

SEASON'S GREETINGS

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The Greater Arizona Community



OBSERVER

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WEEKLY OBSERVER

DECEMBER 12, 2007

ISSUE 1221

Despite Judge's Order, Iran Hangs 21-Year-Old Convicted Of Rape Committed As A Minor

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - A 21-year-old man convicted of raping three boys when he was a teenager and sentenced to death has been hanged despite a chief justice's order that the case be reviewed, the man's lawyer and a New-York based rights group said Thursday (December 6), reported the Associated Press on pageoneq.com.

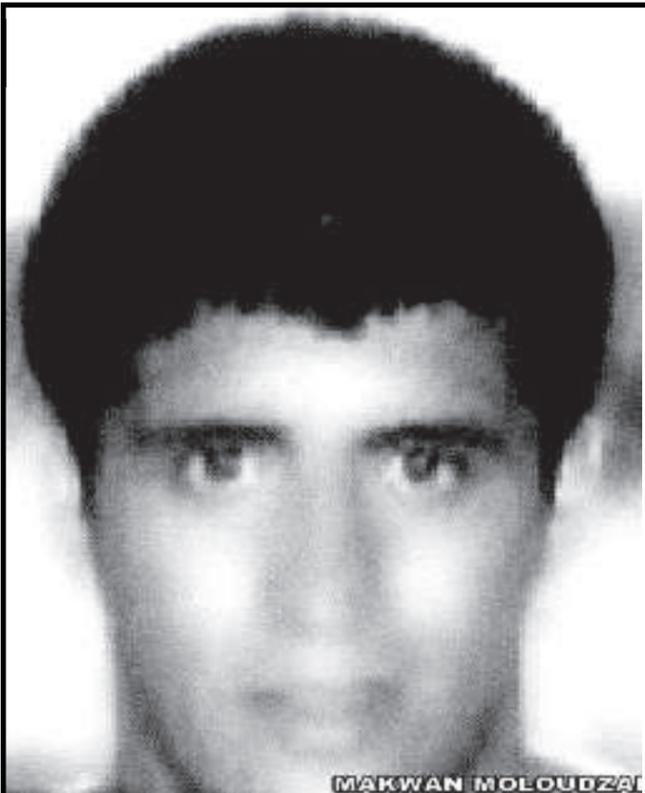
Makwan Moloudzadeh was executed late Tuesday and his family told to come pick up his body for burial Wednesday (December 5), Human Rights Watch (HRW) officials said.

"We were expecting an order for retrial by the Supreme Court," Saeed Egbali, the lawyer for the sentenced man, told the Associated Press. "There would have been no harm in a retrial and it could have saved a life."

Authorities detained Makwan in 2006 on charges he had had sexual intercourse with three teenagers, all under the legal age of 18, in the Iranian Kurdish town of Paveh, 440 miles west of Tehran. The charges stemmed from complaints raised by the teenagers' families claiming Makwan had committed the rape eight years ago, when he was 13 years old. During the trial in a court in the nearby city of Kermanshah, Makwan tried unsuccessfully to revoke his earlier confession to the crime, which he said was extracted under coercion. His lawyer said that after the verdict, the plaintiffs dropped their accusations.

"But the judges issued verdict only based on their own understanding," Egbali said. "Under the law, even if Makwan had confessed four times, it should not have mattered because he was not of [legal] age at the time of the crime."

In November the head of Iran's judiciary, Ayatollah Mahmoud Shahrudi ordered Makwan's death sentence be halted, said the initial verdict was against the law, and ordered a retrial, Egbali said. But the case, which was supposed to be reviewed in Tehran, was sent back to Kermanshah, where local judicial authorities speedily approved the execution, and it was "carried out quickly," the lawyer said.



Makwan Moloudzadeh

"Makwan was hanged on Wednesday, and his body was given to his family for funeral ceremony in Paveh," the lawyer added. Egbali said the case was full of ambiguities, including a lack of investigation and evidence, and said he would sue the judges on behalf of Makwan's parents if they decide so.

Only this year, Iran has hanged dozens convicted on charges of rape, robbery, and kidnapping, which along with sodomy and male homosexuality, are all capital offenses in the Persian nation. The London-based Amnesty International says Iran has executed five persons under the age of 18 in 2007, and 27 since 1990.

In Cairo, Clarissa Bencomo of the Human Rights Watch, said the group can confirm Makwan's sentence was carried out. "We have spoken to individuals who have seen the body and the burial," she said, adding that Makwan's family was "very distraught." There was no formal notice, as is required under law, 24 hours before a sentence is carried out, to a convict's family and lawyer, she said. "The local judicial authorities ordered the execution contravening the chief justice's order," Bencomo said, adding the case was fraught, with no "forensic evidence" of the crime, only the accusations by the plaintiffs, and scores of other irregularities.

"We are calling for a formal investigation both into the contravention of the judicial order and on authorities to bring to justice those

Continued on Page Two

Federal Hate Crime Bill Dropped

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The Matthew Shepard Hate Crime bill was removed Thursday (December 6) from defense authorization legislation, reported 365Gay.com.

The Shepard Act would have added sexuality to the list of categories covered under federal hate crime law. It passed the House in May and the White House threatened to veto it. In an effort to get around a veto the Senate version tied the measure to the 2008 defense authorization bill. It passed in September and then went to conference where the two versions of the bill needed to be harmonized for a final vote. Since then the bill has been tied up.

Thursday (December 6) Senate conferees reluctantly agreed to strip the Shepard Act from the defense bill, realizing that they lack the votes to pass the measure.

In a private meeting Wednesday night (December 5), House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) and House Democratic Whip James Clyburn (D-S.C.) told Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich.) that if the Senate continued to insist on the hate crimes provision the defense legislation would fail.

Levin, as chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, oversees the defense authorization bill, which covers the 2008 budget year.

"Today's decision is deeply disappointing, especially given the historic passage of hate crimes legislation through both Houses of Congress this year," said Joe Solmonese, President of the Human Rights Campaign. "After more than ten years and several successful bipartisan votes, it is heartbreaking to fall short this close to the finish line." Solmonese said he hoped lawmakers can find another way of passing the measure before this Congress ends.

In a joint statement issued Thurs-

day (December 6), the bill's sponsor, Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Sen. Levin said they were disappointed the House refused to attempt a vote on the legislative package, even if it would have failed. "At a time when our ideals are under attack by terrorists in other lands, it is more important than ever to demonstrate that we practice what we preach, and that we are doing all we can to root out the bigotry and prejudice in our own country that leads to similar violence here at home," the senators said.

The Shepard Act's chief Republican sponsor in the Senate said he would work to see the bill passed. "I am deeply frustrated and disappointed with this Congress," said Gordon Smith (R-OR). "The unwillingness of a few to compromise is keeping Matthew's bill from becoming law. The fight doesn't stop now. I will pursue every possible option to turn this legislation in law."

Gay Democrats had a strong message for their party. "The Democratic Leadership, which guided this legislation to successful passage in their respective chambers, are now burdened with a moral obligation to see their work completed," said Jon Hoadley, the Executive Director of National Stonewall Democrats. "If the National Defense Authorization Act is not the appropriate vehicle for passage, then we encourage the Democratic Leadership to work with our community to find the most expedient way to place this legislation on the President's desk within this Congress."

The Matthew Shepard Hate Crime Act was named for the 21 year old college student who was murdered in an anti-Gay hate crime in Wyoming in October 1998. His parents expressed their dismay at the Congressional decision in a joint statement.

"At this time of year that fills us
Continued on Page Ten

Deadline To Register To Vote In Arizona Presidential Primary, January 7, One Must Be Registered With A Political Party To Participate

By Mark R. Kerr

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Monday, January 7 2008, is the deadline to be registered to vote for Arizona's presidential primary that will take place on Tuesday, February 5.

Unlike Arizona's usual primary that takes place in September of every even numbered year for certain federal, statewide, Arizona Legislative offices and others, for which people need only

to be registered to vote to participate, Arizona's presidential preference on February 5 is a "closed" primary, meaning one must be registered with a participating political party to take part.

The online Observer at tucsonobserver.com/links.html, has links to voter registration forms. For more information or questions, go online to azsos.gov/election/county.htm.

UPDATE

Stonewall Democrats Holiday Party Corrected Date Monday, Dec. 17

Southern Arizona Stonewall Democrats (SASD) will have a Holiday Party beginning at 6:00 p.m. at 317 E. 1st St. The invited guest will be Jon Hoadly, Executive Director of the National Stonewall Democrats in Washington, D.C., who will discuss some of our national issues. 2008 will be a major year for our community so become involved. For more info contact sasducson@yahoo.com or call Maurice at 323-2293

PFLAG/Senior Pride Holiday Feast, December 15

TUCSON (Observer Update) - PFLAG/Senior Pride's annual holiday feast will take place at Wingspan, 425 E., 7th Street on Saturday, December 15, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Tucson's PFLAG will be preparing and sharing a fantastic holiday dinner with Wingspan's seniors and their allies, so everyone is welcome - even if you've never attended a Senior Pride event.

Please contact Penelope Starr at Wingspan, (520) 624-1779, ext. 122 or E-mail: pstarr@wingspan.org if you are planning on coming so that the cooks know how many to plan for.

Rainbow Families' Foster Care/Adoption Forum December 16

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) will conduct Volunteer Orientation/Training on January 10, 2008 from 5:15-9:15 p.m. at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 1350 N. Arcadia Ave.

For thirteen years, TIHAN has been organizing faith communi-

ties and volunteers in Tucson to respond to this health crisis with compassion and education.

Volunteer Training will address questions about HIV/AIDS and give volunteers new ideas about what they can do to help. Interactive and informative, the training is available to all who want to learn more about HIV/AIDS, gain understanding of and sensitivity to those living with HIV/AIDS and people interested in TIHAN volunteer opportunities. Subjects covered include HIV/AIDS 101, stigma and stereotyping, living with HIV/AIDS, interfaith responses to HIV/AIDS, and an introduction to TIHAN programs.

TIHAN encourages all ages, including seniors, University students and high school age teens, to participate. The cost is \$17.00 which covers a light meal and printed materials. Please plan on attending one of our next orientations so you can join the Volunteer Team. Please call (520) 299-6647 for additional information and to sign up to begin your Volunteer journey.

SAGA To Provide Monthly Hot Meal For Homeless Youth

TUCSON - SAGA (Southern Arizona Gender Alliance) members will prepare and serve a hot meal to the Eon's Homeless Youth Project (HYP) participants on the first Wednesday following the SAGA General meeting each month.

Sharon Schubitzke, who facilitates SAGA's Desert Partnerz support group, is coordinating the project, which she created based on feedback from SAGA participants who said they wanted to support the community—especially transgender youth—in a meaningful way. Adult volunteers are needed to help cook, serve, and clean-up, and also to just hang out and spend some "quality time" with the homeless LGBTQIA youth at Eon. For more information on volunteering, contact Sharon Schubitzke at sharon@sagatucson.org, or (520) 219-1413.

Those who are not available at 4:00 p.m. in the afternoon, but would like to be part of this worthy project in another way are invited to donate Safeway

IN MEMORIAM



GARY TEAGUE

Gary Tegue flew away from us on December 4th. He is now gliding through the Great Owl Heaven. Gary is survived by his partner of 25 years, Tommy M., and his sister, Sandy of Globe, Arizona.

He was born and raised in Globe. Gary was employed in the printing industry in Tucson.

After his retirement, Gary dedicated his time to the Tucson Knight Owls (TKO), camping, fishing and hunting. He will be missed by all whose life he touched.

HAPPY SAILING, GARY, until we all sail together again.

grocery gift cards, which SAGA will use to buy the food and supplies needed to serve. Gift cards may be dropped off or mailed to Wingspan. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent of the law, so please be sure to include your name and address to receive an acknowledgement for your tax records: Wingspan, Attn: SAGA-HYP Project, 425 E. 7th St., Tucson, AZ 85705.

December GLBT Commission Meeting Cancelled

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The Tucson Commission on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender (GLBT) Issues will not conduct a meeting on Tuesday, December 18, pursuant to an unanimous vote of the Commission at its October meeting.

The Commission will conduct their next meeting Tuesday, January 15, 2008, 5:30 p.m. in the EOO conference room, first floor, 100 North Stone Avenue.

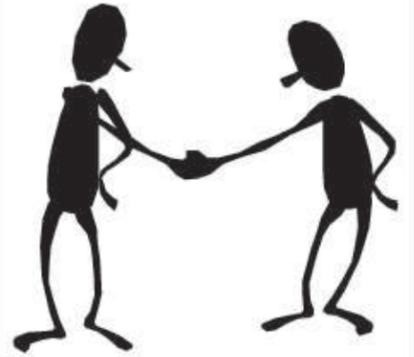
For more information, call the City Clerk's office, (520) 791-4213 or go online to tucsonaz.gov/clerks/boards.php?board=40.

Iran Hangs 21-Year-Old

Continued from Page One

who carried out the execution," Bencomo said. "There were clearly violations of Iranian law here." According to HRW, Iran is the world's leading executor of children, and the country has executed people under the age of 18 and adults who committed a crime when they were under the legal age - both of which is prohibited under the U.N. rights of the child convention, to which Iran is a signatory.

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TIHAN Volunteer Training January 10

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) will conduct Volunteer Orientation/Training on January 10, 2008 from 5:15 - 9:15 p.m. at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 1350 N. Arcadia Ave.

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more about HIV/AIDS, gain understanding of and sensitivity to those living with HIV/AIDS and people interested in TIHAN volunteer opportunities. Subjects covered include HIV/AIDS 101, stigma and stereotyping, living with HIV/AIDS, interfaith responses to HIV/AIDS, and an introduction to TIHAN programs.

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WWJB At The Loft Cinema



TUCSON - "A fast and funny documentary ... might make a viewer think twice about that next purchase at The Gap." - Laura Kern, THE NEW YORK TIMES

Brace yourself for the onslaught of the holiday season "shopocalypse" with this hilariously insightful new documentary from executive producer Morgan Spurlock (Super-Size Me), starring the one-and-only Reverend Billy and the members of his Church of Stop Shopping! The film follows the white-suited, big-haired Rev. Billy and his 35-member choir as they hit the road in two biodiesel-fueled buses in December 2005, on a guerrilla U.S. tour against rampant consumerism! They invade shopping malls, megastores and Starbucks coffee shops with a message preached in mock-religious fervor that there is evil - a looming "shopocalypse" - at the heart of U.S. consumer culture.

Rev. Billy tries to "exorcise" discount chain Wal-Mart's home office in

Arkansas. He is arrested in Disneyland on Christmas Day after marching with his red-robed choir and denouncing the Walt Disney Corp. for outsourcing merchandise production. In an outlet of lingerie shop Victoria's Secret, known for its blizzard of catalog promotions, Rev. Billy exhorts, "O Victoria, we know your secret - we don't need a million catalogs a day to have our sexual fantasies." As the holiday shopping season grows ever-longer, and the malls become ever-more ag-

gressive with their siren call of consumption, Reverend Billy is on a mission to reveal the dangers of holiday overspending, and help heal the shopping-scarred souls of a cashed-out population.

Filled with biting satire, wacky humor, revealing interviews with psychiatrists, politicians, kids and their exasperated parents, and the gale-force charisma of Rev. Billy himself, this is the perfect holiday film for anyone who's "mad as hell and not going to take it anymore!"

Showtimes at the Loft Cinema, 3233 East Speedway: Sunday: 2:30, 6:45; Monday: 3:30, 10:00; Tuesday & Wednesday: 12:00, 4:00, 8:00, 10:00; Thursday: 12:00, 4:00, 8:00, 10:00. The Loft admission prices are as follows: Adult \$8.50, Senior(65+) \$5.25, Child(12 & Under) \$5.25, Matinee \$5.50, Student, Military \$6.00, Member \$4.75. Call (520) 795-0844 to order tickets over the phone.

Meds 'Made Him Gay'

PARIS, France - A French civil servant who claims he was turned Gay by his Parkinson's medication has won a lawsuit against a distributor of drugs containing dopamine, 365Gay.com reported. Didier Jambart is seeking about a half-million dollars in compensation.

His lawsuit claimed that he was not told the medication could lead to compulsive behavior. He claimed that after taking the drugs he developed "homosexual urges" and spent hours searching for Gay sex. He also claimed that he developed a gambling compulsion and even sold toys belonging to his two young sons to get money to place on horse races. Jambart said he began noticing the changes within a year of starting the meds. "As soon as we saw

him we knew immediately it was dopamine agonists," Philippe Damier, head of the neurology department at the Nantes CHU hospital testified.

Jambart was given different medication and his disorders disappeared. "Without that, I would have killed myself or have ended up in prison," Jambart said. The penalty phase of the trial is set to begin. The case is being closely watched by lawyers in Europe and North America who have clients who also claim to have developed compulsions as a result of dopamine.

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COMMENTARY...
by John Corvino

The Diversity Fallacy

I won't have any Transgender people at my Christmas party this year.

Actually, I won't have any non-Transgender people either: I'm not hosting a party this Christmas. But in years past I've hosted many, and I've never had any Transgender people attending, unless you count one former women's studies student who identified as Transgender "for political reasons."

I have nothing against Transgender people; I just don't know many. Nor do I have anything against diversity – indeed, my parties have been quite diverse: young and old, Gay and straight, nerdy academics and slick business types (not to mention slick academics and nerdy business types).

On the other hand, they've been populated by mostly white, mostly educated, mostly professional folks – the kind of people my partner and I typically encounter in our daily lives. Our parties have had relatively few Lesbians and surprisingly few blacks, given that we live in a majority-black neighborhood in an overwhelmingly black city (Detroit). They would not impress most college diversity offices.

And I don't really care.

Please understand: I'm a proponent of diversity. I've written in support of affirmative action, and I vocally opposed the initiative that ultimately banned it in Michigan public institutions. But imposing it on our social gatherings is just foolishness—which is not to say that people don't try.

A few years ago some friends of mine observed that Detroit's lack of a "Gayborhood" meant that Gay city dwellers often felt socially disconnected. So we started brainstorming about ways to draw them together – an online community, a series of house parties, that sort of thing –

and we formed a group. Then one of the local GLBT organizations got involved. Every time we tried to sponsor an event, they'd interrupt: "Wait; you don't have enough Lesbians on board." So we brought more Lesbians on board. "Wait; you don't have enough African-Americans on board." So we brought more African-Americans on board. "Wait; you don't have enough working-class people on board." And so on.

Now we have no one on board. The group never got off the ground, having collapsed under the weight of the artificial diversity imposed on it. What began as a band of like-minded Gay Detroiters was forced – on purpose – into a hodgepodge of individuals with relatively little in common. Not surprisingly, those individuals very quickly decided they had other more pressing interests.

When "birds of a feather flock together," why fight it? It's one thing if those groups are hoarding resources that others are entitled to; it's quite another if they just want to hang out.

Ironically, the insistence on diversity sometimes results in a rather opposite problem, stemming from what I call the Diversity Fallacy. It would seem that, for any minority group X, having more members of X creates more diversity. But that's true only up to a point, after which the group is no longer underrepresented and the principle becomes fallacious. So, for example, adding another African-American to the Detroit City Council (eight of whose nine members are black) would not make it

more diverse: it would make it less so, all else being equal. This is true despite the fact that, even in Detroit, African-Americans are thought to "count" toward diversity in a way that whites do not.

Obviously, this problem is not unique to the GLBT community. It arises anywhere cultural identity and diversity attempt to coexist. But the GLBT community has been revisiting it of late, mainly because of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA).

ENDA passed the House in a version that includes sexual orientation but not gender identity. As a result, the GLB community has been accused (largely from within its own ranks) of throwing Transgenders under the bus. Critics have recalled the women's movement of the early 70's, many of whose leaders denounced Lesbians as a hindrance to the movement's goals.

The analogy is clumsy at best. Every Lesbian is a woman; not every Transgender person is Gay. Sexual orientation and gender identity (unlike womanhood and Lesbianism) vary independently, even granting that they have important affinities.

What the ENDA debate reminds us is that the GLBT "community" comprises diverse sub-communities, which overlap in various and sometimes awkward ways. No G's and L's are B's; some G's, L's, and B's are T's; all T's are either straight or GLB. Every one of us has both a sexual orientation and a gender identity, though one or the other of those traits may dominate our individual political agendas.

But the debate also reminds us that communities are at least partly a matter of choice: choices about which alliances to form, when to form them, when to honor them and when to break them. Choices that are easy to make when sending Christmas-party invitations become far more difficult when people's livelihoods are at stake.

(John Corvino is a writer, speaker, and philosophy professor at Wayne State University in Detroit. His column "The Gay Moralist" appears bi-weekly at 365Gay.com, from which this is reprinted from.)

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POLITICS 2007

by Mark R. Kerr

'Contrary To'

Contrary to reports, news articles, E-mails, blog notes, etc., proposed federal legislation expanding the federal hate crimes statute to include sexual orientation and gender identity has not "died."

S. 1105, the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Act, which was attached to the 2008 Defense Authorization measure (H.R. 1585) as an amendment was removed from that bill by conference committee and the capitulating House and Senate Democratic leadership.

As previously reported in this column and publication, the House of Representatives on May 3, approved H.R. 1592, the proposed "Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act," by a vote of 237-180 (both Representatives Gabrielle Giffords and Raul Grijalva voting yes). H.R. 1592 had been assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee, chaired by Senator Patrick Leahy, D-VT.

H.R. 1592 has not been scheduled for hearings and is still viable since the 110th Congress will not end its session until sometime in November or December 2008.

Contact Senator Patrick Leahy's Washington, D.C. office at (202) 224-4242 or E-mail at senator_leahy@leahy.senate.gov, and let Senator Leahy know of your support for H.R. 1592 and to schedule the bill for hearings since contrary to reports by the capitulating House and Senate Democratic leadership, the support is there to expand federal hate crimes statutes to cover sexual orientation and gender identity....

If one is to believe the Bush Crime Family, especially the Depart-

ment of Homeland Security, that would be contrary to reality. Case in point, people with AIDS or who are HIV+ wanting to travel to the United States but can't due to 1993 federal law that strictly restricts travel and immigration to the U.S.

Dubya's Homeland Security wants to change and proposed a rule that would allow short-term visas to be granted to HIV+ people or those living with AIDS by U.S. consulates in their home countries but applicants would have to agree to certain conditions, including giving up the ability to apply for a longer stay or permanent residency in the U.S.

HIV/AIDS organizations, LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) Rights Groups, and Democratic House members objected that the changes do nothing to lessen the burden on HIV-positive people, instead shifting decision-making authority to consular officers who may lack the appropriate medical expertise.

U.S. Representative Barbara Lee, D-CA, has introduced legislation to overturn the 1993 federal law, H.R. 3337, the "HIV Nondiscrimination in Travel and Immigration Act of 2007." H.R. 3337 has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law, which is chaired by Representative Zoe Lofgren, D-CA.

Contact Representative Lofgren's Washington, D.C. office at (202) 225-3072 or E-mail at lofgren.house.gov/emailform.shtml and express your support for H.R. 3337 and ask for hearings to be scheduled because contrary to reports, there is still time.

In Their Own Words

Once again Fox News shows that they live up to their motto, one vowel away from what they really do to the news.



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EDITOR:
Re: Mr. Romney's faith

Sir, quit sidestepping the issue, your religion declares as unworthy (not eligible to enter into the presence of God the Father) EVERYONE who is not a member of your church. Why? Because they are not baptized by your priesthood, don't sustain your prophet as the ONLY one who speaks for God, don't pay you money (tithing), and they might drink

coffee, tea, liquor, and/or smoke. Mormons have an exclusive, exclusionary attitude toward non-members whom you consider "Gentiles." (Try to get into one of their temples.) Do the math, you demonize 99.99999999% of the world's population. How can you possibly think you can represent the people of the U.S. or be any kind of world leader?

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Lesbian Couple Married In Mass., Can't Divorce In R.I.

Providence, Rhode Island (Observer Update) - In a split ruling Rhode Island's Supreme Court said Friday (December 7) that a Lesbian couple who married in Massachusetts cannot get divorced in their home state of Rhode Island, 365Gay.com reported.

The case involves Margaret R. Chambers and Cassandra B. Ormiston who were married in Massachusetts in 2004. Because Rhode Island has no specific law banning same-sex marriage Gay and Lesbian couples can go to Massachusetts to marry.

But those marriages are not recognized in Rhode Island.

Last year the Chambers and Ormiston filed for divorce in Providence, citing "irreconcilable differences".

Because of the lack of specific legislation on same-sex marriage Chief Family Court Judge Jeremiah S. Jeremiah Jr. said he did not know if he could rule without taking up the issue of marriage.

He asked the Supreme Court justices to determine if he has the authority to hear the case. (story)

When the high court took up the case it limited arguments solely to the issue of divorce, leaving marriage for same-sex couples in limbo.

Attorneys for the two the women had said the court should consider only the comity provision of the US Constitution.

Writing for the majority, Jus-

tice William Robinson III said that the Family Court could only deal with the divorce if the General Assembly gives that court the power to grant divorces to same-sex couples.

"The role of the judicial branch is not to make policy, but simply to determine the legislative intent," the ruling said.

"I think these people are being confined to a legal limbo," said Nancy Palmisciano, Ormiston's lawyer.

Louis Pulner, Chambers' attorney, said he was surprised by the decision.

"I feel that it's unfortunate that two people who are legally married can not get closure here in the state of Rhode Island."

The women could still divorce, but only if one of them moves to Massachusetts and files for divorce there. The attorneys said that neither woman is currently able to relocate.

Earlier this year a House committee held public hearings into three separate bills that would recognize in varying ways same-sex relationships with only one offering marriage but none of the bills has advanced.



Opposition Grows To New Travel Rules For PWAs

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - On World AIDS Day, the White House said new rules would make it easier soon for people with HIV/AIDS to travel to the United States. Democratic lawmakers and Gay rights groups are complained that the regulations proposed by the Homeland Security Department could actually create more barriers. (story) And the opposition is growing.

Gay rights advocates have long opposed a 1993 federal law that strictly restricts travel and immigration to the U.S. by HIV-positive people, arguing it's outdated and discriminatory. Foreigners with the virus can obtain visas only after receiving a waiver from the Homeland Security Department in a cumbersome process that requires approval from DHS headquarters.

Activists say this can lead people to lie on visa applications about whether they have HIV, then travel to the U.S. without needed medication to avoid being found out by Customs officials.

The White House says it wants to make the process easier for HIV-positive people seeking 30-day stays for business or pleasure. As part of President Bush's observance of World AIDS Day on Nov. 30, the administration announced the publication of regulations meant to speed up the process.

"The administration is working to end discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS," said a White House fact sheet. "A 'categorical waiver' will enable HIV-positive people to enter the United States for short visits through a streamlined process."

The rule proposed by the

Department of Homeland Security last month would allow short-term visas to be granted to HIV-positive people by U.S. consulates in their home countries, cutting out the involvement of DHS headquarters and thus potentially speeding up the process greatly. However, applicants would have to agree to certain conditions, including giving up the ability to apply for a longer stay or permanent residency in the United States.

The DHS rule refers to people with the HIV infection, which would include people who are HIV-positive but have not developed AIDS and HIV-positive people who do have AIDS.

In a letter to Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, more than two dozen Democratic House members objected that the changes do nothing to lessen the burden on HIV-positive people, instead shifting decision-making authority to "local consular officers who may lack the appropriate medical expertise."

"Applicants would still have to somehow persuade an official that they are of minimal danger, will not transmit the virus and will not cost the government money," said the letter released Monday (December 10) by Rep. Barbara Lee, D-Calif. "There would be no appeal process. Selecting this pathway would also require applicants to waive any right to readjust their status once in the United States - a waiver not required under current policy."

Homeland Security Spokeswoman Veronica Valdes contended the new rule does provide a streamlined process for HIV-positive people to visit the United States. She had no

Continued on Page Ten

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COMMENTARY . . .

Caving In On Hate Crimes

Congressional leaders, who have disappointed frequently this year, have done it again. This time, the House leadership has failed to find a way to get a bipartisan law against hate crimes passed and signed into law. Racial, religious, sexual and other minorities have waited long enough. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has to do more than just express her support for the bill; she must find a way to make it the law.

Association. The House passed it 237-180, with significant Republican support, and the Senate passed a similar bill by voice vote, after a 60-39 cloture vote.

President Bush has suggested he would veto the bill. It's an unfortunate threat, but one he is certainly capable of carrying out. House and Senate leaders planned to get around that threat by attaching it to a Department of Defense Authorization bill, which Mr. Bush would have had trouble vetoing. But House leaders decided last week that since some liberals did not want to vote for the defense bill and some conservatives did not want to vote for the hate crimes bill, they could not piece together a majority to get it through.

Ms. Pelosi says she is still committed to getting the Matthew Shepard Act passed, perhaps early next year. That's nice, but it is time for her to explain how she intends to do it — and then to make it happen.

The Matthew Shepard Act would expand the definition of hate crimes and make important improvements in the federal response. To categories already covered by federal law, which include race and religion, it would add crimes committed because of the victim's sexual orientation, gender identity, gender or disability. It would also broaden the federal government's authority to investigate these hateful acts.

(The following was the editorial from the Monday, December 10 edition of the New York Times, from which this is reprinted from and something the editorial board of the Observer agrees with.)

The bill has been a top priority of civil rights groups since Mr. Shepard, who was Gay, was beaten to death in Laramie, Wyo., in 1998. It also has strong support from law enforcement, including the National Sheriffs' Association and the National District Attorneys



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Gay Games IX 2014 Bidding Cycle Begins

SAN FRANCISCO - The Federation of Gay Games has published its Request for Proposal document detailing the requirements for potential organizers and host cities of Gay Games IX.

round of the bidding cycle," said Darl Schaafl, Site Selection Officer. "Several organizations have contacted us and we are looking forward to working with them and with any other interested groups during the next two years. The additional flexibility introduced into the sports program will encourage even more exciting proposals from cities throughout the world".

The ninth edition of the Gay Games since 1982 will be held in 2014 and will include more than 30 sports and cultural events with over 12,000 participants and tens of thousands of family, friends, fans, and spectators. Past Gay Games have brought significant economic impact to host cities, with estimates ranging from USD\$60 to \$80 million, and have enabled increased collaboration between LGBT and mainstream organizations in the fields of sport, culture, government and business.

The host organization for the 2014 Gay Games IX will be selected at the Federation's annual meeting in 2009, to be held in Cologne, the host city for Gay Games VIII in 2010. Sion O'Connor, co-president of the Federation, said, "This will be the first site selection carried out by the Federation under its new Assembly structure, with several new sports and cultural organizations, both international and regional groups, as members and participating in this very important decision." For information about how to sponsor or participate in Gay Games VIII in Cologne in 2010, visit games-cologne.com or phone +49 221 925 2607. For information concerning sponsors of the Federation of Gay Games, go to Gaygames.org.

Organizations that are interested in obtaining a copy of the Gay Games IX 2014 Request for Proposal or further information about the bidding process are invited to contact the Federation's site selection officers at: FGGBids@Gaygames.org. Under a new policy included for the first time in this cycle, bidding organizations will be able to propose new sports as part of their program before submitting their bid.

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Favorite Books Of The New Queerlenium

The GLBT Services Committee was established in 1997 to better serve southern Arizona's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender library users. It seeks to fulfill this mission by creating exciting programs such as GLBT author visits, and through participation at various outreach events such as OUToberFEST and Tucson's annual Pride Parade.

On a daily basis they review, order and make GLBT materials available for all PCPL users, regardless of age, location or sexual orientation.

The Pima County Public Library's (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

Sex Crime Panic: a journey to the paranoid heart of the 1950's by Neil Miller (Alyson Books). In Sioux City, Iowa, in 1954, an 8-year-old boy was sexually assaulted and brutally murdered. 50-year-old salesman Ernest Triplett was charged with the crime despite the fact that there was no evidence against Triplett except that he admitted to having sex with men. While under arrest, Triplett was given huge amounts of experimental drugs (LSD and amphetamines) to help him "remember" the murder, and his enjoyment of Liberace was used against him in court. Another gruesome murder occurred while Triplett was incarcerated, and his conviction was later overturned in 1972. The two murders created a public hysteria, which the Iowa legislature responded to by passing a sexual psychopath bill. In 1955 the police rounded-up 20 middle-class Gay men not suspected of the crimes, and sentenced them to the state mental hospital until deemed "cured." The Mount Pleasant Hospital established a special ward for those sentenced under the new law, and Miller provides first person accounts of life in the sexual psychopath ward. A gripping story of murder and antiGay hysteria, award-winning journalist Neil Miller's carefully researched account shows how the paranoia of the McCarthy era destroyed the lives of Gay men in the American heartland.

Neil Miller is the author of *Out in the World: Gay and Lesbian Life From Buenos Aires to Bangkok*, *Out of the Past: Gay and Lesbian History from 1869 to the Present*, and *In Search of Gay America*, the winner of the 1990 Stonewall Award from the American Library Association, as well as the Lambda Literary Award. He teaches journalism and nonfiction writing at Tufts University in Medford, Mass. (Terry Nordbrock)

She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders by Jennifer Finney Boylan (Broadway Books). This is Jenny Boylan's first person account of living for forty years as James, then making the wrenching decision to become the woman she'd always been inside. It is profoundly moving and insightful. I was particularly struck by the scene in which she describes wondering why on earth her mother, while ironing her father's shirts, says, "Someday you'll wear shirts like this."

James struggles with the decision to become Jenny, because he'd fallen in love with, married, and had two sons with a wonderful woman named Grace. He had spent much of his life searching for the love that would free him of his need to be a woman, and he'd believed Grace was that love. He's terrified of destroying their family. At last he decides he must make the transition, and describes how Grace and their dear friend, Richard Russo, support him, despite their heartache, confusion and fears. Jenny's young sons are marvelously accepting of their father's new identity, and create the name Maddy - a combination of Mommy and Daddy. Perhaps the greatest irony is that Jenny and Grace could remain legally married, but if they were to divorce they would not be allowed to remarry each other.

The administration at Colby College, in Maine, is supportive and accepting. Jenny is co-chair of the English department. As James Finney Boylan, she wrote the novels *The Constellations*, *The Planets*, and *Getting In*. (Laura Thomas Sullivan)

Sissyphobia: Gay men and effeminate behavior by Tim Bergling (Harrington Park Press). This book offers a brief, but thorough look at "sissyphobia" a phenomenon otherwise known as fear and loathing of effeminate men. The unique aspect of this book is that it focuses on the degree to which it exists in the Gay male community, which to anyone, who has ever read a personal ad, is obvious (e.g. "No Fats or Fems need respond, masculine men only"). A wide variety of viewpoints are presented, and Bergling lets the subjects speak for themselves, not judging them or their comments. This is not a book about political correctness, but about men speaking frankly about how they feel about feminine behavior in themselves or other men. Opinions on why men would feminize their behaviors are plenty, and run the gamut from biological to behavioral in origin. This is an important book for Gay men to read, since all of us, masculine, feminine or somewhere in-between, are generally seen as sissies by the larger society whether we picture ourselves that way or not. (Richard DiRusso)

The Soul Beneath the Skin: the unseen hearts and habits of Gay men by David Nimmons (St. Martin's). This thoughtful examination of Gay male social patterns overturns the cultural stereotypes of self-regarding hedonism and superficiality purveyed by the media. Presenting and interpreting a wide array of sociological research and studies, Nimmons reveals that Gay men have the lowest crime rate of any group, are more involved in volunteer activities, and have created more cooperative, egalitarian forms of relationship. The book's precise, methodical prose doesn't set off any fireworks (although Nimmons is careful to inject a note of humor now and then) but its clarity is effective and its philosophical conclusions are bold. Nimmons' subject isn't just Gay men, but what he calls a "new public ethos," a healthier way of living together in society that is being modeled by the Gay community. Backed up as it is by a careful marshaling of facts, his viewpoint is welcome indeed. (Chris Dashiell)

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

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Economy Trumps Equality Among LGBT Voters: Poll

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - A new poll is offering an unprecedented look at the political leanings and priorities of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Americans, washblade.com reported.

The poll, funded by Human Rights Campaign and controlled by City University of New York's Hunter College, found the 768 Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals who responded care strongly about securing new civil rights and protections.

But the poll, conducted Nov. 15-26 and released last week, shows respondents care just as much politically about the economy, health care and Iraq.

Ken Sherrill, a Hunter College political science professor who is Gay and helping to analyze the poll's results, said the politically diverse interests are understandable.

"They're citizens of the United States," he said. "The country's at war, the economy is in the toilet, the health care system is in crisis. It's not as if we're dealing with a single issue."

About 25 percent of respondents said "the economy and jobs" is the issue "most important" to their 2008 presidential vote. Another 24 percent chose "health care" and 18 percent put Iraq as their top concern. Others chose "taxes and government spending" or "the environment and global warming."

When later allowed to choose Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual rights, about 21 percent of respondents made that their top issue.

Such concerns, while generally shared by Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals, varied by each group.

In breakouts provided exclusively to the Blade, Lesbians and Bisexual women gave highest priority to "Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual rights." More than 27 percent of women in those categories made the issue their top priority.

"I read it as indicating a very high percentage placing a very high priority on LGB rights," Sherrill said.

But that interest was not sustained across all groups. Gay men more often prioritized the economy, Iraq and health care over Gay rights. About 19

percent of Gay male respondents made Gay rights their top issue.

Bisexual men were particularly reluctant to place Gay rights as their top issue. About 2 percent of Bisexual men did so, whereas 25 percent chose health care, 24 percent picked the economy and 22 percent prioritized taxes and government spending.

Sherrill noted that Bisexual men also were the likeliest among the four groups to identify as conservative, moderate or Republican.

"They do seem to be more conservative," he said. "Or less liberal, certainly."

On party identification, Bisexual men most often said they "lean Democrat," but about 24 percent indicated some Republican alignment. That made the group's members far more likely than Gays, Lesbians or Bisexual women to identify as Republican.

On their political views, 41 percent of Bisexual men said they are "moderate" and about 13 percent indicated they are at least "slightly conservative." The only comparable numbers came from Bisexual women, 33 percent of whom are moderate, and Gay men, 10 percent of whom are Republican.

The poll's findings did not go unchallenged. Scott Tucker, a spokesperson for Log Cabin Republicans, said past exit polls show that 25 percent of Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals vote Republican.

"To say that only 2.6 percent of Lesbians have any Republican leanings is not really believable," he said. "So I would question some of those numbers."

Tucker said it's possible, however, that the number of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Republicans has dropped recently.

"I would say it's certainly possible that the last eight years have made fewer people identify as Republicans," he said. "As the GOP increasingly tried to use Gay and Lesbian issues, like the marriage amendment, it may have had an impact on how people identified in terms of being Republican or Democrat."

Overall, 83 percent of Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals who responded to the Hunter College poll identified with the Democratic Party.

"I think the Democratic Party has a record of reaching out to the LGBT community," said John Marble, a spokesperson for National Stonewall Democrats. "That by no way means it's a perfect party, and in fact that is why we encourage more people to become involved in partisan politics, so they can make the Democratic Party better on LGBT issues."

Poll respondents included 304 Gays, 185 Lesbians, 167 Bisexual women and 112 Bisexual men. Sherrill said the poll collected 36 responses from Transgender people, a number considered too small to sustain statistical analysis. The poll, conducted by Knowledge Networks, surveyed people who are Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual, and were previously located through random-digit-dialing methodology. The poll has a margin of error of 4 percent.

Federal Hate Crime Bill Dropped

Continued from Page One

all with hope for humankind, we are sad to find that a Congressional majority of each House who have already adopted the Matthew Shepard Act cannot yet come together," said Judy and Dennis Shepard. "If not here, where? If not now, when?"

The defense bill authorizes the military to spend some \$150 billion in money for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and provides detailed policy guidance on the Pentagon's multibillion weapons programs. Speculation had been mounting in recent days that the Shepard Act was in trouble in conference - the committee of the House and

Senate where differing pieces of legislation are harmonized for a final vote. In addition to fears that the defense bill would not pass a final round with the Shepard Act in it there was the certainty of a veto and the impossibility it could be overridden.

The Shepard Act was one of three LGBT measures in Congress. The Employment Non-Discrimination Act and Don't Ask, Don't Tell are likely to be put over to the next session which begins in mid January. If that becomes the case they would die on the order paper when the Congress ends next fall and would have to be reintroduced in the next Congress.

Opposition Grows To New Travel Rules For PWAs

Continued from Page Seven

immediate response to the criticism in Lee's letter, saying the department would review it and respond.

The comment period on the proposed rule closed last Thursday but Valdes couldn't say when a final rule would be published.

Gay rights activists say the U.S. is one of just a handful of countries that restrict travel for HIV-positive people. They say that because of the prohibition, the biennial International AIDS Conference has not been held in the U.S. for well over a decade.

Lee has introduced legislation to overturn the ban.

It's not clear how many people would be affected by the proposed rule. The State Department says that in the 2006 fiscal year, 139 people were found ineligible to travel to the U.S. on a

nonimmigrant visa because of having a communicable disease, but that 127 of those people overcame the finding and were able to get a visa.

However that applies to all communicable diseases, not just HIV/AIDS, and the department couldn't provide a breakout of just HIV/AIDS cases. The statistics also don't take into account people who were discouraged from applying for a visa because of being HIV positive, or who didn't report their status.



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Get Documents Ahead Of Time To Avoid Trouble

DETROIT, Michigan - In retirement, some people take up golf. Others take up knitting. My mother-in-law – Joyce's mom – became a world-class paper shredder. She'd always been determined to keep her financial information from falling into the wrong hands. Joyce has childhood memories of watching her tear canceled checks and credit card receipts into bits.

Then technology kicked in, adding a dash of fun. Ten years ago, at 82, she proudly demonstrated THE SHREDDER, instantly slicing junk mail, envelopes and bank statements into spaghetti-like ribbons. Joyce and I suppressed giggles and, I confess, childishly joked in private that no one would want to steal the identity of someone whose hobby is document shredding.

Fast forward to this August: Even though she's no longer sharp enough to realize it, Joyce's mother had the last laugh – and gave us a kick-in-the-pants reminder about the necessity of getting our own paperwork in order. Our lesson began when police arrested a Georgia man for using a credit card apparently obtained by getting my mother-in-law's Social Security number and forging her signature. Joyce jumped online and discovered that the identity theft actually involved three fraudulent cards –and charges totaling well over \$1,500. Joyce placed urgent calls to each credit card company – but slammed into brick walls. It didn't matter to the lenders that Joyce was trying to inform them of criminal activity. It didn't matter that she was acting in her mother's best interests. It didn't matter that her mother was no longer capable of making the calls herself.

All that mattered was that Joyce didn't possess the legal document allowing her to say the magic words: "I have her durable power of attorney." Luckily, Joyce's mother had realized what we long tried to ignore:

The most important legal papers can't be obtained when they're desperately needed. You've got to get them in advance. Thinking ahead, Joyce's mother had wisely given Diana, the daughter who lived nearest, the power to handle her financial and legal affairs if and when that became necessary. So, armed with the proper document, Diana quickly put an end to the mini crime wave.

Joyce and I can recite Gay-couple horror stories about dying or becoming incapacitated without giving one's partner undeniable decision-making authority. But what really hit home was seeing firsthand the power of having the proper document –and, more important, the powerlessness of not having it. We quit stalling and turned our attention to the half-finished set of legal protections gathering dust on our stairs: for each of us, a will, a durable power of attorney, a health care power of attorney and authorization for the release medical information. Setting aside our resentment (at paying \$3,000 in attorney's fees), anger at the second-class status of Gay relationships and resistance to talking about death, we expressed our wishes on the proper forms. (I won't be spending eternity in a frilly dress.)

We've been a couple for 22 years, married (Canada) for four, civil union partners (Vermont) for seven and domestic partners for a dozen (Takoma Park, Md.). All that likely wouldn't matter to a probate judge or intensive care nurse any more than it had mattered to lenders that Joyce has been her mother's daughter for 53 years. But now we are protected. Legal documents: Get 'em while you can.

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

Log Cabin Blasts Huckabee AIDS Comments

WASHINGTON, D.C - Log Cabin Republicans call GOP presidential candidate Mike Huckabee's explanation for his 1992 comments on HIV/AIDS lacking. "[H]e needs to offer a more credible explanation for his comments than what he has offered so far," said Log Cabin President Patrick Sammon.

Huckabee, as a Senate candidate in 1992, told The Associated Press that "we need to take steps that would isolate the carriers of this plague" if the federal government was going to deal with the spread of the disease effectively. When confronted with the statement on Sunday (December 9) Huckabee, who a new CNN poll shows is now tied with Rudy Giuliani among Republicans, refused to back down. Huckabee acknowledged the prevailing scientific view then, and since, that the virus that causes AIDS is not spread through casual contact, but said that was not certain.

During the 1992 campaign Mike Huckabee also opposed increased federal funding in the search for a cure and said homosexuality could "pose a dangerous public health risk." Log Cabin points to the 1992 Republican Platform which disputes Huckabee's position. The platform said, "We are committed to ensure that our Nation's response to AIDS is shaped by compassion, not fear or ignorance, and will oppose, as a matter of decency and honor, any discrimina-

tion against Americans who are its victims."

In attempting to explain his 1992 comments, Huckabee said in a statement, "We didn't know as much as we do now about AIDS." But as early as 1986, U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop stated that AIDS was not spread by casual contact. "I've been treating people living with HIV/AIDS since the beginning of this epidemic and have lost a partner to the disease," said Dr. David Reznick, Log Cabin's healthcare policy advisor. "We knew a great deal about HIV and AIDS by 1992—certainly enough to know there was no need to isolate those who are infected," Reznick said.

"Governor Huckabee shouldn't try to revise history to explain away his comments from 1992," said Sammon. "He ought to do the right thing and admit he was wrong."



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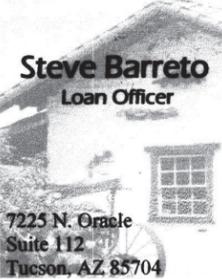
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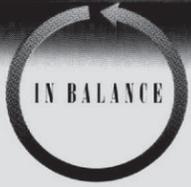
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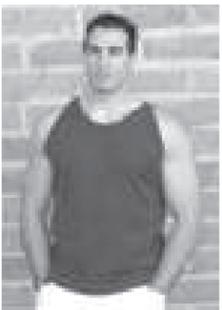
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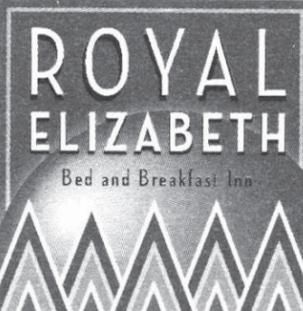


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Arizona Government Considers Extending Domestic Partner Benefits

By Mark R. Kerr

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - Arizona's Department of Administration has taken steps to offer benefits to the domestic partners, both same or opposite sex, and their children of state employees.

If the Arizona Department of Administration does implement the proposal, it would apply to all state employees, including those working at Arizona's three universities and would apply to the 65,000 active Arizona employees of state government and public universities. About 9,000 retirees who participate in the state health plan would also be eligible.

State Department of Administration director Bill Bell filed the domestic partner benefits proposal November 7 with the Secretary of State's Office. After a few weeks to process the measure, it was published Friday (November 30) along with the secretary of state's regular registry of proposed rules.

The public will have less than a month to comment, if this proposal is scheduled for the January meeting by the Governor's Regulatory Review Council, made up of a six-member board appointed by the governor, will have final say on the domestic partners plan.

People wanting to comment in writing can submit items (under A.R.S. 41-1052) to Governor's Regulatory Review Council, 100 N. 15th Ave.,

Ste. 402, Phoenix, Arizona 85007. If one wishes to comment in person, they must attend the meeting and give their comments.

The Governor's Regulatory Review Council was created by Executive Order in May 1981. Composed of six members, the Council is chaired by the Director of the Department of Administration or designee, who serves ex-officio. The current Council members are Graham Alex Turner, Sam Coppersmith, Yvonne Hunter, Stan Barnes, Marcus Osborn, Christopher Thomas and Charles Blanchard. For most agencies, the Council is the final step in the rulemaking process.

The Council reviews most rules to ensure that they are necessary and to avoid duplication and adverse impact on the public. The Council assesses whether a rule is clear, concise, and understandable, legal, consistent with legislative intent and within the agency's statutory authority, and whether the benefits of a rule outweigh the cost. If a rule does not meet these criteria, the Council returns it to the agency for further consideration.

The Governor's Regulatory Review Council next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, January 8, 2008 at the Peace Officer Standards and Training Board, at 2643 East University Drive in Phoenix. For more information, call (602) 542-2058, online at grrc.state.az.us/.



TFD Battalion Chief Wants Penalty Removed From Record

Had Sent E-Mails

Disparaging Homosexuals

TUCSON - In a hearing going on before the city's Civil Service Commission, a Tucson Fire Department (TFD) battalion chief is trying to get a suspension reversed and removed from her record, the Tucson Citizen reported. The suspension was handed out in July to Battalion Chief Sharon McDonough after she engaged in e-mail conversations with a subordinate that disparaged homosexuals, said Assistant Chief Randy Ogden.

The captain with whom she had the e-mail conversations, Roger Lee, also was suspended for the same time, 15 24-hour shifts, which comes to 360 hours. Lee, however, retired before the suspension took effect, Ogden said.

Fire Chief Daniel Newburn told civil service commissioners during the hearing that there were no allegations of an inappropriate relationship between McDonough and Lee and that it was the e-mails between a commander and subordinate that were seen as inappropriate.

McDonough's attorney, Michael Storie said during a break in the hearing that he had no comment on the case while it was in progress. Storie said he had told McDonough not to comment either.

A fire department personnel form filed in the case outlines the allegations. The form says that on February 1 McDonough got into an e-mail conversation with Lee about a two-alarm fire earlier that day. The conver-

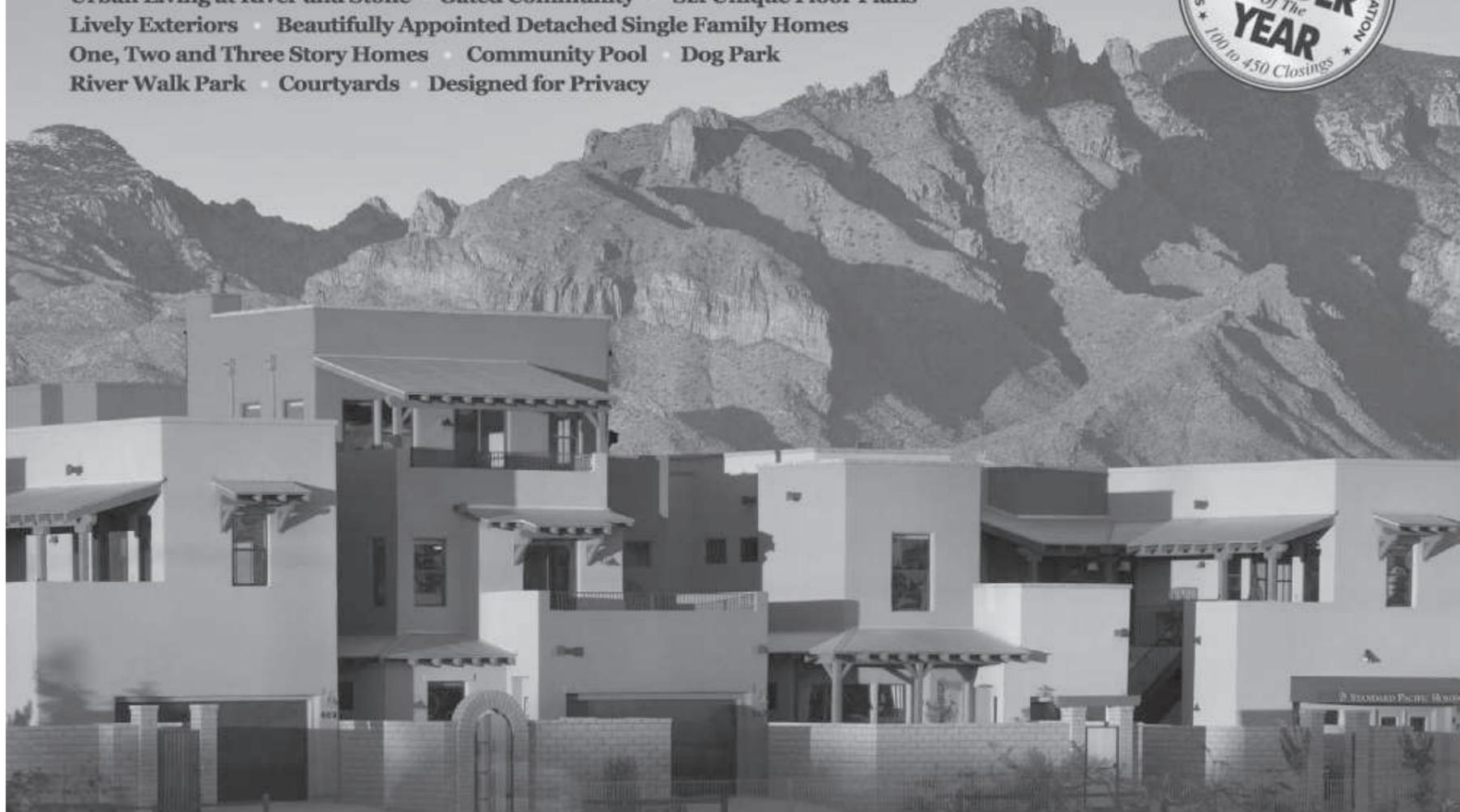
sation evolved into a discussion of Engineer Michelle Maliniak in which Lee said, "I have two pitbulls, we could teach them to hunt the dreaded Maliniak beast." McDonough's response was, "delete-but okay..."

Maliniak was returning to work in the same Southeast Side fire station to which McDonough and Lee were assigned. Ogden said Maliniak had been on medical leave for about a year. He would not say why. On April 4, the personnel form said, McDonough began an e-mail conversation with Lee that evolved into a discussion "that was disparaging of the homosexual lifestyle." The form said McDonough and Lee attended a January 26 meeting with a number of other fire department commanders and city hall authorities, including the city's equal opportunity director "to provide guidance in regards to Engineer Maliniak returning to her assignment."

"In this discussion, everyone was cautioned to do nothing that could be interpreted as harassment, discrimination or retaliation," of Maliniak. The personnel form said McDonough failed in her responsibility to stop the inappropriate communications with Lee and to take action to discipline him. It said McDonough's actions showed a lack of leadership, poor judgement and a failure to heed the directions of the city's equal opportunity director. Maliniak learned of the e-mails and included them in a presentation she made to the Tucson Commission on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Issues, Ogden said.

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Scottsdale Approves Protections For LGBT City Employees

SCOTTSDALE (Observer Update) - In a 4-3 vote Tuesday, December 4, the Scottsdale City Council enacted an ordinance that extends workplace protections to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender city employees.

The city council vote on Ordinance No. 3765, amended the city's equal employment opportunity ordinance to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

Mayor Mary Manross joined Councilmembers Betty Drake, Robert Littlefield and Vice Mayor Wayne Ecton in voting for the ordinance, while Councilmembers Ron McCullagh, Tony Nelssen, and W.J. "Jim" Lane opposed it.

"We congratulate the Scottsdale City Council for joining countless other private and public sector employers in adoption a policy to ensure equal protection for their employees, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity," said Equality Arizona Executive Director Barbara McCullough-Jones. "Despite facing strong opposition, Scottsdale's elected officials demonstrated leadership by putting into policy the inclusive practices of this diverse city."

Scottsdale's Human Relations Commission and Personnel Board have recommended that the council offer the protection for city

employees.

The Scottsdale Human Relations Commission proposed the new ordinances in September. Commissioners noted several assaults on Gay couples in the past year and a dispute with a nightclub over Transgender people using the women's restrooms.

Transgender Politician Loses Runoff For City Council Seat

RIVERDALE, Georgia (Observer Update) - A Transgender city council member lost a reelection bid in a runoff Tuesday (December 4) after a lawsuit that claimed she tried to fool voters by running as a woman, reported the Associated Press on advocate.com.

Michelle Bruce said that even though a judge dismissed the lawsuit the day before the vote, the suit served its intended purpose. "It was a personal attack," said Bruce, who was seeking a second term. "It was aimed at getting me out." Bruce got 223 votes, compared to 308 votes for Wayne Hall, election returns showed.

Bruce, 46, landed one of Riverdale's four council seats in 2003 after running unopposed. She was

believed to be the state's first Transgender politician. She has declined to say whether she has had surgery to change her sex. Bruce captured 312 votes in the November 6 election, not enough to avoid a runoff against Wayne Hall, who earned 202 votes. Third-place finisher Georgia Fuller, who collected 171 votes, filed the lawsuit.

The complaint, identifying Bruce as "Michael Bruce," claimed she misled voters by identifying herself as a female and asked a judge to rule the vote results invalid and order another general election. Fuller's attorney, Mike King, said at the time the lawsuit was filed that the female name gave Bruce an "unfair advantage" because the town's voters tend to vote for women - particularly incumbents. King could not be reached for comment.

NY Activist Bob Kohler Dies At 81

NEW YORK CITY - Bob Kohler, a longtime New York Gay activist, Charles Street presence, and former owner of The Loft on Christopher Street, died of cancer on Wednesday (December 5). He was 81, reported advocate.com. A native of Queens, Kohler was among protestors at 1969's Stonewall riots, co-founded the Gay Liberation Front and was a member of ACT UP, Fed Up Queers, Irish Queers, Sex Panic! and several other influential activist groups. He worked endlessly as an advocate for Gay and transsexual rights, queer youth, and people suffering from AIDS or HIV.

After serving in the Navy in the South Pacific, Kohler returned to New York, where he worked in television and later founded an advertising agency, according to a biography written by Kohler's friends. He and his boyfriend Ed bought a home in Amagansett on Long Island, and they later moved to Bridgehampton, openly challenging the upscale hamlet's homophobia. On the second night of the riots at Stonewall Inn, Kohler and other West Village residents founded the Gay Liberation Front, which some activists credited with sparking radicalism in the New York Gay community. He quickly became a mentor to budding young activists, including Sylvia Rivera.

In the 1980s, Kohler fought to close New York's bathhouses to slow the spread of HIV, and, more recently he protested Mayor Rudy Giuliani's failure to provide housing for people with the virus. Funeral arrangements have not been announced. A political march to commemorate Kohler will be held December 9 at 4 p.m., starting at the New York LGBT Community Center and proceeding up Christopher Street to Chelsea Piers.

Informing The Community



It All Happened At IBT's 4th Annual Monster Ball on December 6th



NON-BAR CALENDAR

Wednesday, December 12
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Hand and Foot with Marvin. For info and directions: 745-0304 Please call ahead to assist your host in planning the evening.

Thursday, December 13
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Triangle Tribe-A Men's Circle. According to a recent study, very few people have as many close friends as they would like. Are you as connected with other men as you want to be? Do you get the support you need for issues in your life? Do you wish you had more meaningful friendships and relationships with other men? Join like-minded men at Wingspan to share feelings, thoughts and ideas in a safe, respectful space. For the same experience with both straight and gay men, join us at the regular Circle of Men meetings. Call Tom at 591-2828 for dates and times.

Friday, December 14
Tucson Prime Timers Cocktails - 5:30 PM, Colors. 5305 E. Speedway

Saturday, December 15
PFLAG/Senior Pride's annual holiday feast will take place at Wingspan from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Tucson's PFLAG will be preparing a fantastic holiday dinner with Wingspan's seniors and their allies, so everyone is welcome, even if you've never attended a Senior Pride event. Contact Penelope Starr at Wingspan (520)624-1779, ext. 122 or e-mail: pstarr@wingspan.org if you are planning on coming so that the cooks will know how many to plan for.

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

Sunday, December 16
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:00p.m. Dinner Out at one of Tucson's Ultra-Fabulous Buffets. For reservations and directions, contact Thom 623-2941, e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com, or Ken at 294-6606. Please contact Thom or Ken by Sunday at Noon to facilitate reservations. Price is usually

under \$10. Check the Yahoo MSN online calendar for the scheduled place. The venue is rotated to include all parts of town, and may occasionally be held at a full-service menu restaurant. (China A Buffet)

Tucson Prime Timers Brunch- 11:30 am - 2 pm, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Monday, December 17
Southern Arizona Stonewall Democrats (SASD) will have a Holiday Party beginning at 6:00 p.m. at 317 E. 1st St. The invited guest will be Jon Hoadly, Executive Director of the National Stonewall Democrats in Washington, D.C., who will discuss some of our national issues. 2008 will be a major year for our community so become involved. For more info contact sasdtucson@yahoo.com or call Maurice at 323-2293

#1 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:30pm Gay Men's Book Club meets the 3rd Monday each month at the Old Pueblo Grill to discuss an agreed upon work of gay fiction. To be added to their e-mail list, contact Stephen Reidy at 241-7854.

#2 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Newsletter Night! Join Arlan and crew to help get the MSN newsletter in the mail, plus find out next month's events. Contact Arlan: 323-7414.

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

Tuesday, December 18
#1 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Join Bruce for Canasta 743-3890

#2 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Enjoy an evening of Bridge twice a month on Tuesdays. Call Terry 577-3545 for details.

Wednesday, December 19
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Hand and Foot hosted by Jack at 877-3736. MSN Hand and Foot is played every Wednesday but check back here for the specific host.

Thursday, December 20
#1 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Triangle Tribe-A Men's Circle. According to a recent study, very few people have as many close friends as they would like. Are you as connected with other men as you want to be? Do you get the support you need for issues in your life? Do you wish you had more meaningful friendships and relationships with other men? Join like-minded men at Wingspan to share feelings, thoughts and ideas in a safe, respectful space. For the same experience with both straight and gay men, join us at the regular Circle of Men meetings. Call Tom at 591-2828 for dates and times.

#2 Please reserve for upcoming December Pizza Night and/or Christmas by Noon today. Call Lloyd at 792-8537.

Friday, December 21
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Pizza Night! Call Lloyd for directions at 792-8537. Did you phone in your reservation earlier this month to help plan ordering and preparation? Excellent! Get ready for great company, plus delicious salad, yummy desert, and 4 choices of pizza for only \$5.

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

Saturday, December 22
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Shuffle over for Floating Pinocle every Saturday of the month except for first Saturday Monthly Pot Luck. Phone host Marvin at 745-0304 for location, driving directions, and info.

Sunday, December 23
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed:

6:00p.m. Dinner Out at one of Tucson's Ultra-Fabulous Buffets. For reservations and directions, contact Thom 623-2941, e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com, or Ken at 294-6606. Please contact Thom or Ken by Sunday at Noon to facilitate reservations. Price is usually under \$10. Check the Yahoo MSN online calendar for the scheduled place. The venue is rotated to include all parts of town, and may occasionally be held at a full-service menu restaurant.

Tucson Prime Timers Brunch - 11:30 am - 2 pm, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Monday, December 24
Tucson Prime Timers Lunch - 12:30 P.M., The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

Tuesday, December 25
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 1:00p.m. Join Lloyd for Christmas! Did you call to reserve by last Thursday the 20th? Then see you there!

Wednesday, December 26
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Hand and Foot with Lee and Merlin. Call for info and directions: 207-5336. Please call ahead to assist your host in planning the evening.

Thursday, December 27
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Triangle Tribe-A Men's Circle. According to a recent study, very few people have as many close friends as they would like. Are you as connected with other men as you want to be? Do you get the support you need for issues in your life? Do you wish you had more meaningful friendships and relationships with other men? Join like-minded men at Wingspan to share feelings, thoughts and ideas in a safe, respectful space. For the same experience with both straight and gay men, join us at the regular Circle of Men meetings. Call Tom at 591-2828 for dates and times.

Friday, December 28
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00 p.m. Merlin and Lee host a word for word fun evening of Scrabble. If you don't know how to play, they will be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please contact Merlin and

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 - G. **TIHAN -Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network**
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HOROSCOPES

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Keep your thoughts and opinions under wraps this week lest they take you on a joy ride that is less than joyful. Mercury in mouthy Sagittarius squares volcanic Uranus. You wanna make something of it?? Oh you will!

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Forget about keeping any secrets secret when Mercury squares Uranus. No matter how hard your try to remain mysterious and under wraps, you wind up wearing cellophane. Proud Rams accidentally (and robustly) broadcast their innermost and sensitive secrets into the general universe. Will you get caught with your pants down? If so, just smile and dance, dance, dance!

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Avoid any pillow talk when Mercury squares Uranus. Queer Bulls can spill the beans (among other things) during the heights of passion. These assorted beans find a way back to your pack of pals who can use it against you later on. But don't this cramp your style. Love with abandon and either button your lip or use your lips for things other than flapping the air.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Life may be particularly stressful for you at work but hold off before you complain and air your professional dirty laundry with you-know-who. Pink Twins inadvertently say something controversial that gets back to the power elite. Heck, it doesn't even have to be controversial. Mild commentary can disrupt the game plan too at this time. My advice: take a vacation.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Gay Crabs feel that they must attend to every detail but it may be a good time to survey the forest and forget about the individual trees. Let things slide if you can. Mercury squares Uranus and makes every little task a very big deal. Too much quickly becomes much too much and you become chained to your desk. Life is too short. Open the champagne and bathe in it.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

Is your appetite too big for your stomach? It will seem so when Mercury squares Uranus. You are tempted to try everything and everybody... all at the same time! And you will have plenty of fun and festive choices this holiday season. Proud Lions may find that they burn the candle at both ends. What will you do with such a short wick?

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)

Think before you speak around relatives and partners. There might be a great deal of back and forth that can whip up to a fevered pitch. Mercury squares Uranus and upends any domestic agenda. Of course, for those queer Virgins with a hankering for change, you can be goaded to push issues to the sheer edge. But wait before you leap. It's a loong way dooown. Thud.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

A little opinion can take on gargantuan proportions should you decide to share it. But the real question is - Are you ready to make a mountain out of a molehill? If not try to let petty grievances simmer on the back burner and say nothing this week. Gay Libras can be diplomatic when they want to be. Do you really want to be right now?

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

Proud Scorps can become reckless party hounds when Mercury squares Uranus. And, perhaps even worse, they also become out of control wasteful spendthrifts. This regretful combination will seem like loads of fun ... until you get the bill. Perhaps you can try and temper your enthusiasm for rascals and flirts. Then again, what a way to go, go go!

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

Just when you thought it was safe to say what you mean and mean what you say; Mercury squares Uranus and changes the landscape. Gay Archers are well advised to keep their opinions to themselves, especially around folks who you do not know very well. Of course you can also insult folks who you know very well now too. Hmm and why is this different from usual?

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

Even politic pink Caps run their mouths off track when Mercury squares Uranus. This is a highly sensitive time. You ache to connect to someone on a deep and meaningful level. However you might find that innocuous tidbits unexpectedly become big chunks of problems. Avoid any heart to hearts for the time being. Closeness is not all its cracked up to be anyway.

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

Aqueerians may find that friends are more trouble than they are worth right now. Mercury squares Uranus and brings greedy, needy hordes to your door. Their demands may outstrip your supply. Before you go into a depression or even a recession, set the ground rules and stick to them. Rule one: The "Welcome" mat currently says "Go Away".

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Even minor career mistakes can throw you way off track in your overall game plan. Guppies work very hard and it would be a shame to derail your best efforts because of carelessness. Mercury squares Uranus and pushes you out into the spotlight glare. Will you be hoisted on your own petards? Be sure to wear clean petards just in case.

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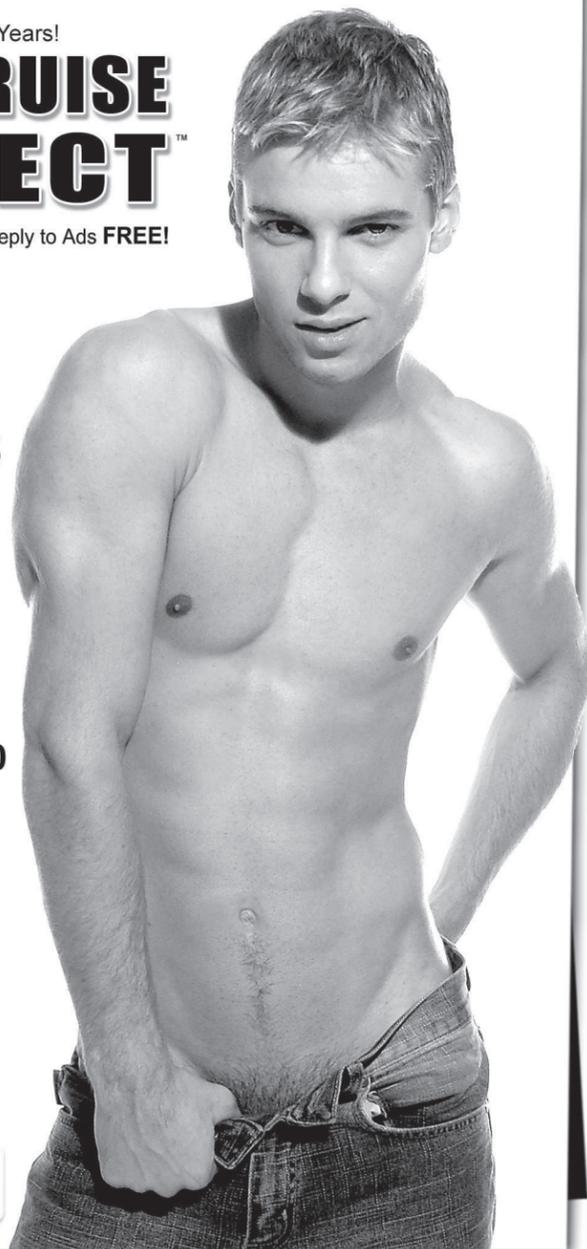
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Fired Lesbian Coach Loses Discrimination Case

BANGOR, Maine (Observer Update) - A high school girls softball coach was not discriminated against when the school decided not to renew her for another year a judge in Maine has ruled, 365Gay.com reported. It was the first lawsuit alleging sexuality bias under Maine's law barring discrimination against Gays and Lesbians in jobs, housing and credit that was passed last year.

For 14 years Kelly Jo Cookson was the girls softball coach at Brewer High School, in Brewer Maine. She sued the school for discrimination alleging that she was not renewed after she was ousted by a fellow coach. Cookson's suit also alleged that Brewer School Department and Superintendent Daniel Lee slandered her when he told two parents that he "knew things about Kelly that I can't share publicly." She sought reinstatement, compensatory damages, lost pay and attorney fees.

The school argued in court that Cookson, 45, was not rehired because she had engaged in hazing of student players. Cookson was named Penobscot Valley Conference Class A Coach of the Year in 1995, 1996 and 2001. But in 2005 she ran afoul of school board officials for having students walk through a pasture containing manure during a team cookout. In a disciplinary letter Cookson was told the students were exposed to infection or illness, and that the action could be perceived as hazing. A student and her parent had threatened to sue Cookson and the school board over the manure incident and claimed the student was verbally harassed.

In his 10-page ruling Justice Kevin Cuddy said the evidence showed Cookson was not rehired because of "a pattern of engaging in or supporting the hazing of the players, and in particular younger players," not because she is a Lesbian. "The heart of this case has nothing to do with whether [Cookson] was a successful coach in terms of her win-loss record or whether she was an

"excellent coach on the field," Cuddy said in his ruling. "This case turns on the demonstrated evidence of [Cookson's] poor judgment in permitting certain conduct between team members; conduct which was and is inconsistent with the policies of the Brewer School Department and the judgment of the Superintendent." Cuddy also ruled that Cookson had not been slandered. Cookson's attorney said he would appeal the ruling.

Argentine Teenager Undergoes Sex-Change Surgery

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (Observer Update) - A 17-year-old Argentine has undergone surgery to become a female only months after winning a court battle in the first case of its kind involving a minor in this country, a representative for the teen said Tuesday (December 4), reported 365Gay.com. A judge in 2004 had ruled that the teen had to wait until age 21 for the operation, but the parents appealed successfully, swaying a court panel to issue a decision in September authorizing surgery.

The teenager was operated on at a private clinic in La Plata, near the Argentine capital. Courts have withheld the teen's name because she is still a minor and local media have not published her identity. "Everything went perfectly," said Alejandra Victoria Portatadino, who represented the teenager in court and is also legal counsel for the organization Argentine Homosexual Community. "Now we just need to ask to get her legal identification changed to reflect her name as a woman."

The teenager has a condition called gender dysphoria, doctors and experts ruled, saying she was born with a male body but is psychologically a female. In order to undergo surgery to acquire female genitalia, Portatadino said an exemption was necessary from Argentine law prohibiting "mutilation."

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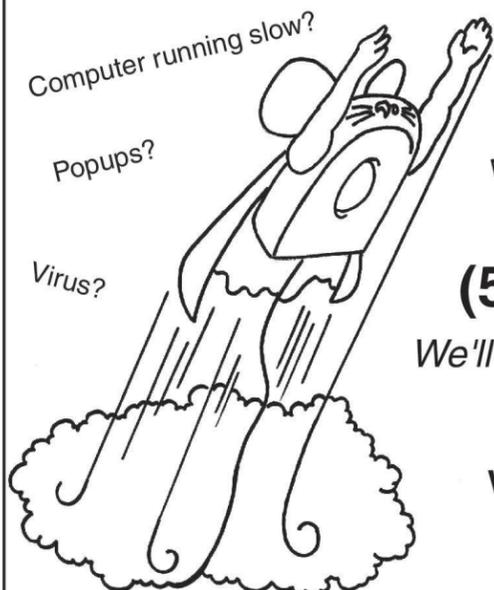
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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

DECEMBER 12, 2007

WEEKLY OBSERVER

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 hot dogs, \$2 chili dogs during game. SIN Nite Drink Discounts for Service Industry employees with ID or payroll receipt. Latin Dance Music 8:30 to close.

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 - Open 3pm. 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. \$2 u-call-it drink special 9pm to midnight (some restrictions apply).

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.

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 9 p.m.

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-2am; Drink What You Want with ½ priced Happy Hour 3-8pm; Rotating weeks Latin or Hip Hop Music with DJ Hill at 9pm. Rotating Shot Specials all night! Patio Bar opens at 10:30pm

COLORS - Open 4pm-midnight. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 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 Faltin 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 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 2pm. Happy Hour 2-8pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. \$4.50 cheeseburger & fries. \$2.50 Captain Morgan or Malibu Rum all day, all night. Check our calendar for the Saturday Night Special Entertainment.

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

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

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

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

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

WOODY'S - Tattooed and Tattered Party 9:00 p.m. Plug your favorite '80s music with Clint.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

THE BIZ - A night of enchantment - Latin Explosion 2. Benefit drag show with all proceeds going to the children of Casa De Los Niños. 9:00 p.m. Food, Prizes, Raffles!

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

WOODY'S - December Birthday Party with Free glass of Champagne and Cake.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

WOODY'S - Grand Re-Opening of The W. Tucson's Black Cat, Ajia Simone is back from hiding and will be doing a show at 8:30 p.m. \$2 Bud, Bud Light and Bud Select Long Necks all night!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

WOODY'S - Drag Bingo 8:00 p.m. with Janee Starr and Stella Virgin

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

WOODY'S - Red and Green Party with the Bud Crew!

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

THE BIZ - Special Christmas Show. Watch for details.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

HOWL AT THE MOON - DJ Shorty is here playing Latin and Dance Mix.

WOODY'S - Christmas Party. Come and sit on Santa's lap and get our picture taken.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

THE BIZ - Biz will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Christmas Eve Hours 3:00 p.m. to midnight.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

THE BIZ - Closed Christmas Day.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Christmas Day Hours 6:00 p.m. to midnight

VENTURE-N - The Venture will be holding it's annual Christmas Pot Luck at 1:00 p.m. Ask te bartender for sign-up sheet.

WOODY'S - Bar opens at 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26

WOODY'S' Boxer Party wear your favorite pair of boxers and get \$1.00 off your drinks.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

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

WOODY'S - Holliday's Headliners Celebrity Impersonation Show at 8:30 p.m. featuring Cher, Madonna, Selena, Celine Dion & Michael Jackson. Hosted by Lucinda Holliday. The Bud Crew will also be in with prizes and giveaways. No Cove!

Safe Sex



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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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DESERT VOICES, Tucson's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Straight Chorus, has been singing songs of pride, hope and laughter for 19 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.

THIS WAY OUT, 1/2 hour national GLBT show. 4:30 p.m. daily on 91.3 FM, Community Radio KXCI.

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

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

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

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

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

SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS. Starting this February, the Tucson Rape crisis Center will be providing free confidential group services for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender survivors of all manner of sexual assault. Interested persons

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

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.

REVELLE 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 SAGETucsonsubscribe@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 right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Martina Gets Surprising New Job

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - In a move that highlights changing attitudes toward gays, AARP, an advocacy group for those 50 and older, has signed gay tennis legend Martina Navratilova as its health and fitness ambassador, advocate.com reported. Navratilova will encourage AARP's 39 million members to stay active.



Starting in January, AARPFitness.com will offer health tips and exercise routines that Navratilova will help formulate. An AARP release also stated that the tennis star will be participating in various AARP events throughout the coming year.

"I think we have a tendency to look for quick fixes and easy solutions to leading healthy, active lifestyles, and my goal is to let my generation know that though staying fit takes work, it's just as

important now - if not more - than ever before," the 51-year-old Navratilova said in a statement.

Gay Mayor Out After 48 Hours In Office



VALLEJO, California (Observer Update) - On Tuesday (December 4) Gary Cloutier was sworn in as mayor of Vallejo, making him the San Francisco Bay Area's first openly Gay mayor, but on Thursday (December 6) he was out of office.

Cloutier had won November's election by only a handful of votes. A recount completed Thursday found his opponent had actually won - by only four votes. Former Solano County Supervi-

sor Osby Davis now becomes Vallejo's first Black mayor. Even though Davis, 62, had asked for the recount Cloutier was sworn in as mayor because of a city regulation that a mayor-elect must take office by the first Tuesday in December.

Cloutier has no regrets about his two-day term in office but is not conceding. "I'm educating myself on the various options, including legal options, and I'm going to make a decision for the people who supported me in very timely fashion on what I'm going to do," he told NBC. Cloutier made headlines in California with his narrow win and with the fact the area had its first Gay mayor. But days after the election, with the recount looming, he made headlines again when he was arrested outside a Palm Springs Gay bar for public intoxication. Davis will likely be sworn in next week. He said he will reach out to voters who didn't support his campaign and immediately start work tackling a \$9 million city debt and to improve schools.

Giuliani: Gay Lovemaking Is Sinful, Orientation Is Not

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - GOP frontrunner Rudy Giuliani disagrees with his conservative rival Mike Huckabee over whether homosexuality is a "sinful lifestyle" but nonetheless said homosexual acts are sins. "My moral views on this come from the, you know, from the Catholic Church, and I believe that homosexuality, heterosexuality as a, as a way that somebody leads their life is not-isn't sinful," Giuliani said. "It's the acts, it's the various acts that people perform that are sinful, not the-not the orientation that they have."



The former New York mayor made the comments in response to questioning on NBC's "Meet the Press" yesterday. Host Tim Russert asked Giuliani to respond to statements made by Huckabee in response to a candidate questionnaire during the former Arkansas governor's unsuccessful U.S. Senate bid. In addition to calling homosexuality a public health threat, Huckabee also said he supported quarantining people with AIDS and replacing federal funding for AIDS research by asking pro-Gay Hollywood celebrities to use their own money.

weeks have been difficult for Giuliani, as Huckabee has surged to frontrunner position in polls nationally and in Iowa and South Carolina, based primarily on growing support from the GOP's conservative Christian base. Meanwhile Giuliani has fended off questions that during his tenure as mayor the New York Police Department was providing special protection, and even dog-walking services, to his wife, Judith Nathan, at a time when Giuliani was married to someone else and Nathan was his mistress.

Giuliani declined to criticize Huckabee's controversial comments, saying, "I got enough of my own statements and issues, as we've seen, that I have to deal with." The last several

After repeating the Catholic Church's position on homosexuality, Giuliani alluded to his own peccadilloes. "I mean, you know, unfortunately, I've had my own sins that I've had to confess

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and had to deal with and try to overcome and so I'm very, very empathetic with people, and that we're all, we're all imperfect human beings struggling to, to try to be better," he said. After then-wife Donna Hanover kicked Giuliani out of Gracie Mansion, home to New York's mayors, Giuliani lived for a time with a Gay couple.

