

Arizona Same-Sex Couples Focus Of New Report

By Mark R. Kerr

LOS ANGELES, California (Observer Update) - LGB (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual) Arizonans are part of the newest study by the Williams Institute at the University of California at Los Angeles, the latest in the series of studies written by various Williams Institute researchers, provides demographic and economic information for same-sex couples and same-sex couples raising children in states across the country.

According to the report, in many ways, the almost 17,000 same-sex couples living in Arizona are similar to married couples. According to Census 2000, they live throughout the State, are racially and ethnically diverse, have partners who depend upon one another financially, and actively participate in Arizona's economy.

Census data also show that 18% of same-sex couples in Arizona are raising children. However, same-sex couples with children have fewer economic resources to provide for their families than married parents: they have lower household incomes and lower rates of homeownership.

In 2000, there were 12,332 same-sex couples living in Arizona. By 2005, the number of same-sex couples increased to 16,931. This increase likely reflects same-sex couples' growing willingness to disclose their partnerships on government surveys. In 2005, there were an estimated 191,663 Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual people (single and coupled) living in Arizona.

There are more male same-sex couples (51%) than female same-sex couples (49%) in Arizona. Individuals in same-sex couples are, on average, 40 years old, and significantly younger than individuals in married couples (48 years old) in Arizona.

Same-sex couples live in every county in Arizona and constitute 1.1% of coupled households and 0.6% of all households in the state. Maricopa County reported the most same-sex couples with 7,627 couples (0.67% of all county households), followed by Pima County with 2,244 couples (0.68%), and Pinal County with 398 couples (0.65%). The counties with the highest percentage of same-sex couples are La Paz County (0.78% of all county households), Apache County (0.71%), and Pima County (0.68%). Arizona's same-sex couples are as racially and ethnically diverse as their married counterparts: 26% of same-sex and married couples are nonwhite.

Individuals in same-sex couples in Arizona are significantly more likely to be employed than are married individuals: 78% of individuals in same-sex couples are employed, compared to 59% of married individuals. Contrary to a popular stereotype, the annual earnings of men in same-sex couples are significantly lower than those of married men. On average, men in same-sex

couples in Arizona earn \$34,653 each year, significantly less than \$46,453 for married men. The median income of men in same-sex couples in Arizona is \$26,000, or 26% less than that of married men (\$35,000). Women in same-sex couples in Arizona earn an average of \$31,336 per year (with a median of \$26,000), more than married women, whose earnings average \$25,231 (with a median of \$20,400). Women in same-sex couples earn less than married men as well as men in same-sex couples.

Individuals in same-sex couples in Arizona are more likely to work in the private sector: 78% of individuals in same-sex couples work in the private sector, compared to 70% of married individuals; 11% of individuals in same-sex couples work in the public sector, compared to 17% of married individuals; and 11% of individuals in same-sex couples are self-employed, compared to 13% of married individuals. Individuals in same-sex couples are significantly more likely to have a college degree: 34% of individuals in same-sex couples and 25% of married individuals have earned a college degree. Despite the military's historic policies of excluding Gay men and Lesbians from service, individuals in same-sex couples have served in the military: 14% of individuals in same-sex couples are veterans, compared to 19% of married individuals.

Couples in which one partner does not work or earns significantly less than the other partner may be financially interdependent. 24% of same-sex couples have only one wage earner, compared to 32% of married couples. The income gap between same-sex partners is \$23,826, compared to \$26,585 for married spouses. 26% of same-sex couples have at least one partner who is disabled, compared to 31% of married couples. 6% of same-sex couples have at least one partner who is age 65 or older, compared to 23% of married couples.

The median income of same-sex coupled households in Arizona is \$55,000, compared to \$53,400 for married couples. The average household income of same-sex couples is \$69,372, compared to \$68,648 for married couples. Same-sex couples are significantly less likely than married couples to own their homes: 63% of same-sex couples in Arizona own their home, compared to 81% of married couples.

About 18% of same-sex couples in Arizona are raising children under the age of 18. As of 2005, an estimated 5,321 of Arizona's children are living in households headed by same-sex couples. In Arizona, married and same-sex couples with children under 18 in the home have, on average, 2 children. Roughly 2% of Arizona's adopted children (or 543 children) live with a Lesbian or Gay parent.

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The Perils Of LGBT Aging

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota (Observer Update) - When Gayle had a stroke one Sunday evening nine years ago, she was rushed to Hennepin County Medical Center's emergency room, Minnesota's third largest hospital, Tomas Guerra reported for 365Gay.com, from which this is reprinted.

But when Gayle (a senior Trans woman) got there, she was told that in order to receive treatment, she would have to re-assume her old identity: She had to become Glen if she wanted to be helped.

Gayle did not protest. She wanted her life to be saved. But when she was taken to the Veterans Administration Hospital for follow-up care, she was forced to do the same: she was told she'd be Glen for every medical provider who worked there.

More recently, an openly Gay man who had no family or friends hanged himself in a room of a nursing home in an East Coast city; because others on his floor were made uncomfortable by his sexual orientation, the 79-year-old had been moved to a floor for patients with disabilities and dementia. The resulting stress made him too depressed to live.

As the elderly population swells—it is expected to double from 44 million to 90 million in the next 25 years—abuses like these and the general lack of humane care for LGBT elders are becoming more and more visible.

According to statistics from SAGE (Service and Advocacy for GLBT Elders), the senior LGBT population will multiply from 3 million to 6 or 7 million in the next 25 years, and their communities are not prepared to give them proper housing and the appropriate healthcare. Researchers and activists see a crisis looming.

"The number of seniors could become a kind of crisis like the HIV epidemic in the next five to 10 years, and there is no structure to deal with it. They're not ready for us," said Amber Hollibaugh, senior strategist for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

In Milwaukee County, the Department of Aging found that the city's LGBT seniors were five times less likely than other elders to access needed services because of fear of discrimination.

Michael Adams, executive director of SAGE, added that because Social Security survivor benefits and Medicaid are built around marriage, there is also latent discrimination at the federal level which heavily impacts older same-sex couples.

Adams said that in addition to discrimination, the growing LGBT senior population faces more challenges because it doesn't have the same support network as most other seniors: "Eighty percent of the community we work with (in New York) doesn't have children, and 50 percent have no family members to reach in case of an emergency."

But the landscape is starting to change for the elderly, and as they live longer and grow in numbers, and as post-Stonewall baby boomers start their retired lives, there is emerging a new generation less afraid to speak out for their rights and ready to challenge the status quo in the retirement community.

The survey "Gay and Graying: Concerns for the Future," just released by Community Marketing Inc., found 70 percent of its Lesbian and Gay respondents over age 40 with concerns about losing the ability to care for themselves. And the majority also feared becoming sick or disabled.

So how will society, the federal government, healthcare providers and nursing homes adjust to their urgent needs?

The federal government has begun making some improvements for LGBT seniors. The Bush administration, for example, admitted SAGE as the first LGBT delegate to the White House Conference on Aging in 2005.

Also, for the first time ever, AARP will sponsor and present SAGE's National Conference on Aging "It's about Time: LGBT Aging in a Changing World," to be held next October in New York.

LGBT aging projects are also branching out in cities such as Boston, New York, Chicago and Atlanta. And Stonewall Communities, a non-profit organization from Boston, has partnered with Abbott Real Estate to build "Stonewall Audubon Circle," 53 one- and two-bedroom homes which feature assisted-living centers for older Gay people, the first of its kind.

But help needs to come from within the LGBT community as well. Hollibaugh, who authored the first LGBT training curriculum for nursing homes, emphasized that to overcome these challenges, it is vital to build a bridge between LGBT elders and younger generation, because this sort of discrimination is likely to continue, and younger activists need to help.

"The bulk of us are not rich, and if the community doesn't respond, we will be without choice," she said.

Nine years after her tragedy Gayle is still crippled, but she has managed to recover enough to live independently in a suburb near Minneapolis.

When Gayle and her friends talk about her experience with the medical personnel at the county and VA hospitals, she feels sad and angry.

And when they ask her, "Why didn't you protest?" she simply responds: "I didn't have any choices. When you're not sure if you're going to live or die, you're just going to do what they tell you to do."



UPDATE

The 1st Annual UA QueerPeople Of Color Film Series

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The University of Arizona Office of LGBTQ Affairs presents "The Color of Queer: 1st Annual Queer People of Color Film Series! All films are free and open to everyone and will be shown in Nugent, room 2005, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 13: "The Business of Fancysaving" (fallsapart.com/fancysaving/). Seymour Polatkin is a successful, Gay Indian poet from Spokane who confronts his past when he returns to his childhood home on the reservation to attend the funeral of a dear friend. Based upon Sherman Alexie's book of poetry of the same name.

Thursday, April 10: "Saving Face" (sonyclassics.com/savingface/). A Chinese-American surgeon, living in Manhattan, is shocked when her single mother shows up on her doorstep pregnant. To help her mom save face and avoid the taboo in the Chinese community of an unmarried woman pregnant, the doctor helps her mom find Mr. Right. Cultures clash in this film that explores culture shock.

Feel free to bring food for yourself or to share. For map to Nugent: www.ccit.arizona.edu/uamap/staticLarge/40.html. Closest parking available behind Student Union at the Second Street Garage, or on University at the parking meters. For more information, contact Cathy Busha, UA Office of LGBTQ Affairs, (520) 626-1996 or cbusha@email.arizona.edu.

TIHAN Seeks Volunteers

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Volunteer with the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN). TIHAN has CarePartners—people living with HIV/AIDS—on a waiting list in need of a CareTeam. Several wonderful volunteers have stepped forward, but more are needed. Please make a difference in someone's life today and become a TIHAN Volunteer.

Your first step to volunteering is attending one of TIHAN's Orientations, which the next one takes place Tuesday, March 11, 1:00-5:00 p.m., at TIHAN,

1011 N. Craycroft Rd., #301 (Speedway and Craycroft). In just one evening or afternoon, you will experience an HIV 101 presentation, be inspired by a panel discussion by persons living with HIV, and hear an overview of TIHAN's programs, services and volunteer opportunities. Six times a year, TIHAN offers a Volunteer Orientation, and March 11th is your next chance.

If you are interested in volunteering at TIHAN or you just want to know more about HIV/AIDS and related issues, please join us. Your cost is only \$17.00 and includes a light meal and printed materials. Feel free to pass this information on to your friends, family, co-workers and congregations. For more information about volunteer opportunities contact Kim Talerico, Volunteer Coordinator, (520) 299-6647 or email her at kim@tihan.org. To get more information about TIHAN visit the website at tihan.org.

City Of Tucson GLBT Commission Meeting March 11

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The City of Tucson's Commission on GLBT Issues will hold their monthly meeting, Tuesday, March 18, 5:30 p.m., in the EOO Conference Room first floor, 100 North Stone.

The mission of the GLBT commission is to foster conditions that promote the welfare of GLBT people of metropolitan Tucson, Arizona through education, advocacy and collaborative and advisory relationships with government, community organizations, businesses and individuals. The City of Tucson Commission on GLBT Issues was originally formed in November 1998 as a mayoral task force, and became an independent city commission in July 1999.

For the meeting agenda, go online to tucsonaz.gov/clerks/uploads/bccfiles/2698.pdf. Call the City Clerk's office, (520) 791-4213 for more information.

Observer Clarification

A picture on the front page of last week's edition was misidentified as Senator Jack Hopper. His correct name is Senator Jack Harper.

UofA LGBTQ Students, Staff And Faculty, Your Voice Matters

TUCSON (Observer Update) - LGBTQ Affairs is conducting a campus-wide survey to assess needs and resources for the campus LGBTQ community.

LGBTQ Affairs is a new Office at the University of Arizona which works to build, sustain and strengthen a safe, inclusive, and open environment for faculty, staff, appointed professionals, students, alumni, parents and guests of all gender identities and sexual orientations. Input is critical to understanding and meeting the needs of our diverse Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, questioning (LGBTQ) and straight-ally community at the University of Arizona. Your answers will guide programming and planning for LGBTQ Affairs at the University of Arizona.

LGBTQ Affairs goal is to reach as many UA LGBTQ staff, students, and faculty possible—like much of the work of the LGBTQ movement, we rely on grassroots and word-of-mouth efforts to spread the word. For more information or to take the survey, go online to dos.web.arizona.edu/lgbtq/index.html, or call (520) 626-1996.

EON Youth Lounge's New Substance Use Support And Treatment Program

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Eon Youth Lounge has a new program, called the Prism Project—so named by young people at Eon because light enters a prism and goes through a transformational process to come out in a variety of beautiful and unique ways.

Prism is a program to serve Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans, Queer, and questioning youth 23 or under who are seeking support or treatment around substance use issues. Prism consists of an informal, drop-in discussion group as well as a more formal treatment program working with a case manager and therapist. The program is strictly confidential and voluntary, and offers a supportive community of peers working through similar challenges.

For more information, or to make a referral, please feel free to call Eon staff at (520) 620-6245, or the Prism Project's case manager, Nancy Duenas, at (520) 318-3266, ext. 2506. Prism can also be reached by email at nduenas@codac.org.

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 volcond@saaf.org



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Renewed Effort To Pass Federal Hate Crime Law Following Two Murders

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - There is renewed impetus to enact LGBT federal hate crime legislation in the wake of the killings this month of two young people and the vicious beating of a third person.

About 150 gathered Thursday night (February 28) in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, at the scene where a 17 year old Transgender teen was gunned down. Simmie Williams was found in a pool of blood last Friday (February 22) in an area frequented by transsexual prostitutes. (story) The teen was declared dead at hospital. The site of the killing is near that of another unsolved murder of a trans woman who was transitioning and still using her birth name, Timothy Broadus, in 2003.



Senator Ted Kennedy

Williams mother, Denise King, clutched a picture of the youth, but most of those at the vigil never meet the teen. Flowers were placed along a fence and a rainbow flag was hung from a nearby street sign. Following the memorial about 200 people took part in a town hall meeting on hate crimes at Fort Lauderdale's Gay and Lesbian Commu-

nity Center.

A day after Williams' murder, in what police say was an unrelated attack, a Gay man was severely beaten outside a diner only several miles away. There have been no arrests in either attack.

Vigils were held in cities across the country to mark the slaying of another Gay teen - Lawrence King. The 15 year old was gunned down on February 12 during a class at E.O. Green Junior High in Oxnard, California. More than 20 other students were in the room at the time. King was pronounced brain dead at St. John's Regional Medical Center and removed from life support.

A 14-year-old classmate, Brandon McInerney, has been charged with premeditated murder with a hate-crime enhancement under California state law.

But there are no federal laws mandating harsher sentences from crimes against people who are LGBT.

Federal legislation passed the House last May and the White House threatened to veto it.

In an effort to get around a veto the Senate version was tied to the 2008 defense authorization bill. It passed in September and then went to conference where it was stripped out.

Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) has pledged to reintroduce the bill before the session ends.

Called the Matthew Shepard Hate Crime Act it was named for the 21 year old college student who was murdered in an anti-Gay hate crime in Wyoming in October 1998. This year marks the 10th anniversary of his murder.

The foundation created by



Simmie Williams, Jr.

Shepard's parents announced plans to launch an aggressive anti-hate campaign aimed at engaging the general public.

Called "Replace Hate with Understanding, Compassion and Acceptance" it will be unveiled by Judy Shepard next month at the foundation's Annual Make a Difference Gala, which will take place on March 29 in Denver.

"In the past ten years since my son's death, I have spoken to over one million people who are searching for a way to help us in our mission to Erase Hate," said Judy Shepard in a statement.

"We developed this campaign with that goal in mind and are eager to provide individuals with the tools and resources needed to amplify their voice and begin to turn the tide on hate in America."

The recent murders of Williams and King will be one of the central themes of this year's annual Day of Silence on April 25.

The Day of Silence was created by GLSEN, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network to draw attention to discrimination faced by Gay students across the country.

In GLSEN's 2005 report, From Teasing to Torment: School Climate in America, 47 percent of junior/middle high school students identified bullying, name-calling or harassment as somewhat serious or very serious problems at their school.

Additionally, 69 percent of junior/middle high school students reported being assaulted or harassed in the previous year and only 41 percent said they felt very safe at school.



Lawrence King



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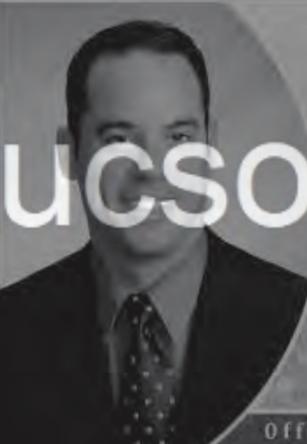
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Arizona Same-Sex Couples Focus Of New Report

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Same-sex parents have fewer financial resources to support their children than married parents in Arizona. The median household income of same-sex couples with children is \$39,000, or 28% lower than that of married parents (\$54,000). The average household income of same-sex couples with children is \$46,605, significantly less than \$67,706 for married parents. While 46% of same-sex couples with children own their home, a much larger percentage of married parents (75%) own their home.

UCLA School of Law. J.D. Yale Law School; B.A., summa cum laude, Amherst College. His current research examines the significance of gender in family law cases involving Lesbian and Gay parents. M.V. Lee Badgett is Research Director at the Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law, and Director of the Center for Public Policy and Administration at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where she is also on the faculty of the Department of Economics. She studies family policy and employment discrimination related to sexual orientation. Gary J. Gates is Senior Research Fellow at the Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law. He studies the demographic and economic characteristics of the lesbian and Gay population.

This report comes to the conclusion that in many respects Arizona's same-sex couples look like married couples, same-sex couples with children have fewer economic resources to provide for their families than married parents and lower rates of homeownership. Arizona's study was compiled by the following people at the Williams institute:

Adam P. Romero is Public Policy Fellow at the Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law. J.D. Yale Law School; A.B., summa cum laude, Cornell University. His current research examines the significance of family in society and law, especially as relevant to disabled adults without family. Clifford J. Rosky is Research Fellow at the Williams Institute,

The Williams Institute advances sexual orientation law and public policy through rigorous, independent research and scholarship, and disseminates it to judges, legislators, policymakers, media and the public. A national think tank at UCLA Law, the Williams Institute produces high quality research with real-world relevance. For more information, go online to law.ucla.edu/WilliamsInstitute/home.html.

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Antigone Books Update

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Please join in for an event at Antigone Books, 411 North Fourth Avenue, on Friday, March 7, 7:00 p.m., with Nadia Shivack.

Nadia Shivack, will discuss her book *Inside Out: Portrait of an Eating Disorder* (Ginee Seo, \$17.95). In the hospital where she was taken for treatment, Nadia wrote and drew on napkins after meals in order to keep the food in and calm the outrageous voices in her head. These pictures, together with others drawn on notebook paper and a variety of other surfaces, tell an unflinchingly honest story of a woman's lifelong battle with anorexia and bulimia. Raw, brave, and brilliant, Nadia's journey takes readers to the intimate corners of these misunderstood diseases. Beverly McGuffin, RN, MS, who helped Nadia get back to work, will be here as well. Nadia shares that "work is at the core of my recovery and has helped me to define myself for the first time as more than an eating disorder and more than a label."

Record the story of your life using the books you love. This two-part workshop explores how our lives have been shaped by the books we've read. In the process of this exploration, we will each create an autobiographical bibliography. All ages welcome. \$20 for both sessions. Advance registration (and payment) required. Limited to 10 participants. Register at the store, by phone (520) 792-3715 or in person.

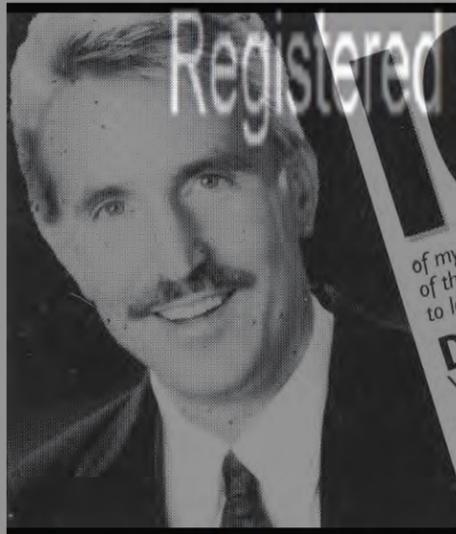
Workshop facilitator Penelope Starr is a performance and visual artist, and the founder and producer of Odyssey Storytelling. ...

Other Voices Women's Reading Series continues on Friday, March 14, 7:00 p.m. This month's featured readers are Rebecca Seiferle and Melissa Buckheit. Rebecca is the author of four poetry collections including her most recent, *Wild Tongue* (Copper Canyon, \$17.00). She has won a Western States Book Award, a Pushcart prize, and a Poetry Fellowship from the Lannan Foundation, among many others. Melissa is a poet, dancer/choreographer and photographer whose works have appeared in

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This reading will be followed by a question and answer period and with refreshments. ...

On Sunday, March 9 and March 16, noon - 2:00 p.m., a bibliography workshop with Penelope Starr will be held.



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Antigone Books Update

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numerous literary journals. Her manuscript has been a finalist for three poetry awards, and one of her poems was nominated for a 2007 Pushcart Prize.

The reading will be followed by an open mic. Please arrive 15 minutes early if you'd like to sign up to read. Refreshments will be served.

Fifth Annual Moda Provocateur Celebrates And Remembers, March 9

TUCSON - Hair stylists, chic boutiques, dancers, actors, musicians and the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) are collaborating to present the 5th Annual Moda Provocateur on Sunday, March 9, 2008 at The University of Arizona Student Union Grand Ballroom.

Moda Provocateur is a celebration of incredible fashion, design, and hair that raises public awareness about HIV, remembers those lost to AIDS, and supports the work of SAAF. It is an exciting and exhilarating evening, featuring an array of looks and themes, cool music of all types and lots of attractive people.

Prominent local salons, Avalon for Hair, Skin & Nails, Perceptions Studio, Ric Erickson Studio, Toni & Guy Hairdressing, London Salon and Spa and Ahead of Style, produce the show, creating 10 minute spots that feature their hair design talents and clothing from local boutiques such as Pour Moi, Bravo Boutique, Jos A Banks, Hydra, Kanella's, and Cele Peterson's. Todd Wilson of A Tucson Dance Company choreographs the dance entertainment segments and works with the dancers.

For the 5th anniversary, the Moda Provocateur committee is honoring Cele Peterson, Tucson Fashion Diva, and creating an annual award named

after her. "Cele's leadership in the Tucson world of fashion is legendary, as well as her devotion to Tucson," stated Kevin Casey, Moda Provocateur committee chair and owner of Avalon for Hair, Skin and Nails. "By naming this award for Cele Peterson, we will continue over the years to honor others who have impacted Tucson with their creativity, vision and hard work." Moda Provocateur begins with dinner and a pre-event show for VIP guests at 5pm, with the main event starting at 6pm.

The generous support of the guests at Moda Provocateur makes certain that people living with HIV/AIDS have some of the basic needs they otherwise could not afford, such as food, housing and medical and dental assistance. The committee is adamant about making HIV/AIDS awareness a key component of the evening. Nearly half of the 40,000 new infections in the United States each year occur among people ages 15 to 24. That is information that the audience, the models, the dancers and the public needs to know.

To learn more about Moda Provocateur, please visit saafmoda.org, or call SAAF at (520)628-7223. Guests can purchase a VIP table seating 10 near the runway, a high-top cocktail table for 4 near the end of the runway, or general seats (with reserved front row seats) by calling the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation at (520)628-7223. Tickets can also be purchased at any of the participating salons.

Gay Penguin Book May Soon Be Back In School Libraries

LEESBURG, Virginia (Observer Update) - A controversial children's book about two male penguins that was removed from general circulation at Loudoun County public elementary schools may be put back on the shelves in many school libraries, Superintendent Edgar B. Hatrick III said.

Hatrick decided earlier this month that only parents and teachers would have access to the book, "And Tango Makes Three," after a parent complained that it promoted a Gay agenda. But at the School Board

meeting, Hatrick said he had "exceeded the authority" given to him by the board.

Because the parent's challenge pertained to the book's availability at Sugarland Elementary, Hatrick said, the decision applies only to that school, not the 13 other elementary schools that have purchased the book. Librarians at those schools can decide whether to return it to shelves, he said.

AS I SEE IT..... BY CLARK



A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum
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Gay bashing in Jamaica is so prevalent that in 2006 Time magazine wrote an article about the island headlined, "The Most Homophobic Place On Earth?" The New York Times this week showed that the anti-Gay climate has only worsened, with the island caught in a downward spiral of outright psychosis. It is time to hand an ultimatum to Jamaica's public officials: Stop allowing rampant abuse of Gay people or your economy will be crippled.

The Times story is downright chilling. It details how last month five Gay men were having a dinner party when a mob appeared at the front door - kicking it in and attacking the men. While screaming homophobic epithets, between 15-20 thugs beat the victims senseless with sticks and cut them with machetes. One man is still missing, but police found blood at the mouth of a deep hole near the yard.

This was not an isolated incident. The Times went on to report a shocking attack on a Gay man's funeral last year, where hooligans trashed the church with rocks and bottles as the service was in session. Of course, this unholy barbarism occurred in the name of God. Interestingly, Jamaicans have turned their sex-fueled island into a heterosexual bathhouse and ganja den, but seem to get sanctimonious and discover the Bible when it comes to homosexuality.

Prior to these incidents, two of the island's notable Gay advocates, Steve Harvey and Brian Williamson,

COMMENTARY . . .

by Wayne Besen

It's Time To Boycott Jamaica

were murdered. Time Magazine reported that a crowd celebrated over Williamson's disfigured body. Time also recounted an incident in 2004 where a teen was nearly killed when his father learned his son was Gay and urged a mob to lynch the boy at his school. In the same year, it was reported that police heartily cheered on another mob as it stabbed and stoned a Gay man to death in Montego Bay. In 2006, a Kingston man drowned after a horde screaming "batty boy" (a Jamaican slur for Gay people) chased him off a high dock.

On American docks, six hundred miles west of this homophobic hellhole, tourists regularly line up to board massive luxury liners destined for Jamaica. The tropical island earned \$2.1 billion from tourism in 2006, an increase of 24 percent over 2005. More than three million people visited Jamaica in 2006, with 1,025,000 arrivals from the United States.

Clearly, the answer to Jamaica's love affair with lynching is an aggressive campaign designed to put the clamp on tourism - particularly the cruise industry. The goal should be to strangle Jamaica's economy and force the island to change or suffer severe consequences. With

tourism Jamaica's second largest source of revenue, such a campaign could have a powerful impact that achieves tangible results.

It appears that four major cruise lines are the main conduits in which people infuse Jamaica's economy with blood money. They are Carnival, Costa, Celebrity and Royal Caribbean. The ports where the ships leave are Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Port Canaveral and Galveston.

It is imperative that one of the GLBT international groups or a major U.S. Gay rights group create a campaign to shame these corporations and the passengers that travel on their ships. With so few ports, it would be relatively simple to call for a boycott and picket, while handing hand out informational flyers to cruisers. A "Boycott Jamaica" advertising campaign would greatly strengthen these actions. Billboards would need to be strategically placed along I-95 between Miami and Fort Lauderdale with the bold headline: "JA-MURDER."

Undoubtedly, there are many passengers with Gay friends and family members who are unaware of Jamaica's sickening and immoral violence against GLBT people. Once informed, many

individuals would opt to vacation elsewhere. There is no doubt that with a concerted effort, Jamaica could be brought to its knees.

To lift such a boycott, Jamaica would have to abolish its "buggery" law. Public officials would have to undergo sensitivity training. The police would be required to set up daily undercover stings - where officers would dress in stereotypically Gay clothing and arrest would-be attackers. Finally, Jamaica's public officials would have to openly welcome Gay and Lesbian travelers and offer enthusiastic support for homosexuals living within the country.

It is time we stopped vacationing from our responsibility and started holding Jamaica and its corporate enablers accountable. Until anti-Gay atrocities are no longer the norm, Jamaica must be seen as an international pariah, rather than the faux paradise it presents to the world.

(Wayne Besen is an author, activist, columnist and public speaker. He is the founder and executive director for Truth Wins Out, an organization that counters the ex-Gay movement and right wing disinformation campaigns. Besen also is a former spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest Gay and Lesbian advocacy group. Besen is the author of a book nominated this year for two Lambda Literary Awards, "Anything But Straight: Unmasking the Scandals and Lies Behind the Ex-Gay Myth". This column is reprinted from 365Gay.com.)

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With New CD Out, K.D. Lang Says She Is A Nomad

TORONTO, Canada (Observer Update) - The first minute of k.d. lang's new disc "Watershed" feels like a quick trip through her musical life.

The song "I Dream of Spring" features a Brazilian beat, background strings and that soaring voice. Then, almost startlingly, comes the entrance of a pedal-steel guitar - an echo of the country music she was known for at the beginning of her career. It wasn't intentional, she said.

But perhaps because it is the first album she produced herself and wasn't answerable to another person's vision, "Watershed" draws together the styles she has touched upon over the past 25 years.



K. D. Lang

Boy George Denies Sex, False Imprisonment Charge

LONDON (Observer Update) - Singer Boy George appeared in court to deny charges that he falsely imprisoned a male escort by chaining him to a wall.

The former Culture Club frontman, real name George O'Dowd, was granted bail and ordered to stand trial in November. He is accused of having imprisoned Norwegian escort Audun Carlsen, 28, last April. The offence is alleged to have taken place at George's home in Shoreditch, East London.

The 46-year-old former Culture Club frontman, dressed all in black and wearing sunglasses, pleaded not guilty during a brief hearing at Snaresbrook Crown Court.



Boy George Outside Court House

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Arts And Entertainment

BY Jack Melichar

TUCSON - To Kill A Mockingbird will open at the Temple of Music and Art, 330 S Scott Avenue on March 7. For those in my generation, we will remember it as an outstanding read - unlike the younger generation who are still stuck on Curious George.

I recently had the opportunity to interview John Rensenhause who plays Atticus Finch in this American Classic written by Harper Lee (by the way, the winner of the Pulitzer Prize).

Mr. Rensenhause will be filling big shoes indeed. In 1962, Gregory Peck played the same role and for it, won an Academy Award. However, Mr. Rensenhause is not an amateur. He recently completed a four year stint on the road in The Lion King. He has appeared in soap operas (his first professional appearance - The Edge of Night), Shakespeare - King Lear, The Taming of the Shrew and Dracula.

When I asked him how it felt to be following in the steps of Peck, he said "intimidating". I didn't have the heart to tell him I had played the same role in Boston. Why put the total fear of god in him?

I had assumed that being in a soap opera would be grueling work. I was wrong. He told me it was the closest to a 9 to 5 job that he had had in acting. Either fortunately or unfortunately, he was killed off after

the first year. I vote for fortunately, for I have never cared for soap operas and am enraptured by those who have mastered their craft.

I asked Mr. Rensenhause of his favorite roles. I was somewhat taken aback when he said Dracula. When I inquired as to why, his response was "I only had to fly in and out, and the money was good!"

His other favorite role was Petruchio in THE TAMING OF THE SHREW.

I am looking forward to the opening night on March 8, and to meeting Mr. Renhensouse.

Come join the Observer for the Arizona Theatre Company's "Night Out for the LGBT Community" at the Temple of Music and Art, in downtown Tucson. We begin our levity at 6:30 on March 6. Meet new LGBT friends, have a cocktail or two and then enjoy a wonderful night of theater. But you had better hustle your butts, i.e get them off the bar stools. Tickets are almost gone! If you mention the ATC ad in this issue of Observer, You can get \$5.00 off the single ticket price.

For ticket information, call 622-2823, or go to www.arizonatheatre.org.

"Mockingbirds don't do one thing but make music for us to enjoy. That's why it's a sin to kill a mockingbird." From Harper Lee's book TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

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. 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

Pedro and Me: Friendship, Loss and What I learned, Judd Winnick (Henry Holt). In graphic art format, describes the friendship between two roommates on the MTV show "Real World," one of whom died of AIDS.

Hard Love Ellen Wittlinger (Simon & Schuster). John thinks he's immune to emotional attachment until he meets bright, brittle Marisol. But Marisol is gay and just wants to be friends. Funny, reflective, and poignant. ship involves three simple concepts: "Stay Present," "Be Honest" and "Act Out of Love, Not Fear." (Gina Macaluso).

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



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LGBT Parents Involved In, Excluded From K-12 Schools; Children Often Harassed, Report Says



NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - The first comprehensive report on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) families' experiences in education, released by GLSEN, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, in partnership with the Family Equality Council and COLAGE, has found that LGBT parents are more likely to be involved in their children's K-12 education than the general parent population. These parents are more involved in school activities and more likely to report consistent communication with school personnel. In addition, both LGBT parents and children of LGBT parents often report harassment because of their family structure.

bullying and harassment based on actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender expression/identity reported the lowest level of mistreatment and that there were no differences between the no-policy and generic-policy groups.

"I want my sons' school environment to give them the opportunity to learn without harassment, and I want to be a welcomed and integral part of their educational experience as they grow," said Jennifer Chrisler, executive director of the Family Equality Council. "This report shows when schools have anti-bullying policies that are inclusive of sexual orientation and gender identity, the rates of harassment are lowered dramatically. These policies and comprehensive diversity curricula are tools that can curb mistreatment and bolster participation from all families. Knowing what works is a start, but schools have a long way to go and much left to do in putting them to the best and fullest use for our kids."

Current estimates indicate there are more than seven million LGBT parents with school-age children in the United States. Involved, Invisible, Ignored: The Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Parents and Their Children in Our Nation's K-12 Schools examines and highlights the school experiences of LGBT-headed families using results from surveys of LGBT parents of children in K-12 schools and of secondary students who have LGBT parents.

Key Findings, Students:

Nearly a quarter (23%) of students felt unsafe around other students at school due to others' negative attitudes toward people with LGBT parents.

Forty-two percent of students said they had been verbally harassed at school in the past year because their parents were LGBT. Over a third (37%) of students reported that they had been verbally harassed because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation and nearly a third had experienced verbal harassment because of the way in which they expressed their gender (32%).

Involved, Invisible, Ignored: The Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Parents and Their Children in Our Nation's K-12 Schools (PDF: 141 pages - 1.4MB)

"Family and education are two of the most important aspects of children's lives," said GLSEN Executive Director Kevin Jennings. "This report casts doubt on schools' inclusion of different kinds of families in our education system. LGBT parents are actively engaged in their children's education yet are often not accepted by school communities. Further, their children are often harassed in school simply because of the makeup of their families. All families in a school community should be valued and respected as equals."

Nearly a quarter (22%) of students said that a teacher, principal or other school staff person had discouraged them from talking about their family at school, and more than a third (36%) had felt that school personnel did not acknowledge their LGBT family (e.g., not permitting one parent to sign a student's form because s/he was not the legal parent/guardian). Furthermore, 28% said they heard teachers or other school staff make negative comments about LGBT families.

Key Findings, Parents:

LGBT parents are more likely to be involved in their children's education than the general parent population. Compared to data from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), LGBT parents are more likely to attend a parent-teacher conference in the past year (94% to 77%) and more likely to volunteer (67% to 42%).

"Students with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and/or Transgender parents face isolation, invisibility and alienation due to harassment, name-calling and bullying in their schools," said COLAGE Executive Director Beth Teper, who has a lesbian mother. "On behalf of the millions of people who have one or more LGBT parents, COLAGE urges students, schools and communities to learn about this important issue as the first step in building safe school environments for all. We also applaud youth with LGBT parents who act as educators and leaders every day when they navigate often unwelcoming schools."

More than half (53%) of parents described various forms of exclusion from their school communities: being excluded or prevented from fully participating in school activities and events, being excluded by school policies and procedures, and being ignored and feeling invisible.

LGBT parents reported mistreatment from other parents in the school community and even from their children's peers at school - 26% of LGBT parents in the survey reported mistreatment from other parents and 21% reported hearing negative comments about being LGBT from students.

Parents whose child's school had a comprehensive safe school policy that protected students from

Tucson Observer

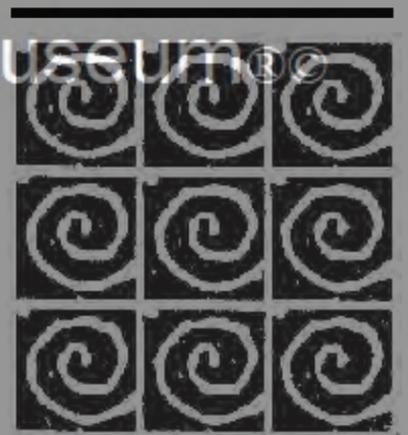
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Saving Our History Since 1967



POLITICS 2008

by Mark R. Kerr

rsletterslettersletters

Arizona Legislative Update

As of press time, Arizona's House Rules Committee is expected to approve House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 2065, during its weekly meeting Tuesday, March 4, when they review the language of proposals passed by other Arizona House of Representative committees.

HCR 2065 and its state Senate counterpart Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 1038 would place on the November ballot a proposed amendment to the state constitution defining marriages "as between one man and one woman."

For this to occur, these bills must be approved by their respective chambers before the end of the legislative session.

SCR 1038 still had not been given a hearing by the Arizona Senate Rules Committee.

In the legislative process, after the Rules Committee gives their approval (in most cases), proposed bills then are caucused in each chamber, then go to the respective Committee's of the Whole (the full legislative body), then get a final vote when they are third read.

Equality Arizona, the statewide Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) rights organization has set up an online action page for which people can E-mail their state Representatives and state Senator on SCR 1038 and HCR 2065. To let your elected officials know about your views, go online to eqfed.org/campaign/hcr2065...

Tucson's afternoon daily newspaper, the Tucson Citizen, in an editorial published Saturday, March 1, has come out against SCR 1038 and HCR 2065.

"Republicans in the Legislature have introduced a proposal to amend the state Constitution to ban same-sex marriage. Again? Yes, unfortunately," the editorial begins. "... We think the amendment is unnecessary and unwor-

thy of inclusion in our Constitution..."

"...The new proposal goes backward, seeking to identify in the state's most important legal document a class of Arizonans - homosexuals - and imbue them with a second-class status. That's wrong..." the March 1 Tucson Citizen editorial states.

"... We know that state legislators love symbolic gestures and often are driven by extreme ideology. But the state's Constitution isn't the place to score mean-spirited rhetorical points. We urge legislators to scuttle this proposal, with haste," it concludes with...

Friday, February 29, was the last day for bills introduced in their respective chambers to be considered by the committees they were assigned to. With the ultra-right wing, conservative Republican leadership in both chambers, proposed legislation on issues of concern to the LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities did not get hearings and are "dead in their present form."

These measures can be brought up as a "strike everything" amendment in which another bill, which had received a hearing and is further along in the legislative process, has its original language removed and replaced with the permission of the bill's original sponsor.

For bills which didn't receive an initial hearing, another one that is germane must be found and the language attached is the only other option. This is highly unlikely with the current leadership in both chambers though.

Arizona's Legislature can be found on the internet at azleg.gov.



(Editor's Note: The following is an E-mail received by The Observer from PFLAG-Tucson)

Dear Friend of PFLAG:

We appreciate your support over the past few years and are writing now to ask for additional assistance as PFLAG faces a crisis that threatens to severely limit the services that PFLAG offers to the community. Since the incorporation of PFLAG 15 years ago we have provided services in the form of peer counseling, panel discussions, monthly support meetings, a help line, a library of pamphlets, books and DVD's, as well as staffing booths and maintaining a presence at LGBT events throughout the year. Additionally we have established annual scholarship fund that has awarded in excess of \$20,000 in scholarships to deserving LGBT youth. These are all important activities that have benefited numerous individuals and provided critical education regarding LGBT issues to many whose hearts and minds have been changed.

PFLAG has been blessed with a number of compassionate, talented and dedicated board members over the years, and all of these individuals have made significant contributions to the organization. However, we are now faced with a crisis of leadership. Several critical and current board members, for substantial and personal reasons, cannot continue in their present role, and other members are unable to take on new responsibilities. This means that PFLAG may have to reduce the number of services offered. This would be a significant loss to the community. We continue to receive many invitations to speak to college classes and at other institutions. Calls to the help line and attendees to the monthly support meetings indicate that there is still a need for this type of support.

We have invited two representatives from PFLAG National to come and meet with us to assist in ascertain-

ing how to proceed and how to encourage more participation. This meeting will be held on Sunday, March 9 at 12:00 noon at the home of Donna and Jim Rochester, 4551 Camino Gacela. A light lunch will be provided, and we invite you to join us in this effort to ensure that PFLAG remains a viable force for good in Tucson. So much progress has been made over the past 15 years, and we feel that there is still work to be done and sincerely hope that you will be a part of the future of PFLAG. No matter what form your support takes, whether it be through active participation or simply advice and counsel, we welcome your contribution and hope to see you on March 9. Should you have any questions you may direct them to our help line, (520) 360-3795 or to Donna Rochester, (520) 577-7967.

Sincerely,
PFLAG Board of Directors

The following is a letter reprinted from the Arizona Daily Star from Tucsonan Hal Bardach.

THIS IS ARIZONA,
NOT NAZI GERMANY

Re: the Feb. 19 article "Gay Marriage Issue proves touchy for Ariz. Pols."

It strikes me that it would be easier for certain state legislators who are eager to amend the Arizona Constitution to discriminate against homosexuals to take a lesson from those good folks the Nazis.

In 1935, the German courts of Nuremberg created laws regarding Jews and other non-Aryans.

I suggest that those legislators simply substitute homosexual for Jew, add similar laws to our state's Constitution and then get on with the business of feeling ubermenschlich (a superior human) to a minority group.

Hal Bardach, Tucson

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Saving Our History Since 1967

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Reveille Men's Chorus, Tucson's internationally recognized men's chorus, is in its 13th year of changing lives through music. What began in 1995 as a community chorus with an array of singers has grown, morphed and transitioned in to a community institution of seasoned performers with an added public health focus on HIV/AIDS awareness, education and prevention. Under the leadership of artistic director, Linus Lerner, Reveille continues to change lives through music via its volunteer work and outreach performances.

As a performance ensemble, Reveille is dedicated to excellent choral performances both locally and internationally to promote human rights, diversity and a world free of AIDS. Based on the overwhelming response to their previous trips to South America and Mexico, Reveille has been invited to perform this season in Germany, Brazil, Mexico and Africa. Reveille will also be recording our 4th CD in May, and traveling to Miami, Florida, in July to participate in GALA Festival VIII, a

About Reveille Men's Chorus



conference of 150 choruses from around the world. In addition, Reveille will be performing at the 12th International AIDS Conference in Mexico City in August to close the 2007-2008 Season.

Locally, Reveille continues to support and be involved in the Tucson/Southern Arizona community as they perform their regular holiday and spring concerts as well as many outreach performances, including

Wingspan, AIDS Walk, SAAF and TIHAN events. Join Reveille in making beautiful music and new friends, too. Reveille rehearses every Thursday evening from 7:00 until 10:00 p.m. at The Historic Y, 300 E. University Blvd (University and 5th) in the Hall; entrance is on University Blvd. Auditions can be scheduled beforehand. For more information, call us at (520) 304-1758. For more information, go online to reveillechorus.org.

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Mars glides into Cancer this week and puts a bit of zing in our swing. Let the love flow, overflow or whatever.

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Gather your family together this week. Proud Rams have a heightened need to emotionally connect to close relatives as well as to draw nearer those who are at a distance. You may feel the need to put your feelings on the table and be totally honest in your hurts and heals. But you can also be more strategic so be sure to survey the land before you plant a stake.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

You speak with unusual passion when Mars enters Cancer. Queer Bulls are given the gift of persuasion and find themselves sought out as speakers and communicators. It time to get politicized and make your mark on the agenda. Why not use this passionate, compelling energy to put a face to your inner persona? Speak from the heart. Do you like who you see?

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Mars helps you reprioritize what is most important in your life. Is it extravagance, wine, sex and song? You better believe it! Well, it can also mean that you are far more astute with your finances. Let's put it this way, anything that you set your mind to do, you can do. And achievement requires action. So spend it or save it but don't squander it or let it float by, pink Twin.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Gay Crabs are in their element when sensual Mars slides into their own sign. First impressions are golden and inspired fashion statements are your personal mandates. Make good use of time compadre! You are charm personified and attract many fervent worshippers to your altar. However, I would avoid demanding sacrificial virgins. They are simply too hard to find.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

Let the good Gay karma roll all though the week. Proud Lions feel the need to give back to the community and the community gratefully responds. Get involved and reap the rewards. Your psychic ability is right on target as hidden enemies are revealed and stopped in their tracks. Best to rub a crystal ball (or two) immediately. Are things coming into focus?

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

Mars in Cancer makes even plain platonic relationships a bit zestier. It's an opportune time to plan a few get togethers and expand your circle into a sphere. Queer Virgins may discover that a certain pal can become a bosom buddy but take things slowly. This can be a jealous and possessive time. It would be a shame to ruin a beautiful friendship for a flirt and a squirt.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Scratching your way to the top gets a bit smoother this week. Proud Libras can maneuver more easily through the corporate morass and take advantage of all opportunities to get ahead. But this energy is fleeting, so make the most of the transit by focusing all your attention and effort on the ultimate prize. Yes - early retirement, poolside!

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

Hook up with an exciting exotic stranger this week. And the stranger (and more mysterious) the better. Proud Scorps yearn to travel and experience new experiences. You can satisfy your urge by either planning a fabulous vacation or, if money and time are tight, cruising the internet or the immediate neighborhood. The world is your ocean so dive in and get wet!

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

Gay Archers are tempted to quaff their thirst at the company water cooler this week. Love on the job often sounds like a good idea but is inadvisable in the long term. Avoid opportunities to sharpen your pencil at your desk. There will be plenty of time to find love and affection after hours. Therefore keep your nose to the grindstone, shoulder to the wheel and eye on the clock.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

If your pastimes take on an intense and passionate hue, blame the blast on Mars in Cancer. Pink Caps are inspired and driven to create and disseminate. Let those creative juices flow. Of course, this planetary placement can also lead you to lurid, dissipating temptations, raucous parties, drunken debauches and general over the top behavior ... that is, if you are really lucky!

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

You are just too hot to handle this week. Aqueerians hold the key to the magic kingdom and are ready, willing and able to open up the gates to all interested visitors. But be discerning, pardner; this is a possessive and jealous moment in time. You may be willing to share but lovers are not. Let's avoid any messy scenes that require swabbing up.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Mars in Cancer can domesticate any Guppie. Relationships are the center of your world and you focus on pleasing partners and forging stronger bonds between the two of you. Try to give partners a bit of room to roam; this week may make you a bit more possessive than usual. Remember, looser ropes are more effective than tighter ones. Silk scarves, however, are better still...

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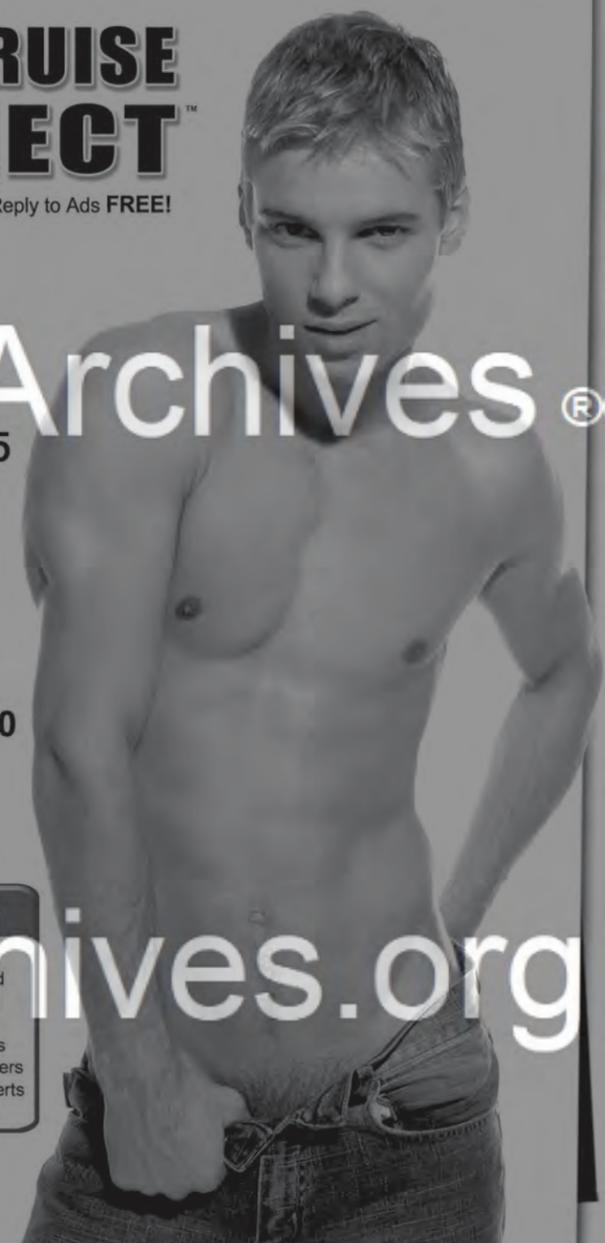
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Saving Our History Since 1967

Soap Fans Demand More Love From Young Gay Couple



Luke Snyder (Van Hansis) and Noah Mayer (Jake Silbermann)

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - The love affair between two young men on the venerable CBS soap opera "As the World Turns" has triggered a protest campaign by angry viewers. It's just not the sort of protest you'd expect.

Fans of the fictional romance between Luke Snyder and Noah Mayer are baffled about why the two characters

haven't kissed on-screen since September, wondering whether it's a sign of squeamishness by CBS or show sponsors Procter & Gamble Co.

The fans have started a letter-writing campaign, posted an online petition and even have a Web site that counts the days, hours, minutes and seconds since Luke and Noah last locked lips.

Ellen: Lawrence King Was Not A Second-Class Citizen

LOS ANGELES (Observer Update) - Daytime talk host and openly Gay stand-up comedienne Ellen DeGeneres recently spoke on her show about the recent shooting of 15-year-old Lawrence King, pageoneq.com. King, a student at E.O. Green Junior High School in Oxnard, California, had asked his classmate and suspected killer, Brandon McInerney, to be his valentine. This prompted threats, which McInerney is said to have carried out with a gunshot to the head in English class on February 12.

"A boy has been killed, and a number of lives have been ruined," DeGeneres says, "and somewhere along

the line a killer, Brandon, got the message that it's so threatening, and so awful, and so horrific that Larry would want to be his valentine, that killing Larry seemed to be the right thing to do."

"And," she continues, "when the message out there is so horrible; that to be Gay, you could get killed for it; we need to change the message." "Larry was not a second-class citizen. I am not a second-class citizen. It is OK if you're Gay." The entire monologue is available to view below, as posted on YouTube and broadcast on The Ellen DeGeneres Show on February 29.

S.F. Pride Nominates HRC For 'Pink Brick' Anti-Award

SAN FRANCISCO, California - For the first time, an LGBT organization has been nominated for San Francisco Pride's Pink Brick award - an award meant to recognize groups and individuals who've run afoul of the community or pushed for antiGay measures, the Bay Area Reporter reported.

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and its president, Joe Solmonese, are nominated this year for continuing to support a proposed federal Employment

Non-Discrimination Act that does not include protections for Transgender individuals.

The other Pink Brick nominees this year are Bill O'Reilly of Fox News, who's spoken out against same-sex marriage, frequently denounces San Francisco values, and has attacked the Folsom Street Fair, and Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who's said there are no homosexuals in his country.



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Dropped Charges Against TV Anchor Upset Gay Cops

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - An organization for Gay police officers expressed outrage that charges could be dropped against a former television news anchor who was accused of assaulting an officer.

The New York City Region of the Gay Officers Action League said it was "outraged and deeply concerned" that prosecutors downgraded charges against Alycia Lane from felony assault to misdemeanor obstruction of government administration and harassment.

The charges stem from a December 16, 2007, incident in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood. Lane, 35, confronted undercover officers who identified themselves, was disorderly, made homophobic remarks and struck a female officer in the face, the group said.



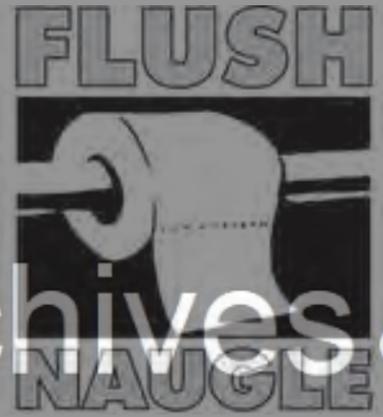
Alycia Lane

Jim Naugle Revives Toilet Crusade

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida (Observer Update) - Jim Naugle simply can't quit. The Fort Lauderdale mayor used his column in the latest tax-funded Focus On Fort Lauderdale to again take on toilet trolling, queerty.com reported.

Naugle, who famously proposed robo-toilets to curb cruising, writes: "Imagine my dismay this past summer when I learned that a tourism website was listing one of our main children's parks as a location for men to meet for sex. And then, we discovered that other parks and public places were listed on other websites on the Internet. Some denied that these activities were taking place. The Police Department made arrests, but I know the problem is not completely eliminated. I am hopeful that we are successful in curtailing these illegal activities in the future."

Floridian Gay activists aren't having it - Fight Out Loud say Naugle's comments lead "to an atmosphere of hate and violence."



Safe Sex



Is Bringing Men Together

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Friday, March 7
Tucson Prime Timers invites you to our weekly Friday no-host Cocktail Mixer at 5:30PM. Colors, 5350 E Speedway. See our website for club info: www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Saturday, March 8
Tucson Prime Timers invites you to attend a presentation by Dr. Stuart Cohen on Wingspan's programs for older gay folks. Regular Prime Timers meeting and no-host lunch to follow. 11AM at Wingspan, 425 E 7 St. see our website for club info: www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Sunday, March 9
5th Annual Moda Provocateur takes placd this evening at the University of Arizona Student Union Grand Ballroom. It is a celebration of incredible fashion, design and hair that raises public awareness about HIV, remembers those lost to AIDS, and supports sthe work of SAAF. For more info visit saafmoda.org or call SAAF (520)623-7223. Tickets are also available at participating salons. See pages sfive of this issue of Observer for additional information.

Tucson Prime Timers welcomes guests to our weekly Sunday Brunch at 11:00AM Colors, 5350 East Speedway. See our website for club info: www.tucsonprimetimers.org

3:30-5:30 p.m. Sign up for the monthly Men's Massage Group in its 18th year. Mark your calendar. Spend two 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.

Monday, March 10
Tucson Prime Timers welcomes visitors to our weekly drop-in Luncheon at 12:30PM. The Wildcat House 1800 North Stone. See our website for club info: www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Tuesday, March 11
Volunteer orientation for TIHAN today from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at TIHAN, 1011 N. Craycroft Rd., #301 Make a difference in someone's life today and become a TIHAN volunteer.

Friday, March 14
Tucson Prime Timers invites you to our weekly Friday no-host Cocktail Mixer at

5:30PM Colors, 5350 East Speedway. See our website for club info: www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Sunday, March 16
Tucson Prime Timers, welcomes guests to our weekly Sunday Brunch at 11:00AM Colors, 5350 East Speedway. See our website for club info: www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Monday, March 17
Tucson Prime Timers wishes you A Happy St. Patrick's Day and Invites you to our weekly drop-in Luncheon at 12:30PM . The Wildcat House 1800 North Stone. See our website for club info: www.tucsonprimetimer.org

Tuesday, March 18
The City of Tucson's Commission on GLBT Issues hold their monthly meeting this evening at 5:30 p.. In the EOO Conference Room, first flfloor, 100 N. Stone. For the meeting agenda, go online to tucsonaz.gov/clerks/uploads/bccfiles/2698.pdf

Friday, March 21
Tucson Prime Timers Invites you to our weekly Friday no-host Cocktail Mixer at 5:30PM Colors, 5350 East Speedway See our website for club info: www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Monday, March 24
Tucson Prime Timers welcomes you to our weekly Monday drop-in Luncheon at 12:30PM The Wildcat House, 1800 North Stone. See our website for club info: www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Friday, March 28
Tucson Prime Timers invites you to our weekly Friday no-host Cocktail Mixer at 5:30PM Colors, 5350 E Speedway. See our website for club info: www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Sunday, March 30
Tucson Prime Timers invites You to our weekly Sunday Brunch at 11:00AM Colors, 5350 E Speedway. See our website for club info: www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Monday, March 31
Tucson Prime Timers welcomes Visitors to our weekly drop-in Luncheon at 12:30PM The Wildcat House, 1800 North Stone. See our website for club info: www.tucsonprimetimers.org

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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.) We are a non profit social club that is open to every one. T.K.O. contributes to the fellowship and support of the community, and openly invites new members and/or guests. Monthly meetings occur on the first Saturday of every month. Please come and join us! Our next meeting will be held at Rose canyon lake at 12:00 pm. We will meeting at the yard dog at 10:30 am to car pool up to Rose canyon. T.K.O. will also be having a bake sale at Woodys on Sunday April 6th 3:00pm to 6:00 pm.

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 tool! 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.saaaf.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?

Start getting more out of life with meet on prime times. We provide local information from a remote location. For more info call Wingspan 624-1779. We are a national social organization for mature gay and bi men as well as younger (21+) men who enjoy their company. Each month we sponsor a wide range of dining events, cultural enrichment activities, parties, meetings, bowling, day trips, picnics, tours and much more. Visitors are always welcome. For info call our message phone 520 731-3485. Visit our website: www.tucsonprimetimes.org

TUCSON INFORMATION AND REFERRAL For Information on human service organizations, health and mental health services, financial and government assistance, emergency services such as food and shelter, education, etc. Call Information and Referral 325-2111 - 7am-7pm M-F - 9am-5pm weekend and holidays.

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

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

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

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

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

GET NAKED with TNTucson MEN! We're a social and recreational club. Have you ever longed to camp, swim, hike or play with others who enjoy the same,

dropping all the masks and pretensions? We're for you! TNTucsonMEN@nethere.com, P.O. Box 12176, Tucson 85792 or call 514-9894

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

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO - a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, Call the Bears Hotline (520)790-5775 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 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. Sundays only on 91.3 FM, Community Radio KXCI.

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

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

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

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

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

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

AAPSP - ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY PROFESSIONALS: a

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

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

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

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

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

REVEILLE 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 3 Jewels, 314 E. 6th St. Donations accepted. Contact Maurice Grossman for more info. 323-2293.

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

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

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

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



DAILY BAR CALENDAR

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

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 - Open 11am. Wear an NFL team t-shirt or jersey and get 50¢ off your drink. Smirnoff Vodkas \$2.50. Texas Hold-Em Poker 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-2am. Peter's Build Your Own Bloody Mary Bar 11am-2pm. Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excluding special events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-8pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar 2pm-2am. Beer Bust 2pm-7pm. Karaoke with Michael D 9pm-Close. Drag Bingo every other Sunday 8-9pm. Check our Ad for Special Events or Parties

YARD DOG - Open 10am - 2am. Mimosas & Bloody Mary Bar (Build your own)

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 \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Texas Hold-Em Poker 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 11am-2am. Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events) Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-10pm Back Pocket Patio Bar 8pm-close. Karaoke with Michael D. 9pm-close.

YARD DOG - Open 11am-2am. Beer Bust 3-7pm

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 - Open 3pm. \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Pitcher. \$2.50 well margaritas and tequila. 75¢ off call tequilas. Ladies Only Texas Hold-Em Poker 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 11am- 2am. Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-10pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar open 8pm-close, Caribbean Party Night with Woody's own Specialty Mojitos, Caprioskas and Martinis with Tucson's Hottest Bartenders.

YARD DOG - Open 11am-2am. Beer Bust 3-7pm

WEDNESDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. 1/2 Price 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.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open 3pm. 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. 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 11am-2am;. Happy Hour 11am-8pm excl. special events). Full Kitchen open

11am-10pm. Back Pocket Bar open 8pm-close. Service Industry Employee Special All Day Long - \$1 off all drinks except schnapps and draft. Different Themed Underwear Party 9pm-close with \$1.00 off for those who participate (excl. Schnapps and Draft). Retro 80s & 90s Dance with DJ Clint 9 til close..

YARD DOG - Open 11am-2am Beer Bust 3-7pm

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 - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Pitcher. Mexican Beers \$2.50 all day, all night. Starting 1/17/08 TNT Thursday Night Temptation for 18 & over. Eat-drink-dance Music with DJ Shorty v2.0

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 11am-2am; Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl Spec Events); Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-10pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar open 8pm-close. Cheap Party Day **FREE POOL**, \$1.00 PBR Longnecks, \$2.00 Tecate Longnecks. Techno and Top 40 Dance with DJ Jeff 9pm - close..

YARD DOG - Open 11am-2am Beer Bust 3-7pm

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 Faltin 6:30 to 9:30. "Guys & Dolls" drag show hosted by Lucinda Holliday at 10pm. Nightly dinner specials. Drink specials during the drag show.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open 3pm. 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 11am-2am; Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-11pm Back Pocket Patio Bar open 5pm-close. Enjoy the Live Blues/Motown/Soul sounds of Simon Crown 6-9 p.m.; Request your favorite Music Dance Night with DJ Clint 9pm-close. Monthly Birthday Party every 2nd Friday Night of the month.

YARD DOG - Open 11am-2am. Beer Bust 3-7pm. Patio Bar Opens 8pm

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 Starr. 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 11am-2am; Happy Hour 10am-8pm (excl spec events); Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-11pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar open 5pm-close. Techno and Top 40 Dance with DJ Jeff 9pm til close. Check our ad for Twice-A-Month Special Events or Themed Parties.

YARD DOG - Open 8am-2am. Patio Bar Opens 8pm.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

WOODY'S- Board Sorts Night!! Hot 80s & 90s Dance with DJ Clint 9 - close. \$1.00 off all drinks 8:00 p.m. to closing. (Excluding Draft and Schnapps).

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

WOODY'S - Live Blues - Motown Soul with Simon Crown. 6:00p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Then dancing with DJ Clint.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

HOWL AT THE MOON - Mr. Boogie Woogie electrifies the night which his incredible energy. Boogie Woogie piano at its best! 9:00 p.m. \$5 Cover

WOODY'S - 1st Annual "Hookers Ball". Dress in your best Street Walking Clothes. 9:00 to closing.

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

WOODY'S - Special Sunday Full Brunch \$6.00 - 11am - 2pm. Peter's Bloody Mary Buffet 11am - 3pm. Special Daylight Savings Time Beer Bust extended - 2-8 p.m. Drag Bingo with Stella Virgin and Janee Starr 8p.m. Karaoke 9pm.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

WOODY'S - "Tease & Tanks" Dance Party 9-close. Dance and wear your favorite "T" or "Tank" for drink specials.

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

WOODY'S - Live Soul/Motown/R&B by Simon Crown. March Birthday Party 10pm. Cake and Champagne Toast.

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

THE BIZ - God-Des and She from the 'L Word' will be performing live following the 'L Word'. Live at 9:00 p.m. Tickets on sale now!! 18+ \$15 Adv. \$17 @ door. 21+ \$10 Adv. \$12 Door. All ages show.

WOODY'S - Peter's Bloody Mary Buffet 11am - 3pm. Special Brunch \$6 11am-2pm. Bud Team - Rock Paper Scissors Contest - Prizes and Giveaways 9pm. Karaoke 9pm.

MONDAY, MARCH 17

THE BIZ - St. Patrick's Day Party. Watch for details!!!

WOODY'S - St. Patrick's Day Party and Corned Beef and Cabbage and Potato Dinner 5-8pm. Door Giveaways; \$3.75 Killian Red Promo 9pm with Killian Red Giveaways; Karaoke 9pm.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

"Tom/Tattered/Tattooed" Dance Party. Wear it and Dance and get Special Drink Prices.

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

WOODY'S - "Spring Break Party" - Dress for the Beach with Special Beach Drink Prices 9pm - close.

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

WOODY'S - Woody's Annual Easter Party and Easter Egg Hunt/"Basket Contest". Peter's Bloody Mary Buffet 11am-3pm. Easter Buffet Brunch only \$6, free glass of champagne included 11am-2pm. Drag Bingo with Stella Virgin and Janee Starr 8pm; Karaoke 9pm.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

WOODY'S - "Leather" Dance Party. Wear your best Leather Accessories for Special Drink Prices 9pm-close. Hottest Leather Contest \$50 prize

Ending the violence.

Wingspan launches the Anti-Violence Project – a community initiative to assist lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender victims of discrimination, domestic violence, sexual assault and hate crimes. Call the Anti-Violence Project 24-Hour Crisis Line at 624-0348, or toll-free 1-800-553-9387.



Southern Arizona's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center

www.wingspan.org

Gene That Can Block The Spread Of HIV Discovered

EDMONTON, Canada (Observer Update) - A team of researchers at the University of Alberta has discovered a gene that is able to block HIV, and in turn prevent the onset of AIDS, sciencedaily.com reported.

Stephen Barr, a molecular virologist in the Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology, says his team has identified a gene called TRIM22 that can block HIV infection in a cell culture by preventing the assembly of the virus.

"When we put this gene in cells, it prevents the assembly of the HIV virus," said Barr, a postdoctoral fellow. "This means the virus cannot get out of the cells to infect other cells, thereby blocking the spread of the virus."

Barr and his team also prevented cells from turning on TRIM22 - provoking an interesting phenomenon: the normal response of interferon, a protein that co-ordinates attacks against viral infections, became useless at blocking HIV infection.

"This means that TRIM22 is an essential part of our body's ability to fight off HIV. The results are very exciting because they show that our bodies have a gene that is capable of stopping the spread of HIV."

One of the greatest challenges in battling HIV is the virus' ability to mutate and evade medications. Antiretroviral drugs introduced during the late 1990s interfere with HIV's ability to produce new copies of itself - and even they are beneficial, the drugs are unable to eradicate the virus. Barr and his team have discovered a gene that could potentially do the job naturally.

"There are always newly emerging drug-resistant strains of HIV so the push has been to develop more natural means of blocking the virus. The discovery of this gene, which is natural in our cells, might provide a different avenue," said Barr. "The gene prevents the assembly of the virus so in the future the idea would be to develop drugs or vaccines that can mimic the effects of this gene."

"We are currently trying to figure out why this gene does not work in people infected with HIV and if there is a way to turn this gene on in those individuals," he added. "We hope that our research will lead to the design of new drugs, or vaccines that can halt the person-to-person transmission of HIV and the spread of the virus in the body, thereby blocking the onset of AIDS."

The researchers are now investigating the gene's ability to battle other viruses.

Baldwin Brothers Part Ways On Issue Of Same-Sex Marriage



Alec Baldwin with his brother Stephen

NEW YORK CITY - Film and TV star Alec Baldwin has spoken publicly about the anti-Gay political views of his younger and less well-known brother Stephen. He became a born-again Christian after the attacks on New York on September 11 2001.

During an appearance on the Howard Stern radio show in January he spoke out about same-sex marriage. "I don't believe that Gay marriage is in line with God's Word, which is found in the Bible," Stephen Baldwin said.

His hard line stance contrasts sharply with his more famous brother Alec Baldwin. In a recent interview with Gay magazine The Advocate Alec seemed unconcerned about his youngest brother's views. "In the modern political world, people like that, whether or not I'm related to them, only help us raise money," he said. "They want to ban Gay marriage because those people are incapable of having a biological family, that's their only argument."

Dutch Crown Princess To Attend LGBT Rights Conference

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands - The future Queen of The Netherlands will attend an LGBT rights conference organized by the Dutch Gay Federation (COC), becoming the first royal in the world to personally appear at such a session, 365Gay.com reported. Princess Maxima will address the conference, to be held in four major cities - Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague and Utrecht. Maxima is the wife of Crown Prince Willem-Alexander, the heir to the Dutch throne.

sign an accord at the end of the conference calling for the full acceptance of Gays in The Netherlands. "The Princess is in favor of equal rights of all groups in the Netherlands," the spokesperson said.

"This will be a historically significant royal presence. This is what we have been hoping for a very, very long time," said Frank Van Dalen of COC.

The conference will discuss the exclusion of Gays in society. A royal spokesperson said that the princess will

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