk, who heads the Heritage Foundation's Moscow office, said the political elite increasingly views Putin as a lame duck leader and that the photos only strengthen the impression that he should no longer be taken seriously.

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HOROSCOPES

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Start something exciting when the Sun ambles into Virgo this week. Our jets are revved and can travel in many possible directions. Pack a compass to get where you need to go.

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

A few select Gay Rams will capitalize on the Sun in Virgo by really applying themselves on the task at hand and thus gain greater recognition for their efforts. Perhaps a few more will buff and tone with an extra effort at the gym and put the crowd to shame. Still more will find ways of shifting their onerous tasks onto others. What category do you fall into? Hmmm??

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Queer Bulls find themselves in youthful, exuberant company with Sun in Virgo. Expand your usual base. Try a new club, hang with a different crowd or even involve yourself with new creative enterprises. You will be surprised as to how creative you can be once you set your mind to it. Will Gen X turn into Gen XXX? I guess we would have to ask "Y".

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

There is work to be done and you are the one to do it. Improve the look of your surroundings by redecorating or moving things around. But it is not all drone-like work, pink Twin. In fact Sun in Virgo delivers good times to your front door. So spruce up your nest and invite a few good eggs over for a scramble. So what if one or two of them are a bit cracked?

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Do you have something on your mind? Well say it. Gay Crabs should not be reticent. In fact they should carefully think about the effect they wish to create and boldly speak out loud, proud and queer. You make the front pages. Of course if you are just angling to complain, make it a whisper rather than a shout. Dazzle them with unspoken charm instead.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

There is money to be made and advantage to be gained with Sun in Virgo. Opportunities open up to fulfil your life long dreams and it will be the clever proud Lion that jumps right in. But don't be greedy and reckless; first do your homework and seek the right advisor. Remember bulls and bears make money but pigs lose their shirts. Sniff. Do I smell bacon burning?

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

Queer Virgins seem to have that get-up-and-go when Sun posits in their sign. You have a fresh perspective and an ability to grab onto opportunities at just the right time. Don't sit back. Survey the landscape and see what needs fixing. Not only can you light a fire under certain dormant (read:lazy) folks, you can also turn a small something into a big to do. Oh please do, do, do!

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

There is more to life than accumulation and dissipation, proud Libra. Sun in Virgo accentuates larger, karmic things like volunteerism, charity, forgiveness, world vision and deferring personal gratification for the greater good. In fact you might find that there is greater satisfaction to be gained now by giving more than receiving. It is a nice change of pace.

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

Pals come out of the wood work with Sun in Virgo. Gay Scorps can be excused for hauling their stuff all over town and dropping it off in all sorts of venues. That is because their presence is desired by a range of groups. If you are especially attuned, you even find yourself in the adoring center of some of the most elite circles. Hurry before you revert back to a troll.

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

Proud Archers can make their big move when Sun sits in Virgo. Your star shines even in the densest fogs. Your advice is sought after. Not only are even your most mediocre ideas hailed by the big bosses, your meager and average efforts are applauded. Will you harness this energy and make the most of it? Maybe. Yet somehow I doubt it.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

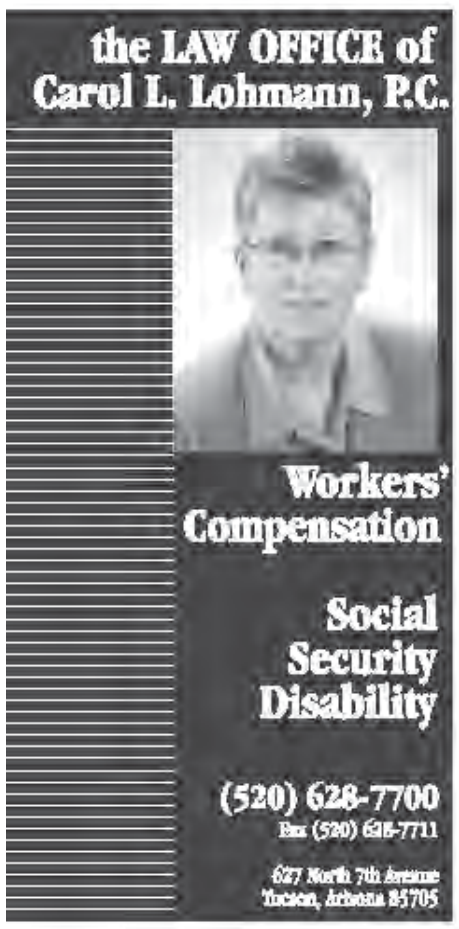
Expansion in all its forms is a mantra for you when the Sun enters Virgo. You may want to enroll for a new course of study or discover global opportunities and enterprises via the internet. Pink Caps can not only get their face out front, they can also impact millions of people with relatively little effort. Err maybe you should zip up your fly...

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

Aqueerians have a certain something with Sun in Virgo. And that certain something is certainly something with a certain you-know-who. Your love life heats up to a frenzy and makes you too tasty for words. Don't say anything and let your actions speak prouder than your words. Remember to turn it up, turn it on and let it all hang Out lover.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Relationships take on a greater importance when Sun enters Virgo. What are you looking for? What qualities make you happy? Think it through. This is a good time to solidify shaky partnerships or to seek new ones that provide you with a firmer foundation and greater sense of security. Guppies deserve the best. Don't settle for seconds ... or worse, leftovers.



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.

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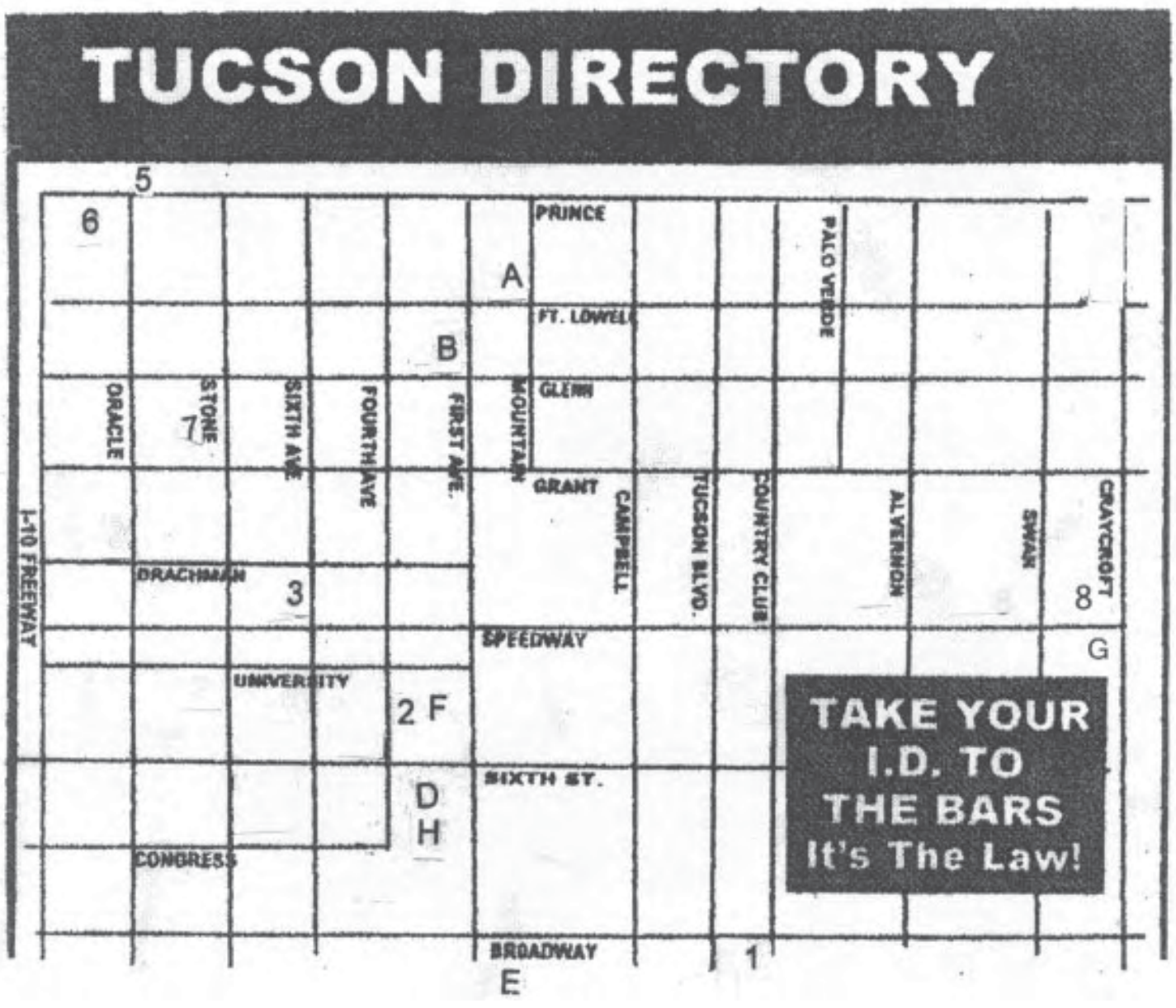

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5. WOODY'S
   3710 N. Oracle Road, 292-6702
6. HOWL AT THE MOON
   915 W. Prince Rd. 293-7339
7. YARD DOG SALOON
   2449 N. Stone, 624-3858
8. COLORS FOOD & SPIRITS
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A. MCC - METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
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B. CORNERSTONE FELLOWSHIP
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D. WINGSPAN - 425 E. 7th St. - 624-1779

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

F. RAINBOW PLANET COFFEE HOUSE
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G. TIHAN -Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network
1101 N. Craycroft, Ste 301. 299-6647

H. EON YOUTH CENTER 620-6245

Non Bar Calendar

Wednesday, August 22nd
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Hand and Foot with Lee and Merlin. Phone: 207-5336.

Thursday, August 23rd
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, August 24th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Merlin and Lee host a word for word fun evening of Scrabble. If you don't know how to play, they will be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please contact Merlin and Lee at 207-5336. If you're loquacious, erudite, or a wordsmith; this man's game just may be a triple word score for you!

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

Saturday, August 25th
#1Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 1:00pm August Pool Party.

#2Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Shuffle over for Floating Pinochle every Saturday of the month except for first Saturday MSN Monthly Pot Luck. Contact Marvin at 745-0304.

Sunday, August 26th
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, August 27th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Hearts. 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, August 28th
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 Perry at 321-4387 for details.

Wednesday, August 29th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Hand and Foot with Peter at 881-8276.

Thursday, August 30th
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, August 31st
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed. Today is the only day on this month's MSN calendar with no MSN events scheduled. This presents MSN members with unlimited possibilities and opportunities to create on their own that most perfect day that they have always dreamed of living. So MSN members: go for it, and bring photos and stories of your fabulous day to the next Pot Luck so we can all enjoy sharing in each other's happiness!

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

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

Thursday, September 6
7:00 p.m. Yoga and Meditation. Call Marc at the Man to Man Club for more information. 881-4582.

Sunday, September 9
3:45 p.m. Sign up for the monthly Men's Massage Group in its 18th year. Spend 2 hours on the 3rd Sunday of each month in nude b liss with other men. Call Marc at 881-4582 to sign up and for information..

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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-2am; $2 Pitchers til 10pm and Rotating Shot Specials all night;. Latino Explosion 9pm with DJ Hill. Beer Bust 5-10pm

COLORS - Open 10am - 10pm Champagne Brunch 10am - 2pm with choice of complimentary mimosa, Bloody Mary or Screwdriver. Dickie Steed on piano during brunch. Brunch served until 2pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm $3.50 Skyy Cocktails, $2.75 Domestics and well. Reduced price appetizers. Dinner served until10pm.

HOWL AT THE MOON – 10am. Starting 9/9. NFL package here. Wear an NFL team t-shirt or jersey and get 5o¢ off your drink. Smirnoff Vodkas $2.50 all day. Free Texas Hold-'Em Poker Tournaments at 3 and 6 pm. Play for points and prizes - no cash involved. .

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

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

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

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

MONDAY

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

COLORS - Closed on Mondays.

HOWL AT THE MOON – Happy Hour all day & night with $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. Watch MNF here! $1.00 hot dogs during game. Free Texas Hold-Em Poker tourney at 6 & 8:30, Play for points and prizes. No cash involved.

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 - Half-Price Happy Hour 3-8pm. Karaoke 8pm-12am with 2 for 1 drinks.

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

HOWL AT THE MOON – Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints.$3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. Pitcher. $2.50 well margaritas and tequila. 75¢ off call tequilas. Free Texas Hold-Em Poker for women only at 6:00 p.m. Play for points and prizes - no cash involved.

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

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

WOODY'S - Open Noon til 2am. Happy Hour Noon-8pm (excl spec events). Havana Night with Woody's own Specialty Mojitos, Caprioskas and Martinis.

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/DJHill at 9pm! Rotating Shot Specials all night. Patio Bar opens @ 10:30pm.

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

HOWL AT THE MOON – Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, $3.50 sm. Pitcher/ $5.50 lg. Pitchers. $5.00 Jager Bombs and Long Island Ice Tea. Free Texas Hold-'Em Poker Tournaments at 6 & 8:30 pm Play for points & Prizes. No cash involved.

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 9-close - $1 off all drinks for those who participate (50¢ off draught/schnapps) Back Pocket Patio Bar open 9pm-close.

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

THURSDAY

THE BIZ - Open3pm-2am; Drink What You Want with ½ priced Happy Hour 3-8pm; 'Thirsty Thursday' with Tori Steele & Friends! Drag show now ts at 10pm with Tori Steele, China Colliins and guests. $2 Pitchers and Rotating Shot Specials. Followed by DJ Hill til 2am.

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

HOWL AT THE MOON – Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg.. Pitcher. Mexican Beers $2.50 all lday, all night. Karaoke starts at 8:30 p.m.

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 Hill at 9pm. Rotating Shot Specials all night! Patio Bar opens at 10:30pm

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

HOWL AT THE MOON – Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. $3.,50 Sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. Pitcher. $2.50 Smirnoff Ice. Triple Black, Green Apple and Raspberry Twisters. Free Country dance lessons at 7:30p.m. DJ Pat plays the best of contemporary and classic country 8:30 to close..

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 - $2.00 U-Call-Its til 11pm. Saturday night dance party with DJ Hill9pm. Patio Bar opens at 10:30pm.

COLORS - Open 4pm-10pm, Lunch served until 4pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3.50 Skyy cocktails, $2.75 Domestics and Well, reduced price appetizers. Dinner served until10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

HOWL AT THE MOON – Open at 11am. Happy Hour 11-8pm, $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. $4.50 cheeseburger & fries.$2.50 Captain Morgan or Malibu Rum all day, all night. Check our calendar for the Saturday Night Special Entertainment.

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30

IBT'S - Fire Party 10:00 p.m. to closing. Kick off the weekend early. Hot Drink Specials. Bartenders in their underwear and DJ Neil spinning the hottest dance and hip hop.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 31

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

IBT'S - Ice Party 10:00 p.m. to closing. Cool drink specials from their ice luges and "Frozen" shots. Dance inside to techno with DJ Neil and outside to Hip Hop with DJ Mike Lopez.

YARD DOG SALOON - BBQ Rib Dinner 7:00 p.m. and Mom's 75th Birthday Party!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

HOWL AT THE MOON - Showtime featuring Samora de Huni. Join Samora, Tori Steele, Amanda Nicole and Knokache for a memorable evening.

VENTURE-N - Labor Day Weekend starts with Bucky's world famous' BLTs and Reuben sandwiches served beginning at 11 a.m. Then prepare your loin cloth and get ready for the annual "Jungle Party" from 9:00 to closing. Contest at Midnight. Wear a loincloth - wear a sarong - be original. Make your own costume! Prizes for men in Best Loincloth and Most Original. Great prizes.

YARD DOG SALOON - DJ Bob S. at 8:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

VENTURE-N - Labor Day celebration party continues today when the bar opens at 10:00 a.m. Beer Bust from 3 to 7 and Burger Bust from 5 to 7.

YARD DOG SALOON - Texas Hold-Em Noon and 2:00 p.m..

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

IBT'S - Start Labor Day off with Monday Morning Madness. Doors open at 10:00 a.m. with free breakfast Buffet. 11:00 a.m. Viva La Diva Show hosted by Bunny FuFu. 1:00 p.m. Karaoke on the Patio. Dancing after the show and all night long. Free sandwichs served after the show!

VENTURE-N - Labor Day Weekend winds up here with the bar opening at 9:00 a.m. and the Patio Bar opening at 3:00 pm. Labor Day BBQ (eat in only) from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

YAR DOG SALOON - Cowboy Jeff's Beer Bust with Burgers and Brauts starts at 2:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

HOWL AT THE MOON - NCC Pageant Show hosted by Amanda Nicole.

WOODY'S - Simon Crown 6-9 p.m. on the Back Pocket

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

THE BIZ - DJ Hill will be playing from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. $2.00 Cover and drink specials - $2 Fuzzy Navels; $3 margaritas; $4 Long Islands. Bring in the ladies for a great afternoon treat ... It's gonna be Lucious. Tucson's only T-Dance for the ladies.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 10:00 a.m. for the first full day of regular NFL season play! Watch your favorite team on the NFL package. Wear an NFL team t-shirt or jersey and get 50¢ off your drink.

TUEDAAY, SEPTEMBER 11

HOWL AT THE MOON - Benefit show with Heather Boa and guests from 9:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

HOWL T THE MOON - Elias de Noche Latino Drg Troupe. Show starts at 10:00 p.m.

WOODY''S - Construction Party

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

THE BIZ - Masquerade Ball begins at 9:00 p.m..

NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

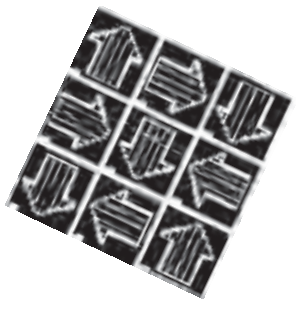
LGBT SUPPORT GROUP FOR VICTIM/SURVIVORS OF Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Hate Crimes, Bias Acts, Harassment. Call Lori at Wingspan, 624-1779, ext. 20. Services are free.

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

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

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

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



Ohio Judge: Anti-Gay Lawmaker Is 'Real Culprit'

CINCINNATI, Ohio (Observer Update) - Progressive activists – and a Superior Court judge – in Cincinnati, Ohio, are frustrated that a conservative state lawmaker appears to have escaped justice for his role in altering anti-Gay petitions last year, reported 365Gay.com.

Two petitioners were sentenced to probation and community service for fabricating signatures in a drive to repeal the city's new anti-discrimination law. Lois Mingo and Precilla Ward, both paid canvassers, pleaded guilty last month to various counts of election falsification. (Among the Cincinnati "voters" that the women managed to sign up for a repeal was "Fidel Castro.") "To cheat on petitions in an election is to really rob people of freedom," Judge Robert Ruehlman told the defendants. "It's the foundation of democracy. You have to pay for that." But Ruehlman went on, "I still think the real culprit is Rep. Brinkman."

That would be state Rep. Tom Brinkman Jr., pictured, an eight-year House member representing parts of Cincinnati. Brinkman, a hard-line right-winger, was paid $40,000 to manage the signature drive that aimed to put a Gay rights repeal on the 2006 ballot. Although Brinkman and his troops managed to qualify the bare minimum of 7,656 names, the drive failed after a second inspection turned up irregularities in the petitions. In addition to the fake names, the addresses of hundreds of entries were manually altered after the fact. In many instances, ineligible addresses were replaced with addresses inside the city that qualified for the petition. In other words, it appeared that Brinkman's team would scratch out the suburban address of "Mary Smith," find another "Mary Smith" who lived within Cincinnati borders, and substitute the new address.

According to a July court transcript published on Progress Ohio, Judge Ruehlman questioned Assistant Hamilton County Prosecutor David Stevenson on the practice. Stevenson said Brinkman admitted to changing more than 1,000 addresses, but later news reports said Stevenson "backed away" from that confirmation. The transcript describes the case of Robert Costelli, who signed the petition but lived in Mariemont. His entry was changed to Robert Castellini, who lives in Cincinnati and who also happens to be the owner of the Cincinnati Reds. "I got a lot of this from talks in chambers," Judge Ruehlman told Stevenson. "We talked about this case, which kind of bothered me. It turned out Brinkman actually admitted to that? How many others did he do like that that he admitted to?" "I don't know the exact number," Stevenson replied. "Around 1,100, 1,000 addresses changed."

But Brinkman avoided charges, claiming that his attorney told him he could make sure that the addresses on the petitions conformed to those on the city voter roles. Harrison County Prosecuting Attorney Joseph T Deters disagreed with that interpretation of election law, but called the circumstances a "gray area." Brinkman went before a grand jury in the matter, but was not indicted. Attorney Jennifer Branch, who first discovered the alterations and forgeries, said there was a clear distinction between adding someone's missing ZIP code, which is permitted, and replacing one address with another. "They did not just fill in correct addresses," she said in a statement at the time. "They changed the identities of voters – that's fraudulent." Prosecutor Deters, she went on, "is giving someone a free pass."

Chicago: Gays Not Protected By 14th Amendment

CHICAGO - A man who filed a lawsuit after being allegedly beaten by Chicago police because he is Gay is contesting the city's motion to dismiss his case– since the city is arguing that Gays are not covered under the U.S. Constitution's equal protection clause, reported advocate.com.

The Chicago Free Press reports that Alexander Ruppert sued Chicago police officers after he was arrested in March 2006, when he was escorted out of a bar. The officers were driving him to the Uptown station when he tried to use his cell phone in the backseat of the police car. Ruppert says the officers stopped the car, dragged him out, and beat him while using antiGay epithets. After he began to bleed profusely, he told them he was HIV-positive. He was taken to a local hospital, where he received 16 stitches around his eye.

The motion, filed by attorneys for the city, states that Gays as a group are not included under the 14th Amendment, the Constitution's equal protection clause. The amendment states: "No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States: nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

Ruppert's attorney, Michael Oppenheimer, told the Free Press that the city's position is an insult to Chicagoans. He asked for an extension to argue against the city's motion. Both sides will return to court September 11. "When we filed the equal protection count, we knew the federal government was behind the curve in recognizing that the equal protection clause should cover sexual orientation," he said. "We expected more from the city of Chicago."