



Tucson Observer Archives

Over 500 Gays & Lesbians Serving Openly In U.S. Military

The 'Graying' Of AIDS



Sergeant Darren Manzella

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Army Sergeant Darren Manzella is one of about 500 Gay members of the military that serves openly without consequence despite the divisive policy that mandates their discharge, he tells USA Today.

Manzella, with the backing of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, does not necessarily guarantee the discharge of all openly Gay personnel as the policy mandates, the Sergeant suggests. Whether or not a servicemember joins over 12,000 personnel fired under "Don't Ask" since its enactment appears to depend on the attitudes of his or her commanders and line of work, pageoneq.com reported.

Such selective enforcement could suggest not only a growing distaste for the policy, but the unwillingness of superiors to sacrifice good personnel simply because they are Gay.

Manzella had voluntarily come out to his superiors after receiving anonymous threats to out him. An investigation in 2006 revealed "no evidence of homosexuality," according to the Army, and Manzella was soon redeployed to Kuwait.

"Sergeant Manzella's command rightly placed his qualification

ahead of concerns about his sexual orientation. More and more often, commands are recognizing what a wasteful, counter-productive law Don't Ask, Don't Tell really is," SLDN's Steve Ralls told PageOneQ today, "With more than 500 troops serving openly in the armed forces, it is long past time for the law to mirror the reality of what is happening on the frontlines and in the trenches."

"Every day, more than 65,000 Lesbian and Gay Americans report for duty in our armed forces, and I am proud to be one of those," Sergeant Manzella told PageOneQ. "I hope, by joining SLDN and speaking out about my experience and the support I have received since coming out, that I can not only lend a voice to those muzzled by Don't Ask, Don't Tell, but can also play a role in ending this law."

"My colleagues do not care about my sexual orientation, nor do many people in my chain of command," Manzella added, in discussing his situation in the military. "And, I daresay, most Americans don't care either. I was proud to provide medical treatment to Americans and Iraqis on the streets of Baghdad; none of them ever inquired about my sexuality. They only cared that I knew how to treat them."

CHICAGO, Illinois (Observer Update) - John Holloway received a diagnosis of AIDS nearly two decades ago, when the disease was a speedy death sentence and treatment a distant dream, reported the New York Times. Yet at 59 he is alive, thanks to a cocktail of drugs that changed the course of an epidemic. But with longevity has come a host of unexpected medical conditions, which challenge the prevailing view of AIDS as a manageable, chronic disease.

Mr. Holloway, who lives in a housing complex designed for the frail elderly, suffers from complex health problems usually associated with advanced age: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes, kidney failure, a bleeding ulcer, severe depression, rectal cancer and the lingering effects of a broken hip.

Those illnesses, more severe than his 84-year-old father's, are not what Mr. Holloway expected when lifesaving antiretroviral drugs became the standard of care in the mid-1990s.

The drugs gave Mr. Holloway back his future. But at what cost? That is the question, heretical to some, that is now being voiced by scientists, doctors and patients encountering a constellation of ailments showing up prematurely or in disproportionate numbers among the first wave of AIDS survivors to reach late middle age.

There have been only small, inconclusive studies on the causes of aging-related health problems among AIDS patients. Without definitive research, which has just begun, that second wave of suffering could be a coincidence, although it is hard to find anyone who thinks so. Instead, experts are coming to believe that the immune system and organs of long-term survivors took an irreversible beating before the advent of lifesaving drugs and that those very drugs then produced additional complications because of their toxicity - a one-two punch.

"The sum total of illnesses can become overwhelming," said Charles A. Emlet, an associate professor at the University of Washington at Tacoma and a leading H.I.V. and aging researcher, who sees new collaborations between specialists that will improve care. "AIDS is a very serious disease, but longtime survivors have come to grips with it," Dr. Emlet continued, explaining that while some patients experienced unpleasant side effects from the antiretrovirals, a vast majority found a cocktail they could tolerate. "Then all of a sudden they are bombarded with a whole new round of insults, which complicate their medical regime and have the potential of being life threatening. That undermines their sense of stability and makes it much more difficult to adjust."

The graying of the AIDS epidemic has increased interest in the connection between AIDS and cardiovascular disease, certain cancers, diabetes, osteoporosis and depression. The number of people 50 and older living with H.I.V., the virus that causes AIDS, has increased 77 percent from 2001 to 2005, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control, and they

now represent more than a quarter of all cases in the United States.

The most comprehensive research has come from the AIDS Community Research Initiative of America, which has studied 1,000 long-term survivors in New York City, and the Multi-Site AIDS Cohort Study, financed by the National Institutes of Health, which has followed 2,000 subjects nationwide for the past 25 years.

The Acria study, published in 2006, examined psychological, not medical, issues and found unusual rates of depression and isolation among older people with AIDS.

The Multi-Site AIDS Cohort Study, or MACS, will directly examine the intersection of AIDS and aging over the next five years. Dr. John Phair, a principal investigator for the study, which has health data from both infected and uninfected men, said "prolonged survival" coupled with the "naturally occurring health issues" of old age raised pressing research questions: "Which health issues are a direct result of aging, which are a direct result of H.I.V. and what role do H.I.V. meds play?"

The MACS investigators, and other researchers, defend the slow pace of research as a function of numbers. The first generation of AIDS patients, in the mid-1980s, had no effective treatments for a decade, and died in overwhelming numbers, leaving few survivors to study.

Those survivors, like Mr. Holloway, gaunt from chemotherapy and radiation and mostly housebound, lurch from crisis to crisis. Mr. Holloway says his adjustment strategy is simple: "Deal with it." Still he notes, ruefully, that his father has no medical complaints other than arthritis, failing eyesight and slight hearing loss.

"I look at how gracefully he's aged, and I wish I understood what was happening to my body," Mr. Holloway said during a recent home visit from his case manager at the Howard Brown Health Center here, a Gay, Lesbian and Transgender organization. The case manager, Lisa Katona, could soothe but not inform him. "Nobody's sure what causes what," Ms. Katona told Mr. Holloway. "You folks are the first to go through this and we're learning as we go."

Mr. Holloway is uncomplaining even in the face of pneumonia and a 40-pound weight loss, both associated with his cancer treatment. Has the cost been too high? He says it has not, "considering the alternatives."

Halfway across the country, Jeff, 56-year-old New Yorker who was found to have AIDS in 1987, said he asks himself that question often.

Jeff, who asked that he not be fully identified, has had one hip replacement because of a condition called avascular necrosis, the death of cells from inadequate blood supply,

Continued on Page Five

UPDATE

Early Voting For Presidential Primary Has Started

By Mark R. Kerr
TUCSON (Observer Update) - Early voting has begun for Arizona's 2008 Presidential Preference election scheduled to take place Tuesday, February 5.

To vote early, one can request their ballot online at recorder.pima.gov/earlyballot/default.aspx, by phone (520) 740-4330 or by mail to Pima County Recorder, P.O. Box 3145, Tucson AZ 85702-3145.

A separate early ballot request must be made for each person eligible to vote (in this case with the Democratic or Republican parties by January 7).

Place your voted early ballot in the postage paid envelope provided to you, seal and sign the envelope, then return it to us by doing one of the following: Mail to Pima County Recorder, P.O. Box 3145, Tucson AZ 85702-3145; Deliver in person to 115 North Church Avenue or drop it off at any Pima County polling place on election day. You must sign the ballot envelope in order for your ballot to be processed. Ballots must be returned by 7:00 PM on election day.

For more information, call (520) 740-4330 or go online to recorder.pima.gov/earlyreq.aspx.

Auditions For 'Homoneurotic II, January 12

TUCSON (Observer Update) - "Homoneurotic II (Bigger! Faster!! Harder!!)" will hold auditions for their April production at the Cabaret space in the Temple of Music and Art downtown, Saturday, January 12, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St.

Walk-ins are okay but appointments are preferred. Roles are available for six men, ranging from 20 - 45 and two women, age negotiable.

Please bring photo/resume or just show up and they will do a quick pencil sketch.

For more information, contact Kenton Jones (520) 979-4508.

City Of Tucson GLBT Commission Meeting January 15

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The City of Tucson Commission on GLBT Issues will be meeting Tuesday, January 15, 5:30 p.m., at the EOO Conference Room, 100 N. Stone, first floor.

Commission meetings are open to the public and there will be a call to the audience at each meeting.

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

Tu B'Shevat Shabbat Dinner, January 18

TUCSON - The LGBT Jewish Inclusion Project invites you to a Fruit & Nut Shabbat Dinner in honor of the holiday of Tu B'Shevat, also known as the "birthday of the trees". The literal meaning is the 15th day of the month of Shevat according to the Hebrew calendar.

In the 16th century, Jewish mystics developed the day as a mystical holiday celebrating the divine life force. A Passover-like Seder was created where laws and traditions related to trees and fruit are celebrated and discussed. The Seder is a way to appreciate the world around us and our responsibility to care for nature.

Join the Project Friday, January 18, 7:00 p.m. for food, wine, and blessings. Call or email Jenny for more info on what kind of fruit & nuts you can bring to this wonderful event. All are welcome to attend! For more information, contact Jenny Schultz (520) 577-9393, E-mail: lgbtinfo@jfsa.org.

IN MEMORIAM



MICHAEL JULIAN SEWELL

Michael died on Saturday, December 22, 2007. He was 63 years of age. A memorial service was held January 4, 2008 in Tucson. He was cremated, and his ashes were scattered in the Tucson Mountains.

He had lived in Tucson since 1970 working as an artist and in the floral industry. Michael is survived by his brother, James Franklin "Bud" Sewel of Richton Park, Illinois, and his sister, Luann Sewell Waters of Wynnewood, Oklahoma.

Donations in his memory can be made to either: Fredonia Cemetery Fund, % Vaolor Griffin, 5436 Magnolia Hwy., El Dorado, AR 71730-9296 or Humane Society of Southern Arizona, Attn: Memorials, 3450 N. Kelvin Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85716. The Fredonia Cemetery is adjacent to the Fredonia Methodist Church, longtime family church of the Sewell family in Arkansas. Michael's grandparents and other relatives are buried there.



GLADE "STEVE" STILSON

Steve Stilson left us on December 24th after a long and heroic battle with lung cancer.

He was born and lived most of his life in Michigan. In 1999, after retiring from GTE, he moved to Tucson, where he succeed in terrorizing his many friends.

Steve loved to play the NTN trivia game, and when he didn't know the answer to a particular question, he would poke the number 3. More often than not, he was right. Steve was also an avid poker player and a superb craftsman when working with wood. His other hobbies included travel (especially to San Diego) and collecting art.

His gruff and gravelly voice will be missed by all of his friends and especially by his daughter, Karen, and grandson Adam.

A celebration of Steve's life will be held at Woody's on Thursday, January 10, at 5:00.

Au revoir mon ami.

Calling for friendly and reliable people to join SAAF's Client Services Team as volunteer Peer Counselors.



If you are interested in offering peer support to clients, educating on HIV/AIDS and more, contact Volunteer Resources at 628-7223 or volcoord@saaf.org



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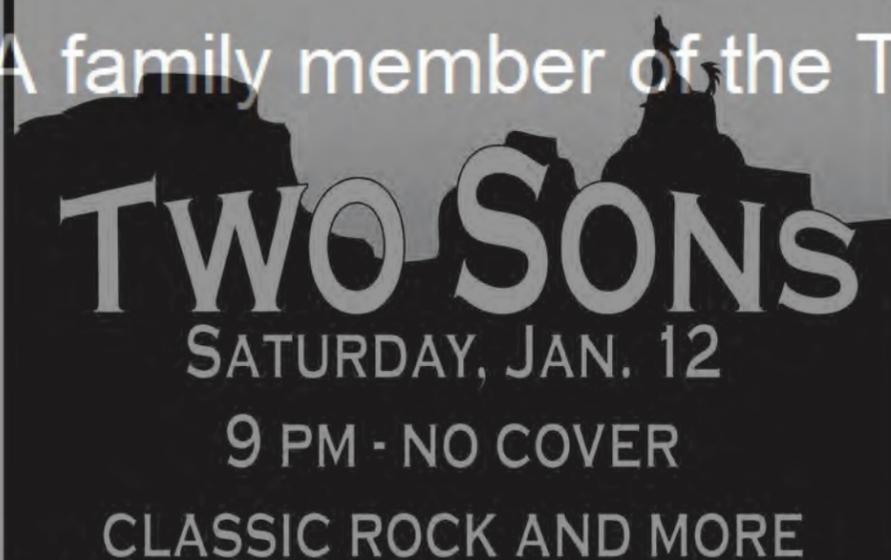
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State To Consider Extending DP Benefits Soon

By Mark R. Kerr

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - Arizona's Department of Administration is in the process of taking steps to potentially offer health benefits to the domestic partners, both same or opposite sex, and their children of state employees, applying 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 and 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 an opportunity to comment before the matter is taken up 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.

According to Equality Arizona, anti-equality forces in Arizona, including the Center for Arizona Policy and anti-LGBT state legislators, are trying to stop this proposal. 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 rule making 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.

More than 1,000 Arizonans on both sides of the issue filed comments about the proposal by Gov. Janet Napolitano's administration, according to Alan Ecker, spokesman for the Department of Administration. One of those came from Tucson City Councilman Steve Leal, who said the existing policy is unfair to "unmarried workers, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people who are not afforded the same access to benefits as other state employees."

In an editorial in their January 4 edition, the Tucson Citizen said "Arizona is considering a proposal by the administration of Gov. Janet Napolitano to extend domestic partner benefits to state government employees and retirees. We favor the expansion, and not just because it's the right and fair thing to do, although it is."

It's not clear when the council will consider the proposal but sources say this review could take place by March.

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

Lucky in the Corner, Carol Anshaw (Houghton Mifflin). Fern has

never really forgiven her mother for leaving her marriage to live with her lover, Jeanne. Fortunately, Fern can confide in her Uncle Harold, a gentle cross-dresser who on Thursday afternoons hosts his canasta club as Dolores. A story of a family that reconfigures itself as unexpected changes come its way - and how, no matter what shape it takes, it remains a family. (Gina Macaluso)

Am I Blue?? Coming Out From the Silence Marion Dane Bauer (HarperCollins). A groundbreaking short story collection. Jason in Tucson who loved this one says: "I just went through a breakup after reading the cover. It's a collection of stories about relationships, truth and fiction. I was more able to forgive after reading the book. Queer relationships and straight. Regardless, it was good to see people talking and being a part of each others life."

If It Doesn't Kill You, Margaret Bechard (Viking). When his father moves out to be with another man, Ben feels betrayed and ashamed. Then he meets someone who teaches him the difference between people who lie to manipulate and those who withhold the truth because they are struggling to discover it themselves. (Gina Macaluso)

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

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Wingspan 'Reel Pride' Presents 'For The Bible Tells Me So,' January 18

TUCSON - Wingspan Reel Pride presents the critically-acclaimed documentary "For the Bible Tells Me So", an insightful and moving look at homosexuality and Christianity. Sponsored by The Men's Social Network, the film opens Friday, January 18.

scripture, and in the process reveals that Church-sanctioned anti-gay bias is based almost solely upon a significant (and often malicious) misinterpretation of the Bible. As the film notes, most Christians live their lives today without feeling obliged to kill anyone who works on the Sabbath or eats shrimp (as a literal reading of scripture dictates).

Shortlisted for the 2007 Best Documentary Feature Academy Award, "Daniel G. Karlslake's remarkable documentary boldly takes on a loaded topic - Christianity and homosexuality - and examines it both intellectually and emotionally; the result may well leave you blinking away a few tears." - Moira Macdonald, Seattle Times

Through the experiences of five very normal, very Christian, very American families—including those of former House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt and Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson—we discover how insightful people of faith handle the realization of having a gay child. Informed by such respected voices as Bishop Desmond Tutu, Harvard's Peter Gomes, Orthodox Rabbi Steve Greenberg and Reverend Jimmy Creech, "For the Bible Tells Me So" offers healing, clarity and understanding to anyone caught in the crosshairs of scripture and sexual identity.

Can the love between two people ever be an abomination? Is the chasm separating gays and lesbians and Christianity too wide to cross? Is the Bible an excuse to hate?

Winner of the Audience Award for Best Documentary at the Seattle International Film Festival, this provocative, entertaining documentary brilliantly reconciles homosexuality and Biblical

For more information, call (520) 795-0844 or visit [loftcinema.com](http://loftcinema.com/showtimes) for showtimes and more information.

Lisa Otey & The Desert Divas January 19

TUCSON - Lisa Otey & the Desert Divas return to the Berger for their annual concert on Saturday, January 19, at the Berger Performing Arts Center, 1200 West Speedway, 7:00 p.m.

special guest Diva will be campy cabaret singer/pianist Marilyn Harris. Lisa Otey and the Desert Divas have been performing for Tucson audiences since 2000. Our concerts have become coming of age events for our youth, as well as empowering women and men of all ages. All are welcome to bring their own boas!

Hurricane Carla, Anna Warr, Liz McMahon, Regina "the Queen", Diane Van Deurzen and Lisa Otey will celebrate "Diva Power" with a tribute to the Divas of the 60s as well as a variety of blues, jazz, R&B and gospel. The Divas will be backed by Rich Nordenberg on bass and Jon Westfall on drums. Our

Tickets are \$20 (TJS), \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. For reservations call (520) 370-5912 or go online to lisaotey.com.

California Domestic Partners Win Married Property Tax Rights

SACRAMENTO, California (Observer Update) - Domestic partners in California won the right to the same property tax breaks as husbands and wives under state law when the state Supreme Court turned down an appeal by county assessors.

which one partner is at least 62 - to accept or inherit real estate from one another without new tax assessments.

The justices left intact an October ruling by an appeals court in Sacramento that allowed registered domestic partners - same-sex couples, or unmarried heterosexual couples in

That's a significant advantage under Proposition 13, the 1978 initiative that rolled back property taxes to 1 percent of value and limited increases to 2 percent a year. Prop. 13 allowed counties to reassess property to full market value when it was sold or changed ownership, often leading to a substantial tax increase.

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The 'Graying' Of AIDS

Continued from Page One

and needs another to avoid a wheelchair. Many experts think that avascular necrosis is caused by the steroids many early AIDS sufferers took for pneumonia.

"The virus is under control, and I should be in a state of ecstasy," he said, "but I can't even tie my own shoe laces and get up and down the subway stairs."

His bones are spongy from osteoporosis, a disorder that afflicts many postmenopausal women but rarely middle-aged men, except some with AIDS. No research has explained the unusual incidence. In addition, Jeff has Parkinson's disease, which is causing tremors and memory lapses. He is in an AIDS support group at SAGE, a social service agency for older Gay men and Lesbians. His fellow group members also say they find the illnesses associated with age more taxing than the H.I.V. infection. One 69-year-old member of the group, for example, has had several heart attacks and triple bypass surgery, and his doctor predicts that heart disease is more likely to kill him than AIDS.

Cardiovascular disease and diabetes are associated with a condition called lipodystrophy, which redistributes fat, leaving the face and lower extremities wasted, the belly distended and the back humped. In addition, lipodystrophy raises cholesterol levels and causes glucose intolerance, which is especially dangerous to black people, who are already predisposed to heart disease and diabetes.

At Rivington House, a residence for AIDS patients on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, Dr. Sheree Starrett, the medical director, said that neither heart disease nor diabetes was "terribly hard to treat, except that every time you add more meds there is more chance of something else going wrong."

Statins, for instance, which are the drug of choice for high cholesterol, are bad for people with abnormal liver function, also a greater risk among blacks. Many AIDS patients have end-stage liver disease, either from intravenous drug use or alcohol abuse. Among Dr. Starrett's AIDS patients is 58-year-old Dominga Montanez, whose first husband died of AIDS and whose second husband is also infected. "My liver is acting up, my diabetes is out of control and I fractured my spine" because of osteoporosis, Ms. Montanez said. "To me, the new things are worse than the AIDS."

There are no data that compare the incidence, age of onset and cause of geriatric diseases in the general population with the long-term survivors of H.I.V. infection. But physicians and researchers say that they do not see people in their mid-50s, absent AIDS, with hip replacements associated with vascular necrosis, heart disease or diabetes related to lipodystrophy, or osteoporosis without the usual risk factors.

"All we can do right now is make inferences from thing to thing," said Dr. Tom Barrett, medical director of Howard Brown. "They might have gotten some of these diseases anyway. But the rates and the timing, and the association with certain drugs, makes everyone feel this is a different problem."

One theory about why research on AIDS and aging has barely begun is "the rapid increase in numbers," Dr. Emllet said. The federal disease centers' most recent surveillance data, from 33 states that meet

certain reporting criteria, showed that the number of people 50 and older with AIDS or H.I.V. infection was 115,871 in 2005, nearly double the 64,445 in 2001.

Another is the routine exclusion of older people from drug trials by big pharmaceutical companies. The studies are designed to measure safety and efficacy but generally not long-term side effects.

Those explanations do not satisfy Larry Kramer, founder of several AIDS advocacy groups. Mr. Kramer, 73 and a long-term survivor, said he had always suspected "it was only a matter of time before stuff like this happened" given the potency of the antiretroviral drugs. "How long will the human body be able to tolerate that constant bombardment?" he asked. "Well, we are now seeing that many bodies can't. Once again, just as we thought we were out of the woods, sort of, we have good reason again to be really scared."

The lack of research also limits a patient's care. Dr. Barrett says the incidence of osteoporosis warrants routine screening. Medicare, Medicaid and private insurers, however, will not cover bone density tests for middle-aged men.

Marty Weinstein, 55 and infected since 1982, has had a pacemaker installed, has been found to have osteoporosis, and has been treated for anal cancer and medicated for severe depression - all in the last year. He also has cognitive deficits. A former professor of psychology in Chicago, he presses his doctors about cause and effect. Sometimes they offer a hypothesis, he said, but never a certain explanation. "I know the first concern was keeping us alive," Mr. Weinstein said. "But now that so many people are going to live longer lives, how are we going to get them through this emotionally and physically?"



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POLITICS 2007
by Mark R. Kerr

Why Not A Democrat?

Registered voters, straight, LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender), in most states, will go to the polls, for at least three times in 2008, considering candidates running for U.S. Senate, U.S. House, various statewide, county and local political offices as well as various ballot measures in primary and general elections. In most cases, those political contests will take place, later during the calendar year, with Arizona holding their state primary election in September and their general election in November. During the first part of this year, with most of the country going to the polls on Tuesday, February 5, presidential primary, presidential preference and caucuses are the elections of note, to consider who will be the presidential standard bearers for the two major political parties.

law.
Former Senator John Edwards believes that all couples in committed, long-term relationships should have the same 1,138 rights, benefits, and responsibilities, whether they are straight couples or same-sex couples and called for the repeal of the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). In 2004, Edwards voted against the Federal Marriage Amendment (FMA), the proposed amendment to the federal constitution that would have barred governmental and legal recognition of same-sex marriages, civil unions and domestic partnerships. Edwards has expressed support for adoption by Gay and Lesbian couples and individuals. While in the Senate, Edwards cosponsored ENDA. During this campaign, Edwards has expressed support for the current version of ENDA that would prohibit discrimination in employment based on sexual orientation or gender identity, perceived or otherwise. HIV/AIDS research and treatment would be a high priority in an Edwards administration. He cosponsored measures to fully fund Ryan White (ADAP) Programs. He has expressed support for the ETHA. Edwards opposes "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the federal law that prohibits openly Gay and Lesbian individuals from serving in the country's armed services. While in the Senate, Edwards cosponsored LLEEA.

For these political contests, registered voters are considering which candidates whose views are as similar to theirs, as well as the candidates political record is the best in the voter's opinion and most important, which candidate would be "supportive" of them. Should a person cast their vote for any candidate who doesn't ask or try for the support of people similar; offer contrary opinions on issues of concern and would "act" to restrict the rights of that person? Those individuals running for the Republican and Democratic nominations for President offer LGBT voters a stark choice. Republicans aren't supportive of LGBT rights as well as the rights of those people living with HIV/AIDS as previously reported in this column. On the other hand the six remaining (as of press time) candidates for the Democratic nomination for president offer LGBT and HIV/AIDS voters a better choice.

In his first two years as a U.S. Senator, Barack Obama received a score of 89 from HRC in the recent 109th Congress, including voting against the proposed FMA. Obama has expressed his opposition to same-sex marriage but has expressed his support for civil unions with the full federal rights and benefits, which he has stated can be done through the repeal of DOMA. According to Obama, Gays and Lesbians would have the same rights, in regard to adoption, as heterosexuals do. Legislation to allow bi-national Gay and Lesbian couples to be together in the United States was introduced in the 110th Congress and is known as the Uniting American Families Act (UAFSA). Obama has expressed reservations over the potential of fraud about UAFSA and didn't express support or cosponsor the measure in its current incarnation or when it was introduced in the 109th Congress. Obama cosponsored ETHA and has expressed support for increased funding for HIV/AIDS research and programs. Gays and Lesbians would be able to serve openly in the military if Obama had his way, since he has expressed opposition to the federal law, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," which prohibits openly Gay and Lesbian Americans from serving openly in the armed services. Protecting the rights of worker from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity is something Obama supports. Obama has expressed his desire to expand current federal hate crimes statutes to include sexual orientation and gender identity. While in the Senate he has cosponsored to the two versions of LLEEA that has been introduced in the previous and current session of Congress.

Consider the following, "which candidates took part in the LOGO/ Human Rights Campaign (HRC) presidential forum?" It was Senator Hillary Clinton, Senator Barack Obama, former Senator John Edwards, Representative Dennis Kucinich, former Senator Mike Gravel and Governor Bill Richardson. All the Republican candidates were invited and none accepted the invitation, showing that they don't want LGBT support, even Log Cabin Republicans, or votes.

Senator Hillary Clinton has been an original sponsor of ENDA (Employment Non-Discrimination Act) and supports the measure that includes sexual orientation and gender identity. Senator Clinton introduced ETHA (Early Treatment for HIV) in 2005 and supported the measure in 2003. Clinton was the sole vote against the Ryan White Act reauthorization bill that passed the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions in May 2006, citing that too much funding was being taken from the cities. When it comes to "don't ask, don't tell," Senator Clinton supports lifting the military ban on openly Gay and Lesbian individuals serving in the military. Clinton supports sexual orientation and Transgender inclusive hate crimes laws and has cosponsored the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act (LLEEA). She has stated her opposition to same-sex marriage but has expressed support for civil unions/domestic partnerships will full rights and benefits that opposite-sex couples receive under federal

As Governor, Bill Richardson would initiate laws that would practice non-discrimination in employment on



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Why Not A Democrat?

Continued from Page Six

the basis of sexual orientation. During his first term as Governor, Richardson signed a virtual panoply of LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) rights protections that include expanding civil rights laws to include sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as issued an executive order to extend access to health insurance and benefits to the domestic partners of state employees. Richardson supports HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. In 2005, Governor Richardson supported increases in state funding for HIV/AIDS in New Mexico, \$1-million was allocated to expand access to medications and insurance coverage to more people living with HIV/AIDS and maintain in-statute programs for HIV/AIDS patients. Though Richardson is now vocal about supporting the repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" ban on open Gays and Lesbians from serving in the military, his past record on the issue is complicated. At one point, Richardson voted in support initially but there was another vote, according to the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, considered a key vote which Richardson voted the correct way. If elected, Richardson would support and sign legislation expanding current, federal hate crimes statutes to cover sexual orientation and gender identity. Richardson supports same-sex relationships, calling them either civil unions or domestic partnerships, for which these relationships should have the same rights that opposite-sex couples currently receive. Richardson opposes same-sex marriage but he also opposes adding an amendment to the U.S. Constitution, such as the proposed, Federal Marriage Amendment.

During the LOGO forum, U.S. Representative (Rep.) Dennis Kucinich was asked whether there was anything on issues of concern to the LGBT or HIV/AIDS communities that he is opposed to. Kucinich's response, "No" with thunderous applause following from those in the studio audience. Prior to his service in the U.S. House, Kucinich served in the Ohio State Senate and as Mayor of the City of Cleveland. According to the Human Rights Campaign, Dennis Kucinich is one of the most progressive Members of Congress, scoring a perfect 100% rating from the organization on his votes and stances on issues of concern for the last four sessions of the U.S. House. Rep. Kucinich is a current

and past cosponsor of ENDA and voluntarily adopted a non-discrimination policy for his congressional office indicating that sexual orientation or gender identity is not a factor in employment decisions. On HIV/AIDS, Kucinich supports full funding for HIV/AIDS research and treatment. He is a cosponsor of numerous bills before the current Congress, including the Early Treatment for HIV/AIDS Act and has stated that the U.S. should spend a minimum, \$30 billion over the next four years in the global fight against HIV/AIDS. Kucinich is one of the lead sponsors of legislation to repeal the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy which prevents open Lesbians and Gays from serving in the armed services. On the issue of hate crimes, Kucinich is one of the lead sponsors in the U.S. House for the Hate Crimes Prevention Act which would expand, current federal statutes to include sexual orientation and gender identity, perceived or otherwise. Kucinich flatly supports same-sex marriage and voted against the proposed constitutional Federal Marriage Amendment in 2004. He supports same-sex adoption and voted against amendments to prevent such adoptions in the nation's capital (District of Columbia).

In various interviews and during many debates, former Alaska Senator Mike Gravel expressed his support for same-sex marriage and in the absence of same-sex marriage, Gravel would extend the 1,138 additional federal rights and privileges to committed, same-sex couples. Federal hate crime statutes would be expanded to include sexual orientation and gender identity would be added to the list of protected categories under a Gravel Administration. Gravel strongly opposes the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" legislation that forbids open Gays and Lesbians from serving in the armed forces on the grounds that it is unconstitutional, as it restricts the rights of G/L Americans. When asked, Gravel has expressed his opposition to any state or national constitutional amendment that restricts the rights of the LGBT community.

These candidates running for the Democratic presidential nomination offer LGBT and HIV/AIDS voters a choice to cast their ballots for all those eight Republican presidential contenders and wannabees, as previously reported, clearly don't offer any choice whatsoever.

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And A Fun Time Was Had By All

LGBT Fight For Rights In Utah

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah - Ariana Losco says she's just another suburban wife. The Tooele woman drives a minivan, loves spending time with her family and shops at the local Wal-Mart. Her lifestyle, she says, is the epitome of ordinary, reported the Associated Press on washblade.com. But not everyone sees it that way. That's because Losco was a man until 1994.

When she took a job at a nursing home six months ago, she said she never imagined how hostile her work environment would become when co-workers learned she used to be male. "It's been pure hell," Losco said, noting that her shifts have been cut as a result. "I've gone home many times crying, but I have to do it. I have to have a paycheck."

Under Utah law, discriminating against Gay and Transgender people is legal. Rep. Christine Johnson, D-Salt Lake City, wants that to change in one of the nation's most conservative states. "If I'm not shaking things up, I'm not doing my job," said Johnson, one of three openly Gay lawmakers.

Johnson said it's time Utah's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community fights back against years of hostility, highlighted by a ban on Gay marriages and attempts to eliminate Gay-straight alliances in public schools. "It's very clear that if the LGBT community does not begin to act in an offensive manner that we will continually end up playing defense," she said. "I think the state-wide community is frustrated with this unapologetic discrimination."

Johnson is sponsoring House Bill 89, which would add sexual orientation and gender identity to a list of protected classes in the Utah Antidiscrimination Act. There are 20 states that include sexual orientation in their antidiscrimination laws, and 11 of those include gender identity.

Johnson acknowledged that her bill will be a tough sell in Utah. Most lawmakers are members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which considers acting on homosexual feelings a sin. Lawmakers last year refused to remove a ban on sodomy from state law, although the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a similar Texas law in 2003.

"That bill's dead on arrival," predicted Paul Mero, director of the Sutherland Institute, a conservative think tank that's influential with many Republican lawmakers. "This Legislature, I don't think it wants to make sexual orientation a protected civil right equal to somebody's religion or race."

Mero opposes similar legislation at the federal level. Mero said anyone can say they're Gay, and there's not a good way to legally define homosexuality without catching someone in the act. He insists that discrimination based on sexual orientation isn't a problem in Utah. "Are there people in Utah right now who are being fired from their jobs because they are homosexuals? I don't think so," Mero said. "One of the reasons I don't think so is because frequently it's kind of a personal thing," he said. "Maybe we all work with someone who we suspect is a Gay fellow because he likes watching 'what to wear' or something like that ... but we don't know it."

The Utah Labor Commission said it has received 14 complaints of discrimination against Gay or Transgender people since June when Equality Utah, an advocacy group, asked that the agency keep track.

Johnson was surprised to learn the number. "We have so many people in suburban and rural areas who are uncomfortable to be out or to even admit to family members that they have a different sexual orientation," she said. "I'm pleased to hear there are 14 people who have been brave enough to actually file complaints. "It's difficult to go against the grain here," Johnson said.

Among Utah's 2.7 million residents, there are about 50,000 self-identified Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual adults living in Utah, according to the Census Bureau. More than 85 percent of Fortune 500 companies include sexual orientation in their antidiscrimination policies, as do more than 280 city and county governments nationwide.

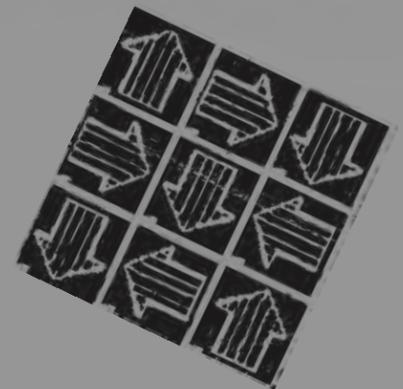
"It's kind of up to Utah to decide whether they're going to be catching up to the rest of the country and the rest of the Western world," said Lee Badgett, research director at the Williams Institute, a think tank at the UCLA School of Law. Badgett has testified before Congress on the issue, which gained momentum in Utah last year when a federal appeals court upheld the dismissal of a lawsuit brought by a bus driver who was fired while preparing to undergo a sex-change operation.

Krystal Etsitty was fired by the Utah Transit Authority after she began using women's restrooms on her route. She sued, alleging she was fired because she was a transsexual and because she didn't conform to expectations of male behavior.

In 2005, a federal judge dismissed Etsitty's lawsuit after finding that transsexuals fall outside of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that banned discrimination against people who fail to meet the stereotype of their gender.

Will Carlson, policy director for Equality Utah, said Etsitty's case demonstrated why Utah needs to amend its laws. "In Krystal's place, there were not complaints from customers, the bus riders," he said. "There were no complaints from anyone. Her employee evaluations were all satisfactory - she did a good job."

Losco said she's praying that a law is approved in Utah, although the odds are long. "We have to be heard. Until I see transsexuals standing up and using bullhorns and shouting, nothing is going to change," she said.



Hospital Denies Breast Enlargement Surgery To Transwoman

DALY CITY, California - When Charlene Hastings of San Francisco called Seton Medical Center, a Catholic hospital about breast-enlargement surgery, she was told, "God made you a man," reported advocate.com.

According to The [San Jose] Mercury News, Hastings, 57, said she had elected the surgeon at the hospital willing to perform the surgery, Dr. Leonard Gray. When he was denied the rights, Hastings filed suit against the hospital, challenging its ability to operate according to religious principles. While she had already undergone the major part of the gender reassignment surgery, she was denied by a surgical coordinator for the breast augmentation, who said the facilities were not to be used for Transgender surgeries.

"She kept saying, 'It's not God's will,'" Hastings said. "I could not believe it. It's a blatant case of discrimination." While state law does allow religious hospitals to refuse to perform abortions, there are no specific exemptions for elective Transgender surgery. Kristina Wertz, legal director of the Transgender Law Center in San Francisco, said this isn't the only such incident. "Seton and other hospitals in the area have put up significant barriers to care for Transgender people."

"There's simply no religious exemption in the Unruh Act," Wertz said about California's law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation. "We're talking about a type of care that's OK for one class but not another."

The hospital does allow female patients who are not transgender the right to breast-enlargement surgeries.

Anti-Gay T-Shirt Ruling To Be Appealed

CHICAGO, Illinois (Observer Update) - A law firm that represents conservative Christians is preparing to appeal a federal court ruling that bars a Neuqua Valley High School sophomore from wearing a t-shirt at school that reads "Be Happy, Not Gay," reported 365Gay.com. Alexander Nuxoll is one of two students who were told by their Naperville school that the t-shirt is discriminatory. Nuxoll and Heidi Zamecnik had tried to wear the shirts as a protest against the National Day of Silence in 2006.

The homemade t-shirt said on the front "My Day Of Silence, Straight Alliance, and the back read "Be Happy Not Gay." School officials ordered Zamecnik to remove the T-shirt. When she refused she was told to cross out "Not Gay" with a marking pen. Last year, with the help of the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF), they went to court seeking an injunction barring the school from taking action against them for wearing the t-shirts. A federal judge ruled that the school had the right to dictate a dress code.

The school said it would allow the students to wear t-shirts that said "Be Happy, Be Straight" because it would not degrade another group. The ADF said that it would take the case to the federal appeals court. Zamecnik has since graduated and is no longer a party in the case. ADF attorney Nate Kellum said he would ask for an expedited decision in hopes Nuxoll could wear the shirt in time for this year's Day of Silence. "Be Happy, Be Straight" doesn't necessarily encompass opposition to homosexuality, a viewpoint students should be allowed to express, Kellum told the Daily Herald. "I think some messages are just better phrased in the negative," said Kellum, citing "No smoking" as an example.

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HOROSCOPES

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ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)
Proud Rams can use their gift of gab to their advantage with Mercury in Aqueerius. All this assorted chit chat gets you noticed in all the right circles. Move and shake and see who you can press and impress. Before you know it, you become a social organizer extraordinaire and the epicenter of activity. Will you be able to withstand the glare and the attention? We'll see.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)
It is never too late to plot and plan your corporate ascent... or your eventual departure for more lucrative work. Mercury enables you to talk your way into the power elite. The trick will be to see if you can maintain your unctuous charm just long enough to benefit from it. When all else fails, use your oil to grease your escape. Be your own boss and take a long lunch.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
It is never too late to plan and implement a winter escapade. Pink Twins dream of faraway vistas and adventures. Now put all your dreams into action. If money and time are tight, find novel ways to enhance and excite your usual surroundings. Maybe a couple of exotic strangers can help you get out of your usual skin. Pack the suntan oil so you don't burn.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
Gay Crabs begin to steam as Mercury enters Aqueerius. It's about time! Not only do you have loads of erotic daydreams, some of them could turn into dreamboats, if you set sail now. Let your imagination soar and don't hold back. Before you know it you are surrounded by festive company who introduce you to new port of calls. Ah, but are they siren calls...?

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)
This is the week to turn your focus on to current relationships. What do you need to do to make them stronger and more interesting? Proud Lions feel as if they are in a rut, but that would be a mistake. Rather, think about what you can do to stoke the fire, fuel the flames or rekindle the spark. The real question is - do you have enough wood?

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)
This is a good week to buckle down and get the job done. Not only are queer Virgins especially clear thinkers now, they can also prioritize, focus, organize and dispatch every little detail. However there is no reward for the weary. Be sure that you can balance your work time with your play time. At very least find ways to relax and de-stress. Anyone we know?

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)
Your creativity hits a high note when Mercury enters Aqueerius. And not a moment too soon; you were beginning to feel stale and tired. Proud Libras dip into their inner artist and have fun. Plan a range of activities designed to get the juices boiling. Reach out to fun loving folks and join in their merriment or, if you prefer, wait for the invitations to arrive. They will!

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)
Not only are you more

interested in home based activities, you can also handle anything that your family can dish out. This week you find the right words to say to sooth any rough patch. But just because you can discuss it doesn't mean that you have to compromise on your personal happiness or fulfillment. On the contrary, gradually bring them over to your point of view.

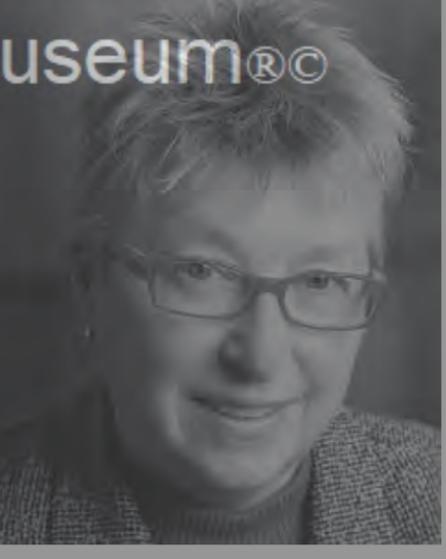
SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)
Sometimes Gay Archers are not the most diplomatic of folks. But this week, as Mercury enters Aqueerius, you manage to find the diplomatic angle to any disagreement. Look at the big picture, find common ground where possible and express yourself honestly and eloquently. At very worst, they will respect you for your opinion and simply ignore your advice. Then try yelling.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)
Thoughts turn to finances and savings. Good - not a moment too soon. Pink Caps are often very careful with their funds but now you find ways to assume a little more risk to multiply your earnings. Seek the right advisor and do your fiscal homework. Before you know it you will escape the hoi poloi and hob knob with the nobbs. Hey, whatever turns you on.

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)
Mercury in your own sign gives you an added oomph in any social situation. All eyes are upon you and you can take full advantage. As long as you are comfortable in center stage, use all the attention to get a few new pet projects underway. By the spring some of these seeds sprout and you will have the makings of a nice harvest by the fall.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)
Not only is your intuition right on target, you are also able to discern the good from the bad and avoid a mess of unanticipated trouble. Guppies are too trusting and tend to befriend anyone and everyone. Be choosy by asking the right questions and observing behaviors. There is more here than meets the eye, especially if you look someone squarely in it.

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Early Gay Ally Gov. Dreyfus Dies

MADISON, Wisconsin - Former Gov. Lee Sherman Dreyfus, who signed the nation's first statewide Gay rights law in 1982, has died. He was 81, reported 365Gay.com. Dreyfus died at his Waukesha home while watching television, son Lee S. Dreyfus Jr. said. He had suffered from heart and breathing problems, according to a family spokesman.



Former Governor Lee Sherman Dreyfus

Dreyfus was a member of the University of Wisconsin-Madison faculty and chancellor at UW-Stevens Point before resigning to run for governor. He was elected in 1978, defeating acting Gov. Martin Schreiber in the general election. The Gay rights measure Dreyfus signed made it illegal to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation in housing, employment and public accommodations. Activists gathered in Madison last year to mark the 25th anniversary of the law. Dreyfus also was a vocal opponent of the state's ban on Gay marriage and civil unions, which was approved by voters in 2006.

Serving through 1982, Dreyfus earned respect for his businesslike approach to politics. "He wasn't interested in the political maneuvering," said Tom Loftus, who served as the Democratic majority leader in the Assembly during the Republican Dreyfus' term. "He would propose something, and whatever the Legisla-

ture came up with, he would work with that."

Dreyfus once said the Legislature controlled by the rival party "forces you to think in terms of compromise. You don't have an option. Your only power is to stop things with the veto."

Democratic Gov. Jim Doyle said he benefited from Dreyfus' advice over the years and that the former governor showed that politics do not have to be harsh or overly partisan.

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Ruling Could Impact Lesbian IVF Couples

HARRISBURG, Pennsylvania (Observer Update) - The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has ruled that a woman who promised a sperm donor he would not have to pay child support cannot renege on the deal, reported 365Gay.com. The 3-2 decision overturns lower court rulings under which Joel L. McKiernan had been paying up to \$1,500 a month to support twin boys born in August 1994 to Ivonne V. Ferguson, his former girlfriend and co-worker.

"Where a would-be donor cannot trust that he is safe from a future support action, he will be considerably less likely to provide his sperm to a friend or acquaintance who asks, significantly limiting a would-be mother's reproductive prerogatives," Justice Max Baer wrote in the majority opinion issued last week. Arthur Caplan, chairman of the Department of Medical Ethics at the University of Pennsylvania, said the decision runs counter to the pattern established by similar cases, where the interests of the progeny have generally been given great weight. "It sounds like the Pennsylvania court is trying to push a little harder into the brave new world of sperm, egg and embryo donation as it's evolving," Caplan said.

McKiernan's lawyer, John W. Purcell Jr., said an adverse decision against his client would have jeopardized the entire system of sperm donation. "That wouldn't just include Pennsylvania, because we found out

in the course of this trial that many doctors order their sperm for their artificial inseminations out of state," he said.

Ferguson and McKiernan met while working together at Pennsylvania Blue Shield in Harrisburg and had a sexual relationship that waned before Ferguson persuaded him to donate sperm for her. Courts found that the two agreed McKiernan would not have to pay child support and would not have visitation rights, but Ferguson later changed her mind and sued.

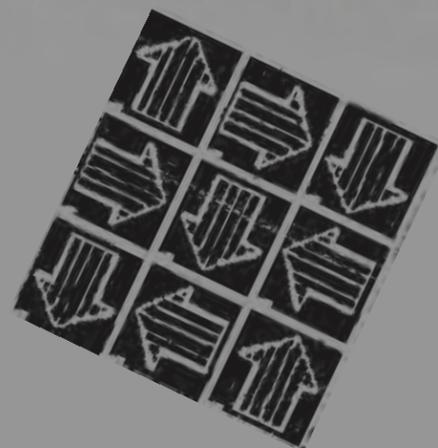
Straight Bouncer Wins Anti-Discrimination Case

BOURNEMOUTH, England - Sharon Legg, a 33-year-old married mother of three, won 6,222 British pounds (over \$12,000 U.S.) in compensation in a discrimination lawsuit against her former employer, Dreams, a Gay nightclub in Bournemouth, England, where she had been head bouncer, according to British website Times Online, reported advocate.com.

Legg made the claim of unfair dismissal, using a law created to protect LGBT people from discrimination in the workplace, a law called Employment Equality Regulations 2003. Legg told Times Online she was "frequently subjected to abuse because she was not a Lesbian," was called derogatory names such as "breeder," and faced constant insubordination from fellow bouncers. Legg was fired without warning after a dispute with a colleague, which prompted her to press charges.

Legg said her manager, Scott Rhodes, often said, "Urgh, you're a breeder." Legg thought that had the shoe been on the other foot and she had said to him "Urgh, you're Gay," it would not have been tolerated. Legg also added that she has support from many Gays and that she

made the complaint for all those facing on-the-job harassment. While the court did award her damages for enduring harassment due to being straight and for unfair dismissal, it did not find she had been fired for being heterosexual. The director of the club, Nick King, said he does not tolerate any form of discrimination and is considering appealing the ruling.



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NON-BAR CALENDAR

Wednesday, January 9

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Hand and Foot hosted by Marv & Steve. Call Marv at 745-0304.

Thursday, January 10

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.

TIHAN will conduct Volunteer Orientation/ Training from 5:15 to 9:15 p.m. at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 1350 N. Arcadia Ave. Call (520)299-6647 for additional information and to sign up to begin your volunteer journey.

Friday, January 11

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed. Check MSN online calendar for today's events. www.groups.yahoo.com/group/menssocialnetwork/

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

Saturday, January 12

"Homoneurotic II" will hold auditions for their April production at the Cabaret space in the Temple of Music and Art downtown. 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. At Wingspan, 425 E. 7th Street.

#1 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 1:00p.m. Meet Lee and Merlin at Crave Espresso Bar on Broadway for the MSN 'coffee night during the day' revival! Enjoy basic or elaborate coffee beverages, pastries baked fresh every morning, and talk things over! Crave is in the same strip mall as Dandy Dime where the 31 flavors used to be. Check the Crave website for prices and complete menu: www.craveespressobar.com Need direction in Life? Call Merlin or Lee for details and directions at 207-5336.

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

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

Sunday, January 13

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

4-6 p.m. sign up for the monthly Men's Massage Group in its 18th year. Spend 2 hours on the 2nd Sunday of each month in nude bliss with other men. Non-Sexual. Call Marc at 881-4582 to sign up and for information.

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:30p.m. Thom and/or Ken host 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 on-line calendar for the scheduled place. The venue is rotated to include all parts of town, and may occasionally be held at a full-service menu restaurant.

Monday, January 14

Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed. Check MSN online calendar for this Monday's events. www.groups.yahoo.com/group/menssocialnetwork/

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

Tuesday, January 15

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Canasta with Bruce. Call for info and directions: 743-3890. Please call ahead to assist your host in planning the evening.

The City of Tucson Commission on GLBT issues will be meeting today at 5:30 p.m. at the EOO Conference Room, 100 N. Stone, first floor. Commission meetings are open to the public and there will be a call to the audience at each meeting. Call City Clerk's office 791-4213 for more info.

Wednesday, January 16

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Hand and foot hosted by Jack. 887-3736. MSN Hand and Foot is played every Wednesday at 7pm, but check back here for the specific host.

Thursday, January 17

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 Deadline is Noon today to reserve your place for pizza night. Call Erich: 745-2689. Reserve Before Noon Today For Pizza Night!

Friday, January 18

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Pizza Night! Call Erich for directions at 745-2689! 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, January 19

#1 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 8:30a.m. Join Robert for a morning of Volleyball. This is played for fun, and you'll get to know some nice guys as you play. Two great ways to work on your game! For details and directions, please call Robert at 400-1376.

#2 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 1:00p.m. Meet Lee and Merlin at Crave Espresso Bar on Broadway for the MSN 'coffee night during the day' revival! Enjoy basic or elaborate coffee beverages, pastries baked fresh every morning, and talk things over! Crave is in the same strip mall as Dandy Dime where the 31 flavors used to be. Check the Crave website for prices and complete menu: www.craveespressobar.com Need direction in Life? Call Merlin or Lee for details and directions at 207-5336.

#3 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Shuffle over for Floating Pinochle every Saturday of the month except for first Saturday Monthly Pot Luck. Phone host Steve at 644-2076 for location, driving directions, and info.

Sunday, January 20

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:30p.m. Thom and/or Ken host 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.

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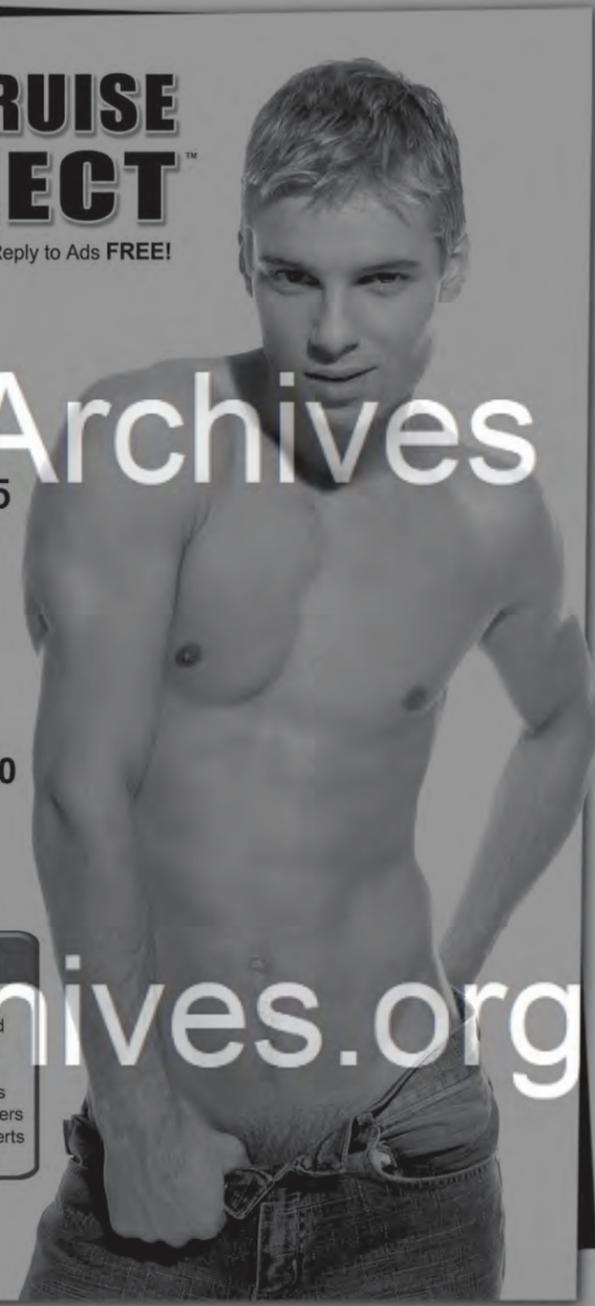
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U.S. Supreme Court Upholds San Francisco Group's 'Dykes On Bikes' Trademark

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The U.S. Supreme Court turned down a Dublin lawyer's challenge to a San Francisco group's trademark right to the name Dykes on Bikes, reported baycitynewsservice.com. The high court declined to hear an appeal by attorney Michael McDermott of a ruling by a federal circuit court in Washington D.C. in July upholding the trademark granted by the U.S. Trademark Office.

acting on his own behalf, said today he considers the Dykes on Bikes name to be "hostile to men." He argued in his opposition to the trademark that the name was disparaging to men and immoral.

But the appeals court ruled last year that the name "would have no implications for a man" and that McDermott hadn't shown he had a reasonable belief he would be harmed by the trademark grant. Lawyers for Dykes on Bikes weren't immediately available for comment today, but attorney Brooke Oliver said last year that the appeals court ruling showed that "asserting pride in being 'Dykes on Bikes' does not impact others negatively." The high court's refusal to hear the appeal means the ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington D.C. is the final decision in the case.

The group, also known as the San Francisco Women's Motorcycle Contingent, won the right to the name in 2004. The bikers traditionally lead the annual San Francisco Pride Parade and describe themselves as supporting women motorcyclists around the world as well as Gay rights endeavors. McDermott, who challenged the trademark as an individual



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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am; L Word Sundays. L Word shows at 7pm on two 51" flatscreens. Beer Bust 5pm-10pm. DJ HILL following til 2am.

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 1/2 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 5pm-2am. Poker Pub...FREE. No Happy Hour on this day. Games at 6:30 and again at 9:00pm. 21 and up.

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7. \$3.50 Skyy Cocktails, \$2.75 well & domestics. Appetizers 1/2 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 - Open 5pm-2am. No Happy Hour on this day. Spin Tuesdays with Karaoke. Spin the drink wheel every hour for incredible drink prices...nothing over \$2!! Karaoke at 8pm. 21 and up.

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7 \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and well and 1/2 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 5pm-2am. 1/2 Pride Happy Hour til 8pm. Wild Wednesdays. DJHill Spins til 2am. This is an 18 and over event..

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and 1/2 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, "Diva-Licious" show 9pm w/ Bunny Fu Fu & Friends. After show dance with DJ Q til 2am,

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

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

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

THURSDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. 1/2 Price Happy Hour til 8pm. 20/20 Thursday's a night guaranteed to F*UCK., with your vision!! \$20 at the door we take care of the rest (premium top shelf not included). DJHill spins hip hop & R&B all night. 21'n up

COLORS - Open 4pm-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and Well and 1/2 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 5pm-2am. NOCHE de CALOR. 1/2 price Happy Hour til 8pm. Every Friday DJ Hill spins the best norteno, Cumbias, Salsa, Bachata Reggaeton, Rock en Espanol and anything else that makes you shake your hips!!

COLORS - Open 4pm-midnight. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and Well and 1/2 price appetizers. Finlandia martinis \$5.50 open to close! Full menu served until 10. "Hot Jazz, Cool Martinis" with Susan Artemis & Craig Faltn 6:30 to 9:30. "Guys & Dolls" drag show hosted by Lucinda Holliday at 10pm. Nightly dinner specials. Drink specials during the drag show.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. \$3.50 Sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Pitcher. \$2.50 Smirnoff Ice. Triple Black, Green Apple and Raspberry Twisters. Free Country dance lessons at 7:30p.m. DJ Pat plays 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) Enjoy the sounds of Simon Crown 6-9 p.m.; Martini Happy Hour 5-8pm-\$1 off all call Martinis; Back Pocket Patio Bar open 8-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 - Open 5pm - 2am. \$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, 1/2 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/ Bunny FuFu 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.

Mighty Mouse Says

By Mike Pollack

Here are five ways to back up your data that is currently on your computer:

1. **USB Flash Drives** - These are inexpensive and available at any office supply store. They are great for backing up documents or files you work on regularly. You use them the same way you would a floppy drive.

2. **CD and DVD Writers/Re-Writers** - These are great for archiving files that you want to keep, but don't change too often, or you want to keep historical changes to. CDs and DVDs require some extra steps to write data to them. They can be very inexpensive if you buy a large spindle of discs. You do need to have a CDRW or DVDRW drive to use these.

3. **External Hard Drives** - These have really come down in price recently. Drives usually start at \$80. These are the best option if you'd like to have your backup done on a timer or if you have a very large amount of data to backup. We've started setting these up for a lot of clients, so that they know their data is being backed up without having to remember to do it!

4. **Additional Hard Drives** - You can get a second hard drive installed with a RAID card, which would allow your computer to "mirror" your hard drive constantly. Essentially, you'd have two identical hard drives. If one fails, you just unplug the bad one and you're up and running again!

5. **Online Storage** - This can be a great solution for people who want timed backups and want to make sure a copy of their vital data is kept off-site in case of theft or fire. We usually recommend this in addition to one of the other backup methods. Here is a link to reviews of various services by PC World magazine: pcworld.com/article/id,121970-page,1/article.html

(For your computer needs, questions or to have your problems solved, Mighty Mouse Computer Consulting will save your day. For more information, call Mike at (520) 312-2630, E-mail: mike@mmcci.com or go online to www.mmcci.com/.)

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11

HOWL AT THE MOON - Live music with Two Sons playing classic rock and more. No Cover.

MONDAY, JANUARY 14

THE BIZ - Beginning tonight and every Monday evening, The Biz will be a Poker Pub. Games will be held at 6:30 p.m. and again at 8:00 p.m. FREE!!! 21 and up. Also the Hours for the Biz are now 5:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m. daily.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17

HOWL AT THE MOON - TNT Thursday Night Temptation. 18 and over. Music with DJ Shorty

VENTURE-N - Anniversary Party for the Venture. Watch for more info.

MONDAY, JANUARY 19

THE BIZ - A big 80's Party tonight with 80' Give Aways, 80's music. Come dressed in 80's attire. Plus \$2.00 Bartles & James Wine Coolers!

HOWL AT THE MOON - Live music with Too Much Information - classic rock, blues and dance favorites. \$5.00 Cover.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20

HOWL AT THE MOON - NFL Conference Championships

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

HOWL AT THE MOON - DJ Shorty is here playing Latin and Dance Mix. No Cover.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3

WOODY'S - Super Bowl Party.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

IBT'S - Janet Jackson CD Release Party

NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

WRITE NOW is an LGBT writers' group that meets at Wingspan, twice monthly, on the 2nd and 4th Sunday afternoons, 2:30 to 4:00. For more info please call 323-2465 or email evynrubin@yahoo.com.

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 (GPGCC) P.O. BOX 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2097. E-mail: webmaster@gpgcc.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

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

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO - a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, Call the Bears Hotline (520)790-5775 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 or 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, contract 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 2nd 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 OUToberFEST. 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; Dezer Girlz (MTF Support) meets 2nd Mondays at 7pm; Dezer Boyz (FTM Support) meets 3rd Tuesdays at 7pm. Also serving partners, youth, intersex, service providers and allies. Call (520)624-1779 x26 for more info.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

REVEILLE MEN'S CHORUS rehearses Thursday evenings 7-10pm at the Historic Y, corner of University Blvd. and 5th Ave. Join us!! Call 304-1758 for more info. "OUT ON THE TRAILS - EQUESTRIAN FUN!" Rider Club forming. Looking for women and men to ride together on the trails of Southern Arizona. Must have own horse, truck and trailer. For more info write: "Out On The Trails" P.O. Box 44045, Tucson, AZ 85733-4045

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

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

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

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

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

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

Safe[®] Sex



Is Bringing Men Together

SEATTLE, Washington (Observer Update) - A conservative Christian pastor plans to launch a high-profile campaign Tuesday urging religious followers to load up on Microsoft Corp. stock, in an attempt to force the company to "stop financing ungodly ventures."

The Rev. Ken Hutcherson, who leads Antioch Bible Church in Microsoft's hometown of Redmond, says that he will create a global and powerful group to promote traditional family values, including marriage exclusively between a man and a woman, reported the Seattle Post Intelligencer.

Hutcherson, joined by some of the country's most influential Christian leaders, has created a new organization, AGN Financial Network, to finance the effort. The worldwide venture asks people to buy three shares of company stock and donate one to AGN. Its Web site tells visitors, "You have the power to change the world," and contains tips on how to open a brokerage account. Among the listed supporters are Richard Land of the Southern Baptist Convention and religious pundit Gary Bauer.

"We're not trying to hurt Microsoft or their shareholders, nor are we calling for a boycott of their products," volunteer spokesman Dennis Sullivan said. "We are trying to get Christians to buy their shares."

It's unclear what effect, if any, the initiative could have on the stock price. It would be difficult to influence company direction - just to gain a 1 percent stake in Microsoft, about 31 million people would each have to spend \$104 to buy three shares. Microsoft has about 9.36 billion outstanding shares, and its largest

LGBT Rights Efforts Targeted

holder is Chairman Bill Gates, with 858 million shares, or 9 percent of the total. Capital Research and Management Co. follows with nearly 557 million shares, or 6 percent.

At Microsoft's annual shareholder meeting in November, Hutcherson told the group that he was gathering evangelicals, Catholics, Jews and Muslims to challenge the company.

He told company leaders, "I could work with you, or I could be your worst nightmare, because I am a black man with a righteous cause, with a host of powerful white people behind me," according to an e-mail update to his supporters. "I hope to hear from you and if not, you will hear from me."

Microsoft leadership has publicly supported Gay rights legislation, and the company officially opposes discrimination based on sexual orientation. Microsoft shareholders have voted in favor of the company's nondiscrimination policy, General Counsel Brad Smith said.

The company was one of the first to offer employee benefits to same-sex domestic partners, according to its employee resource group GLEAM, which stands for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Employees at Microsoft. The group, founded in 1993, has more than 700 members.

"Our company policies are well-known and supported by over 97 percent of our shareholders when it was voted upon in a shareholder resolution, and we just have no comment on this," Microsoft spokes-

man Lou Gellos said.

What the company does "within its four walls" is its own business, Hutcherson told the Seattle P-I. He objects to Microsoft's, and many other companies', influence on public policy. "That's when I got upset at Microsoft, when they came down to Olympia ... I said, 'Wait a minute, what are you doing down here trying to make your own policy state policy?'"

In 2005, Microsoft supported, then withdrew its support, and then supported again a state bill that would have barred sexual-orientation-based workplace discrimination. Though the bill ultimately failed, Microsoft was criticized by Gay groups, The Stranger weekly newspaper and Microsoft employees for bowing to pressure from Hutcherson. When Microsoft changed back to its traditional Gay-friendly stance, the company was criticized by the Christian right for overstepping its corporate boundaries.

Microsoft officials had met with Hutcherson, but denied being influenced by him. In a May 2005 e-mail to employees, Microsoft Chief Executive Steve Ballmer said, "I expect everyone at this company - particularly managers - to take a hard look at their personal commitment to diversity, and redouble that commitment."

Hutcherson said it's not Microsoft's job to influence the public agenda, and that it should be left to others, like him. "That's what my job is," he said. "I'm a pastor." When asked whether the new initiative is a ploy to make money for his church, Hutcherson said, "Absolutely." "We're going to need the finances to go to the next companies," he said. "Anything you do

Hutcherson, who describes himself as a "creative, freckle-faced black philistine," is a well-known and controversial figure in Western Washington; his church has 3,000 members. He said his battle is reminiscent of the biblical story of David versus Goliath. When asked why he's putting so much effort into this new venture, he said, "God will judge us one day, and I want to do everything it takes for him not to judge us on my watch." He wants AGN Financial's vote to resonate with the Microsoft board, he said, and wake up shareholders. "Oh, yes ma'am, we're going after corporations," he said. "Microsoft has the privilege of being first because we have a history," Hutcherson said.



Rev. Ken Hutcherson



January 19th and 20th

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Rawhide at Wild Horse Pass