

Study: Military Gays & Lesbians Do Not Undermine Unit Cohesion



WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Congress should repeal the "don't ask, don't tell" policy because the presence of Gays in the military is unlikely to undermine the ability to fight and win, according to a new study released by a California-based research center, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

The study was conducted by four retired military officers, including the three-star Air Force lieutenant general who in early 1993 was tasked with implementing President Clinton's policy that the military stop questioning recruits on their sexual orientation. "Evidence shows that allowing Gays and Lesbians to serve openly is unlikely to pose any significant risk to morale, good order, discipline or cohesion," the officers states.

To support its contention, the panel points to the British and Israeli militaries, where it says Gay people serve openly without hurting the effectiveness of combat operations. Undermining unit cohesion was a determining factor when Congress passed the 1993 law, intended to keep the military from asking recruits their sexual orientation. In turn, service members can't say they are Gay or bisexual, engage in homosexual activity or marry a member of the same sex.

The study was sponsored by the Michael D. Palm Center at the University of California at Santa Barbara, which said it picked the panel members to portray a bipartisan representation of the different service branches. According to its Web site, the Palm Center "is committed to keeping researchers, journalists and the general public informed of the latest developments in the 'don't ask, don't tell' policy debate."

Two of the officers have endorsed Democratic candidates since leaving the military - Army Lt. Gen. Robert Gard, who supports Barack Obama, and Marine Corps Gen. Hugh Aitken, who backed Clinton in 1996.

Air Force Lt. Gen. Robert Minter Alexander, a Republican, was assigned in 1993 to a high-level panel established by the Defense Department to examine the issue of Gays in the military. At one point, he signed an order that prohibited the military from asking a recruit's sexual orientation.

Alexander said at the time he was simply trying to carry out the president's orders and not take a position. But he now believes the law should be repealed because it assumes the existence of Gays in the military is disruptive to units even though cultural attitudes are changing.

Further, the Defense Department and not Congress should be in charge of regulating sexual misconduct within the military, he said.

"Who else can better judge whether it's a threat to good order and discipline?" Alexander asked.

Navy Vice Adm. Jack Shanahan said he had no opinion on the issue when he joined the panel, having never confronted it in his 35-year military career. A self-described Republican who opposes the Bush administration's handling of the Iraq war, Shanahan said he was struck by the loss of personal integrity required by individuals to carry out "don't ask, don't tell."

"Everyone was living a big lie - the homosexuals were trying to hide their sexual orientation and the commanders were looking the other way because they didn't want to disrupt operations by trying to enforce the law," he said.

G/L Marriage: Until Deportation Do Us Part?

LOS ANGELES - Rita Boyadjian wishes she were in a better mood to celebrate the weddings of fellow Gay friends after California began legally marrying same-sex couples last month, reported Reuters on GayNewsWatch.com. But her partner of six years is a German woman whose U.S. student visa runs out soon. Even if they were to legally marry in California, Margot (not her real name) could not stay in the United States because the federal government does not recognize same-sex marriage for immigration purposes.

This month the well-to-do couple and their nine-month-old baby will move to Germany so they can stay together. "It's a little bittersweet, I have to be honest," said Boyadjian, 38, a first-generation American who owns a Hollywood entertainment marketing company. "I am very happy for my friends and I do know a lot of people who are getting married this summer ... but I am sad that while the celebrations are going on, I have to leave."

Gay rights activists estimate that 40,000 binational Gay and Lesbian couples in the United States are caught in the same legal limbo. A solution, they say, is years away. When California's Supreme Court struck down a ban on Gay marriage in May, becoming the second state after Massachusetts to allow same-sex nuptials, Boyadjian said she was inundated with congratulatory calls from friends believing the couple's problems were solved.

But the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services confirms that nothing changes with the California court's ruling. "The couples are married under state laws in California. The federal government does not recognize these marriages for immigration purposes," USCIS spokeswoman Chris Rhatigan told Reuters.

Binational couples could make matters worse if they wed since getting married signals intent to stay in the United States. "We cannot get married in California without jeopardizing Margot's future visa applications," said Boyadjian. Indeed, legal experts are telling these couples not to rush to the altar in California, which, unlike Massachusetts, will marry non-resident Gays and Lesbians.

Rachel Tiven, executive director for advocacy group Immigration Equality, is pinning hopes on passage of the Uniting American Families Act in the U.S. Congress "in the next few years." That act would let U.S. citizens in binational same-sex relationships sponsor their foreign-born partners for immigration. Tiven said Gay and Lesbian couples have learned to live with their lack of rights because their relationships make it all worth it. But the immigration inequality "can cost you the relationship itself," she said.

Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian

Rights, said he has seen many Gay and Lesbian couples like Boyadjian and Margot leave the country to stay together. "We have a Gay brain drain," said Minter.

At least 19 nations worldwide provide some form of immigration benefits to the same-sex partners of citizens and permanent residents, while the U.S. still refuses. They include Canada as well as about a dozen European countries.

Thom Vernon, a California arts educator with two graduate degrees, had to move to Canada to save his relationship with his partner, who is from Zimbabwe. They have since married. "I am an American citizen, for God's sake," said Vernon from his home in Toronto. "The fact that I can't bring in my partner of nine years is incredibly unfair and unjust." As a highly educated professional, Vernon has an advantage in seeking residency in another country like Canada, but binational couples of lesser means don't have that option.

One such couple is formed by Dora, a Mexican national who has not been able to secure permanent residency in the United States, and Patty, who was born in Mexico but recently became a U.S. citizen. The Lesbian couple resides in the San Francisco Bay Area, plans to marry and asked that their last names not be used due to immigration concerns. "We do live with the fear of deportation," said Dora, who is now here legally and has a job driving a garbage truck. "We don't know what would happen. It is not like Patty could go to Mexico because she has her daughters here."

Minter can't predict when these Gay and Lesbian couples will be able to breathe easy, but says he is encouraged by the growing public support for Gay rights in the last four years. "We are seeing the fear dissipate and I think that will eventually spill over to the immigration context," Minter said. "Real families are being torn apart and once it clicks in, that is 90 percent of the battle."

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



UPDATE

AGRA Poster Contest

PHOENIX - The Arizona Gay Rodeo Association (AGRA) is sponsoring a poster contest for the 2009 Road Runner Regional Rodeo that will take place January 16-18, 2009. Judging for the winning poster will be by vote of the AGRA members present at the September 7 membership meeting. Anyone may submit a poster design; you do not have to be an AGRA member to submit a poster. The artist of the winning entry will receive a \$200.00 cash prize from AGRA.

Entries must be 17" x 22" finished size with the only text on the poster being 2009 Road Runner Regional Rodeo. The artist's name and phone number must be printed in the upper right-hand corner on the back of the poster. Entries received with the artist's name on the front of the poster will be disqualified. The winning design and artwork become the property of AGRA. All other entries will be destroyed within two (2) weeks following the judging - unless the artist makes arrangements with AGRA to pick them up or to be returned at the artist's expense. AGRA will contact the winning artist to award the prize - in return for a CD file of the winning design.

All entries must be received by 5:00 p.m. Friday, August 29, Entries received after this time/date will not be considered. Mail entries to: AGRA, 2009 RRRR Poster Contest, P.O. Box 40465, Phoenix, AZ 85067. Contact Greg Gillum, Rodeo PR Coordinator, (623) 203-9305 to make arrangements to hand-deliver your poster. If you have any questions, contact Greg Gillum. Cell: (623) 203-9305, E-mail: 3destiny@msn.com.

The Colorful Life Of Shellie Lynn July 13

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Wingspan's "Colorful Life Series" features the interesting, exciting and sometimes unusual lives of LGBT people in our community. Son, brother, husband, father, grandfather. Athlete, dishwasher, charter boat deck hand, gas station attendant, mechanic, advertising representative, sailor, sheet metal worker, teacher, advisor.. Jack Armstrong? Walt Cleaver? No, it is the essence of the pre-metamorphosis of Michelle Lynn.

Having transitioned at midlife, Michelle is now the spouse, parent, grandparent, sister, and friend she always knew she was behind the façade of who she was supposed to be. Now everyone else gets to know her too!

Everyone is welcome to this event, Sunday, July 13, at the Tucson Ward 6 Council Office, 3202 E. 1st Street. For more information, contact Penelope Starr at Wingspan, (520) 624-1779, or E-mail pstarr@wingspan.org.

Reveille Off To Miami For Gala Festival

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Reveille Men's Chorus will be departing Friday (July 11) for their groundbreaking trip to Miami, Florida to participate in the GALA (Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses) VIII Conference, July 12- 19.

Reveille will be joining over 150 GLBT choruses from around the world (5,700 singers) for a week of music and pride. Reveille is very proud to represent Tucson at this event as they have for the past 12 years. In addition to performing the chorus members will be attending the performances of all the other choruses representing their cities (or countries), seminars and classes, and of course there's a lot of fun activities planned too (South Beach is just a cab's ride away). "GALA Conference is held once every four years and for someone who has never been to one it's hard to describe just what an amazing experience it is," said Reveille singer and board treasurer Ted Rigney. "The love and support you feel from all the other choruses is amazing and let's face it, to spend a week with over 5,000 gay and lesbian people isn't bad!"

Reveille has been planning this trip for over a year now. "The logistics of getting a 25 member chorus to conference like this can be daunting," said Michael Monyak, Board President. "I guess that's one reason why this conference is only held once every four years when you think of accommodations for 6,000 singers, the venues, etc. Of course, not all of our members could afford to go on such a trip and it was very important to us to make sure that all Reveille members who wanted to go to Miami could go. The chorus has been busy over the past year sponsoring

many fundraisers to raise money for their GALA Scholarship Fund."

"The local community has been so great to us," remarked Jeffrey Bracker, Chorus President. "Woody's has allowed us to hold several beer busts at their bar and Colors Food and Spirits hosted a fundraising party for us. One of our members is a waiter at Vila Thai Restaurant on University Blvd. and the owners have had a fundraiser for us there every Wednesday evening for the past three weeks. We are blown away by the support." Now with less than a week to go Reveille has met their fundraising goal and they are off to Miami for a week of music, sharing, magic, and a lifetime of memories.

TIHAN 'Night Out At Sidewinders Ball Game' July 13

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Join us for TIHAN night at the Sidewinders baseball game on Sunday, July 13.

The fundraiser has been a tradition for 8 years to help fund TIHAN's (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network) services for people living with HIV/AIDS. Since 1994, TIHAN has provided support services free of charge for people living with HIV. July 13 is a doubleheader against the Portland Beavers, so you get two games for the price of one when you purchase tickets through TIHAN. There will be indoor and outdoor press box seating. As an added benefit, an All American Ball Park Meal of hot dogs, burgers, potato salad, chips, dessert, and beverages will be served between the two games of the doubleheader. Attendees have the chance to participate in a 50/50 raffle for \$1 per ticket and a silent auction including sports memorabilia, art, and gift certificates. TIHAN hopes to break previous event fundraising totals. As the number of people living with HIV increases and public funding for them decreases, there is a growing need for TIHAN's services, including our free monthly lunch program, emergency assistance for bills or memorial expenses, CareTeam support, and care packages of toiletry and household items not covered by food stamps for people living with HIV/AIDS

Games are scheduled to start at 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 13, at Tucson Electric Park.. Children are welcome. 2008 is the final season for the Sidewinders to play in Tucson, with a planned move to Reno, NV for the 2009 season. Tickets are \$30 and a portion (\$13.52) of each ticket is tax-deductible. For tickets, call Greg Rogan at (520) 742-0646 or the TIHAN office at (520) 299-6647.

Equality Arizona Radio Marks First Anniversary

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - Join host Donna Rossi for Equality Arizona Radio's First Anniversary celebration, Saturday, July 12.

Come tour the KPHX studio, located at 824 East Washington, Saturday, July 12, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and watch the show during their live airing, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Donna Rossi will look back over the past year. Hear from local and national special guests and learn what's in store for the upcoming year. For more information or to RSVP, go online to eqfed.org/ahr/events/radio1/details.tcl.

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



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



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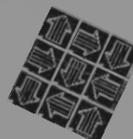
Saturday, July 12, 4-8 pm

Country Saving Our History Since 1967 Rock n' Roll

Saturday, July 19

NCC Pageant with Lucinda Holliday





Around The Old Pueblo

Come join Rainbow Families for two hours of bowling at Lucky Strike Bowl, 4015 E Speedway (just east of Alvernon), Sunday, July 20, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. at Lucky Strike Bowl, 4015 E. Speedway. The cost is \$6.49 per bowler and includes two hours of unlimited bowling and shoe rental. For more information, call Peter Lake (520) 245-6659, lakepet@hotmail.com.

If you have always wanted to know more about using a computer and your friends are bugging you to wade into the cyberworld, this is a perfect opportunity, starting Saturday, July 12, 10:00 a.m. to noon at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St. You'll learn from the proven OASIS model in the company of other LGBT seniors in Wingspan's computer lab. Classes are being taught by the talented and knowledgeable Wingspan volunteer, Rick. This is a 4-week class that includes Getting Acquainted with the Computer and Exploring the Internet. Space is limited so contact Penelope to reserve a place for you. For more information contact Penelope Starr, (520) 624-1779 ext. 122, pstarr@wingspan.org.

P/T General Manager position open in Desert Voices Chorus who has been lifting Tucson spirits for 20 years and in need a GM for fund development and marketing projects. The salary range is \$10K to \$12K per year, but the opportunity for growth is contingent upon your skill and abilities! Desert Voices require some experience, and a lot of heart. Come join the Desert Voices family, and make music happen! Some experience required. Resumes are being accepted at DesertVoices.org or P.O. Box 270, Tucson, AZ 85702-0270, and are due by July 15. AAVEOE

Wingspan AVP Responds To Alleged Bias Crime Incident

TUCSON - The Wingspan Anti-Violence Program (AVP) has received information that an alleged bias-based crime occurred in Tucson in early May. Details about the incident are not yet available. The Wingspan AVP, a unit of Wingspan, Southern Arizona Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Community center asks community members to be vigilant about bias-based violence in Southern Arizona.

Bias-based violence is violence motivated by prejudices against a specific group of people. Incidents of bias- or hate-motivated violence (often called hate crimes) are committed against people of color, homeless people, elderly people, people with disabilities, immigrants, and LGBT people. These acts range from vandalism to harassment to assault to murder. The LGBT community is vulnerable to bias violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity. The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Projects, a coalition of programs that document and advocate for victims of anti-LGBT and anti-HIV/AIDS violence, 2007 Anti-LGBT Violence Annual Report noted an alarming 24% increase in total number of victims reporting incidents of anti-LGBT violence on a national level. This information is based on statistics reported by over 30 LGBT Anti-Violence Programs nationwide.

The Wingspan AVP offers survivors of violence free and confidential advocacy services. AVP staff can assist survivors with the process of reporting violence to law enforcement, accessing community resources and safety planning.

The Wingspan AVP offers the following safety tips to the community: Use the Buddy System, Don't go places

alone and don't let your buddies go alone. Stay in well-lit areas. Try to keep out of dark allies and corners. When walking up to your car, look into the back seat before getting inside. When at parties and bars, only drink beverages that you or a close friend gets.

If you are walking and you feel like you are being followed you can do the following things as you feel appropriate: Stay calm but walk faster. Look behind you. Hold your keys in your hand (in case you are attacked). Scream. Walk up to a stranger and tell them. Go to a business that is open and go inside. Use a phone to call 9-1-1. Do not go home! Do not go to a friend's house!

If you are being followed in a vehicle use the following safety tips: Stay calm and drive the speed limit. Lock all your doors. Close all your windows. Call 9-1-1 from your cell phone. Stay on well-lit, major streets. Drive to a 24-hour business or a police station. Run into the 24-hour business and talk to the clerk. Do not go home! Do not go to a friend's house!

When going out with someone you don't know well, go out with a group of friends. Be cautious of folks wanting you to meet strangers.

To schedule an appointment with Wingspan AVP please call the main Wingspan number, (520) 624-1779, or email avp@wingspan.org. In an emergency, please call the crisis line at (520) 624-0348 or 800-553-9387.



Photographer Appeals Fine For Refusing To Take Lesbian Couple Pictures

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico (Observer Update) - An appeal was filed Wednesday (July 2) by an Albuquerque photographer who was fined over \$6,000 for refusing to take pictures of a lesbian couple's commitment ceremony, 365Gay.com reported. In April the state Human Rights Commission ruled that Elaine Huguenin, owner of Elaine Photography, violated the Human Rights Act by discriminating against Vanessa Willock and her partner on the basis of sexual orientation.

Willock filed the complaint after Huguenin said she would only photograph traditional marriages. Following an investigation and hearing the commission issued a one-page ruling, finding that Huguenin had violated the state Human Rights Act and ordered her to pay \$6,637 for Willock's attorney's fees and costs. In its ruling the commission likened the business to a public accommodation, similar to a restaurant or store.

Huguenin was represented by the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF), a conservative Christian law practice involved in fighting LGBT rights in a number of states. ADF maintains the commission failed to take into consideration Huguenin's religious protections which also are guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution. The appeal asks the state district court to reverse the commission's decision and dismiss Willock's complaint. ADF senior counsel, Jordan Lorence said Huguenin is appeal "as for as it will go", refusing to rule out the possibility of fighting all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

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COMMENTARY...
by Wayne Besen

The Ugly Phase Begins

For a brief moment, it looked as if the GLBT community might escape gratuitous Gay baiting in the 2008 presidential campaign. Unlike the past few election cycles where the strategy was to secure the base at all costs, McCain and Obama were vigorously vying for moderate and Independent swing voters.

The pro-Gay Obama was competing in all 50 states - thus tailoring his general election message to the skeptical rather than the converted. McCain, for his part, appeared on Ellen DeGeneres' talk show and pointedly refused to exploit marriage as a wedge issue in California.

The dream scenario playing out was almost too good to be true. If Obama won with a firmly Democratic Congress in place, it would likely lead to the advancement of GLBT issues on Capitol Hill. If McCain emerged as the victor without pandering to the Religious Right, he would be free to pursue a moderate agenda and not be beholden to extremists. It is doubtful that this would lead to any advancement on GLBT equality, but it would set the GOP on a more moderate course and curtail their anti-Gay obsession.

The beauty of this situation was that for the first time in memory, GLBT people were not forced to put all of their eggs in one basket and play feast or famine politics. I'm certainly not saying the records of the two men are equivalent. Obama is an all you can eat buffet, compared to McCain, a stingy one-course dish with a soggy side of greens. Still, this would have been a superior situation to a Republican nominee getting elected on the backs of Gay and Lesbian people.

Unfortunately, McCain made a strategic decision that he could not win without securing the party's right wing base. My guess is that the campaign's internal polling suggested that Obama - aided by his bloated bank account - was winning too many Independents, so McCain had no choice but to make peace with social conservatives.

Leaders from the Religious Right were reinforcing this reality by making it clear that if McCain did not grovel, they wouldn't help get out the vote.

"We told him that if he didn't come out and share his pro-family stances on these issues, then he can kiss Ohio goodbye," said influential anti-Gay Ohio activist Phil Burress, according to the Los Angeles Times.

With his divisive new strategy in place, McCain met with prominent social conservatives in Ohio and all but licked their boots. At the meeting, he announced his support for an initiative in California to ban same-sex marriage. In his speech he said that Californians ought to "recognize marriage as a unique institution between a man and a woman, just as we did in my home state of Arizona. I do not believe judges should be making these decisions." (Despite McCain's anti-Gay campaigning, the Arizona amendment failed)

McCain's efforts seemed to work and suggest there is time to rally the right to his side.

"It was obvious there were a lot of changed hearts in the room," said Burress. "We realized that he's with us on the majority of the issues we care about."

McCain also said that he hoped to meet with James Dobson, the virulently anti-Gay leader of Focus on the Family. Dobson has said he would not vote for McCain and claimed that neither candidate gives "a hoot about the family."

To convert a skeptical Dobson, McCain would have to make extraordinary promises and essentially sell his soul. Such a move would signal that McCain has dropped all pretenses of appealing to mainstream Americans and that his campaign has decided to follow the Karl Rove playbook of using red meat to create red states. This incipient strategy is depressing and ends hope of a classy campaign that could have united Americans.

Obama, for his part, is going after religious voters who are dissatisfied with McCain. He met last month with Rev. Franklin Graham, the son of Billy Graham, and endorsed a sweeping faith based initiative.

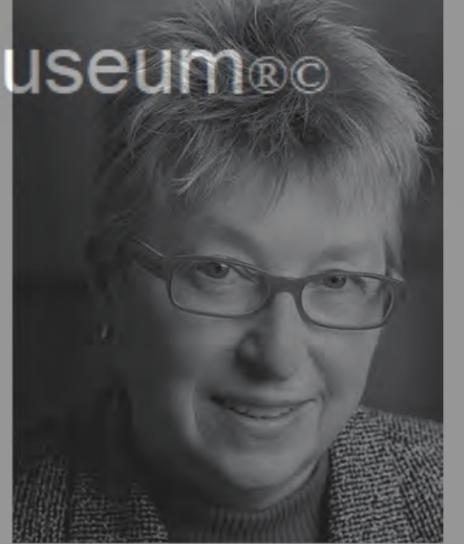
In my view, the faith-based initiative is a nightmare in practice, if not principle. These programs are useless, a waste of taxpayer money and are nothing more than pork barrel prayer and thinly disguised preacher payoffs. The Obama campaign should lose voters over this stunt, but it won't, as McCain's flirtation with the fringe no longer leaves him as a viable option.

This time will be remembered for McCain abandoning his efforts to win GLBT votes, but it will also mark the moment the GLBT community lost much of its leverage over the Obama campaign. The only way Obama could now lose significant GLBT support is by selecting an anti-Gay Vice Presidential candidate, such as Sam Nunn.

A presidential race with the religious right on the sidelines was fun while it lasted, but too good to be true. Now, comes the ugly phase of the campaign, where the GOP lies about our lives and our families become fodder to rile up conservatives in an effort to save John McCain's sluggish campaign.

(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. This oped is reprinted from 365Gay.com.)

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PERSPECTIVE

Hancock's 'Homo' Blunder



By Damon Romine

Unfortunately, the millions of audience members who take their family to see Smith's Hancock will have to hear the obnoxious, drunk anti-hero utter an anti-Gay slur.

At approximately 24 minutes into the film, while Jason Bateman's PR whiz works to rehabilitate the superhero's tarnished image, he shows Hancock three comic book images in an effort to inspire him. But Hancock rejects the traditional image of costumed superheroes as he responds to each one: "Homo. Homo in red. Norwegian homo."

The audience is prompted to laugh and there is no response to or retribution for Hancock's remarks. Bateman's character, the father of a young son, could have easily spoken up instead of giving Hancock a pass

changed the story if that brief interaction had been left on the cutting room floor? No one would have missed the line if it wasn't there, but an unfortunate choice was made to go for the cheap Gay joke. In that moment, young Gay people in the movie's audience are put in the position of being ridiculed by a character they are expected to regard as a hero. People go to films to escape reality — or schoolyard taunts — not to pay ten bucks and be ridiculed some more, especially not by someone the Los Angeles Times calls "the most likable actor in the world."

Rated PG-13, Hancock is being marketed to families, teens and young adults. This film certainly presents an opportunity for parents to explain to their kids that the usually entertaining character of Hancock is not modeling good behavior. But let's get real: Hancock's use of the slur sends a problematic message that it's okay to discriminate using such hateful words. Every day, people — both Gay and straight — are taunted and verbally harassed in their schools and in their communities with these kinds of words, creating an environment that's hostile, uncomfortable, and often unsafe. To have a heroic character — and by extension actor Will Smith — use, and by implication approve of, this kind of language is simply unacceptable.

GLAAD understands that sometimes anti-Gay language shows up in dramatic narrative to reveal a character's true colors, or to convey a message. But there's a big difference between using it to highlight a character's anti-Gay attitudes and making a cheap, unfunny shot at Gay people.

(Romine is the Entertainment Media director of GLAAD.)

Better yet, would it have

Across The Q Globe

A Gay asylum seeker has been told that he should be safe in his homeland of Syria, provided he behaves "discreetly." A tribunal found that Gays have no right of protection from international persecution. Jojo Jako Jacob, who is 19, claims he will be executed if he is returned to Syria. He escaped two years ago after suffering severe abuse at the hands of the Syrian police and prison guards when he was arrested for distributing anti-government leaflets. After discovering he was homosexual, he says prison guards beat him so severely that he fell into a coma. At a recent hearing, British government officials accused him of lying about his sexuality and his treatment by the Syrian police.

Hundreds of thousands of Gays, Lesbians and their supporters on Saturday (July 5) took part in a colourful parade across Madrid, the capital of a country that has become a world leader in Gay rights. Equality Minister Bibiano Aido led the parade of more than 30 floats, mostly related to Gay bars and other businesses, but also one devoted to the Abba-themed musical "Mamma Mia", under a hot sun and to the beat of techno and Brazilian music. "It is a day of joy, to demand the rights of people and all citizens," said Aido. The minister, 31, appears on the cover of the latest edition of Spanish Gay monthly magazine Zero in a bright purple dress alongside a Lesbian, a Gay man and a transsexual as characters from the 1939 film "Wizard of Oz" which is popular with Gays.

undercover unit to combat homosexual and indecent activity on the emirate's public beaches, a recent press report said. An unnamed official at Dubai Police's Criminal Investigation Department told UAE daily Al-Emarat al-Youm that police officers in civilian clothing are patrolling local beaches after complaints from the public of indecent behavior, especially at night time. He encouraged the public to report any activity they find offensive. According to Dubai government statistics, out of 2.97 million beach visitors last year, 641 people were caught engaging in indecent acts. There were also seven cases of alcohol consumption, five cases of alcohol possession, and five attempted robberies.

Few park visitors would object to cutting back overgrown bushes. But to some members of the Gay community, the undergrowth at a popular beauty spot in Bristol, England, is something to be protected. And when the council proposed removing the bushes for conservation purposes, they were met with an unusually dogged response. The council's own Gay rights group said such actions would be 'discriminating' to homosexual and bisexual men who are known to use the area for outdoor sex. As a result, the consultation process was forced to include discussions with Gay rights groups about their concerns.

Dubai Police have formed an

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Let's Have Fun

It is the benefit of our carefully regulated society that we are protected from the casual violence that can come from debate; the barroom brawl is even falling out of vogue, as this staple of redneck discourse is now a sure ticket to jail in most parts.

drivers and all manner of over-consumptive monkeys; there is nothing they can do except be embarrassed.

The main reason this works, I think, is that the monkeys that engage in this sort of "primary" antisocial behavior (oink, oink) are actually a bit on the dim side intellectually. When they are faced with another monkey that can hone in on the problem without getting into the cute little rationales these people use to justify piggy behavior, they just get mad.

But remember; they can't hit you, shoot you, have you arrested or do anything except call you names.

They reason for this limited response is a limited I.Q.

So let's have fun. When you are next to a dumb-shit that drives a big machine, talk about the lack of self-esteem it must take to drive a Suburban.

If your neighbor plants a lawn, look down your nose at him and smile a knowing smile. Say something cute about the confusion "transplants" to the desert must feel when they try to understand the climate.

You get the idea.

If you are smart enough to know how to behave, don't imagine that the rest of the planet is too. They aren't.

What they are is proud, dim-witted little lords and ladies that have a huge investiture in their appearance; that is why they drive what they drive, etc. etc.

So what we can do to help them with this handicap, this condition of mental retardation, is to make fun of them. Taunt them.

Go ahead; have fun. It isn't bullying, it's just a form of social interaction that is underutilized and very effective; ostracism. Take the fun out of conspicuous consumption. Hit 'em where it hurts; in that little, tiny, great, big ego.

Make it hurt to be a forty-year old baby. Stick a figurative finger in a figurative eye today and save a stupid person from himself.

In fact, this "civilized" requirement in our behavior is the factor that allows lawyers to loot retirement accounts, HMOs to routinely disallow critical health benefits and any depth of "legal but immoral" behavior.

It occurred to me at the ripe age of 26 that I could, in fact, say anything I cared, to anybody (except, of course, a policeman) and that the response would always be "civilized". That is, nobody is going to punch JP out for being rude and obnoxious.

Up until that time, JP's betters were sometimes rude, condescending and generally conducted themselves and their business in ways that were beneficial to them, not JP.

All that changed.

What I knew then, and know now, is that I am willing to punch these people, but that I am constrained by a strong sense that I want to stay out of jail. Ergo, I will only commit violence to protect myself.

But what others can sense is that I am willing. The bad little monkeys that I have issue with are generally wholehearted supporters of the social contract of non-violence; they generally commit actions that would get their smug little butts kicked in a better world. They are secure in the knowledge that they can rob and plunder, drive Hummers, plant lawns in the desert and generally act in ways that are rapacious without fear of physical reprisal. Dupe a dummy and suffer no consequence.

But the gate swings both ways.

It has been my experience that I can casually mention what I think of Hummer drivers to a Hummer owner. So long as I smile and keep my tone conversational and condescending, there is nothing anyone can do. Same for lawn owners, drugstore cowboy truck

Gay Aussies Flocking To U.S. For Surrogates

LOS ANGELES, California (Observer Update) - More than 100 Gay Australian couples have paid \$80,000 to create a baby using surrogate mothers in the United States, according to one Los Angeles-based fertility clinic, advocate.com reported.

told AAP. Surrogacy laws in Australia vary from state to state, and while the country is moving toward making laws consistent nationwide, it is unlikely to legalize surrogacy for Gay couples, according to AAP.

"We've seen more than 125 Gay couples from Australia who have gone home with a baby," the Fertility Institute's medical director, Jeffrey Steinberg, told the Australian Associated Press (AAP). "We're up to six to eight a month now, which is a four-fold increase over two years ago. That makes Australia one of our biggest markets, neck-and-neck with Britain," he said. It is illegal for Gay couples to have children through surrogacy in Australia.

Clients of the Fertility Institute pick an egg donor from a list of 400 university students. The eggs are then implanted in a different woman, who bears the child. Most of the Gay Australians who use the clinics services are affluent, professional men who "desperately want a child," Steinberg



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Saving Our History Since 1967

POLITICS 2008

by Mark R. Kerr

'Action Alert' Volume One'

During her weekly press conference, Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano, publicly expressed her opposition she opposes amending the Arizona Constitution to ban Gay and Lesbian marriage and called the November vote on the issue unnecessary. Governor Napolitano called the proposal a "prophylactic" constitutional amendment, one that isn't needed because courts have upheld a state law that bans same sex marriage.

Former Arizona Gay Republican Congressman, Jim Kolbe of Tucson, announced his renunciation of his open support for current state Senate President and candidate for the Republican nomination for Congress for Kolbe's old seat, Tim Bee. According to the Sierra Vista Herald who initially broke the story and subsequent follow-ups by other news outlets, Kolbe would not give the reason why for the break with Bee's campaign as honorary chair, holding a fund raiser for Bee in Washington D.C.

One can surmise that is was because of Bee being the 16th vote to getting a proposed state constitutional amendment defining marriage as "a union between one man and one woman" on the November general election ballot despite current state law and court precedent but Kolbe won't say why his renunciation, something that isn't new for Kolbe, who won't renounce his vote for the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) in 1996 - despite the recent admission that it was wrong, by the drafter of the bill, former Republican Congressman and current Libertarian Presidential candidate, Bob Barr.

When it comes to issues of concern to the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) and HIV/AIDS communities, it is imperative to ensure that our collective voice plays a role in government and that we are "heard," and with the upcoming elections, there is a lot of work to be accomplished between now and November.

As of press time, it will be less than a month before the deadline (August 4) to be registered for the September 2 primary election as well as early voting (July 31) commences and the LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities must take part in these important elections to ensure that "our voice" does not go silent. In the next few issues, this column will cover the races of note.

For Congress in Southern Arizona, it is a "political no-brainer," since the community is lucky to have such good, honorable public servants, U.S. Representatives Raul Grijalva and Gabrielle Giffords serving in the U.S. House. Neither faces a primary opponent but will have a general election campaign to run against their Republican challengers. Call (520) 629-0050 or go online to grijalvaforcongress.com or for Gabrielle Giffords, (520) 512-0012 or online at giffordsforcongress.com.

In the Republican controlled Arizona Legislature, recently adjourned after their fourth longest session ever (166 days) passing a craptacular budget and approving legislation dealing with horsetripping, botox injections, guns in the class room and putting a proposed state constitutional amendment defining marriage as a "union between a man and a woman" on the November general election ballot, it is imperative to select people who will serve the interests of the people, not the interests of lobbyists and groups such as the homophobic, Center for Arizona

Policy.

Of the primary contests in the Legislative Districts (LD), there are two of note that the LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities can play a pivotal part, the Democratic contests for the (LD) 27 House and the (LD) 29 House. In Southern Arizona, there some districts that will have primary contests for the Republican nominations for the House and Senate but when can the LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities expect anything from them, when they support measures to create "wedge issues" out of people, based on their gender, race, national origin and sexual orientation, perceived or otherwise.

In LD 27, House Democratic leader, state Representative Phil Lopes and state Representative Olivia Cajero-Bedford, two strong friends to the LGBT community are being challenged by former state Representative and now perennial candidate, John Kromko. It's time for the community to step up and help Phil and Olivia out in this campaign. To reach Phil Lopes' campaign, E-mail the campaign at lopesphil@gmail.com or call (520) 743-9258 and call (520) 623-1992, or E-mail: ocajerob@yahoo.com Olivia's campaign.

With the retirement of state Senator Victor Soltero and the unopposed ascension by current state Representative and LGBT ally, Linda Lopez to the state's upper chamber, a donnybrook has erupted to see who will succeed Lopez in the House. This contest could have unintended, negative consequences for the LGBT community if current state Representative Tom Prezelski is left out of the voting come September 2.

Prezelski has been active and ardent supporter of the LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities through his past actions, amendments, legislation and statements made on behalf during the legislative session and especially this most recent marathon that took place at 1700 West Washington. He has been there when we needed him and its time to return that favor by helping his campaign out and for more information, either call Tom at (520) 349-9045 or E-mail him at fusilero@aol.com.

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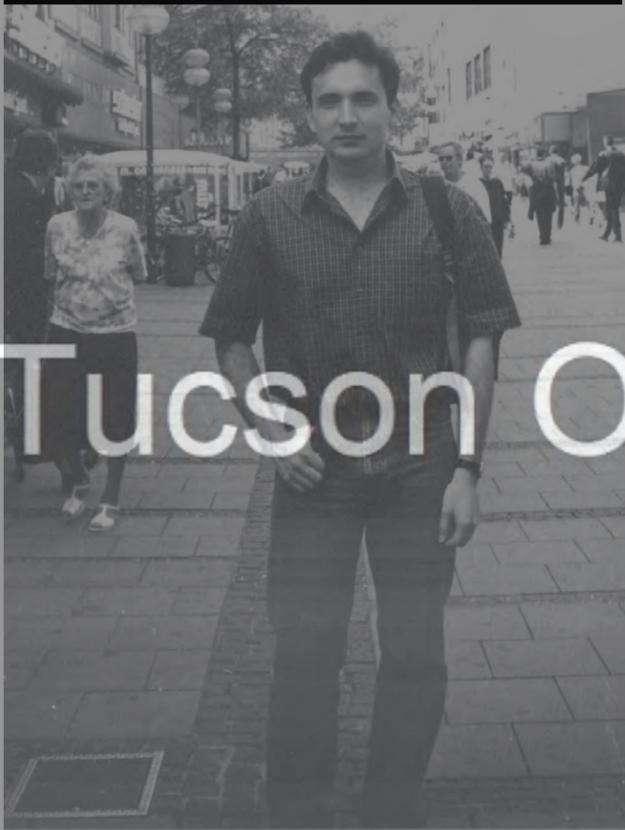
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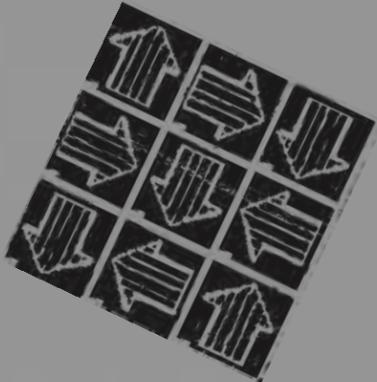
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Readers-

The following letter and photo were received Saturday. Observer receives letters of this sort often, mostly from incarcerated persons, and we do not ordinarily print them. This one from Valentin, was mailed from Kiev, Ukraine. We have printed his photo and letter exactly as written and believe (in his broken English) that it is a sincere and poignant plea for friendship. We reprint it here for your response if you so desire. We still offer the advice that you are on your own and to be careful.

Bob Ellis, Editor



Valentin,
P.O.Box 22.,
Kiev 03065.,
Ukraine.
28th of June 2008.

Dear Sirs,

Sorry to trouble you. I found your address by chance and I decided write to you. I hope you'll get my letter and I hope for the best only. Please help me if it is possible for you.

My name is Valentin. I am Ukrainian boy. I am gay and I very want to find my special friend, my special man like my lover and my partner for correspondence, good meetings, real friendship, love and for long relationship. Maybe for all next life and maybe for live together as one couple if we'll lucky. Maybe you will make fun of me but USA is my favourite country from my childhood. I read many books and saw many films about your country. I felt and feel by all my heart that I would find my special friend, my special man in USA.

I graduated university as a teacher of geography for secondary school. I have mother and younger sister. They do not know about my "secret" that I am gay. My father died ten years ago but he did not live with us and did not help either. He only beat mother and made any problems for our family. Now I must think about my mother, my younger sister and help for them because my mother is pensioner, sister is student at present time. Unfortunately all my gay dreams are impossible here in Ukraine from our situation. This is real problem for me here and I so want to change all my personal life for better. I so want to love and to be loved. I want to be happy only. Please understand my situation. I live in poor, stupid country and our life here in Ukraine is not so good but from other side I'm patriot of my country and I love my country. I love Ukraine not less than any Ukrainian president. Please help me if it is possible. I so hope for your real help. Now we have new president, new parliament, new government. Our people hope for better future. Me also but I think - we'll have changes for better if we'll have it - in long time only. Anyway I want to live now, not in ten or in twenty years... Sorry for my problems. I must not write it for you.

Unfortunately I have not any gay friend for real friendship, relationship, sex or for love here in Ukraine. It is impossible for me here.

I am 28 years old, my height is 5'10", weight 155 lbs.. I am manly.

Please help me if it is possible of course. Please publish my letter or my advertisement with my photo in your edition. Please give me one small chance. I so ask and pray you about the help. Unfortunately I can't pay for your help because I have very small income at present time (My salary after university is very small really. The money is not enough for normal food even) but I can do for you all that I'll able do. I'll glad to help for you and to do for you something that I'll able do. Please let me know.

The text for my short ad (if it is possible) is:

A good-looking, honest, intelligent, manly Ukrainian boy, 28 years old, height 5'10", weight 155 lbs., green eyes, with university education (teacher of geography), romantic, good health, nice body and good character. Hobbies are nature, travels, sport, music, art and literature. Do not smoke. Seeks one special man, real best friend for correspondence, good meetings, friendship, romance, love, happy long serious relationship and maybe for live together like one couple. Let's to try and we'll see. I am so tired from loneliness. I want to love and to be loved. I want to be happy only. (Please write to me by English.) Unfortunately I can't use e-mail for correspondence. I can use only usual letters.

- my post-address for correspondence is - Valentin., P.O.Box 22., Kiev 03065., Ukraine. I hope that I did not disturbing you. I'll very grateful to you for your help.

I wish you success! Luck! Happiness! I'll pray God about all the best for you.

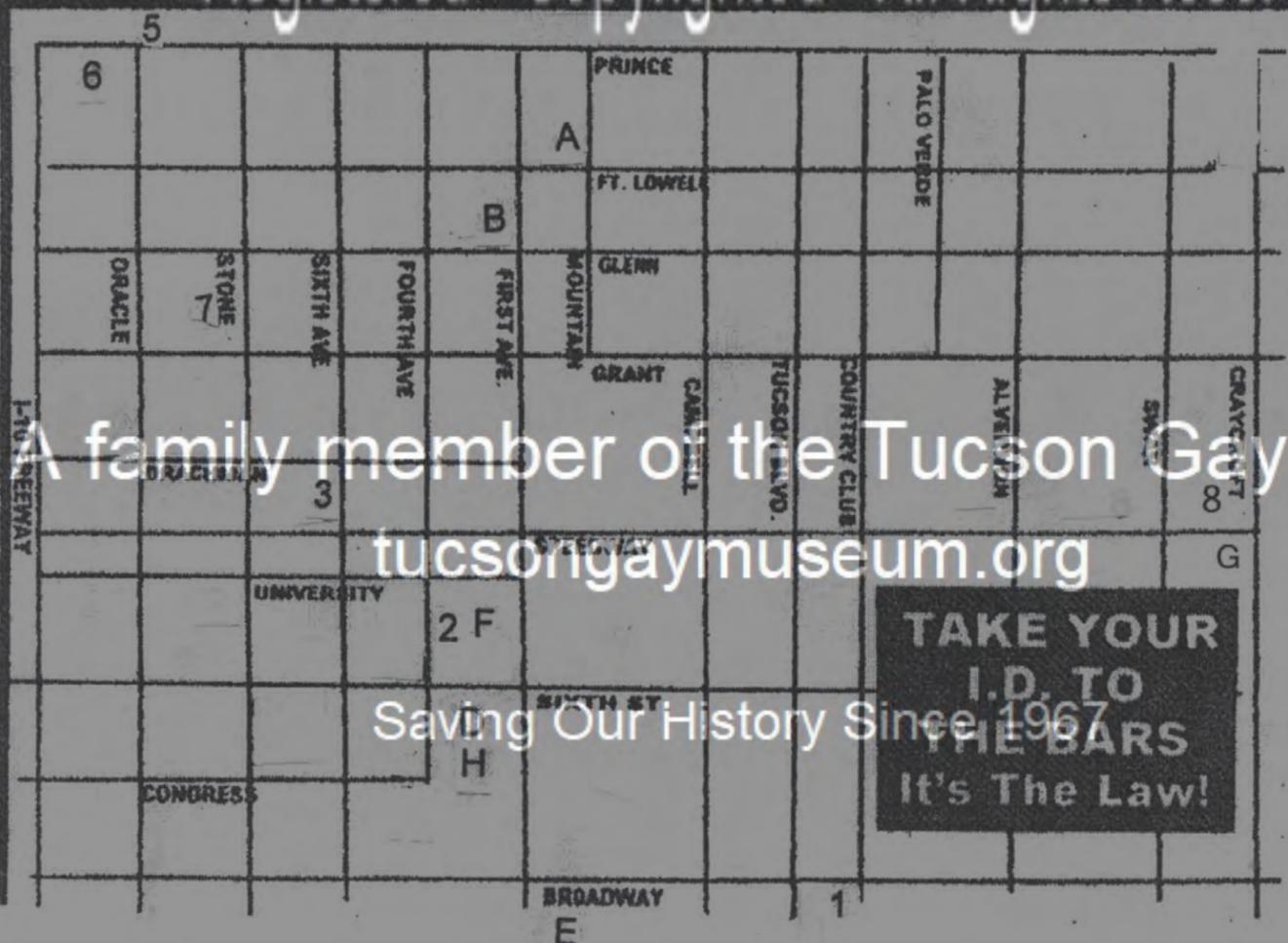
Yours sincerely,

Valentine.

P.S. Your real help will best gift for me at present time. Many, many thanks.

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JULY 9 A good idea can become a great one... or so it seems when Mercury opposes retro Pluto. Contemplate your wildest dreams. Will you soar with the gods or splat? Better pack a spatula in your bag of tricks.

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Despite your initial intent, you cannot contain your opinion and desires. All is splashed on the front pages. Good. Gay Rams need a push Out and about. Try a bit of travel or find ways of expanding your sphere by adding a few satellite planets into your gravitational pull. Not only will you warm the galaxy, you receive funding for your explorations.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

There is something magnificent about queer Bulls when Mercury opposes Pluto. Not only can they press and impress, they may also make a stray buck on the action. But don't place all your bets on one hot table. Parse out any golden commentary discerningly and don't display your entire hand. Sometimes it is better to keep them guessing and yearning.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Will you fall for just another pretty face when Mercury opposes Pluto? Maybe. Pink Twins feel the urge to feather their nests and seek connection. How much are you able to compromise on your individual preferences to achieve domestic harmony? If partners ask for too much, consider going with the flow for the time being. Balance is at hand in a few weeks.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

You are filled with great fantastical ideas and daydreams. But Gay Crabs are apt to daydream their workday away. This may not be a bad thing if you can hide your boredom and lethargy. But don't get caught snoozing at your computer. When in doubt, take a few breaks or, even better, take some vacation time. If you mind wanders, you might as well follow.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

Friends ratchet up the good Gay times. Join the party and see where the fun takes you. This is also a good time to explore your more creative side. If you lack the artistic ability, don't despair. Sometimes creativity makes itself known in various, surprising ways. Cook, dance, plan a fabulous event. Or wet the appetite of the usual crowd with your dry wit.

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

This is a very productive time for queer Virgins who want to get things done. Mercury opposes Pluto and requires a careful balancing act between your professional aspirations and your domestic agenda. This is just as you like it - attending to the details and seeing some substantive results. Of course you can also just delegate but would that be any fun?

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

International news will keep you on your toes. And you might even contribute to the assorted comings and goings. So figure out exactly what you want to say, refine your message and deliver it. Proud Libras can also discover important secrets that can be used to further their plans and attract important supporters. Are you able to charm the beast? Grrr.



SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

Money talks. Not only does it talk, it yells. Gay Scorps will find ways of maximizing their power by greasing big wheels. There are benefits that can be realized immediately. But don't squander your efforts and dough on merely selfish pursuits. Try to bring meaningful change for the greater good. What goes around comes around... and around.

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

Open up the channels of dialogue with partners or anyone with whom you have a meaningful relationship. There are areas of discord that can be untangled. Mercury opposes Pluto and makes it impossible for you to hold back your feelings. Good. It's time you get what you need when you need it. If diplomacy works, try it. If not, try some other way. No matter what, try.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

Sometimes it is the small, mundane aspects of life that carry the greatest message and have the greatest impact. This week, as Mercury opposes Pluto, pink Caps find novel ways to approach their work. And each new step can be transformative and refreshing. Of course too much of a good thing at work will draw suspicion. Try to look dour or bored every so often.

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

Aqueerians find ways of having fun when Mercury opposes Pluto. And fun can be infectious - suddenly everyone wants to get aboard your party train. Will you let anyone on or will you be a bit discerning? Try to maintain a small amount of quality in your choice of compadres. That is unless you prefer it low, lean and mean. The A list is not always what it is cracked up to be.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

This is the time to make your mark on the world and get a leg up in your career. Mercury opposes Pluto and can make any professional effort a volcanic, transformative one. Guppies may risk overdoing it in their zeal to achieve. The power elite can smell raw ambition. So pull yourself up by the bootstraps but don't inadvertently give yourself a wedgie in the process.

Anti-Adoption Initiative Faces Names Crunch

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (Observer Update) - An organization collecting signatures to place an initiative on the November ballot to ban unmarried couples from adopting or fostering children in Arkansas said it will submit its petitions by the deadline but will likely need more time to get the number required.

The Arkansas Family Council Action Committee needs 61,974 of the signatures to have the issued placed before voters. In an email to supporters committee chair Jerry Cox said that while it expects to have the required number of signatures it expects that about 25 percent will be disqualified. "We're going to have to continue working," the E-mail said.

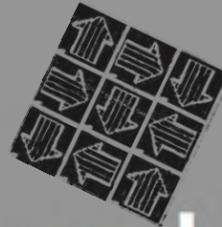
Under Arkansas law, groups seeking to have initiatives placed on the ballot have an additional 30-days from the deadline to collect more names if they collected the required number but saw some of the names discounted. "This means our petition drive is going into overtime," the E-mail said.

G/L Wisconsin Couples Learn It's Criminal To Marry In California

MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin (Observer Update) - An obscure state law makes it a crime for Wisconsin residents to enter into marriage in another state if the marriage would be prohibited here.

The law imposes a penalty for those who enter into a marriage that's prohibited or declared void in Wisconsin of up to \$10,000 and nine months in prison.

It's a concern for same-sex Wisconsin couples who might be considering a wedding in California, where the state Supreme Court recently legalized Gay marriage, according to Gay rights advocacy group Fair Wisconsin. However, it's unclear whether those couples would be prosecuted.



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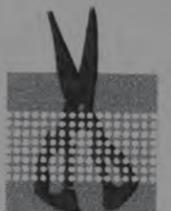
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Are You Covering Your Car With A TOGA?

by Dan Kalm

Today's economy continues to cause people to look for areas to save money. A person looking for ways to save money may make a decision to save a couple of dollars that later may cost them much more.

In auto insurance, the state of Arizona mandates that drivers carry minimum limits of 15/30/10. This means the most the insurance company will pay when you are at fault for a single injured person is \$15,000 and if multiple people are injured, \$30,000. The final \$10,000 indicates the maximum amount that an insurer will pay for damage to another person's property, for example, vehicle damage. When you consider emergency room bills and ongoing treatment or even funeral expenses, \$15,000 may not be enough. Also, according to the National Automobile Dealers Association, the average price of a new car sold in the United States is \$28,400. If a driver with minimum limits totals or severely damages another vehicle, \$10,000 limits could leave an at fault driver owing the difference between what the insurance coverage will pay and the total cost of repair or replacement.

answering some basic questions will help you choose the best auto coverage for your current situation. First, what assets (home, bank accounts, personal property or other belongings) do you need to protect? Secondly, many people do not realize that injured parties can sue for unpaid damages and wages in Arizona can be subject to garnishment for unpaid judgments. So, in addition to potentially losing your property and belongings, you may also have to give up a percentage of your wages to cover the amount that your available insurance did not pay. Not only could you lose all that you worked so hard to achieve, but your future earnings would also be affected.

As your life changes, your insurance coverage should change with you; an annual review of your policy with your insurance agent or company is a vital part of your financial future. So dust off your insurance paperwork today and make sure your coverage makes sense for your personal situation. As I tell my clients, "If a one size fits all approach to life made sense, we'd all be wearing togas."

(To reach Dan, call (520) 795-0231 or go online to dankalm.com.)

A short insurance review and

BUZZ BRIEFS

K-Mart Exec Officially Resigns To Join California Marriage Fight



Bill Stewart

SAN FRANCISCO (Observer Update) - The former chief marketing officer for Kmart, Bill Stewart, officially joined the Equality for All campaign to help defeat a proposed California constitutional amendment on the ballot this November that would ban same-sex marriage.

Stewart recently resigned from his executive position at Sears Holdings, Kmart's parent, where he earned a six-figure salary and had stock options and opportunities for bonuses. He has signed on to work as an unpaid volunteer with the Equality for All, a coalition of Gay advocacy groups dedicated to defending same-sex marriage and defeating the marriage amendment in California.

About 50 groups are members of the coalition. Prominent members are the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, Equality California, the Human Rights Campaign, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and the American Civil Liberties Union. Stewart made the decision to change careers after attending a GLAAD national board meeting in Los Angeles in early June regarding the looming threat to same-sex marriage. If voters approve the ballot measure, same-sex weddings would no longer be performed in California, and marriages that have already occurred might be voided.

Conservatives Boycott McDonald's Over Gay Rights

JACKSON, Mississippi (Observer Update) - A group that opposes same-sex marriage has called for a boycott of McDonald's, saying the fast-food giant has refused "to stay neutral in the cultural war over homosexuality."

The American Family Association (AFA) launched the boycott yesterday because McDonald's joined the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce several months ago and placed an executive on the group's board of directors, in addition to donating to the chamber. The association asked McDonald's to remove itself from the chamber but the burger-maker declined, leading to the boycott.

"We're saying that there are people who support AFA who don't appreciate their dollars from the hamburgers they bought being put into an organization that's going to fight against the values they believe in," Tim Wildmon, the association's president, said.

Science Fiction's Thomas Disch Ends His Life

NEW YORK CITY - Science fiction writer and poet Thomas Disch has committed suicide, authorities said. Disch died July 4 and his body was discovered July 5, according to the New York City Police Department. He was 68, Gay.com reported.

The author of seminal science-fiction novels "Camp Concentration" and "334," Disch had been openly Gay since 1968. Awarded many honors for his fiction, including two O. Henry awards, the genre-bending Disch also published more than a half-dozen books of poetry, a whimsical "Child's Garden of Grammar" (1997), a history of speculative fiction, "The Dreams Our Stuff Is Made Of" (1998) and the "Brave Little Toaster" series for children. Born in Des Moines, Iowa, in 1940, Disch moved to New York City to study architecture at



Thomas Disch

New York University. A writing class in his junior year intrigued him into trying pulp fiction; he sold an early effort to Fantastic Stories for \$112.50, according to the Minnesota Historical Society, and was hooked.

Holding a series of classic authorial grunt jobs, including Metropolitan Opera supernumerary and graveyard-shift newsman, Disch eventually became part of science fiction's New Wave, which took advantage of the 1960s' freedom to take on relevant topics in adult language and thereby gain cultural weight. Though some of his books, notably "334," derive from Disch's Gay experience, he was rarely touted as a "Gay writer." "I was pleased when a book called 'The Gay Canon' included 'On Wings of Song'; I thought, well, finally! they seem to notice me," Disch told Strange Horizons' David Horwich in 2001. Following the 2004 death of his partner, poet Charles Naylor, Disch was obliged to give up their longtime home and reportedly began suffering from depression.

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NON-BAR CALENDAR

Wednesday, July 9th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Hand and Foot with Marv and Steve 745-0304.

Thursday, July 10th
Men's Social Network. Bridge Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Contact Ike at 207-6264 for location and directions

Saturday July 12th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Shuffle over for Floating Pinochle every Saturday of the month except for first Saturday. Contact Marvin at 745-0304 for directions and information.

Sunday July 13th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Dinner Out at Zemam's. For reservations and directions, contact Thom 908-6160, e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com .

Sunday, July 13
3:30-5:30 p.m. Mark your calendar. Sign up for the monthly Men's Massage Group in its 18th year. Spend 2 hours on the 2nd Sunday of each month in nude bliss with other men. Non-Sexual. Call Marc at 881-4582 to sign up and for information.

Monday, July 14th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Trivial Pursuit. Please call Lee and Merlin at 207-5336 for information and to reserve your place at this limited seating event.

Wednesday, July 16th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Hand and Foot with Jack 887-3736

Thursday, July 17th
Men's Social Network. Mexican Dominoes. Open to men of all ages. 6:30pm. Call Jack at 887-3736 for directions.

Friday July 18th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. MSN Pizza Night! Did you phone in your reservation on time? Then join Bruce for a great MSN Pizza Night! You need to call Bruce at 743-

3839 by Thursday for reservations.

Saturday, July 19th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Shuffle over for Floating Pinochle every Saturday of the month except for first Saturday. Contact Steve at 664-2076 for directions and information.

Sunday, July 20th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Dinner Out at Country Folks. For reservations and directions, contact Thom 908-6160, e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com.

Monday, July 21st
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: Men's Book Club 6:30p.m. Meet Stephen and the group monthly for dinner and discussion of an agreed upon work of gay fiction. Currently, the group meets the 3rd Monday. Contact Stephen at 241-7854 to add yourself to their e-mail list.

Wednesday, July 23rd
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Hand and Foot with Lee and Merlin at 207-5336.

Thursday July 24th
Men's Social Network. Open to men of all ages. Bridge Join your MSN friends for a night of fun and cards. Call Ike at 207-6264.

Saturday July 26th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Shuffle over for Floating Pinochle every Saturday of the month except for first Saturday MSN Monthly Pot Luck. Contact Marvin at 745-0304.

Sunday, July 27th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:00p.m. Dinner Out at Le Rendev-Vous. For reservations and directions, contact Thom 908-6160, e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com. Please contact Thom by Sunday at Noon to facilitate reservations. Price is usually under \$10. Check the Yahoo MSN on-line calendar for the scheduled place.

Wednesday, July 30th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Hand & Foot with Peter at 881-8276.

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Fox Commentator: McCain Should Bash Gays To Appeal To The Right'



WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - During a panel discussion on Fox News Sunday (July 6), The Weekly Standard's Fred Barnes opined that the McCain campaign was going to have to use Gays as a wedge issue in order to appeal to the Right.

"He needs to touch on some of the social issues which energize the Right," Barnes said. "In particular, Gays in the military, for one. We know Barack Obama is for allowing Gays in the military, and Bill Clinton tried to do [it] and then backed off. This is not a popular issue.

Gay marriage is another. These are both issues that I think McCain's going to have to use. He can't ignore the right." (Go online to tucsonobserver.blogspot.com to view the clip.)

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NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

ARE YOU GAY OR BISEXUAL AND UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE? MSHAPE - The Men's Sexual Health and Personal Empowerment project (formerly GMHP), needs 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. <http://www.mshape.org>

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 at 10:30 am., Please come and join us! Our next meeting will be held at the Yard Dog, followed by a beer bust from 2pm to 6pm.

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

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

YOUNG AND GAY?
GLBT Youth 23 and under, meet Tucson for sharing, support and information. You are not alone. For more info call Wingspan, 624-1779.

Start getting more out of life with **TUCSON PRIME TIMERS**. We're the local chapter of Prime Timers Worldwide, the preeminent 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.tucsonprimetimers.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.

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

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

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

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

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

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 207-5336 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 (TIHAN) 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

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. 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.

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. on 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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.

NA MEETING WITH GLBT FOCUS meets Mondays, 6:30pm at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th Street. This is an open meeting of Narcotics Anonymous - all are welcome. For more info call Bernie W.: 406-0740



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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am; Visit the outdoor patio enjoy aa cocktail or two. Sports on all day!!! MLB; WNBA; You call it!! Music with DJ/Hill starts at 9pm.

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. Beer Bust Sunday - \$1 draft beers (12 oz), domestic only; \$2 domestic long necks. Texas Hold-Em Poker at 3 & 6. No cash involved - Play for Points & Prizes. **SIN Nite** - drink discounts for Service Industry employees

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. Visit the outdoor patio enjoy aa cocktail or two. Drink specials every hour.

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 3 - 8 p.m. \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Bucket o' Beer = \$10.00 Domestic, \$12.00 Imports (5 beers to a bucket, for 2 or more people, Guinness excluded). Texas Hold-Em Poker at 6 & 8:30 p.m. No cash involved - Play for points & Prizes

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. Beer Bust 3-7pm.

TUESDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Visit the outdoor patio enjoy aa cocktail or two. Drink specials every hour.

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. Happy Hour 3-8. \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Pitcher Special \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.00 lg. Pitcher (excluding Blue Moon & Alaskan Amber). Ladies Only Texas Hold-Em Poker at 6:00 p.m.

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

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

WOODY'S - Open 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, Capriokas 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 All Day \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Pitchers. Texas Hold-Em Poker at 6 & 8:30 pm Play for points & Prizes. No cash involved.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, "Divalicious" show 9pm w/ Bunny Fu Fu & Friends. After show dance with DJ Q til 2am,

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

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 11am-8pm excl. special events). Ful 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. Karaoke starts @9:30pm. With 2 for 1 starting after the first singer! (Poker Pub will resume in the Fall).

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. Bicardi Thursdays - \$2.50 Bicardi Rum. July 3rd Karaoke's back 8-10:30pm

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. With incredible Happy Hour pricing from 5-8pm. Noche de calor w/DJ Hill jugando la mejor en musica latino! Todos los viernes por la noche, la musica comienza a las 9. Shot specials cada nora!!

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. \$2.25 All Mexican Beers. Free Dance Lessons at 7:30 p.m. Country Dancing 8:30 p.m. to close with DJ Pat.

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. Patio opens @9pm. BEER PONG tournament on the patio every Saturday night!! DJ Hill 9pm. Don't forget to catch the WNBA games every Sat on our 51" flat screens!!

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. Plus check out the bartenders choice of shot specials. \$5.00 cheeseburger & fries. \$3.00 Cuervo and \$4.75 Jager Bombs. Check our calendar for the Saturday Night Special Entertainment.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, 5-8pm karaoke & Teryaki Kabobs on the patio. 8:30pm Show time w/ Bunny FuFu or Janee Starr. DJ Q spinning Club Music inside & 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.

Free Beginners Computer Classes For Seniors, July 12

TUCSON (Observer Update) - If you have always wanted to know more about using a computer and your friends are bugging you to wade into the cyberworld, this is a perfect opportunity, starting Saturday, July 12, 10:00 a.m. to noon at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St.

You'll learn from the proven OASIS model in the company of other LGBT seniors in Wingspan's computer lab. Classes are being taught by the talented and knowledgeable Wingspan volunteer, Rick. This is a 4-week class that includes Getting Acquainted with the Computer and Exploring the Internet. Space is limited so contact Penelope to reserve a place for you.

For more information contact Penelope Starr, (520)624-1779 ext. 122, pstarr@wingspan.org.

How can I help?

You can make a difference by volunteering with the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation!

- *Reception
- *Client Support
- *Prevention
- *Speaker's Bureau
- *Data Entry
- *Special Events
- *Fundraising
- ...and much more!

Newcomer Orientations are open to all those interested and are held once a month at our office, located at

375 South Euclid Avenue.

Contact Lisa Carter at 628-7223 or lcarter@saaf.org

Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation



SOME PEOPLE ARE GAY. GET OVER IT!

A member of the Tucson Gay Museum®.

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Jesse Helms Dead At 86



RALIEGH, North Carolina (Observer Update) - Jesse Helms, the former North Carolina senator with the courtly manner and mossy drawl who turned his hard-edged conservatism against civil rights, LGBT rights, foreign aid and modern art, died early Friday (July 4). He was 86.

Helms fought bitterly against federal financing for AIDS research and treatment, saying the disease resulted from "unnatural" and "disgusting" homosexual behavior.

"Nothing positive happened to Sodom and Gomorrah," he said, "and nothing positive is likely to happen to America if our people succumb to the drumbeats of support for the homosexual lifestyle."

ance, but individual happiness is still pretty subjective, and there are other, more minor factors that determine life satisfaction.

Where did the U.S. come in? Sixteenth. Which country was No. 1? Denmark. One impressive showing came from Latin America, where many of the nations ranked higher than the researchers had expected. Colombia, for example, came in at No. 3; Puerto Rico at No. 2. In fact, for all the study's emphasis on development, democratization and tolerance, Latin America makes even the researchers wonder. They speculate that happiness in Latin America might have something to do with those societies' strong belief in God. Traditional religion, according to the researchers, is also conducive to happiness.

Which brings us to a modern-day quandary. Modernity is good because it facilitates development, democracy and freedom of choice; but so is tradition because it gives us a sense of security, predictability and purpose in our lives. The study suggests that religious faith and social tolerance are a winning combination. Which leaves me wondering: Perhaps people in the U.S. would all be happier if more ministers, rabbis, imams and priests conducted more Gay marriages.

(Rodriguez is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times, from which this is reprinted from the July 7 edition.)

COMMENTARY. . . .

G/L Marriage The Key To Happiness??

By Gregory Rodriguez

LOS ANGELES, California (Observer Update) - A study finds that countries whose people enjoy more freedom tend to be happier. Who knew? The legalization of Gay marriage might make Californians happier. At least that's what a new study based on surveys of 350,000 people in nearly 100 countries suggests.

No, the authors aren't Gay activists, nor do they seem to be peddling any particular political agenda. But in their search to discover which countries are happier than others and why, these scholars - led by University of Michigan political scientist Ronald Inglehart - have stumbled on one pretty fundamental conclusion about what people want out of life: freedom.

Yes, that's right, more or less the same thing you were celebrating Friday by scarfing down hamburgers next to the pool in your brother-in-law's backyard. How exactly, you ask, is Gay marriage connected with "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness"?

It's simple. According to surveys, in developed countries discrimination against women and minorities is actually waning and Gays remain the least tolerated "outgroup" in society. They are the proverbial canaries in the coal mine. In most developed countries, the relative level of their acceptance or rejection is a sensitive indicator of that society's overall tolerance toward minorities. And - here's the takeaway - social tolerance "broadens the range of choices available to people," thereby enhancing happiness for both the tolerant and the intolerant alike.

Sounds a little too touchy-feely, right? Are they saying that Armenians, who were next to last in the study's happiness ranking, should immediately allow Gays to marry in order to be happier? Not exactly.

The researchers have found that freedom of choice is not only a universal aspiration but the single most important basis of human happiness. But to get to freedom of choice for Armenians, who live in poverty, social tolerance might not beat out economic development on the national "to-do" list. That's because first, you have to have enough food to eat. Of course, economic well-being doesn't just buy food, it also frees people from the lack of life choices that deprivation imposes - suddenly you're on your way up the happiness scale.

But money can only take you so far. The transition from a subsistence economy to moderate economic security has a profound effect on a nation's happiness. But once a nation gets past the level of, say, Portugal (No. 47), economic growth begins to produce diminishing returns. That's when, the study's authors theorize, humans can afford to try to maximize "free choice in all the realms of life." Here in the U.S., we know all about post-materialist politics and the emergence of "quality of life" issues.

At this stage, what does a society have to look like in order to create more free choice and more happiness? The study indicates that you need democratization and, most important of all, social tolerance.

"Yes, I know that all this sounds like I've been brainwashed by my third-grade teacher," lead researcher Inglehart told me, "but it turns out it's true. The empirical evidence is clear: Freedom is conducive to happiness."

For years, scholars were convinced that a nation's level of happiness was constant. Previous research indicated that neither sudden tragedy nor rising fortunes could alter a nation's long-term levels of satisfaction. Biological studies also have shown the degree to which happiness can be inherited. But the sheer size of the survey sample in this study, as well as the fact that it was longitudinal - tracking results for most countries over nearly 20 years - strongly suggest that the old studies were wrong. The happiness of a society fluctuates and usually is based on the relative freedom (including freedom from scarcity) of its population.

The researchers' theories can account for a lot about the rankings that emerged from their work, but not everything. After all, the big picture might be development, democracy and toler-

9th Annual

TIHAN night at the Sidewinders

Sunday, July 13th

DOUBLE HEADER
against the



\$30 per person includes

Admission to the park for BOTH games!!
Indoor + Outdoor Press Box Seating
Dogs - Burgers - Potato Salad/Chips - Dessert
Soft Drinks - Bottled Water - No Host Adult Beverages

Special Features
50/50 Raffle - \$1 per ticket
winner receives 50% of ticket sales - remainder benefits TIHAN
Silent Auction
your opportunity to bid against other guests on various Sports Memorabilia - Creative Arts - Gift Certificates

For Tickets Call
TIHAN 231-9147
Greg Rogan 742-0846

Meet and take your picture with Sandy the Sidewinder!!

Gates open at 3:30pm - Games start at 4:00pm + 6:00pm
 All American Ball Park Meal served BETWEEN games
 A portion of each ticket (\$13.52) is a tax deductible donation to TIHAN

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