



Study: Gay Men Face More Discrimination Than Lesbians In Workplace

DURHAM, New Hampshire (Observer Update) - Gay men working in management and traditional blue-collar, male-dominated jobs make less than straight men because they are discriminated against by their employers, according to new research released by the University of New Hampshire Whittemore School of Business and Economics, reported 365Gay.com. Lesbians, however, do not experience similar discrimination in the labor market, according to Bruce Elmslie, professor of economics, and his co-author Edinaldo Tebaldi, former assistant professor of economics at UNH now at Bryant University.

Their research appears in the Journal of Labor Research in the article "Sexual Orientation and Labor Market Discrimination." According to the authors, Gay men who live together earn 23 percent less than married men, and 9 percent less than unmarried heterosexual men who live with a woman.

Discrimination is most pronounced in management and blue-collar, male-dominated occupations such as building and grounds cleaning and maintenance; construction and extraction; and production. The authors also found that Lesbians are not discriminated against when compared with heterosexual women. They conclude that while negative attitudes toward Lesbians could affect them, Lesbians may benefit from the perception that they are more career-focused and less likely to leave the labor market to raise children than heterosexual women.

According to their study, 18.1 percent of Lesbians have children, compared with 49.4 percent of straight women. "Employers could reasonably infer that a Lesbian applicant or current employee will have a stronger attachment to the labor force than will a heterosexual woman," the authors said. The authors note that previous studies of attitudes of heterosexual men toward Gay men and Lesbians shows that the bias against Gay men is much stronger. Other studies show that Gay men are more likely to be the victim of violence because of their sexual identity than Lesbians.

The authors cite a number of possible factors as to why Gay men experience labor discrimination and lower wages in certain industries. There is strong evidence indicating discrimination is tied to employer and employee bias.

"Employers may disapprove of Gay lifestyles and act on this bias in making hiring decisions," the authors said. Employers also may discriminate against Gay men in response to the desires of the majority of employees. If employers consider mixing heterosexual and homosexual employees distracting and detrimental to productivity, the authors said the employers may consider it profitable to discriminate.

Gay men also may experience labor market discrimination because customers may not want to interact with them, thus influencing hiring practices. "If customers prefer to interact with heterosexual employees, the owner will act on the customer's taste for discrimination," the authors said.

Finally, discrimination may occur as a result of anti-Gay attitudes associated with AIDS and misunderstanding as to how HIV is transmitted. Previous research shows that people with HIV/AIDS have higher rates of absenteeism from work. The authors theorize that biased employers may be reluctant to hire Gay men because they are concerned about a loss of productivity if a worker becomes infected with HIV/AIDS.

"If employers perceive one group to be generally less productive or more costly than other groups, individual members of the negatively perceived group will receive lower wage offers regardless of their true characteristics," the authors said.

In this study, employee/employer bias was the most prevalent and overwhelming indication of discrimination against Gay men. If the discrimination was consumer-based, the discrimination would be more evident in the services industry where there is direct interaction between employees and customers. If the discrimination was tied to AIDS/HIV status, the distribution of discrimination would be more uniform across industries. The authors analyzed labor and wage information from more than 91,000 heterosexual and homosexual couples collected by the U.S. Census March 2004 Current Population Survey.

Controversial Judge Wins Senate Confirmation

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The Senate Wednesday (October 24) confirmed Judge Leslie Southwick to a lifetime seat on the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals despite complaints by some majority Democrats that several of his rulings were homophobic and racist, 365Gay.com reported. The court covers Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas.

The 59-38 vote on confirmation came after opponents realized they did not have the votes to filibuster, or block, Southwick's confirmation. Southwick served as a judge on Mississippi's intermediate appellate court - the Mississippi Court of Appeals - from 1995-2006.

LGBT, African American and labor groups had pressed the Senate to deny Southwick confirmation.

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Gay Enclaves Face Prospect Of Being Passé



"In The Castro, the influx of baby strollers - some being pushed by straight parents, some by Gay parents - is perhaps the most blatant sign of change."

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 24 — This Halloween, the Glindas, gladiators and harem boys of the Castro — along with untold numbers who plan to dress up as Senator Larry E. Craig, this year's camp celebrity — will be celebrating behind closed doors, reported the New York Times (October 24). The city's most popular Halloween party, in America's largest gay neighborhood, is canceled.

The once-exuberant street party, a symbol of sexual liberation since 1979 has in recent years become a Nightmare on Castro Street, drawing as many as 200,000 people, many of them costumeless outsiders, and there has been talk of moving it outside the district because of increasing violence. Last year, nine people were wounded when a gunman opened fire at the celebration. For many in the Castro District, the cancellation is a blow that strikes at the heart of neighborhood identity, and it has brought soul-searching that goes beyond concerns about crime.

These are wrenching times for San Francisco's historic gay village, with population shifts, booming development, and a waning sense of belonging that is also being felt in gay enclaves across the nation, from Key West, Fla., to West Hollywood, as they struggle to maintain cultural relevance in the face of gentrification.

There has been a notable shift of gravity from the Castro, with young gay men and lesbians fanning out into less-expensive neighborhoods like Mission Dolores and the Outer Sunset, and farther away to Marin and Alameda Counties, "mirroring national trends where you are seeing same-sex couples becoming less urban, even as the population become slightly more urban," said Gary J. Gates, a demographer and senior research fellow at the University of California, Los Angeles.

At the same time, cities not widely considered gay meccas have seen a

sharp increase in same-sex couples. Among them: Fort Worth; El Paso; Albuquerque; Louisville, Ky.; and Virginia Beach, according to census figures and extrapolations by Dr. Gates for The New York Times. "Twenty years ago, if you were gay and lived in rural Kansas, you went to San Francisco or New York," he said. "Now you can just go to Kansas City."

In the Castro, the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society held public meetings earlier this year to grapple with such questions as "Are Gay Neighborhoods Worth Saving?" With nine major developments planned for Market Street, including a splashy 113-unit condominium designed by Arquitectonica, anxiety about the future is swirling. Median home prices hover around \$870,000. Local institutions like Cliff's Variety, a hardware store selling feathered boas (year-round) are not about to vanish from this storied homeland of the gay rights movement. But the prospect of half-million-dollar condos inhabited by many straight people underscores a demographic shift.

"The Castro, and to a lesser extent the West Village, was where you went to express yourself," said Don F. Reuter, a New York author who is researching a book on the rise and fall of gay neighborhoods, or "gayborhoods." "Claiming physical territory was a powerful act," Reuter said. "But the gay neighborhood is becoming a past-tense idea."

In the Castro, the influx of baby strollers — some being pushed by straight parents, some by gay parents — is perhaps the most blatant sign of change. "The Castro has gone from a gay-ghetto mentality to a family mentality," said Wes Freas, a broker with Zephyr Real Estate. The arrival of a Pottery Barn down the street from the birthplaces of the AIDS quilt and the

Continued On Page Seven

UPDATE

AGRA Fundraiser November 3

TUCSON - The Arizona Gay Rodeo Association (AGRA) and TIHAN's Tucson AGRA volunteers will present "A Nite of Stars Under the Moon," Saturday, November 3, 9:00 p.m., at Howl at the Moon, 915 W. Prince.

The event will be hosted by Miss International Gay Rodeo 2005 & Miss Arizona Gay Rodeo 2008, Miss Pussy LeHoot and will feature Mr. International Gay Rodeo 2008 - Gary Rushton, Mr. International Gay Rodeo 2003 (1st Runner-Up) - Patrick Lose and Ms. International Gay Rodeo 1997 - Sherry Reedy, Gold Rush and many more!

Proceeds from this event will go to AGRA's 2008 Road Runner Regional Rodeo.

Goodbye Party For Cathy Busha, November 3

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Please join Wingspan in saying thanks, Friday, November 2, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. at Wingspan's back parking lot, 425 E. 7th Street, to Cathy Busha as she heads over to the University of Arizona to her new position with the school. Wingspan will celebrate this occasion with a very special Front Porch Music as we welcome back our all-time favorite band Coyote Grace & Friends.

After nine years of leadership at Wingspan, Cathy Busha, Wingspan's Director of Programs, has accepted a position with the University of Arizona. Busha will continue to be a leader and spokesperson for the LGBTQ community through the newly created & ground-breaking position, Director of LGBTQ Affairs.

Busha started at Wingspan as a youth group facilitator volunteer in 1998, and was hired later that year to work as an advocate for survivors of domestic violence. Busha was then promoted to coordinate the Anti-Violence Project, and was soon again promoted and served as the first ever Director of Programs at Wingspan, eventually developing and overseeing 10 critical community programs.

TIHAN Update

Join TIHAN and our special musical guests for a benefit concert Sunday, November 11, 3:00 p.m. at Lutheran Church of the Foothills, 5102 N. Craycroft Road (Craycroft and Territory). This exciting hour and a half of music will feature the rich musical diversity of Desert Voices, Reveille, and the Prince Chapel Praise Team. An hors d'oeuvres reception following the concert is sponsored by Wild Oats Market, Rincon Market, Sunflower Market and Trader Joe's. Tickets are \$20. Children 12 and under are \$5. Tickets and concert information can be found by calling TIHAN at (520) 299-6647 or Lutheran Church of the Foothills at 299-5631. Please come celebrate TIHAN's work. Your donation to the concert will be doubled with matching funds provided by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. . . .

Ask a friend or bring yourself to the next Volunteer Orientation, November 8 at First Congregational United Church of Christ (1350 N. Arcadia Avenue, near Speedway and Swan) from 5:15 to 9:15 p.m. Attending an orientation is your first step on the rewarding journey of being a TIHAN volunteer. TIHAN's volunteers are needed, appreciated, and elevated. The cost is \$17.00, which covers snacks and printed materials. Please plan on attending one of the next orientations so you can join the Volunteer Team! Please call 299-6647 or E-mail Kim Talerico, Volunteer Coordinator, kim@tihan.org for additional information and to sign up to begin your volunteer journey. . . .

Every month, the Tucson Inter-faith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) distributes approximately 70 care packages of toiletry items to CarePartners (clients) living with HIV/AIDS. At this time the following items are especially needed for our care packages: toilet paper, paper towels, toothpaste, deodorant soap, gentle soap, hand and body lotion, and facial tissue. Items can be dropped off at the TIHAN office, 1011 N. Craycroft Rd. (south of Speedway Blvd.), Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

CARD ADS IN THE RESOURCE SECTION OF THE OBSERVER GET RESULTS

Personal Safety On Equality Arizona Radio

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - Saturday's at 10:00 a.m. (Arizona Time), Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Transgendered (LGBT) people, as well as their friends and families can tune into Equality Arizona Radio.

Equality Arizona Radio is designed to provide the listener with insights into the LGBT experience in Arizona. Their 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 living in Arizona.

This week's show features personal safety. Join us as we discuss how to keep yourself safe. Our guests Tandra Williams, from the Phoenix Police Department and Stephanie Zinn, self defense instructor will teach you how to be aware of your surroundings, protect yourself, and what to do if you have been a victim of a crime.

Equality Arizona radio is broadcast on KPHX 1480 AM in the Phoenix area on can be heard online at aaphx.com or novamradio.com. Previous broadcasts are online at equalityarizona.org for those who may have missed previous airings.

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

Second Annual Tucson Transgender Awareness Week November 12 - 20

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Tucson's second annual Transgender Awareness Week will take place November 12-20. The project is a collaboration between the University of Arizona and Wingspan's Southern Arizona Gender Alliance (SAGA) and will feature a variety of events around the city as well as on the University of Arizona campus.

Highlights include Transgender author and performance artist Kate Bornstein in "On Men, Women and The Rest Of Us." Also featured are several informational trainings and Q&A forums, a gallery show featuring local Transgender artist Rae Stozzo, a youth-led Freedom of Expression March, and community fair, culminating with the Ninth Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance candlelight vigil.

Other events of special note are Sunday's screening of the documentary "Screaming Queens: The Riot at Compton's Cafeteria" with co-director Victor Silverman, followed immediately by A Community Conversation with Public Safety Advocates and Allies, which brings together representatives from police, fire, EMT, court/legal, mental health, and other important services for a frank but friendly dialogue with LGBT people about rights, responsibilities, and mutual respect.

For more information, go online to: sagatucson.org



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COMMENTARY . . .

by Ron Rosenbaum

Who Will Rule Us After The Next 9/11?

Oh, god. I'm reluctant to write this particular column. I've been scarred by this kind of story before. I've learned that it's difficult to write about the sources of paranoia without spreading paranoia.

But the subject, NSPD-51—that's National Security Presidential Directive 51—and the attendant explosion of blogospheric paranoia about it deserve attention. Even if you don't believe, as I don't, that NSPD-51 is a blueprint for a coup in the guise of plans for "continuity of government" in the event of a national emergency (such as a terrorist attack during an election campaign). Even if you don't believe, as I don't, that it will be used as a pretext for canceling the upcoming presidential election and preserving "continuity" of this administration in office.

Nonetheless, the specifics of the directive are a matter of legitimate concern that has not been given the urgent and sustained attention it deserves by Congress or the mainstream media.

I first became aware of the extent of the paranoia when I read the following comment, which was appended to an essay Naomi Wolf wrote for the Huffington Post:

Scenario for 2008: Sometime in middle to late summer, perhaps early fall, a "terrorist attack," or a natural disaster occurs, allowing Bush to suspend the elections in the name of "national security," and take the control of the government via the "National Security Presidential Directive/NSPD 51" and "Homeland Security Presidential Directive/HSPD-20," released by the WH May 9th of this year. He could remain in control as long as he wanted. Now, wouldn't THAT be an interesting

nightmare?

Crazy, right? Well after I read it I Googled "NSPD-51" and got something like 36,000 hits. (HSPD-20 is essentially the same directive under a different title.) Most of the ones I sampled elaborated on the "nightmare" coup scenario above. Of course, Google hits are not evidence of the facts, only of the temper of the times, and the times are seething with paranoia.

But that doesn't mean NSPD-51 doesn't deserve careful scrutiny. Consider that an election-eve al-Qaida attack, for instance, is not inconceivable. What if a nuclear device goes off in New York, Chicago, or Los Angeles the weekend before the election and a warning is issued that the other two cities will be hit on Election Day?

Who will decide whether the elections in those heavily Democratic states should be put off or whether the entire election should be postponed until ... when? Until the bodies are cleared, the gamma radiation has subsided? Just how wise and fair—and constitutional—are the brand-new mechanisms for "continuity of government" that NSPD-51 has put into effect with almost no prior and little subsequent discussion last May?

And there's another paranoia-inducing element of the story: The existence of "classified continuity annexes" whose content has been kept secret even from the House Committee on Homeland

Security. A troubling aspect of the story that, so far as I know, only one mainstream media reporter, Jeff Kosseff of the Portland Oregonian, has pursued.

As it happens, I had a troubling experience in the past writing about paranoid fears that an unpopular president will cancel a presidential election. The experience helped turn me into a conspiracy theory skeptic, so let me briefly recount that incident—which, curiously enough, also involved the Portland Oregonian—so you'll understand the perspective I bring to the question.

Return with me to 1970, another moment of seething paranoia two years before Richard Nixon's 1972 re-election campaign, before Watergate was even a gleam in Gordon Liddy's eyes. A time of war and of an increasingly frustrated and suspicious anti-war movement. It was my first year as a reporter, and the whole episode started with a cab driver from Staten Island.

As historian and frequent Slate contributor David Greenberg recounts it in his thoughtful book *Nixon's Shadow*, "the rumor [that Nixon had a secret plan to cancel the '72 presidential election] first appeared in print on April 5 in the Portland Oregonian, the Staten Island Advance and other Newhouse-owned newspapers. According to the item, the administration had asked the RAND Corporation ... to study whether 'rebellious factions using force or bomb threats would make it unsafe to conduct an election' and how the president might respond. Ron Rosenbaum, a reporter from the Village Voice, heard about the

article from a Staten Island cab driver and investigated. He reported in *The Voice* on April 16 that RAND and the administration denied that any such study existed, but then playfully pointed out that they would surely deny it if it were true. Rosenbaum added that the country would just have to wait until 1972 to see."

Lesson here: Don't get too "playful" when writing about conspiracy theories. The problem with being "playful" back then was that much of the anti-war movement read the *Voice* at the time, and my story ignited a firestorm of paranoia. Soon there were "documents" of dubious authenticity circulating that purported to be RAND memos outlining plans to round up and lock up leaders of the anti-war movement. Eventually Pat Moynihan, then a Nixon consigliere, thundered against the rumor as an example of the intrusion of irrationality into politics.

The thing is, there's nothing wrong with planning for "continuity of government," especially in the nuclear age. Planning for continuity doesn't necessarily mean plotting a coup, although that's the way my story was read and spread. (Of course, meanwhile—proving that reality can outrun paranoia—the Nixon administration was planning to subvert the election, anyway, with the assortment of illegal actions and dirty tricks that became known as Watergate.)

Still, there's nothing I feel the need to apologize about for pursuing that story then (or this one now). Indeed,

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AIDSWalk Raises Nearly \$220,000

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Organizers of AIDSWALK 2007 reported that the 19th annual fundraising event raised nearly \$220,000 through the efforts of over 5,500 participants, with more contributions expected.

and Cathy Pilone, AIDSWALK 2007 Pacesetter Chair. Panels from the Tucson AIDS Memorial Quilt were also displayed in memory of Tucson residents.

Funds raised by the Walk will go for the programs and services offered by the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF).

Among the community leaders present for the event were Congressman Raul Grijalva, Mayor Bob Walkup, Vice Mayor Shirley Scott, Council Member Karin Uhlich, Council Member Carol West, Council Member Steve Leal, Chair Richard Elias, Supervisor Ray Carroll, Supervisor Sharon Bronson, State Representative Steve Farley, Herschella Horton, Chief of Legislative Services for the Department of Economic Security.

Organizers said that helping to make this year's event a success were corporate underwriters including the title sponsor: Desert Diamond Casino. Other major sponsors included Community Partnership of Southern Arizona (CPSA), Cable Positive, Wells Fargo, Fascinations, GEICO, The Mountain 92.1, KRQ 93.7, KOLD-TV Channel 13, Access Tucson, Tucson Weekly, Dex, Cox Communications, Comcast, La Caliente 102.1 and 990AM ESPN Deportes Radio. Of the all the registered walkers fundraising for the event, Jack Melicher raised the most money.

Chuck George from KOLD-TV, Channel 13 served as emcee as he encouraged the walkers to remember those people who have died from AIDS, to stand with those who are living with HIV/AIDS, and to commit to HIV prevention.

The event opened with the Daybreak Quilt Opening Ceremony at which family members, volunteers, and community leaders unfolded twelve quilt panels from the National AIDS Quilt Project. Reading the names of those whose quilts were being displayed were Wendell Hicks Executive Director of SAAF; Scott Blades Executive Director of TIHAN;

Among the walkers and teams, there are several we would like to recognize for their fundraising efforts: 1. Small Business Team (50 employees or less): Team Woody's. 2. School Team (K-12): The Cougars. 3. Corporate Team: Raytheon. 4. Organization/Non-profit Team: Peace Corps - Life is Calling. 5. College University Team: Phi Alpha Delta. 6. Friends and Family Team: Gbureks Girls. 7. Individual: Jack Melicher.



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ENDA Vote Still On Hold

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), has not been included in the calendar for the House of Representatives for the week ending (November 2), reported pageoneq.com.

Hoyer replied that "both of those bills are under consideration for addition to the calendar. They have not been added at this point in time, but they are both possibilities."

Issued by Democratic Leader, Representative Stenny Hoyer (D-MD), the Weekly Leader is a schedule of bills to be considered before the House and activity on the House floor.

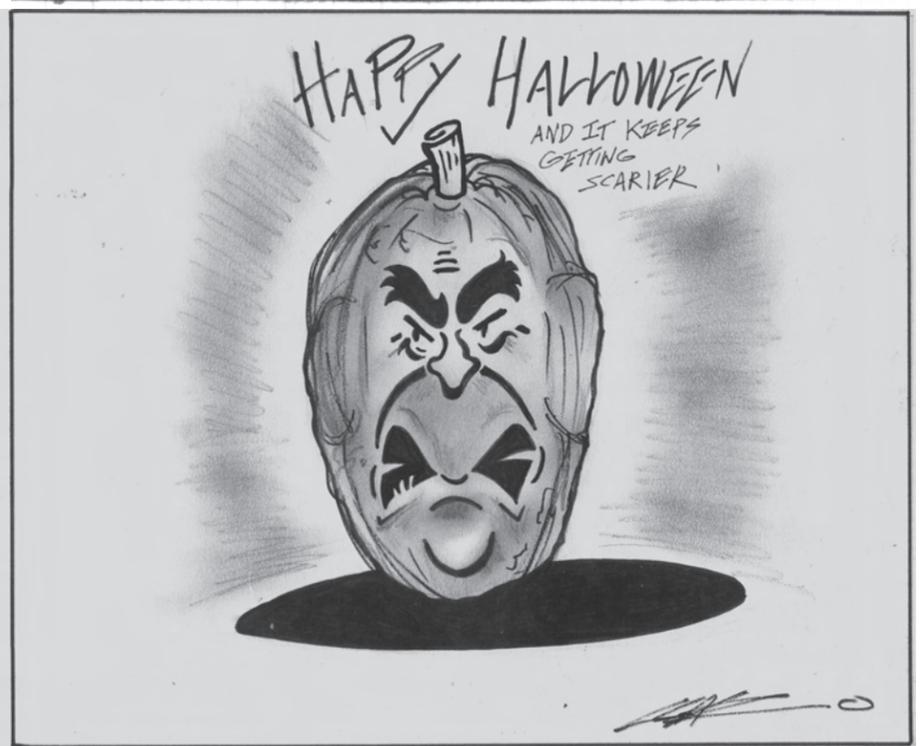
The version of ENDA to be considered would prohibit employment discrimination based on sexual orientation (H.R. 3685). Representative Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) had announced that she would offer a floor amendment to expand the measure to include gender identity. Questions have arisen on whether Baldwin's amendment could succeed.

However, on Wednesday (October 24), when asked on the House floor if there was a possibility of the bill being added to the calendar, Hoyer left room for the bill's consideration.

"Two bills we thought we might deal with this week I notice are still not on the schedule: the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. I wonder if my friend has any information about either of those bills?" inquired Representative Roy Blunt (R-MO), the House Minority Whip asked Hoyer.



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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 (PCPL) 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. It's an exciting time for GLBT-themed publishing.

More and more books reflecting the strength, experience and vision of GLBT people appear on the shelves of book stores and libraries. 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

The Laramie Project by Moises Kaufman and the members of the Tectonic Theatre Project (Vintage).

In the time following the murder of Matthew Shepard, Moises Kaufman and the Tectonic Theater Project made a series of visits to Laramie, Wyoming and conducted hundreds of interviews with the citizens there. By using the words and voices captured in those interviews, they have created a moving piece of theater that also works as literature. The chorus of voices includes the college student who first discovered Shepard's beaten body, the police, doctors at the hospital, Matthew's friends, his father, and his teachers, his convicted killers and their friends, Laramie's religious leaders and even the nomadic and vile Fred Phelps.

This is a mesmerizing work that evokes raw emotion. It is compelling to watch the citizens wrestle to make sense

of a horrific murder in their community, while struggling with the changes in their own sense of self, whether those changes are a new-found Gay activism or having to view themselves through the mirror of the national media. (Beth Petrucci)

The Little Book of Neuroses by Michael Thomas Ford (Alyson Books). An in-depth, on-target and hilarious look at queer life. Threaded throughout are thought-provoking pieces that enhance this collection of self-deprecating essays. For instance, why are Lesbians fascinated by acoustic guitars? Does Tiger Beat make boys Gay? These modern urban tales reveal new truths while at the same time poking fun at queer culture and Gay archetypes. (Jimmie Beville)

Losing Matt Shepard: Life and Politics in the Aftermath of Anti-Gay Murder by Beth Lofredda (Columbia University). The 1998 murder of Gay University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard made headlines and helped galvanize a movement to include Gay and Lesbian victims in hate crime laws. Lofredda sidesteps the media-fed sensationalism to portray the story of the trial, the controversies that arose after the murder, and the implications for Gay rights and the anti-Gay right wing. She also offers a balanced view of life in conservative, largely poor, Wyoming, as well as moving portraits of individuals affected by Shepard's death, such as a young man in Laramie who was inspired to come out and get involved in Gay activism. Dramatic, informed, and intelligent. (Chris Dashiell)

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



Controversial Judge Wins Senate Confirmation

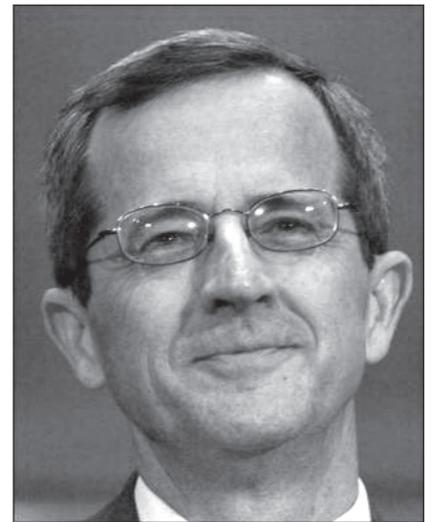
Continued from Page One

One of the cases they cited was a 1998 decision over an employee who had been fired for using a racial slur. Southwick voted with the majority in the 5-4 decision, writing that the slur "was not motivated out of racial hatred or animosity directed toward her co-worker or toward blacks in general."

In 2001, Southwick joined a ruling that upheld a lower court decision to take an eight-year-old girl away from her mother and award custody to the father, who had never married the mother. The court based its decision largely because the mother was living with another woman in a "Lesbian home."

Southwick's concurrence extolled Mississippi's right under "the principles of Federalism" to treat "homosexual persons" as second-class citizens. The concurrence suggested that sexual orientation is a choice and suggest that mother might have held onto her child had she made a different "choice".

"A nominee who so callously disregarded the rights of GLBT families clearly cannot be trusted to safeguard the rights of any American," said HRC president Joe Solmonese. "This vote for Leslie Southwick is a vote against the dignity and safety of our families, and an insult to the millions of dedicated GLBT parents raising happy and healthy children across this country."



Judge Leslie Southwick

President Bush previously tried to fill the seat with Charles Pickering and then Michael Wallace, both of whom faced significant opposition due to their disturbing legal records, especially on civil rights. The president then turned to Southwick. Following the vote the Congressional Black Caucus warned that there would be consequences for Democrats at the ballot box. Southwick's nomination tested a fragile agreement in the Senate to block Bush's judicial nominations only in "extraordinary" circumstances. Some Democrats who opposed Southwick's nomination said either that his writings combined with the troubled racial history of the circuit, met the standard. But the Democratic majority did not have the votes to sustain a filibuster.



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Study: HIV First Hit United States In 1969

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The AIDS virus invaded the United States in about 1969 from Haiti, carried most likely by a single infected immigrant who set the stage for it to sweep the world in a tragic epidemic, scientists said, reported the Reuters News Service for North America on Monday, October 29.

Michael Worobey, a University of Arizona evolutionary biologist, said the 1969 U.S. entry date is earlier than some experts had believed. The timeline laid out in the study led by Worobey indicates that HIV infections were occurring in the United States for roughly 12 years before AIDS was first recognized by scientists as a disease in 1981. Many people had died by that point. "It is somehow chilling to know it was probably circulating for so long under our noses," Worobey said in a telephone interview.

The researchers conducted a genetic analysis of stored blood samples from early AIDS patients to determine when the human immunodeficiency virus first entered the United States. They found that HIV was brought to Haiti by an infected person from central Africa in about 1966, which matches earlier estimates, and then came to the United States in about 1969.

The researchers think an unknown single infected Haitian immigrant arrived in a large city like Miami or New York, and the virus circulated for years — first in the U.S. population and then to other nations.

It can take several years after infection for a person to develop AIDS, a disease that ravages the immune system.

"That one infection would have become two, and then it doubles again and the two becomes four," Worobey said. "So you have a period — probably a fair number of years — where you're dealing with probably fewer than a hundred people who are infected. "And then, as with epidemic expansion, at some point the hundred becomes 200, you start getting into thousands, tens of thousands. And then quite rapidly you can be up into the hundreds of thousands of infections that were probably already there before AIDS was recognized in the early 1980s."

The study was published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The path the virus traveled as it jumped from nation to nation has long been debated by scientists.

The University of Miami's Dr. Arthur Pitchenik, a co-author of the study,



Michael Worobey (Tucson Citizen)

had seen Haitian immigrants in Miami as early as 1979 with a mystery illness that turned out to be AIDS. He knew the government long had stored some of their blood samples.

The researchers analyzed samples from five of these Haitian immigrants dating from 1982 and 1983. They also looked at genetic data from 117 more early AIDS patients from around the world.

This genetic analysis allowed the scientists to calibrate the molecular clock of the strain of HIV that has spread most widely, and calculated when it arrived first in Haiti from Africa and then in the United States.

The researchers virtually ruled out the possibility that HIV had come directly to the United States from Africa, setting a 99.8 percent probability that Haiti was the steppingstone. "I think that it gives us more clear insight into the history of it (the AIDS epidemic) and what path the virus took — and hard objective evidence, not just armchair thinking," Pitchenik said in a telephone interview.

Studies suggest the virus first entered the human population in about 1930 in central Africa, probably when people slaughtered infected chimpanzees for meat. AIDS has killed more than 25 million people and about 40 million others are infected with HIV.



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SOMETHING FOR EVERY STYLE

Gay Enclaves Face Prospect Of Being Passé

Continued from Page One

Rainbow Flag is a nod to change.

Sakura Ferris, a 28-year-old mother of a toddler, moved to the Castro because she liked its new eclecticism. At the Eureka Valley Recreation Center, a parent hot spot rife with Froggie pull-toys, Ferris's tot mingles with infants in onesies that read, "I Love My Daddies."

The Castro remains a top tourist destination for gay and lesbian visitors. But Joe D'Alessandro, president and C.E.O. of the San Francisco Convention and Visitors' Bureau, and a gay parent who lives in the Castro, predicted that eventually the neighborhood would go the way of North Beach, "still a historic Italian neighborhood though Italians don't necessarily live there anymore."

The Castro became a center for gay liberation in the late 1960s and early 1970s in a declining Irish Catholic and Scandinavian neighborhood. At its helm was Harvey Milk, the first openly gay city supervisor in San Francisco whose slaying in 1978 by a disgruntled former supervisor, Dan White, galvanized the community and set off riots when White was convicted of manslaughter instead of murder. Decimated during the AIDS epidemic of 1990-1995, the neighborhood rebounded in the boom economy of the late 1990s. But the social forces that gave rise to the Castro and other gay neighborhoods like the West Village and West Hollywood may be becoming passé.

While the state's Eighth Congressional District, which includes the Castro, saw an increase of about 20 percent in the number of same-sex couples from 2002 to 2006, surrounding districts had a 38 percent increase in same-sex couples, according to Dr. Gates.

In West Hollywood, another traditional gay haven, the graying of the population and the high cost of real estate have resulted in once-gay watering holes like the Spike and the Candy Lounge going hetero. A new kind of gentrification is under way in which young gay waiters and school teachers move instead to Hollywood and other surrounding neighborhoods. "We often clamored for equality where gay and straight could coexist," said Mayor John Duran of West Hollywood, who is gay. "But we weren't prepared to give up our subculture to negotiate that exchange."

While the Castro has been the center of a movement, it is also home to "an important political constituency," said Elizabeth A. Armstrong, an associate sociology professor at Indiana University and the author of "Forging Gay Identities: Organizing Sexuality in San Francisco 1950-1994." "When people were angry about Dan White they were able to assemble quickly, spilling out of the bars," Armstrong said. "Physical location mattered."

The Castro still has the city's largest progressive Democratic organization, the Harvey Milk Club. A survey of registered voters earlier this year by David Binder, a San Francisco political analyst, found that 33 percent of the Eighth District identified themselves as gay or lesbian, compared with 13 percent citywide.

The Castro's activist legacy continues to exert a strong emotional pull: the corner of 18th and Castro Streets, where Harvey Milk; Diana, Princess of Wales; and Matthew Shepard were mourned and where gay marriage was fleetingly celebrated, is for many a mythic homeland.

Amanda Rankin, a 40-year-old tourist from Hamilton, Ontario, was taking a "Cruisin' the Castro" walking tour with three lesbian friends the other day. "In America there still seems to be a lot of sexual repression left over from Puritanism and the pilgrims," Rankin said. "Then there's San Francisco."

But its legacy has not prevented the neighborhood from harsh urban realities. As San Francisco real estate skyrocketed in the 1990s, the Castro has the city's highest concentration of evictions, as speculators "flipped" buildings, many of them housing people with disabilities and AIDS, to convert to market-rate apartments, said Bria Basinger, the founder of the AIDS Housing Alliance.

Even before Halloween, the Castro was grappling with violence and crime. Allegations of racial profiling at the Badlands, the neighborhood's most popular bar, led to a widespread boycott in 2005 and intervention by the city's Human Rights Commission. The highly publicized rape of a man in the Castro in September 2006 led to the formation of Castro on Patrol, a whistle-wielding citizens' street brigade. In that attack Mark Welch was raped five blocks from the store he managed on Castro Street. He said in that he later learned there had been two previous similar rapes in the neighborhood, but that had not been widely reported. He said it took months for it to surface on a sex-crimes Web site maintained by the authorities. There are signs that the dispersing of gay people beyond the Castro vortex and the rise of the Internet are also contributing to a declining sense of community. A 2006 annual survey by the San Francisco Gay Men's Community Initiative indicated that in 2007 only 36 percent of men under 29 said there was a gay community in the city with which they could identify.

Doug Sebesta, the group's executive director and a medical sociologist at the San Francisco Department of Public Health, said, "I've had therapists who have told me they are asking their clients to go back to bars as a way of social interaction."

The Internet is not a replacement for a neighborhood where people are involved in issues beyond themselves, said John Newsome, an African-American who co-founded the group And Castro For All after the Badlands incident. "There are a lot of really lonely gay people sitting in front of a computer," he said.

Which is why the cancellation of the Halloween party by the city has provoked such a sense of loss. Many residents say that their night has been taken away. "It's proof that whatever sense of safety we have is incredibly tenuous," Mr. Newsome said. The city is shutting down public transportation to the Castro on Halloween and has begun a Web site, homeforhalloween.com, that lists "fun" alternatives, including a Halloween blood drive and a "Monster Bash" — in San Mateo.

On a recent Saturday, Sister Roma, a member of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, an activist coterie of drag queens, sashayed down Castro Street in heavy eye shadow and a gold lamé top. Though she looked well prepared for Halloween, she said she planned to be in hiding that night. She wasn't feeling too deprived, however. "Sweetie," she said, "every day is Halloween in the Castro."



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Who Will Rule Us After The Next 9/11?

Continued from Page Three

it was marginally possible back then, when the anti-war movement had become massive and some were turning to violence, that the RAND Corp. might have been involved in planning how to maintain "continuity" in the face of violent disruptions.

But the fact that the extreme worst-case scenario didn't happen in 1972 (no coup attempt) left one big question unanswered—and NSPD-51 illustrates it still hasn't been settled in any satisfactory way: What are the contingency plans for holding or postponing a national election in the midst of a traumatic national emergency?

I've studied the actual presidential directive and in many respects, it's innocuous. It doesn't, for instance, tamper with the procedures for presidential succession in case, say, the chief executive and vice president are killed. And there's a value to requiring that every government agency prepare a plan to deal with a catastrophe.

But consider provision 2E of the directive:

"Enduring Constitutional Government," or "ECG," means a cooperative effort among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the Federal Government, coordinated by the President, as a matter of comity with respect to the legislative and judicial branches and with proper respect for the constitutional separation of powers among the branches, to preserve the constitutional framework under which the Nation is governed and the capability of all three branches of government to execute constitutional responsibilities and provide for orderly succession, appropriate transition of leadership, and interoperability and support of the National Essential Functions during a catastrophic emergency. (Italics mine.)

Do you see those five weasel words "as a matter of comity"? Just what elements of the legislative and judicial branches will be allowed to participate in "executing constitutional responsibilities" and "providing for orderly succession [and] appropriate transfer of leadership"?

In other words, who gets to call the shots? What does comity mean in this context? Informally, it means good-natured, good-faith camaraderie. In its jurisprudential sense, the American Heritage Dictionary defines it as "the principle by which the courts of one jurisdiction may accede or give effect to the laws or decisions of another."

In other words, in the weasel-speak of NSPD-51, it implies that one or more branches of the government will have to cede power to another. And since everything is to be "coordinated by the president," I'm guessing that the members of the Supreme Court left alive and some congressional leaders left alive (How chosen? What party balance?) will in effect have to sit around a big conference table and do a lot of "ceding" to the executive.

And given the current state of relations between Congress and the executive, such comity will not necessarily translate into camaraderie.

If it comes down to whether to pull the nuclear trigger, who will get to vote, and how large a majority will be required to launch?

Comity—that innocent-sounding word—could well turn out to be the excuse for junking those pesky checks and balances the Founding Fathers seemed so obsessed with. For an indeterminate period of time.

The document is also hazy on when our new continuity policies will be set in motion. The directive tells us that they'll kick in whenever the nation faces a "catastrophic emergency." But look how vaguely "catastrophic emergency" is first defined:

"Catastrophic Emergency" means any incident, regardless of location, that results in extraordinary levels of mass casualties, damage, or disruption severely affecting the U.S. population, infrastructure, environment, economy, or government functions.

These are profoundly, potentially calamitously, broad terms. Who defines what is extraordinary? Who defines how severe severely is? Is there any procedure to challenge the junking of constitutional government?

Worse, "catastrophic emergency"—woefully vague to start out with—is later expanded to include even "localized acts of nature and accidents" as well as "technological or attack-related" emergencies.

In other words, even if you don't believe the most sinister paranoid coup theories, the document does nothing to allay one's fears that it could be used in a sinister way.

I wish I did, but I see nothing in the document to prevent even a "localized" forest fire or hurricane from giving the president the right to throw long-established constitutional government out the window, institute a number of unspecified continuity policies, and run the country with the guidance of the "National Continuity Coordinator" and with the "Continuity Policy Coordination Committee" for as long as the president sees fit.

This order has been issued by executive fiat and has not been subjected to any public examination by the other two branches, which have behaved in a supine way that suggests how they'll behave when comity time arrives and urgent decisions on the fate of the nation and perhaps the world (nuclear retaliation being what it is) need to be made immediately.

The fact that Congress has not scrutinized and challenged the potential here for an emergency-situation power grab is scandalous, unacceptable.

Let Congress pass a law posthaste nullifying the directive, and then when the executive nullifies the nullification, challenge it in the courts. I can't believe even this Supreme Court, with its deference to executive power, could take this clownishly drafted document seriously.

It's not that others haven't noticed the problem. The Wikipedia entry on NSPD-51, for instance, cites rational warnings against it from both right and left:

Conservative activist Jerome Corsi and Marjorie Cohn of the [left wing] National Lawyers Guild have interpreted this as a break from Constitutional law in that the three branches of government are equal, with no single branch coordinating the others. ... The directive does not specify whose responsibility it would be to either declare a catastrophic emergency or declare it over.

Good point. And then there are the final two provisions of the NSPD, which mysteriously refer to unseen secret "annexes" to the directive. Needless to say, if what they've made public is so shameless in its disregard for the Constitution, the

following two sections on secret provisions don't allay suspicion:

(23) Annex A and the classified Continuity Annexes, attached hereto, are hereby incorporated into and made a part of this directive.

(24) Security. This directive and the information contained herein shall be protected from unauthorized disclosure, provided that, except for Annex A, the Annexes attached to this directive are classified and shall be accorded appropriate handling, consistent with applicable Executive Orders.

So, how many secret annexes are there in addition to "annex A," and what kinds of things do they say that even the paranoia-inducing public document can't include?

Here's where Jeff Kosseff of the Portland Oregonian comes in. In an e-mail to me, he said he believed he was the first mainstream media reporter to pursue the classified annex issue (although Charles Savage reported on the disturbing public aspects of the directive itself in the Boston Globe in May).

Kosseff told me he got onto the story when Oregon Rep. Peter DeFazio expressed puzzlement that he was having trouble seeing what was in the classified "annexes." DeFazio was a member of the homeland security committee and cleared to read classified material in a supersecure "bubble room" designed to prevent any kind of surveillance. But DeFazio's initial request was, as Kosseff reported, "denied" by the White House, which cited national security concerns.

DeFazio said this was the first time he had been denied access to classified documents. He brought in the chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, Bennie Thompson, and the chairman of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Management, Investigation and Oversight, Chris Carney, to back his request for access to the classified annexes.

In a phone conversation, Jeff Kosseff told me the latest development.

'Doonsbury' Comic Strip Creator Says Gay Issues No Longer Cause A Stir

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, Vermont - Garry Trudeau says topics in his "Doonesbury" comic strip that were at first shocking to some readers are not so anymore, such as one character's revelation 30 years ago that he was Gay, reported the Associated Press on advocate.com. "Now I can pretty much write about Gay issues and not hear from anyone," Trudeau told students at the Center for Cartoon Studies. "Certainly popular culture has a role to play in destigmatizing."

The 59-year-old cartoonist talked about his work process and the challenges he has faced over his nearly 40-year career. "I find it really hard," he said of his work. "It's no less hard than when I started." Trudeau said his syndicated political satire, which has 30 ongoing characters, has been pulled from newspapers over the years because of its content and political themes. But Trudeau does not see it as censorship: "I've been careful not to call it that...I call it editing." He said a newspaper in Maine "got so freaked out" about a strip that showed a man and woman in bed together in the '70s that editors replaced it with the weather report. Another paper yanked the whole strip for a week. "That always backfires

In August, these requests were denied as well. On grounds of "national security."

I don't want to be alarmist, I have no evidence there's a coup brewing. But I think the American people and their congressional reps deserve some say in how they will be ruled when the ordinary rules go out the window in a national emergency. For one thing, what will happen to the Bill of Rights' guarantees of individual liberty and the courts that are supposed to enforce them?

If you ask me, setting aside any paranoid fantasies, it is clear on the most basic level—read it yourself—that NSPD-51 is the creation of irresponsible incompetents, bulls in the china shop of our constitutional framework. It is a recipe for disaster. For a catastrophe of governance that would match whatever physical catastrophe it followed and threaten the re-establishment of constitutional democracy. It would make the partisan warfare over the 2000 election in Florida seem like child's play. We might recover from a disaster but we might never recover from the "continuity coordination" that followed, "coordination" that could forever undermine any faith in the actual continuity of constitutional liberty in America since it would put it at the mercy of any president who wants to "coordinate continuity" rather than govern legally.

I think it's urgent that we bring these questions out of the shadows of phony comity. I'd urge readers to call or e-mail their members of Congress and senators now. Call for an emergency joint congressional hearing to end this farce, give us some transparency about what our government will do if we suffer another 9/11. Let all branches of government participate in the attempt to reach some consensus on rational and effective continuity planning. Something more specific and sophisticated than the clumsy but dangerously Orwellian "Continuity Coordination Committee."

(Ron Rosenbaum is the author of *The Shakespeare Wars* and *Explaining Hitler* and is a columnist for slate.com, from which this is reprinted from its posting to October 19.)

for them," he said.

Trudeau, who won a Pulitzer Prize in 1975, still draws the strip in pencil and sends it to a man who inks it and another assistant who adds color. In recent years, with his children grown, Trudeau said he has had more time to do research. He has met with soldiers and created a military blog called *The Sandbox* on his Web site for their stories, collecting the best entries in a new book. Trudeau said he decided that "the one thing the global war on terrorism doesn't have is its own literary magazine." In an effort to dramatize the seriousness of war, he had B.D., one of his main characters, lose a leg while fighting in Iraq. But just as shocking to readers was that the veteran character was missing his signature helmet. "I heard over and over that that was what really hit people," Trudeau said.



EDITORIAL

Vote Tuesday, November 6 For Your Community!



Mayor - Bob Walkup

On Tuesday, November 6, the City of Tucson will conduct their general election for Mayor and three Council seats for Ward 1, Ward 2 and Ward 4, as well as decide the fate of two ballot propositions, for which the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community must take part in and cast ballots.

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Ward 1 City Council - Regina Romero

Tucson's LGBT community owes a big thanks to the above-listed actions of the Tucson Mayor and Council has taken in regard to issues of concern and should return the favor by voting for those candidates who will uphold these advancements and consider other measures of note.

After reviewing statements, voting records, past actions of note and endorsements (including Equality Arizona the statewide LGBT rights organization), the Observer is making the following recommendations for the four contests and two ballot propositions in the upcoming Tucson General Election.

Mayor - Bob Walkup.
Ward 1 City Council - Regina Romero.

Ward 2 City Council - Rodney Glassman.
Ward 4 City Council - Shirley Scott.

Proposition 100 - Mayor and Council Pay Raise - No.
Proposition 200 - Water and Environmental Services - No.

Tucson's Mayor and Council election will take place Tuesday, November 6. For more information either call (520) 791-4213 or go online totucsonaz.gov/clerks/wheretovote.php.



Ward 2 City Council - Rodney Glassman



Ward 4 City Council - Shirley Scott

Gay Lawyer Settles Suit With Former Employer

NEW YORK CITY - A young Gay attorney in New York City has reached a settlement with his former employer, the Sullivan & Cromwell law firm, after suing the firm for discrimination based on his sexual orientation. The undisclosed settlement brings to a close a dispute that has fascinated New York's legal community for months, reports The New York Times, advocate.com reported.

Twenty-eight-year-old Aaron Charney filed the lawsuit in January, alleging that several partners in the firm discriminated against him because he is Gay and that superiors ignored his complaints. One such complaint accused partners of repeatedly demanding he be terminated for carrying out an "unnatural" relationship with another Sullivan & Cromwell associate with whom he often had lunch. Sullivan & Cromwell responded to the lawsuit by countersuing Charney for leaking confidential information about cases and clients to The Wall Street Journal during his legal battle. He was dismissed from the firm soon after.

It is extremely rare for a junior associate to sue his or her employer

for discrimination; such actions are perceived as damaging to future employment opportunities in the field of law. Still, Charney has stated that he has not ruled out returning to the firm.



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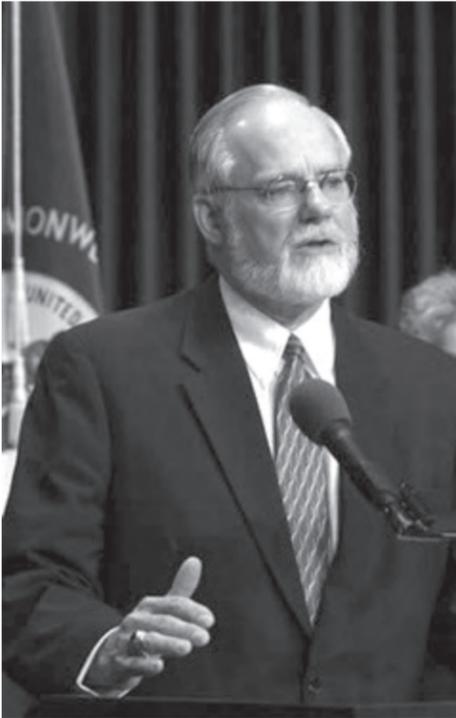
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Bush's Homophobic Surgeon General Nominee May Get Job Through Recess Appointment



Doctor James Holsinger

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - President Bush's Surgeon General nominee James Holsinger appeared before the Senate health committee on July 12, forced to defend his controversial positions on homosexuality. Yet three months later, Holsinger is "no closer to becoming the nation's next surgeon general," thinkprogress.org reported.

ThinkProgress spoke with a spokesperson for chairman Edward Kennedy (D-MA) who said the committee still has not received a response to a follow-up questionnaire it sent Holsinger three months ago: "We sent out the questions on July 26 and requested that they be returned by August 10. We have not received the answers and there is no Committee action scheduled at this

time."

Holsinger's lengthy delay indicates that Bush may be angling to recess appoint Holsinger. The Louisville Courier-Journal reports: The committee must vote before the full Senate can consider the nomination, and senators are hoping to adjourn for the year by mid-November. The delay leaves open the possibility that Holsinger will either have to wait until next year for a confirmation vote or get the job through a "recess appointment" by Bush. [...]

A recess appointment would allow Holsinger to serve as surgeon general until the end of the current Congress late next year.

Bush has been more than willing to use this executive power to avoid or delay battles over divisive nominees such as former U.N. ambassador John Bolton and Swift Boat-funder Sam Fox. In June, the Washington Post reported that Bush had filled 105 full-time positions with recess appointments, compared to just 42 such appointments under President Clinton at the same point in his presidency.

Holsinger has come under intense criticism for his long history of prejudice toward Gays and Lesbians. He founded a church that "ministers to people who no longer wish to be Gay or Lesbian" and "opposed a decision to allow a practicing Lesbian to be an associate pastor" in the United Methodist Church. In 1991, he also authored a graphic document arguing that Gay sex is "intuitively" unnatural and can lead to "lacerations, perforations and deaths."

Suit By Homophobic High Schooler Given Go-Ahead

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky (Observer Update) - A high school student can pursue nominal damages from an eastern Kentucky school district over its required anti-harassment training, an appeals court ruled, reported the Associated Press on advocate.com.

The U.S. sixth circuit court of appeals ruled 2-1 that the Boyd County school district's policy imposed a "chill" on student Timothy Allen Morrison's ability to profess his Christian beliefs and opposition to homosexuality. The ruling sends the case back to U.S. district judge David Bunning for a hearing on damages. Judge Karen Nelson Moore, joined by Judge John R. Adams, wrote that the allegation of a policy stifling free speech is enough to allow Morrison to seek damages. To make his case, the judges said, Morrison must show that the policy would "deter a person of ordinary firmness" from exercising free speech rights. Morrison sued the school district, claiming that the mandatory antiharassment training threatened him with punishment for expressing religious beliefs in opposition to homosexuality. Morrison is a professed Christian who believes his religion requires him to speak out against what he sees as behavior that doesn't comport with his understanding of Christian morality.

The policy was later changed to allow students to opt out of the training and exempt speech that would normally be protected off campus. In the dissent, Judge Deborah Cook said Morrison chose not to speak out against homosexuality

and thus didn't risk being punished. Cook said that Morrison suffered no actual harm from the policy and that holding a trial for damages to award "a single dollar" serves no purpose and "trivializes" the business of the federal courts in protecting the Constitution. "We cannot find a school district constitutionally liable for chilling student speech every time a student chooses caution over risking possible discipline," she wrote.

The training sessions were part of a settlement in 2004 of a three-year dispute between the school district and a now-defunct Gay rights group that wanted recognition as an extracurricular group. At issue was the federal Equal Access Act, which says districts can't bar student groups from access to school facilities based on religious, political, or philosophical orientation if the districts let other groups meet on campus.

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POLITICS 2007

by Mark R. Kerr

Q-Politics 2008: Representative Duncan Hunter



Representative Duncan Hunter

Duncan Hunter is the Republican Congressman for California's Fifty-Second District (the soon to be home of Blackwater West in Portraro) and has served in the U.S. House of Representatives from January 1981 to the present and has served as the Chair of the House Armed Services Committee, giving Halliburton and other contractors everything they asked for and then some.

As the fires burned recently in Southern California, Congressman Hunter proclaimed that the state's national guard, depleted by more than fifty-percent in troops and close to one-hundred-percent in equipment, were doing "a great job" and that the equipment and troops that were in Iraq wasn't needed, despite the reports on Fox News (one vowel away from what they do to the news) that Al-Qaeda operatives may have set the fires.

During his press conference regarding the California fires, Hunter blathered on, claiming that the efforts went very well for the victims of Hurricane Katrina too, so well in fact they received more than everything needed to rebuild their lives, adding that other supplies and necessities had been delivered into areas affected.

Ridiculous statements from Hunter doesn't stop with environmental catastrophes.

When questions were raised about the treatment of prisoners at Gitmo and Guantanamo, Hunter, as Chair of the House Armed Services Committee, held a press conference and stated that the prisoners were treated better than many Americans, some of which would want to go to either facility since they would get health care and three square meals.

Duncan then went on to read from a menu of meals which the prisoners allegedly got to make choices from. After which, he produced a plate of food and tried to get

the reporters assembled to eat the food and when there were no takers, Hunter tried to force-feed his staff present.

So with all that, Congressman Duncan Hunter is running for the 2008 Republican Presidential nomination and has received between a blip and squat in the polls to the wonderment of no one.

Duncan Hunter's voting record in Congress has been xenophobic, anti-choice, pro-business, supportive of the Patriot Act, anti-health care, pro-death penalty and anti-education, or in other words, an ultra-conservative Bushie-Cheneyite.

On issues of concern to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) and HIV/AIDS communities, Hunter is no friend either, voting the wrong way on issues of concern to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) and HIV/AIDS communities, including:

Federal funding for HIV/AIDS research and educational programs;

Expanding the groups covered under federal hate crimes laws;

Establishing federal protections against discrimination in employment, also known as the Employment Non-Discrimination Act;

Adoption by Gays and Lesbians (in the District of Columbia);

Adding an amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibiting governmental or legal recognition of same-sex marriages, civil unions and domestic partnerships and,

Ending federal funding for schools that offer medically accurate information to LGBT students and those requesting it.

The National Abortion Rights Action League and the Human Rights Campaign gave Congressman Duncan Hunter a zero for his voting record on their issues.

For more real information about Congressman Duncan Hunter's positions, statements and voting record, go online to ontheissues.org/Duncan_Hunter.htm or vote-smart.org/bio.php?can_id=26776. If one wants to read the ramblings of a campaign going nowhere, go online to gohunter08.com/.

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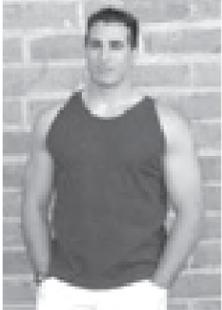
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Obama Crowds Cheer Homophobe Singer



Rev. Andy Sidden

COLUMBIA, South Carolina (Observer Update) - A Grammy-winning singer whose role in a Barack Obama campaign event riled LGBT activists served as master of ceremonies of a gospel concert promoting the Democratic presidential hopeful in South Carolina on Sunday night (October 28), reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

“We’re here,” Donnie McClurkin told a cheering crowd. “We’re here and we’re glad we’re here.”

McClurkin, who has angered Gay rights groups by saying homosexuality is a choice, told the crowd the musical acts were there “in the name of unity” and “in the name of change.”

An hour earlier, outside the concert venue, about two dozen Gay and Lesbian group supporters marched and carried a rainbow flag.

McClurkin was headlining an “Embrace the Change” concert that capped a weekend of gospel music that Obama, an Illinois senator, is hoping to use to recruit churchgoers — and music lovers — in this early voting state.

But McClurkin’s presence created a rift as Gay and Lesbian activists tried to force Obama to boot the singer from the lineup. Obama wouldn’t budge, but he tried to quell



the anger by adding an openly Gay pastor to the event.

Michael Vandiver, president of the South Carolina Gay and Lesbian Pride Movement said that he was disappointed by Obama’s refusal to take McClurkin off the bill, but that he hopes it will be an opportunity for new dialogue.

“This is not a protest of Senator Obama, but rather a vigil in opposition of Reverend McClurkin and his statements on homosexuality,” Vandiver said before the concert. “We’re also here to show our support for Rev. Andy Sidden.”

Sidden is the white, Gay pastor added to the concert bill as a last minute compromise by the Obama campaign. Sidden’s appearance was notably brief and anti-climactic: He said a short prayer to the auditorium at the very beginning of the program, when the arena was only about half full, and then he left.

Obama, while not present, appeared on a videotaped message to the crowd, saying, “The artists you’re going to hear from are some of the best

in the world, and favorites of Michelle and myself.” McClurkin said during the concert that he had been introduced to Obama by Oprah Winfrey.

Tony Kushner Inks Deal For New Play

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota - “The Intelligent Homosexual’s Guide to Capitalism and Socialism With a Key to the Scriptures” will premiere in the spring of 2009, reported the Associated Press on advocate.com. Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Tony Kushner is writing a new play that will premiere at Minneapolis’ Guthrie Theater in spring 2009, the theater announced Thursday.

The Guthrie commissioned Kushner, who wrote the epic AIDS drama “Angels in America,” to write a play Kushner is tentatively calling “The Intelligent Homosexual’s Guide to Capitalism and Socialism With a Key to the Scriptures,” Guthrie director Joe Dowling said. Set in Brooklyn, N.Y., the play “will have a family dynamic, and it will be dealing directly with Gay issues,” Dowling said.

The theater, which has never done a Kushner play, started discussing the possibility of a world premiere with Kushner late last year, Dowling said. “I have great admiration for Tony’s work,” Dowling said. “Tony is always engaged with the issues — both political and social issues — that really resonate with the audience.”

The theater also wanted to establish itself as a place for both classical and contemporary works, and hopes the partnership with Kushner will let the world know it’s now in the business for world premieres, Dowling said. The Guthrie opened an elaborate new three-stage theater overlooking the Mississippi in June 2006. “This is an indication of a big change,” Dowling said. “We want to be seen as one of those theaters that creates new works for the American



Playwright Tony Kushner

stage.”

Kushner, who has also received an Emmy and two Tony Awards, won a Pulitzer Prize in 1993 for “Millennium Approaches,” the first half of his two-part “Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes,” which offers a look at AIDS and Gay life in the 1980s. “Angels in America” was later made into an HBO film. His other plays include “A Bright Room Called Day” and “Homebody/Kabul.” He also wrote the book for the musical “Caroline, or Change” and the screenplay for Steven Spielberg’s “Munich.”



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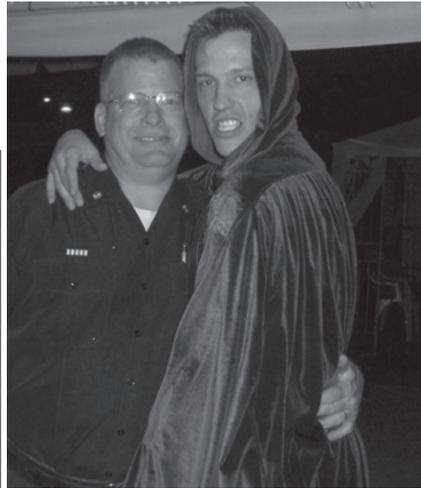
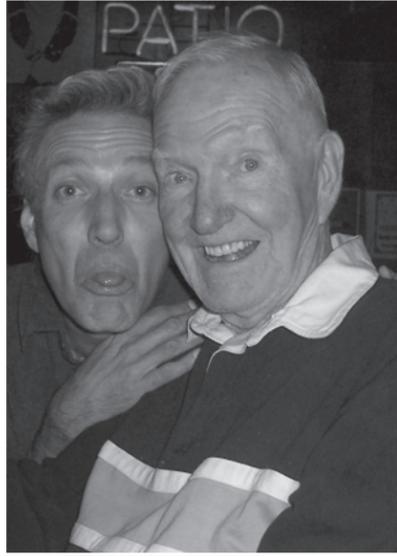
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HALLOWEEN 2007



T-Room Larry's Secret Anti-Harrassment Plans



BOISE, Idaho (Observer Update) - Months before his arrest at a Minneapolis airport, Sen. Larry Craig was considering a lawsuit against an Idaho newspaper and hired an attorney he later retained to represent him in the sex-sting case, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. Craig, who pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct following his arrest in a June 11 police sting at an airport men's room, hired Washington lawyer Billy Martin and public relations executive Judy Smith in late January or early February, spokesman Dan Whiting said.

Craig hired Martin and Smith because he was thinking of suing The Idaho Statesman newspaper for "harrassment" over its investigation into Craig's sexual orientation, Whiting said. Whiting said the pair stopped working for Craig on June 7 - four days before Craig's arrest at a bathroom at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. Martin and Smith ended their work June 7 because the dispute with the newspaper had "certainly died down by that point," Whiting said. Craig has said

repeatedly that he did not consult a lawyer after his arrest - a claim Whiting reaffirmed. "He never talked to counsel. He never talked to staff. He never talked to his wife. He didn't talk to anyone," Whiting said. Asked if he was certain, Whiting said: "I absolutely guarantee it. I would bet my life on it."

A campaign finance report filed shows that Craig paid Martin's firm, Sutherland Asbill & Brennan, \$37,350 on July 9 for "p.r. legal fees." Smith heads her own company, but frequently works with Martin on high-profile cases. The July payment "was unrelated to the Minneapolis incident," Whiting said. After Craig's arrest and guilty plea became public in late August, Craig said he made a mistake in pleading guilty and blamed his own panic over an investigation by the Boise newspaper, which spent months looking into Craig's private life. The newspaper interviewed Craig and his wife in May but did not publish the story until the arrest and guilty plea surfaced in other media. "They

crossed the line between reporting and harassment and spreading rumors," Whiting said of the Statesman. "We wanted to look at that and people spreading false allegations against Sen. Craig."

Martin and Smith were hired "because of their well-known expertise in dealing with tough situations," he

said. Mi-Ai Parrish, president and publisher of The Statesman, said in an e-mail that the newspaper has been aware of Craig's beliefs regarding its coverage. Craig's attorney "sent a letter over the summer, and we responded at the time. We have pursued this story in a professional manner. We acted appropriately and published when we felt it was appropriate to publish," Parrish said.

Yet Another Republican Sex Scandal



Washington State Representative Richard Curtis

OLYMPIA, Washington - Republican State Representative Richard Curtis is at the center of an alleged extortion attempt involving a male prostitute, towleroad.com reported. The case is under investigation by Spokane law enforcement.

"Officer Jennifer DeRuwe, spokeswoman for the Spokane Police Department, said police expect to wrap up their investigation in the next one or two days and forward their findings to county prosecutors for a decision on whether criminal charges should be filed," reported the Columbian newspaper. The Spokesman-Review newspaper reported Monday (October 29) that the alleged extortionist is a reputed male prostitute. DeRuwe would not confirm that report and said that prostitution did not appear to be involved in the case. A Spokane TV station, KREM, reported on its Web site that Curtis and the man had a sexual encounter and were seen

together at various spots around the city. Curtis was in the city for a retreat with other Republican lawmakers to craft strategy for the upcoming legislative session."

On Monday (October 29) Representative Curtis said of the matter, "I committed no crime. I did not solicit sex. I was trying to help somebody out. I am not Gay. I have not had sex with a guy. It's been a rough week. Look, the rest of this will all come out. can't say anything more until I have talked to my attorney. I have never been in this situation before."

According to a report in the Spokesman Review, "Elected to the state House of Representatives in 2004, Curtis has voted like a fiscal and social conservative. This spring, he voted against domestic partnerships for Gay and Lesbian couples. Last year, he opposed a Gay rights bill that banned discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation."

Informing The Community



TUCSON DIRECTORY

The map shows a grid of streets. Major streets labeled include I-10 Freeway, Broadway, University, Speedway, and Congress. Neighborhood markers include Prince, Ft. Lowell, Glenn, Grant, Mountain, Tucson Blvd., Country Club, Alvernon, Swan, Craycroft, and Drachman. A sign in the bottom right corner reads "TAKE YOUR I.D. TO THE BARS It's The Law!".

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HOROSCOPES

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We welcome November with a rush of positive powerful energy pulsating in lucky Sadge. And yet we may find that it is too much of a good thing. Don't gobble when you can nibble.

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

It feels like the world will beat a path to your door for the next four weeks. And Rambos with a "Gayme" plan can make considerable strides in their long term goals. It will require sustained effort and strategic focus through the month. However most of you would prefer to relax in front of the tube in a tryptophan doze. Remember, you snooze, you lose, pal.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Queer Bulls are the toasts of the town now. Not only do you attract admirers from all walks of life, you also know how to strut your stuff for the greatest effect. And yet, before you know it, all this hob nobbing and elbow rubbing will start to chaff. Working the stump will wear you down to a nubby stub. Vote for a day of utter relaxation every so often.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Pink Twins find that their relationships can become all consuming and passionate. That is the good part. The difficult part is that November will be a time of crushing work commitments that can cause conflict and excess stress and tire you out. Wait until the end of the month before you complain however. By that time you will have a few days off for Thanksgiving.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Not only are you especially diligent and resourceful, you can tackle anything that life puts in your path. Pink Crabs should consider embarking on a long deferred project now because not only are they thinking clearly, they are able to easily enlist help. Hurry before this energy fades and you are left to your own devices. Do I hear ticking...?

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

Enjoy yourself all through November, proud Lion. You are the life of the party and too delicious in the eyes of many. All this attention can go to your head where you go more for quantity than quality. Don't try to sample every taste because you can. Perhaps you should find a place where you can get a little privacy with you-know-who. Oh but be careful of who you wish!

A man who doesn't advertise is like one who winks in the dark: he knows he's doing it, but nobody else does.

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

You may find yourself spending more time entertaining at home. But before you send out the invitations, there may be a few do-it-yourself projects that need to be handled. Partners try to help and have a few home redecorating ideas in mind. They may try to surprise you through November. Ah an orange plastic houndstooth ottoman. How nice.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Gay Libras wax poetic all through November. You seem to know just what to say at the right time. Instead of fanning the air and hearing yourself speak, why not take up the cause and change a few hearts and minds? Not only are you charming, you are also magnetic. Stick to the script and focus on the message. Or is it the massage? Rubadub.

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

Not only can queer Scorps make a bundle now, they can put it to good use from any major project to any light affair. The secret is to plan your purchasing carefully and strategically to see if it will bring you personal value and satisfaction. You don't have to spend big to enjoy big. Sometimes it is true that size doesn't matter. Rarely, but sometimes.

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

Your personal stock soars to new heights. Don't let it sit on the shelf and eventually go on sale. Plan your best moves, reach out and meet and greet. Not only can you change the course of human events, should you choose to do so, you get a little something extra in it for yourself. You have a certain je ne sais quois so quois it all over town.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

If you try to stifle certain secrets they will not be contained. That is good. Pink Caps have a tendency to hold back but you will find that letting things out in the open is not only liberating, it is also a huge relief. Once you have cleaned up your act, it will be time to dress it up and take it out on the town. Do some early holiday shopping.

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

How much fun can Aqueerians have? Quite a bit this November as compadres get into your act and insist that you take it on the party circuit. Don't be shy and retiring. Expand your social world. Join a few new clubs or show your face in a few new, offbeat venues. Not only will you have a ball, you may even have two or more.

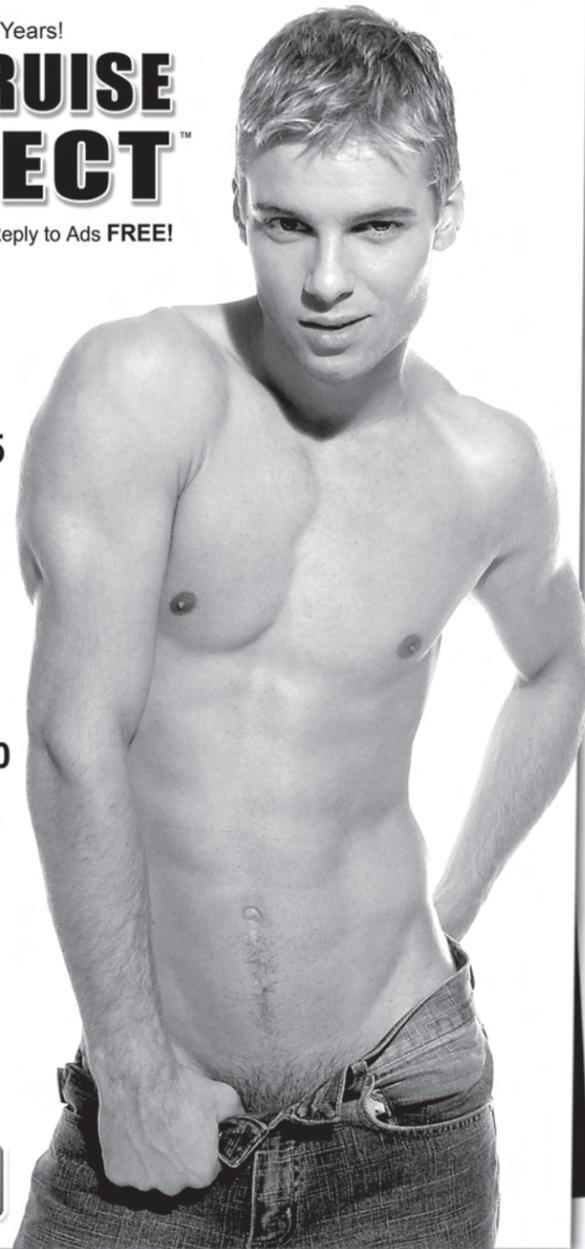
PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Guppies can make their mark in bold strokes. This is an excellent time to take stock of your life's direction and either make a correction or forge ahead with all speed. Things heat up to a fevered pitch towards the end of the month when you may have to make a big decision about your career. Okay, take the promotion and the huge raise.

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Pair Arrested In Royal Gay Blackmail

LONDON - A British newspaper reported that police have arrested two men over an attempt to blackmail a member of the British royal family with an alleged sex tape, 365Gay.com reported. In response to queries about the report, London police said only that two men, 30 and 40, had appeared at a London court on September 13 charged with blackmail.

named family member and demanded \$100,000 not to publicize a video allegedly showing the royal engaged in an oral sex act with an aide. Other reports have identified the aide as being male. The pair also claimed to have evidence suggesting the royal had supplied the aide with an envelope containing cocaine, the newspaper said.

They were ordered detained until a hearing at London's Central Criminal Court on December 20. The force would give no details of the case or identify the suspects. Buckingham Palace said it would have no comment on what it described as "a police matter." The Sunday Times said the alleged blackmailers had approached the un-

The newspaper said it could not identify the royal family member for legal reasons. The British Broadcasting Corp., without citing sources, said the blackmail target was not a senior member of the royal family. The Sunday Times said the target contacted police, and two suspects were arrested at a London hotel on September 11 after an undercover police operation.

Same-Sex Marriage Opponent Acquitted Of Assaulting G/L Rights Advocate

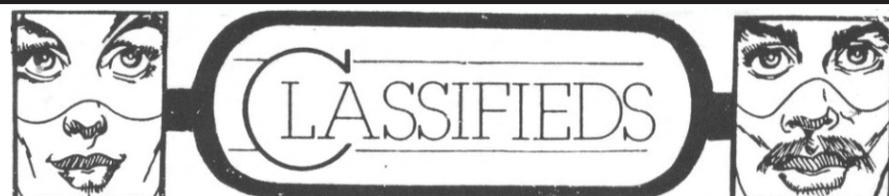
BOSTON (Observer Update) - A Virginia man who publicly protested same-sex marriage has been cleared of charges that he assaulted a same-sex marriage supporter at a rally in Worcester, Mass., according to the Associated Press, advocate.com reported.

that they saw Cirignano shove Loy. Cirignano said he gently guided her away from a podium because he thought her presence would cause violence and that he did not see her fall. The jury concluded that Loy tripped and was not pushed.

A district court jury acquitted Larry Cirignano of Arlington, Va., on Monday, after seven hours of deliberation. Cirignano, the former head of the organization Catholic Citizenship, was accused of pushing marriage equality advocate Sarah Loy to the ground last December during the protest against same-sex marriage.



Loy said she bruised her shoulder and elbow when she fell. Two witnesses for the prosecution testified



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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

OCTOBER 31, 2007

WEEKLY OBSERVER

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

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 included. Happy Hour 4-7pm \$3.50 Skyy Cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and well. Appetizers ½ price 4-6. Brunch served until 2pm. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

HOWL AT THE MOON - 10am. Starting 9/9. NFL package here. Wear an NFL team t-shirt or jersey and get 50¢ 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. \$1 chili dogs during game.

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 - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7. \$3.50 Skyy Cocktails, \$2.75 well & domestics. Appetizers ½ price 4-6m. Full menu served until 10pm.

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 Domestic and well and ½ price appetizers 4-6. Full menu 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. Fabu Tuesdays with your hostess Chantelle Douglas as your hostess for a mid-week brek. Show starts at 9:30 p.m.

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/DJ Hill 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 Domestic and ½ price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials. Every Wednesday is "Cabaret Open Mic Night". Sign up at 6:30 - Show starts at 7. MC: Cabaret Diva Liz McMahon. Music Director: Marilyn Harris.

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, "Divalicious" 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 - Open 3pm-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 Domestic and Well and ½ price appetizers. Full menu served until 10. Nightly dinner specials..

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

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 Domestic and Well and ½ price appetizers. Finlandia martinis \$5.50 open to close! Full menu served until 10. "Hot Jazz, Cool Martinis" with Susan Artemis & Craig Faltn 6:30 to 9:30. "Guys & Dolls" drag show hosted by Lucinda Holliday at 10pm. Nightly dinner specials. Drink specials during the drag show.

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 Hill 9pm. Patio Bar opens at 10:30pm.

COLORS - Open 4pm-10pm, Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and Well, ½ price appetizers 4-6. Pianist/Vocalist Marilyn Harris 6:30-9:30. Full menu served until 10. 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.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31

IBT's - Halloween Party 9:00 p.m. to Closing. Throw on a little make-up and join the party for IBT's annual party. Drag Show, Drink specials, costume contest. Music by DJ Q.

VENTURE-N - Halloween Party 9:00 p.m. to close. Drink Specials and Costume Contest.

WOODY'S - Costume Party/Contest at 11pm. 1st Prize \$200; 2nd \$100; 3rd \$50. Minimum of 10 contestants. Hosted by Ajia Simone.

YARD DOG - Halloween Contest at 10:00 p.m. Winner receives Las Vegas trip.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1

THE BIZ - 18 AND Up Halloween Party- \$100 to best costume! Prize awarded at 1:00 a.m. Come early and avoid the lines!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2

HOWL AT THE MOON - Couples dance lessons with Amanda 7:30 p.m.

WOODY'S - Simon Crown 6-9 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3

HOWL AT THE MOON - Fundraiser for AGRA - Arizona Gay Rodeo Association. Pussy LeHoot is your hostess for the evening.

WOODY'S UofA Tailgate Party. Watch the UofA play ULA 12:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4

HOWL AT THE MOON - Benefit Show hosted by Lucinda Holliday. Show starts at 9:00 p.m.

WOODY'S - Drag Bingo 8:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

WOODY'S - Toga Party

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9

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

IBT'S - 4:00 - 9:00 p.m. Chili Cook-Off. Be a contestant or a sampler! Karaoke on the Patio and \$1.00 pints. To sign up to be a contestant see a bartender or call (520)882-3053. Money raised goes to local organizations.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10

HOWL AT THE MOON - Fundraiser for 1st Annual GLBT Bowling Tournament.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11

HOWL AT THE MOON - Miss Carousel Newcomers Pageant - TIHAN Benefit.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16

HOWL AT THE MOON - couples Dance Lessons with Amanda 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17

HOWL AT THE MOON - Trans Awareness Week with live Classic Rock music performed b "Too Much Information".

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24

HOWL AT THE MOON - A Farewell Performance by Adrienne Alexander.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25

HOWL AT THE MOON - "Glamour Dolls" show hosted by Chantelle Douglas. 9:30 pm.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

HOWL AT THE MOON - Live Jazz and Blues, internationally-known "Mr. Boogie Woogie and the Firesweep Blues Band".

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

HOWL AT THE MOON - MCC Holiday Fundraiser Show.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

HOWL AT THE MOON - Howl-in' the New Year! Starts at 8:00 p.m. Music, food, dancing, champagne, silly hats.

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.

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 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 325_2111 7am-7pm M-F - 9am-5pm weekend and holidays.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



A Gay Retirement Community Faces Growing Pains

SANTA FE, New Mexico (Observer Update) - It's been nearly a year and a half since Santa Fe's first Gay retirement community began welcoming residents, gfn.com reported. From the outside, the \$35 million RainbowVision Properties is undeniably beautiful: 146 units spread out over 13 acres. With condos ranging from \$250,000 to \$310,000, the site offers panoramic views of the Sangre de Cristo, Sandia, Jemez and Ortiz mountains, and is adjacent to up-scale residential neighborhoods, shopping centers, and major medical facilities.

But while the vistas at this groundbreaking residential community may be unbeatable, some of its first residents are offering mixed reviews of the kind of retirement facility many aging Gay boomers may be considering in just a few years. RainbowVision has been promoted almost exclusively to the Gay

community; brochures and their Website feature images of same-sex couples. But increasingly, more images of mixed gender couples can be seen, and some recent moves by management - like offering non-resident use of some of the facilities - have fanned worries about an influx of outsiders.

Many residents of the two- and three-story earth-tone buildings say it's not that they want an all-Gay enclave, just one that features a majority of Gay men and women, where everyone can feel safe to live and to show affection without getting a strange look or worse. "We're glad to have a mixture," Jan Gaynor, 64, who has a condo with partner Barbara Cohn, 63, told the Los Angeles Times. "It's more like living in the real world, not one that is strictly one or the other."

But although about 80% of the complex's residents are Gay, some fear there is potential for a radical shift because nearly half of the units are unoccupied or for sale, and then there's that push for non-Gay residents. Joy Silver, president of RainbowVision Properties Inc., confirms its advertising includes images of mixed-gender couples. "I don't see it as a shift in marketing at all," she says. "But to be inclusive in your advertising is an art."

Perhaps one issue not considered by many residents is regardless of what people feel is the appropriate mix of Gay-to-straight, New Mexico bars housing discrimination because of sexual orientation. And condo owners, looking to unload their properties in a slow real estate market, are free to sell to whomever they choose. But concerns about "outsiders" coming in may be prescient. The community is about to start offering memberships to non-residents who want to use the gym, eat at the restaurant and use RainbowVision's public spaces - such as the Truman Capote Library - for functions. These non-resident RainbowVision memberships will go for a one-time fee of \$200, and \$50 monthly dues, which could generate additional revenue for the complex that may be in need of cash.

The move has not engendered

welcoming feelings from the new residents. A recent article in the Gay newspaper, the New Mexico Voice, quoted from a letter circulated among some residents stating, "We bought our condos believing that this would be a private living community, not a busy recreational center." Of greater concern, though, a spate of recent lawsuits filed in Santa Fe Magistrate Court has brought major construction problems to light, including the flooding of approximately 20 units this past summer, major design flaws with the foundation and balconies of some condos.

Others are pointing to rising fees that underestimated operating costs. Silver confirmed that fees have recently risen by 25 percent—from \$600 to \$750 a month, noting that the services at RainbowVision—which include featured guest chefs, entertainment and the Billie Jean King Fitness Center and Spa—had been underpriced. "RVSF is a \$35 million project," RainbowVision Properties, Inc. Executive Vice President Ava Stern told the Santa Fe Reporter. "For a project of this size, the difficulties the business has encountered are minor." In an interview, RainbowVision Properties' Silver says that it will take three years "to reach stabilization," and believes contractors must shoulder most of the blame regarding "flooding or mold issues." Silver says she expects a settlement with some of the contractors "shortly."



In Their Own Words

Republican presidential candidate Fred Thompson's pre-programmed answers on same-sex marriage ("those activist judges!") didn't exactly help him out when asked about New Hampshire's new civil unions law, and the possibility of a federal CU. He blew a circuit.

According to the Associated Press, Edward Paul, an employee of the Delta Dental Plans Association, asked the question Monday (October 29), but had trouble being understood. "I'm proud to say that in January 2008 New Hampshire has passed a law facilitating civil unions here. ... What is your belief for federal civil unions to be passed?" Paul asked. "Soviet Union?" Thompson responded. "No, civil unions," Paul said. "Oh. No, I would not be in support of that," Thompson said.

Say It Again Sonny



Republican Candidate Fred Thompson

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