

## Hundreds of Thousands March At World Pride In Rome

ROME, Italy (NP) - Hundreds of thousands made the home of the Catholic Church "a little freer," and despite the Pope's preference for prisoners the impact is not likely to be lost.

After all the Vatican outcry, right-wing threats, and debates in the City Council and the national Parliament, the July 8 march climaxing World Pride 2000 in Rome turned out to be a peaceful stroll for participants numbered at 70,000 by police, at 400 - 700,000 by organizers, and at least 200,000 by Italy's state TV, which broadcast the event. However counted, it was a huge increase over the 10,000 at Rome Pride 1999, despite heat that was melting the asphalt, and it was agreed to be one of the biggest gatherings in Rome for many years.

Certainly the media coverage of months of debate brought Italy's Gay and Lesbian civil rights movement a whole new level of visibility, including the nation's first Cabinet member to publicly identify himself as a Gay man (or at least as someone who didn't want such limiting labels as "homosexual" or "heterosexual" applied to him), and a new understanding that the issue is one of civil rights. A strong police presence kept anti-Gay protesters far from Gay and Lesbian venues for the nine-day celebration, helped not a little by the far-right Forza Nuova party canceling its counter-protest, ostensibly because of the July 6 death of one of their co-founder's young daughter.

Despite repeated denunciations from the Vatican, among the leaders of the pride march and rally was an Italian Roman Catholic priest, Father Vitaliano Della Sala. He serves Sant'Angelo A Scala, a small village in the south, but he felt a large responsibility to try to counter what he viewed as prejudice against Gays and Lesbians created by his Church. He expects to be punished for participating in Pride. Pride organizers said that many other priests from other nations had joined the march as well. (To be sure some who were not priests marched in vestments.)

Even the day following the Pride March, Pope John Paul II told an applauding crowd in St. Peter's Square that, "In the name of the Church of Rome I cannot but express my bitterness at the insult" of World Pride occurring "during the grand Jubilee Year 2000 and for the offense to Christian values in a city that is so dear to the hearts of Catholics all over the world." The pontiff repeated that, "Homosexual acts are against nature's laws. The Church cannot silence the truth because it would not live up to its faith in God the creator and would not help discern what is good from what is evil."

The Pope also quoted the Catechism teaching that, "The number of men

and women with deeply rooted homosexual tendencies is not negligible. This objectively disordered inclination is for the greater part of them a trial. They must be treated with respect, compassion and delicacy. Any sign of unjust discrimination against them must be avoided. Such people are called to carry out the Will of God in their lives, and if they are Christian, to unite the difficulties they encounter as a result of their condition to the Lord's sacrifice on the cross."

These remarks from the pontiff followed his special mass for imprisoned murderers, rapists, drug dealers, and thieves, as he petitions for inmates to be freed in observance of the Jubilee.

Although organizers had recommended downplaying the conflict with the Church, some march participants expressed their own opinions with signs such as, "1943: The Vatican says nothing about the deportation of Gays and Jews; 2000: The Vatican speaks out against Gay Pride," "In memory of all those homosexuals persecuted and killed by the Catholic Church," "Our Father who art in heaven, keep out of my life," "Keep the Church out of the bedroom," and "Pope Wojtyla - I wear a dress too."

Non-Gays joined and watched the march in solidarity, some bringing their children. Among the left-wing politicians marching was national Equal Opportunities Minister Katia Bellilo. Her ministry was an official sponsor of World Pride until Premier Giuliano Amato demanded that the support be dropped. Bellilo told the rally in the Circus Maximus, "The constitution has an anti-fascist country, we are a tolerant country. ... Today Italy is a little freer."

Senate Vice President Ersilia Salvato promised the crowd that a number of Gay and Lesbian civil rights bills before the Parliament, including a move to extend legal recognition to same-gender couples, will finally receive legislators' consideration. Other politicians included Communist Fausto Bertinotti and Walter Veltroni, leader of the largest party in the ruling coalition, the Democrats of the Left. Veltroni said, "We're here because rights are still denied to some people and because discrimination still exists."

It was not until two days before the march that city officials finally granted official permission to pass by the Colosseum - something organizers were determined to do regardless. Some view the site as a monument to Christian martyrs who died there, but it has also become a symbol more broadly of struggles against oppression, particularly of opposition to the death penalty. Earlier a march of fascist protesters had chanted "Gays in the Colosseum? Only

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWENTY

## Help Stop 'Dr.' Laura



TUCSON - A large Rally is being organized by the Tucson Committee to 'Stop 'Dr.' Laura', the talk show host who is under attack from the Gay and Lesbian community for her derogatory and uninformed remarks she is making about homosexuality. The committee is raising funds to put on the rally to cover the costs of bringing national figures to Tucson to speak, purchasing printed flyers, posters, and the myriad of other things that have to be done to put on a successful demonstration. Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup> is the date chosen for the Rally to take place at KGUN-TV, 7280 E. Rosewood from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Pictured above is the driving force behind this event, Andrea Holden in the center, flanked by volunteers Michelle and Terri. "We hope to get several hundred people at the rally," Holden said. Your attending one of the fund raising events will help in putting on a successful affair. See related story below and keep tuned in as this important demonstration draws closer.

TUCSON - The Stop Dr. Laura Tucson rally committee held its first fund raiser at the Stonewall, and expressed their thanks to Sal and Kathy, the new owners for making the event a success.

Proceeds from this and other fund raisers, according to the rally committee, will go to the purchase of poster boards, placards, photocopying and airfare for the national figures coming to the rally, Sunday, August 20, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at KGUN 9, 7280 E. Rosewood.

One of the national figures who will be present and speak is Robin Tyler, the head of the national coalition to Stop Dr. Laura. Tyler is a well known producer, putting together the various marches on Washington D.C., and is producing this year's National Stonewall Democratic

Foundation Convention, August 10-12 in Palm Springs. Andy Thayer, a coalition organizer from Chicago will attend and speak, as well as local speakers and special guests.

The rally committee announced the dates and locations for more fund raisers: Venture-N Beer Bust, July 29, 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.; IBT's Beer Bust and Barbecue, July 30, 4:30 to 9:00 p.m.; Woody's Pool Tournament, Beer Bust and Barbecue, August 5, 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.; Stonewall Barbecue, August 6, 4:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Make a difference, come out and support your community by helping fund the Tucson rally to Stop Dr. Laura. For more information, contact Andrea, (520) 519-6768 or leave a message for the rally committee at Wingspan, (520) 624-1779.

## World AIDS Conference Opens Amidst Controversy

DURBAN, South Africa - In a controversial address kicking off the 13th World AIDS Conference, South African President Thabo Mbeki cited extreme poverty, not AIDS, as the leading killer of Africans and denied his government has been slow to respond to the crisis.

"There is no substance to the allegations that there is any hesitation on the part of our government to confront the challenge of HIV-AIDS," Mbeki said. Hundreds of delegates got out of their seats and walked out of the conference area as

Mbeki spoke.

South Africa the largest number of people infected with HIV in the world - 4.2 million. Latest figures suggest that 50 percent of all 15-year-olds in South Africa will die of AIDS.

Instead of addressing the crisis head-on say critics, President Mbeki has openly questioned whether HIV leads to AIDS - a position strongly disputed by

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWENTY

# UPDATE

## POZ Cafe July 20

TUCSON - People living with HIV/AIDS are invited to Poz Cafe, a lunch with social and recreational activities, Thursday, July 20 at St. Francis in the Foothills UMC, at the corner of Swan and River Roads). Doors open at 11:30 a.m., with lunch served at noon.

The Women's Auxiliary of the Tucson Urban League is hosting a soul food lunch, which will include: fried or broiled chicken, cole slaw, red potato salad, three-bean salad, fresh rolls with honey or apple butter, fresh fruit pies, vanilla ice cream and fruit Jell-o. A selection of beverages, including ice tea and coffee will be available, as well as the hospitality table with punch, pretzels and peppermints. Poz Cafe is not "health food," but it's healthy, with a balance between good nutrition and comfort foods. The menu items will taste good, be appealing and made with lots of love from TIHAN's volunteers.

Poz Cafe is Gay friendly, free of charge thanks to AGRA, St. Francis and other caring individuals and congregations from TIHAN, and no proselytizing or evangelizing is permitted. Poz Cafe's purpose is to enhance social opportunities and nutrition for adults living with HIV/AIDS. After lunch, there will be arts and crafts plus card and board games.

Reservations are requested so that TIHAN can have an idea of how much to cook. Each HIV+ person may have one guest accompany them. All partaking (guests and volunteers) in Poz Cafe will be reminded of confidentiality concerns. Transportation can be provided with advance notice by calling the TIHAN office, (520) 299-6647.

For more information or to make reservations, call the TIHAN office, (520) 299-6647.

## SAGA Receives Grant

By Catly Busha

TUCSON - The Southern Arizona Gender Alliance (SAGA) has received a \$4,000 grant from the Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona.

SAGA improves the quality of life for Transgender, Transsexual, and all gender variant persons by promoting essential human services and by increasing public knowledge and understanding of the Transgender/Transsexual communities. The women's foundation grant award will fund support groups, advocacy, and education for the Trans communities, as well as their allies, local health care and social service providers.

SAGA meets on the first Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m., at the Wingspan Community Center, 300 East Sixth Street.

## AIDSWalk 2000 Update

TUCSON - AIDSWALK 2000, a benefit walk for the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, (SAAF) takes place Sunday, October 22 at Rillito Downs. Registration begins at 7:00 a.m. and the walk begins at 9:00 a.m.

SAAF encourages everyone in the community to join us in this enjoyable and important event to help support people living with HIV/AIDS in Southern Arizona. AIDSWALK is the largest HIV/AIDS related fund raising event in Southern Arizona and proceeds benefit the client services and prevention efforts of SAAF.

This year's AIDSWALK will feature a redesigned walker route which will include a 4k in addition to the traditional 10k route. Live music and food will be provided afterward for everyone's enjoyment.

Call (520) 791-9255 for more information, or at the Web site: [AIDSWALKTUCSON.com](http://AIDSWALKTUCSON.com).

## Community Forum July 20

TUCSON - A community forum on the recent changes to Arizona's Domestic Violence law and the impact the changes will have will take place Thursday, July 20, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Wingspan Community Center, 300 East Sixth Street.

The Community Center and the Wingspan Domestic Violence Project are co-hosting this event, where panelists representing law enforcement, the justice system, domestic violence survivors and advocates will be discussing the latest changes to Arizona's law and will be available for questions and answers. A reception will follow the forum where refreshments will be served.

Wingspan's Domestic Violence Project is located in the community center. The Project provides free, confidential services, including 24-hour access. Information and services are available by calling (520) 624-0348.

## Position Open At SAAF

TUCSON - The Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) is seeking a qualified individual for the following position:

AIDSWALK Event Assistant - Temporary. Experienced office worker needed to provide clerical/admin. support to major fund raising event, full-time, flexible hours, for July 17th to Nov. 17th. \$8.00/hour; no benefits. Open until filled.

To apply, pick up job description and application instructions, M-F, 8-5, at 375 S. Euclid Ave., or call (520) 628-7223 to have them faxed to you. AA/EOE.

## LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS

EDITOR:

The Tucson Lesbian/Gay Alliance (TLGA) would like to thank all the organizations and businesses who participated during Pride Week 2000.

TLGA raised \$1,349 towards the production of OUToberFEST 2000, "One Vision, One World," to be held Saturday, October 14, at the DeMeester Center at Reid Park. The following is a breakdown of TLGA's fund raising efforts during Pride Week (not including Gay West IV):

IBT's, \$225; The Biz, \$733; Woody's, \$30; Club Congress, \$179; Venture-N, \$87; Stonewall, \$95.

Thanks again to all the businesses and organizations who participated this year: Desert Voices, Antigone Books, Desert Pride, David's Hair, Rainbow Planet Coffee House, Aroma Tree, Armory Park Bed & Breakfast, Big A Restaurant, MCC-Water of Life, SAAF, and Old Tucson Studios. To volunteer for Tucson's Gay Pride Festival, "OUToberFEST," call the OUTline, (520) 622-3200.

TLGA Board of Directors

## UA Center For Creative Photography Marks 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

TUCSON - The Center for Creative Photography (CCP) at the University of Arizona, a museum and research institution dedicated to photography as an art form and cultural record, is commemorating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with special exhibitions, publications and educational programs in 2000 and 2001.

The CCP's integrated mission of preservation, access, exhibition, interpretation, and education celebrates the history of photography and its contemporary practice, with an emphasis on American photography, from 1900 to present. Until September 17, the CCP is hosting Our Quarter Century, including the works of many photographers, including Robert Mapplethorpe.

For more information, call (520) 621-9768 or visit their Web site: [www.creativephotography.org](http://www.creativephotography.org).

## Grey Eagle Arm Wrestling Tournament July 12

TUCSON - The annual Grey Eagle Arm Wrestling Tournament is being held at IBT's, 616 N. Fourth Avenue, July 22, 4:00 p.m.

Proceeds from this annual event will go to the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN). Hosting this year's event is Ajia Simone. Event organizers are encouraging people to participate, sponsor a wrestler or at least come out and watch the fun and have a wonderful time. It's not a competition, people participating will be matched up by similar physical characteristics.

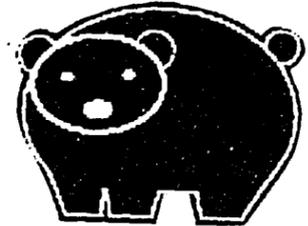
For more information, call (520) 884-5279, or the TIHAN office, (520) 299-6647.



# SAAF

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Informing the Community..

## The Observer



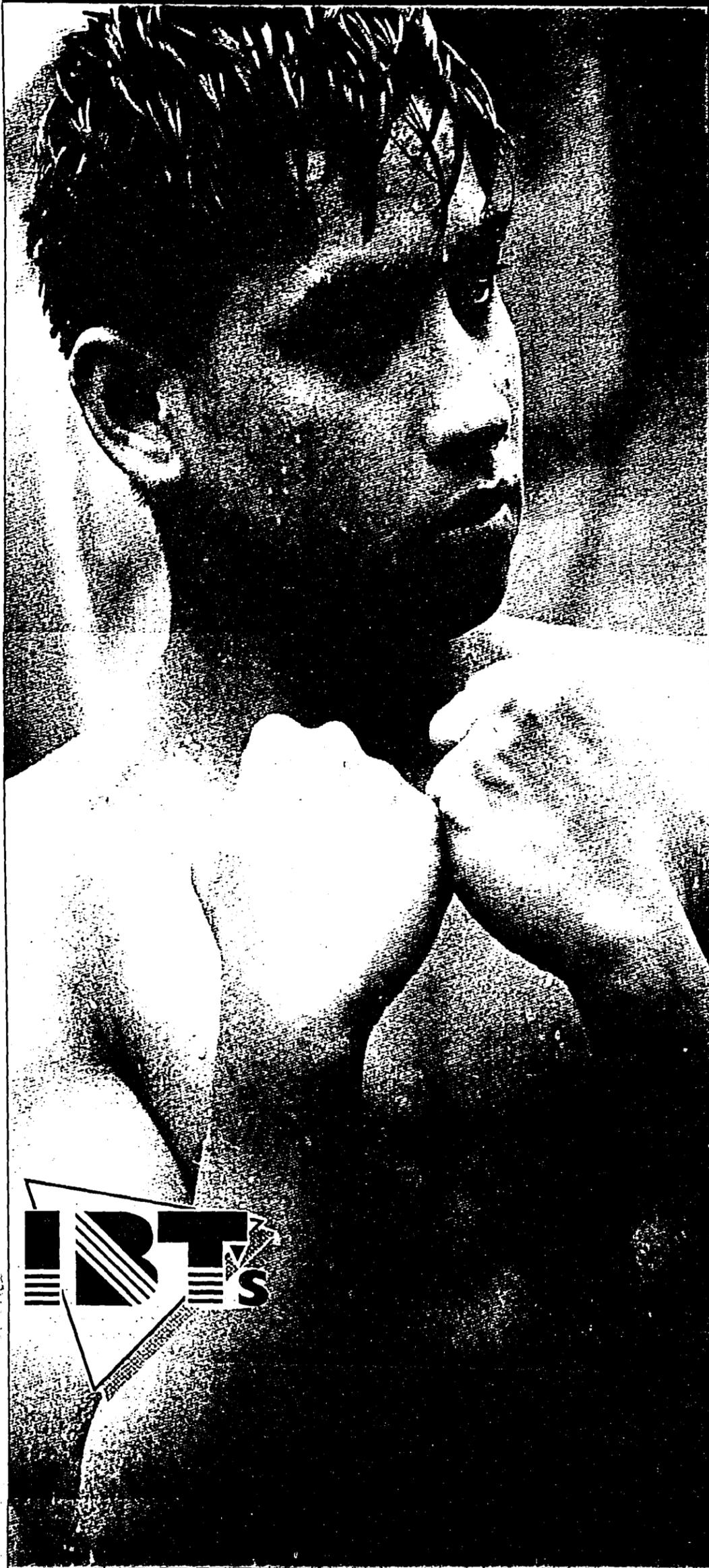
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# Arm Wrestlin'



## IBT's Sunday Party Line-up for July 16th

11:00 am-6:00 pm  
Jeff's Bloody Mary Bar

4:30-7:30 pm  
Karaoke on the patio

5:30-8:00 pm  
Benefit Bar-B-Que/16 oz Beerbust for  
the Arizona Angels Softball Team

9:00 pm  
Special benefit Show for Kenneth Blake  
Candidate for  
Miss Gay Western States America  
Featuring: Kenneth Blake with guests Phaedra,  
Faith Michaels, Chane Starr, & surprise guests

3rd Annual Grey Eagle  
Arm Wrestling Contest  
Saturday, July 22nd, 4 pm  
All proceeds to Benefit TIHAN  
Sign up sheets available at IBT's and Woody's

The Girlie Show  
Wednesday, July 19th 9:00 pm  
Hosted by: Lucinda Holliday  
with Kenneth Blake, Samantha White,  
Domino Blush

Tanks & T's Tuesday's  
9:00 pm to close  
Wear your IBT's T or Tank for  
Happy Hour Prices

Thursday's  
Wear your Underwear  
and get Happy Hour Prices  
9:00 pm - close

### Coming Events

Benefit for Wingspan's  
Stop Dr. Laura Campaign  
Sunday, July 30th

IBT's 8th Anniversary Party  
Sunday, August 6th

616 N. 4th Ave. > Tucson, AZ 85705 > 882-3053 > Website: IBTS.NET

# EDITORIAL

## End Funding For Discrimination

In a 5-4 decision, June 28, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) is a "private organization," and can ban Gay men from being troop leaders and bar openly Gay boys and teenagers as members.

Boy Scout troops, across the United States, use public property, facilities, and obtain funding from government agencies and charities, including the Boy Scouts Catalina Council, which oversees the troops in Tucson and Pima County, receiving more than \$54,000 last year from the City of Tucson and the United Way.

According to Ed Parker, Tucson's United Way President, who said in an interview that, many United Way chapters, including the local one, have anti discrimination policies that require groups getting funding to sign a statement saying they will not discriminate based on factors, including sexual orientation. Parker added that the Catalina Council of Boy Scouts agreed to that policy as a member agency of United Way.

Connecticut's state government and more than a dozen cities, including Chicago, New York, Washington, and San Francisco, have severed civic ties with the scouts or are considering measures to keep them from using public property and facilities because its policies counter to local anti bias laws. Tucson has had an anti discrimination ordinance on the books since 1977, and was one of seven U.S. cities to file friend-of-the-court brief, in support the openly Gay Boy Scout troop leader, James Dale, in the case.

Tucson's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Citizen's Advisory Commission are meeting next week to consider the Supreme Court's ruling and recommend a course of action to the Mayor and Council. "The city can refuse to provide funding to any Boy Scout-related activities," said Amelia Craig Cramer, an attorney and co-chair of the commission.

A clear message should be sent to the Boy Scouts, who want to have it both ways, as a public accommodation by receiving government support but still claiming to be a "private organization" that can discriminate against certain groups. Tuc-

son's Mayor and Council, with its longstanding record of support of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and HIV/AIDS communities, must pass a new policy that would stop government funding, the use of public property (and receiving fee waivers for such), to any group that discriminates based on sexual orientation, gender, religion or other similar factors.

No money, from either government or local charities should go to fund discrimination. Call the Tucson chapter of the United Way and leave a message urging the local chapter to sever their ties with the Boy Scouts for violating the charity's anti discrimination policy. Let Tucson's Mayor and Council know that they need to send a message to the Boy Scouts that this community won't put up with prejudice and discrimination.

The local chapter of the United Way can be reached at (520) 722-6700. Tucson's Mayor and Council can be reached several ways. Call the Mayor and Council comment line, (520) 791-4700 and leave a message with your name and address. If you want to leave messages at the Mayor's office and each of the Council office's, call the following numbers: Mayor Bob Walkup, (520) 791-4201; Councilmember Jose Ibarra, (520) 791-4040; Councilmember Carol West, (520) 791-4687; Councilmember Jerry Anderson, (520) 791-4711; Councilmember Shirley Scott, (520) 791-3199; Councilmember Steve Leal, (520) 791-4231; Councilmember Fred Ronstadt, (520) 791-4601. On the Internet, you can E-mail the Tucson Mayor and Council at [mcweb@ci.tucson.az.us](mailto:mcweb@ci.tucson.az.us).

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## AS I SEE IT..... BY CLARK

### SHAMELESS BAR PLUGS!



## Murder Focuses Attention On Hate Crimes

GRANT TOWN, WV - Twenty-six year old, Arthur "J.R." Warren Jr., was beaten to death in a small town of West Virginia by two teens and then repeatedly run over with a car to make it look like an accident.

Authorities have so far refused to specify a motive, but several prominent Gay civil rights groups note that the victim, who was black, has long been the target of anti Gay harassment in the small, rural town of about 700 people where he lived.

Two white 17-year-olds allegedly confessed and are charged with first-degree murder, but authorities have so far refused to divulge their motive. "All of them were longtime acquaintances. I think it was something done in a moment of anger, said Sheriff Ron Watkins. "We have no indication that it was a hate crime."

The victim's grieving parents ordered an open coffin service at the Mount Beulah Baptist Church "so [people] could see what they had done to their son," said Rick Ravenscroft, a friend of the family. Mourners reported Warren's head was 1 1/2 times its normal size, his lip was busted into pieces and his face was covered with black and blue marks.

"It was pretty hideous," Ravenscroft said, adding that the crime "took its toll on a lot of people."

Authorities have said the suspects apparently beat the slender, 5-foot-9 Warren in a vacant house they were painting, then dumped his body on a highway and drove over him several times. Apparently, the two teens then picked up a third who helped them clean up the crime scene at the house, Watkins said.

Angela Dunlap, who heads a Gay support group at nearby Fairmont State College said that the victim had complained repeatedly of harassment and threats. "He said he was attacked by some high school boys in Grant Town before," Dunlap said. "People would throw things at him as he walked down the street, call him queer and other names."

Her group is organizing a community-wide candlelight vigil. "A murder of this severity needs to be addressed by the community, no matter what the motives," she said.

The case has brought a swarm of reporters and cameramen to the town. Anti-Gay campaigner Fred Phelps plans to be there to protest the vigil in the full glare of the national media.

The Human Rights Campaign sent a field director to West Virginia on Friday to investigate the hate crimes allegations and the West Virginia Lesbian and Gay Coalition is demanding that the Sheriff's office make public what it knows about the case.

The victim's body was found by a newspaper carrier and authorities originally thought they were dealing with a hit-and-run, just as the teens had planned. But the teenager who assisted in cleaning up the crime scene, confessed.

"If it wasn't for the kid that broke down, it would have been the perfect crime, and we wouldn't have known," said the victim's father, Arthur Warren Sr. "We're grateful to the boy who confessed. He's got

CONTINUED ON PAGE SEVENTEEN

*The New* **STONEWALL**  
Tucson's Premier Gay Club!  
Tucson's hottest \* newest \* finest GAY Dance Club  
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STONEWALL welcomes the Sisters of Tucson!  
Coming soon ... a separate bar for the ladies ...  
Watch for details ... opening Monday, July 31  
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**DR. LAURA SEZ:** "I'm sorry, hear it one more time perfectly clearly: If you're gay or a lesbian, it's a biological error that inhibits you from relating normally to the opposite sex. The fact that you are intelligent, creative and valuable is all true. The error is in your inability to relate sexually intimately, in a loving way to a member of the opposite sex - it is a biological error."  
Dr. Laura's Website December 8, 1998

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## THE GLAAD BULLETIN

Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, Inc.

### GLAAD ALERT

The Wall Street Journal Column Plays Divisive Politics: In a column appearing in the July 6 edition of The Wall Street Journal, writer Heather MacDonald suggests that attempts to protest the Boy Scouts' exclusionary policy against Gays - a policy upheld last week by a sharply divided U.S. Supreme Court - will victimize "poor, minority children." "If financial and institutional support for the Scouts dries up, what will urban children lose?" MacDonald asks. "Perhaps their best hope for conquering their circumstances. Scouting teaches a set of values rare anywhere today, but especially in troubled inner-city neighborhoods - perseverance, personal responsibility and self-discipline."

MacDonald fails to acknowledge that the same boys who are learning these inarguably important values also are being taught that prejudice and discrimination against Gay people is admirable. Just as damaging is the message that young, Gay, closeted Scouts must lie about who they are in order to be accepted. Clearly, these are not the values most parents want instilled in their children. Yet by choosing to publicly advocate discrimination, the Scouts' national leadership has sent a dangerous, divisive message to its youth that runs counter to their best interests.

MacDonald also argues that if corporations pull funding from the Scouts, it will make it increasingly difficult to recruit Scout leaders. This is ironic, given that the organization's discrimination policy against Gays has already shrunk the pool of qualified Scout leaders. Likewise, it is ironic that the Scouts is now on the record condemning those who demonstrate the bravery, courage and honesty necessary to come out of the closet - the very qualities scouting seeks to instill.

MacDonald's piece represents divisive politics at its worst, attempting to divide people by race, class and sexual orientation in an effort to pit them against one another. Let The Wall Street Journal know that you expect a more objective summation of the significance of the Supreme Court's ruling on the Boy Scouts. Contact: Max Boot, Editorial Page Editor, The Wall Street Journal, 200 Liberty St., New York, NY 10281-1003; fax: (212) 416-2658; e-mail: letter.editor@edit.wsj.com.

Los Angeles Times' Robert Scheer Deconstructs Boy Scouts' Bigotry: Los Angeles Times contributing editor and nationally syndicated columnist Robert Scheer issued a scathing critique of the Boy Scouts anti-Gay advocacy on July 4, characterizing the Scouts' policy of exclusion as hateful politics that "punishes boys for the crime of being born 'different.'"

Scheer's column suggests that in order to argue its case against James Dale, an Eagle Scout who was ejected from his Scout leader position when he came out of the closet, the Scouts' leaders and lawyers had to explicitly state that one of the aims of its organization is to encourage anti-Gay prejudice. "In all his Scouting activity, Dale never acted in a way that was less than exemplary. He was ejected from the Scouts not for a single failure of merit but rather for an act of considerable courage and honesty when he joined a college Gay student group," Scheer writes. "The BSA made clear in its pleading before the court that the lesson it wants to teach is that people like Dale are immoral, no matter their unblemished records of good works in the organization."

"In pursuing this case," Scheer writes, "the Scouts, for the first time in its history, clearly established the loathsome message that all Gay people, even the Gay surgeon or firefighter who might save your life, or the Gay senior who needs assistance walking across the street, are to be condemned by good Scouts as 'unclean' and 'immoral.'"

Scheer's column is a forceful, persuasive argument questioning support for the Scouts now that the organization has chosen bigotry against Gays as one of its defining principles. Please thank Robert Scheer and the Los Angeles Times for this important column. Contact: Janet Clayton, Editorial Page Editor, Los Angeles Times, Times Mirror Square, Los Angeles, CA 90053; fax: (213) 237-4712; e-mail: letters@latimes.com. Contact: Robert Scheer, Contributing Editor, Los Angeles Times, Times Mirror Square, Los Angeles, CA 90053; e-mail: robert.scheer@latimes.com.

Lesbian and Gay Seniors in the Miami Herald: As the baby boomers enter into their 50s, the challenges of aging and retirement continue to garner increasing media visibility. However, the aging Lesbian and Gay community is largely invisible in this coverage. On July 2, The Miami Herald published an excellent article exploring the problems and opportunities facing Lesbian and Gay seniors and the innovative solutions many of them have devised to stay active and build friendships within their community.

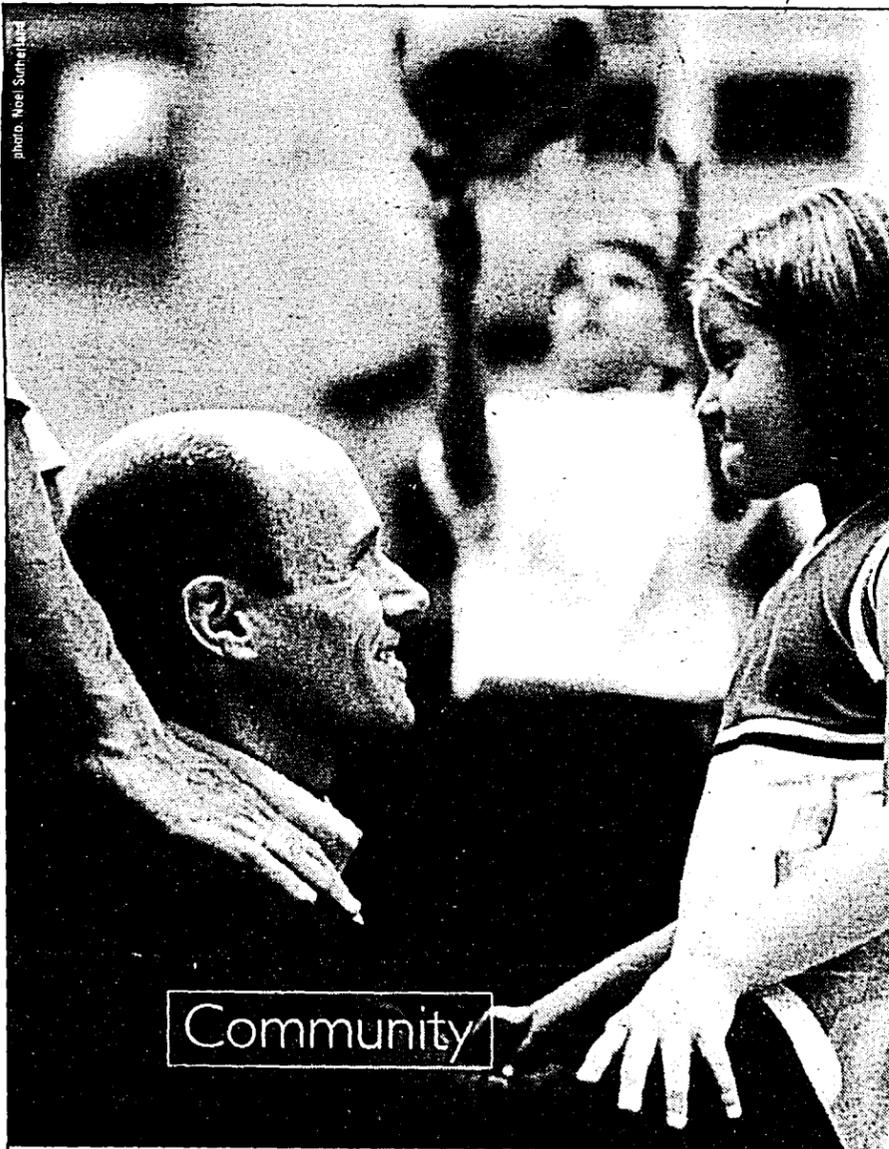
"Growing Old Among Friends," by Johnny Diaz and Shari Rudavsky, draws on interviews with a diverse group of Lesbian and Gay seniors (and seniors-to-be), allowing them to tell their stories in their own voices and deftly linking their common experiences. Among those interviewed: Edda Cimino, a 70-year-old former teacher and recent co-chairwoman of the South Florida chapter of GLSEN; Bill Laing, a psychology professor who, after retiring, built a retirement community for Lesbians and Gay men in Sarasota, N.Y.; John Dorr, a resident in Laing's community who, after the death of his partner, began offering assisted living services to his next door neighbors; Jeffrey Dillon and John DeLeo, partners who are currently developing a 320-unit assisted-care high-rise in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Randi Adler, who works through the Jewish Family Center of Greater Miami to help seniors who are fearful of coming out; and many others. Their stories, their fears, their independence and their compassion reflect the depth of experience in this often underappreciated part of our community.

Diaz and Rudavsky's interviews also reference several important groups for Lesbian and Gay seniors, including the Gay and Lesbian Association of Retiring Persons (GLARP), Pride Senior Network, Senior Action in a Gay Environment (SAGE), Golden Threads - a support group for Lesbians over 50, and Silver Strands - an online group for Gay men over 50.

Diaz and Rudavsky do a tremendous service by promoting visibility of Gay and Lesbian seniors, the resources available to them, and the rich history and future of this important but often overlooked group. Please thank The Miami Herald for this groundbreaking feature. Contact: Larry Olmstead, Managing Editor, The Miami Herald, 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, FL 33132-1693; e-mail: heraldEd@herald.com.

### REUTERS/VARIETY ON DR. LAURA, FEB. 13, 2000

"Her [Dr. Laura's] perorations strongly suggest that many gays are predators, eager to covert new members to the faith. She urges parents to avoid bringing kids into the company of possibly gay relatives."

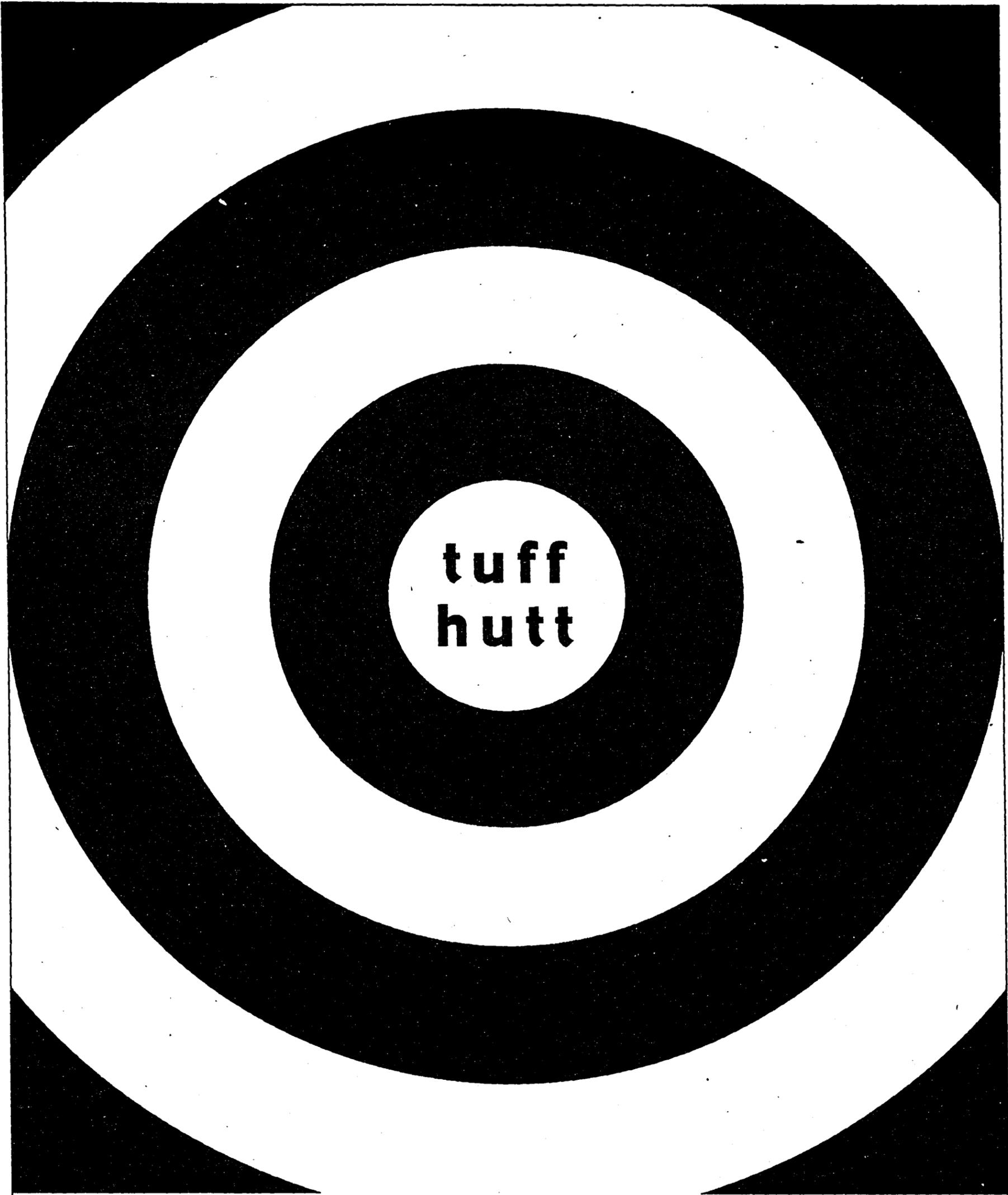


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'DR.' LAURA SEZ: "How many letters have I read on the air from gay men who acknowledge that a huge portion of the male homosexual populace is predatory on young boys?"  
Reuters/Variety Feb. 13, 2000

By John Aravosis

## Declaration Of Independence

A nasty anti-Gay press release from the far-right Family Research Council (FRC) speaks volumes about how far our movement has come on this first American Independence Day of the new millennium.

In the release, FRC was apoplectic because David Smith, press secretary of the Human Rights Campaign (America's largest Gay civil rights organization), interrupted FRC spokesman Bob Knight during an on-the-air debate about the Boy Scouts when Knight tried to equate Gays with pedophilia. Smith would have none of the defamation, and told Knight as much.

FRC's reaction? Issue a press release denouncing "homosexual activists" for opposing free speech.

In an odd way, I can appreciate FRC's hostile reaction to finally being called to account for the lies the religious right regularly spouts about Gays and Lesbians. For years, far-right extremists have gotten away with rhetorical murder with regards to Gays and Lesbians. Knight in particular, regularly links Gays to pedophilia and bestiality, and has perhaps grown fat in his expectation that no one would ever call him on it.

But this melee is evidence of something far greater than a single Gay man telling a phobe to stick it. And Knight and his cohorts at FRC know it. And fear it. Gays and Lesbians are no longer willing to debate their existence. To agree to disagree about whether their sexual orientation is a choice. Or to spar over the finer points as to whether they molest small children for sport. Gays and Lesbians have finally staked a claim on their humanity, and the religious right is reeling from the blow.

I'm reminded of a recent encounter I had with a particularly nasty anti-Gay activist who couldn't understand why I didn't want to shake his hand on first meeting. I told him, politely but coldly, that I didn't appreciate his past publications (which I'd read) accusing Gays of being the real power behind the Holocaust, and didn't think it would be intellectually honest to pretend we were friends. He responded with a screed, asking/yelling quite angrily "can't we just agree to disagree and debate these issues intellectually?" To which I responded: no.

The anti-Gay inquisition has grown accustomed to debating Gay rights in the abstract. They regularly demonize Gays and Lesbians on national TV, buffering their consciences by pretending their words don't apply to "real people": they're simply engaged in an intellectual exercise (they tell themselves), of the sort one has over the existence of God; or whether the Yankees might win the pennant. Accepting the fact that their words demean real human beings would require some eventual moral accountability for their sins, and morality is to the moral majority what sunlight is to a vampire.

That is why the Family Research Council is incensed with the HRC's David Smith. The religious right needs our collusion to successfully define our existence on their terms. They know that by engaging in a public debate as to whether we are pedophiles, they diminish us. In order to survive, they must keep reminding America, and the world, of who we are not - in an effort to stop them from finding out who we really are.

But the wizard's been unmasked, and the witch has met her water. The homophobes are powerless when we as a people discover how easy it is to reclaim our humanity (just ask Dr. Laura).

The other night, I stood on a rooftop in a small Delaware resort, and watched the fireworks explode over the Atlantic below and beyond. Looking at the American flag next to me, the throng below, the guy at my side, and the sea lit up in reds, whites, and blues, I gave my date a big public hug and a smile, and silently told Bob Knight to go to hell.

[John Aravosis is a free-lance writer and one of the founder's of StopDrLaura.com.]

## Words Of Dr. Laura

"Unless I have hallucinated, I have never made an anti-Gay commentary," she said. "I have made anti-Gay-activist-agenda commentaries." - Dr. Laura quoted by the San Francisco Examiner, February 24, 2000

"I'm sorry, hear it one more time perfectly clearly: If you're Gay or a Lesbian, it's a biological error that inhibits you from relating normally to the opposite sex. The fact that you are intelligent, creative and valuable is all true. The error is in your inability to relate sexually intimately, in a loving way to a member of the opposite sex - it is a biological error." - Dr. Laura's Website, December 8, 1998

"[Responding to a fax, Schlesinger says:] "It goes on and says 'Pedophilia and child molestation have zero to do with being Gay, homosexual orientation' and that's not true. That is not true. How many letters have I read on the air from Gay men who acknowledge that a huge portion of the male homosexual populis is predatory on young boys." - Dr. Laura radio show, August 13, 1999 (quoted by the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council (CBSC)).

"The well-funded and well-connected homosexual activist movement has become the McCarthyism of the 21st century." - 5/13/00, Desert News.

"When we have the word homosexual, we are clarifying the dysfunction, the deviancy, the reality. We change it to the word Gay, it makes it more difficult to pinpoint the truth. So one of the things that the homosexual agenda did was to change the name. Just like somebody complained to me yesterday about ethnic cleansing, that it sounds like washing machine as opposed to murder. They were right. Ethnic cleansing sounds nice. Murder is the truth, homosexuality is the truth. Gay isn't." - Dr. Laura's radio show, August 13, 1999 (quoted by CBSC).

"I call homosexual practices deviant". - Dr. Laura quoted by the New York Post, 2/16/00

"The Gay culture? I'm trying to understand, what is that? I remember the 70s and 80s that the line was that this is only about sex, it's not about anything else, right? So what's the Gay culture? Is that where we get into the promiscuity and the pedophilia? Or are these just regulation human beings, who somehow have an error in their sexual orientation but otherwise are

**POLITICS 2000**  
by Mark R. Kerr

**'Misleading Title, Incorrect Information, Or Both'**

Ruth Solomon, the Democratic state Senator from Tucson, according to the Tucson Citizen, announced her candidacy for the Republican nomination for the State House in another district.

Still on the subject of Tucson's afternoon daily newspaper, Senator Dan Schottel was quoted in an article, written by the Citizen's state legislative reporter, about the initiatives and referendums to appear on the November general election ballot.

The Arizona Daily Star, still glowing after it's make-over, new editorial staff and a sparkling reader advocate, reported about the candidacy of James Kirk, the incumbent county treasurer, and then reported on Kirk's retirement for the post, the day after the story on his candidacy ran.

"Unopposed candidates rake in cash," blared on the Tucson/Metro section of the Daily Star, written by their ace political reporter, returned from exile from the dredges of StarNet, on how some elected officials, "unopposed" this year for bid's for office are still raising campaign funds. Four elected officials, County Supervisors Dan Eckstrom and Ray Carroll, state Senator Ann Day and U.S. Senator John McCain are profiled in the article.

In the opinion page of the Daily Star, the same day of the "Unopposed" article, Maria Parham, the Reader Advocate for the Pulitzer-owned publication, said in her weekly column that the reader's deserved more information.

Readers deserve the correct information and shouldn't be misled either, which wasn't the case in the above mentioned items.

Ruth Solomon is running for her last term in the state Senate, as a Democrat, from the District she's represented for the last six years.

Dan Schottel is a state Representative, who is now running for the Pima County Board of Supervisors against state Senator Ann Day, for the Republican nomination from District 1.

Pima County Treasurer James Kirk, has cost taxpayers more than \$20-million from bad investments, bad office management and questionable accounting practices, something which was glossed over in the article.

Of the four elected officials profiled, Senator McCain ran for the Republican nomination for President, against several candidates. State Senator Ann Day, as mentioned previously is running for the Republican nomination for County Supervisor, in a contested primary. County Supervisor Dan Eckstrom has token opposition, a write-in candidate, in the general election.

That's not all, the readers deserve up-to-date information, especially from the political arena. A case in point, this column. Last week, it was reported in the race for the six-year-term on the Arizona Corporation Commission, former Phoenix state Senator, Sandra Kennedy was running for the Democratic nomination, against Stephen Ahearn from Phoenix. After the Observer went to press, Ahearn filed a lawsuit challenging the validity of some of Kennedy's petition signatures and Maricopa Superior Court Judge Donald Daughton removed Kennedy from the primary ballot.

Three other suits, challenging the petitions of candidates for the state legislature were also heard in court.

State House Majority Leader, Republican Lori Daniels of Chandler, who helped to change Arizona's ballot access laws, was knocked off the ballot for the State Senate seat from District 6, for not having enough valid signatures. Daniels was the only person running for the Senate seat since the Democrats didn't field a candidate.

In District 11, Pima County Superior Court Judge Kenneth Lee heard testimony on whether Val Romero and Louis Johnson, two candidates running for the Democratic nomination for the state House, against incumbents Debora Norris and Carmine Cardimone, have enough signatures to qualify for the September Democratic primary. As of press time, a ruling had not been handed down. ...

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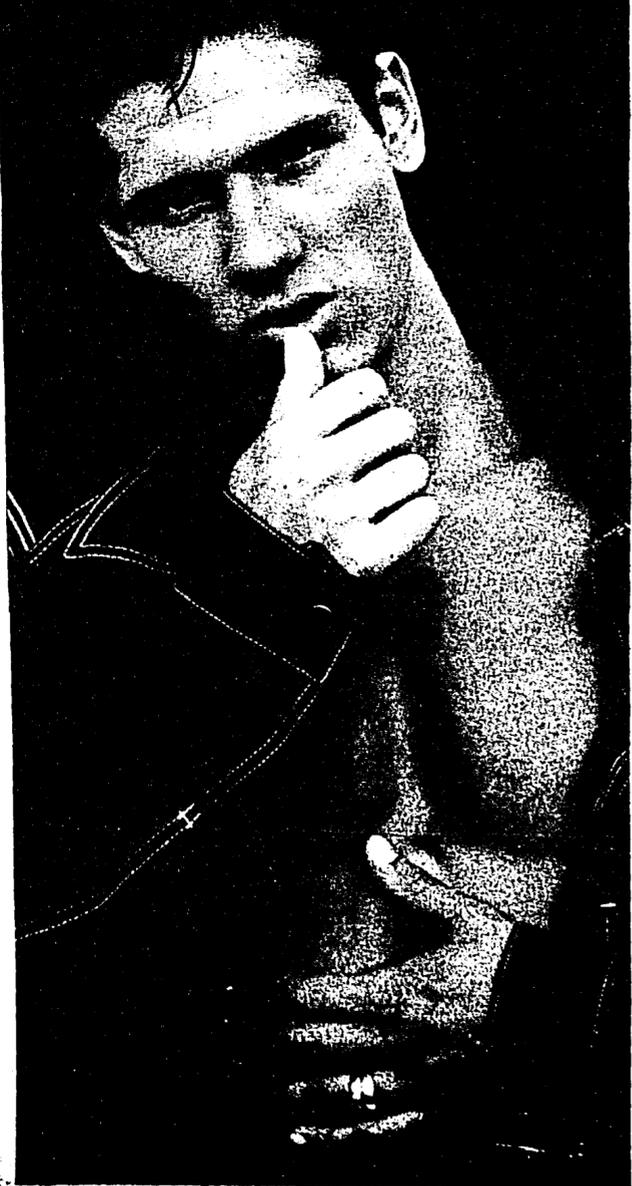
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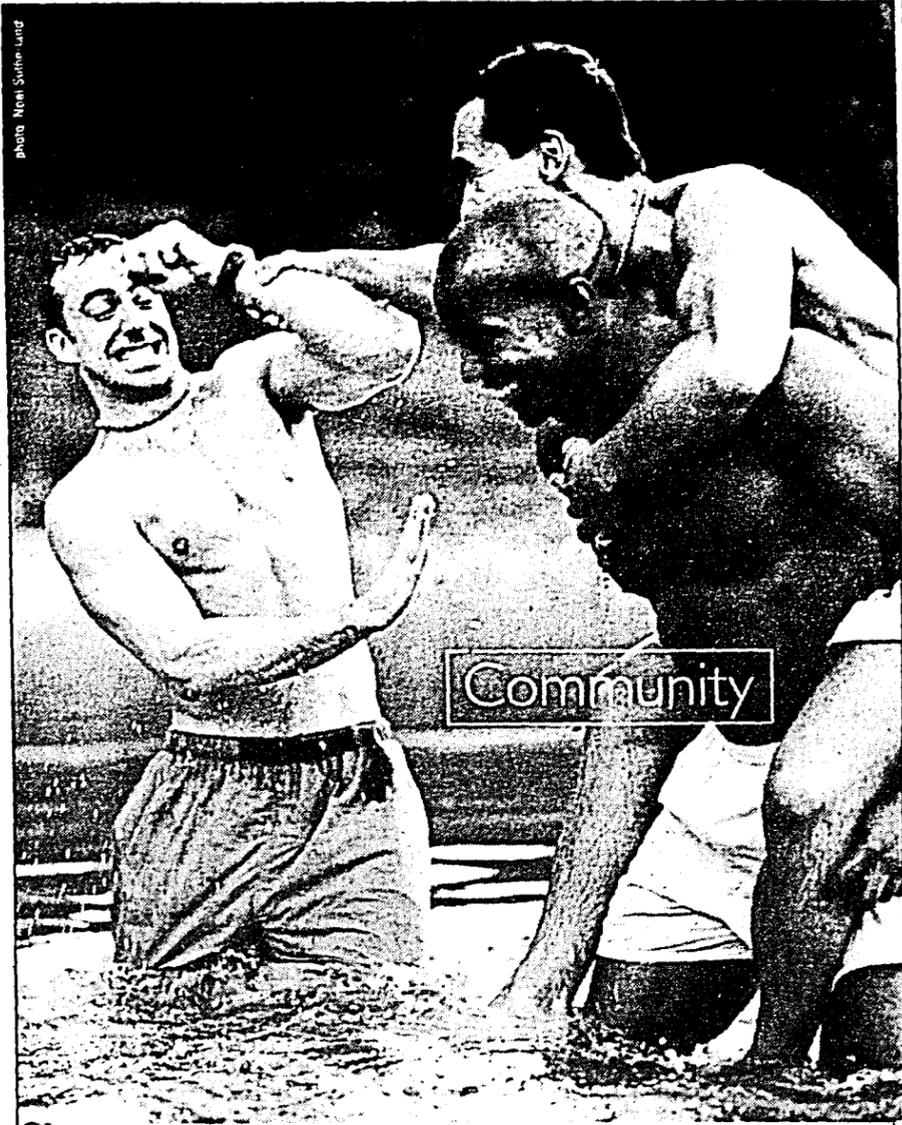
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**T HOROSCOPES**  
 BY C. LICHTENSTEIN

The raucous party moves into another house when naughty bawdy Jupiter enters Gemini. It is "no holds barred" when the planet of luck takes its expansionist energy into a sign that is known for trying anything, and I mean anything. It takes Jupiter about a year to dance through any sign - this time, make it the lambada, kids!

**ARIES**  
**MARCH 21 - APRIL 20**  
 As wild Jupiter slides into chatty Gemini, randy rainbow Rambos realize that they can get everything they want by just asking. I sense danger! Get the word Out, but do it strategically. Jupiter guarantees that not only does your communication pack a punch, but it can have expansive out of control results. They say loose lips sink ships. Let's try for sailors instead.

**TAURUS**  
**APRIL 21 - MAY 21**  
 If you have been cautiously saving your hard earned pennies for the day that lucky Jupiter slips into Gemini, that day has arrived, proud Bull; You've hit pay dirt! Anticipate a huge improvement in your bottom line as expansive Jupiter enables you to reap big rewards from even half-hearted efforts. Don't spend it all at once, tempting as it may be; save a bit for a rainy day.

**GEMINI**  
**MAY 22 - JUNE 21**  
 Jupiter jumps into your own sign and exponentially increases your personal charisma. You become a social supernova. Oy vay, Gay Twin, will we be subjected to too much of a good thing? Jostling crowds of admirers make the pilgrimage to your shrine. But as you nibble on their offerings remember that Jupiter expands absolutely everything... like waistlines.

**CANCER**  
**JUNE 22 - JULY 23**  
 The usually prescient pink Crab is even more psychically on target when Jupiter transcends into Gemini. See what manifests when this jolly orb spreads the good vibes around. A light is illuminated not only in the far reaches of your cobwebbed mind but also in your cobwebbed closet. Everything blasts Out! Use this lucky time to tell the world who you are, loud, proud and queer.

**LEO**  
**JULY 24 - AUGUST 23**  
 Queer Lions can usually be tempted to do one or two outrageous things for an audience. Now, as Jupiter travels into Gemini, you will have quite a few standing room only appearances. Soak up the accolades while you can, compadre. Pals are eager to accept everything you give but don't pile it on; A little bit can easily become a little too much. Is that possible? Ha!

**VIRGO**  
**AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23**  
 Aim for the professional kleig lights when expansive Jupiter jumps into Gemini. Gay Virgos are usually content to quietly toil in the corporate back rows. Lucky Jupiter has other plans for you; Don't be surprised if you are plucked from the chorus to enter the center stage of power. You'll get a lucky break, but we secretly know that you really earned it through raw talent.

**LIBRA**  
**SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23**  
 Rainbow Libras can't help but get itchy feet when jumpy Jupiter travels into Gemini. You're poised for discovery, adventure and global impact. Scratch that itch with a far flung trip of a lifetime, a mentally stimulating class, an Internet chat, an international tasting menu or a few exotic strangers. The most important thing is to shed your usual skin and try on something new.

**SCORPIO**  
**OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22**  
 Be sure to gather those rosebuds while lusty Jupiter dips into flirtatious Gemini. Count your lucky stars, proud Scorp; for the next year you can explore every available nook and cranny to your hearts content. Jupiter not only heats up your sexual urges but provides the charismatic sugar to tempt even the most hard to get lover. And they say the harder the better....

**SAGITTARIUS**  
**NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22**  
 If a particular relationship has become stale and boring, rejoice when festive Jupiter jostles into Gemini. Gay Archers can revive even the most moribund partnership... if that's what you want. For those unbranded Centaurs still on the hoof, the Jupiter surge provides you with charm galore and a bevy of delightful possibilities. Hurry! At midnight you turn back into a toad.

**CAPRICORN**  
**DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20**  
 Rightly or wrongly, pink Caps are sometimes accused of being hypochondriacs. Now, as robust Jupiter angles into Gemini, you may feel a surge of irrepressible energy and feel pretty darned good. It is a superb time to reinvest in an exercise, overall health or stress reducing regime. Tend to the body politic and vote for improvement. Yes dear, it is possible to improve on perfection.

**AQUARIUS**  
**JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19**  
 Most placements of Jupiter are fairly benign and controllable. But Jupiter in Gemini for unorthodox Aqueerians is another thing entirely! Jupiter now energizes anything having to do with fun, creativity, imagination and passionate party hearty instincts. You can't help but take things to the limit ... and way beyond. When is enough, enough, cousin? Enough with the questions!

**PISCES**  
**FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20**  
 Any roadblocks in family relationships can be overcome during Jupiter's foray into friendly Gemini. That is not to say that Guppies should compromise one iota on their demand for simple respect but it does mean that this is a great time to reapproach and try again. Jupiter also provides you with a wealth of great ideas to improve your home surroundings. Redecorate or detonate?

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'DR.' LAURA SEZ: "I call hompsexual practices deviant".  
 New York Post, Feb. 16, 2000

Perspective . . . .

CONTINUED FROM PAGE EIGHT

seriously regulation human beings? I'm confused. First I'm told for 20 years that it's only about sex. Now I'm told it's a whole culture. So what's in the culture? What is it? If it's just about sex, then the culture must only be about sex. Otherwise you're American culture. But listen to this. 'They presented a slide show, Friday, during the school's popular culture assembly which also features dances from Polynesian, African and Latin countries.' That's culture. Sexual deviations are not culture. They're sexual deviations." - Dr. Laura radio show, April 16, 1999 (quoted by CBSC).

"Well, according to Dr. Aarden VanWeg [ph.], an expert in homosexuality and other forms of deviant sexual behavior in Holland, that although numerically there are more pedophiles that are heterosexual, percentage wise in a population, it is much greater in the homosexual community. So there is some relationship. No, not every homosexual is a pedophile. Obviously not. But it is a greater percentage, much greater." - Dr. Laura radio show, June 10, 1999 (quoted by CBSC).

[Explaining the use of the term 'Gay'.] "One of the first things you do is rename behaviors or what have you. Once you rename it... It's like in Vietnam, I remember quite clearly. Instead of calling them North Vietnamese, South Vietnamese, Communist or what have you, they started calling the Vietnamese agents gooks. One of the reasons you call them gooks is because it's easy to kill a gook, harder to kill a person. So in changing the name of the thing, it changes how we perceive it and how we can behave toward it. When we have the word homosexual, we are clarifying the dysfunction, the deviancy, the reality." - Dr. Laura radio show, August 13, 1999 (quoted by CBSC).

"Please, this is not about civil rights 'cause I would be the first one in the front of that line and I'm here to tell you that right now. I'd be the first one in the front of that line. But this is about taking a deviant behavior, a dysfunctional behavior, normalizing, sexualizing our kids." - Dr. Laura radio show, August 13, 1999 (quoted by CBSC).

"I have never called homosexuals biological mistakes. I have said the sexual orientation is clearly an error. With penises and vaginas we were meant for heterosexual sexual acting out in order to procreate the species. I mean that is just irrefutable. But she is outright lying by distortion. There are different ways to lie. This one is by distortion and misrepresentation. I have never called homosexuals errors. I have called the sexuality an error. ... I want you to know that Joan Garry completely misrepresented my presentation. I have never called a people an error. I have called the sexuality, orientation, an error. And I think that is irrefutable and obvious. It's dysfunctional, it's deviant. According to religion it is not moral. But biologically it is clearly an error." - Dr. Laura radio show, August 24, 1999 (quoted by CBSC).

"The debate over Gay rights. Rights. Rights? For sexual deviancy, sexual behavior, there are now rights. That's what I am worried about with the pedophilia, the bestiality and the sado-masochism. Is this all going to be rights too? To deviant sexual behavior. It is deviant sexual behavior. Why does deviant sexual behavior get rights? I don't understand that..." - Dr. Laura radio show, June 10, 1999 (quoted by CBSC).

"You know what was largely responsible for that guy's [Matthew Shepard's] death? Those two guys who killed him did not go out looking for a homosex-

ual to kill that night. They were shooting pool. He went to the bar. He left with two guys he thought he was gonna have sex with. He got murdered. How many women has that happened to? How many women have left bars thinking they were gonna get some action with some guy who raped and murdered and tortured and murdered them? Far more women than homosexual men have ended up dead that way, I would guess. Is that a hate crime against women? I think so but they specifically picked the woman who was willing to leave for sex. If Matthew hadn't been willing to leave for sex, he might still be alive. That certainly doesn't make him responsible for his own death but when you put yourself into a situation of going off to have anonymous sex with people you meet at a bar, what kind of person is gonna leave with you? Usually scum.... This was a terrible tragedy but it's also one that might have been avoided if he had simply gone home with his friends instead of thinking he was gonna get a little." - Dr. Laura radio show, April 16, 1999 (quoted by CBSC).

"The ultra-conservative advice dispenser went on to report the results of her fax poll regarding controversial marriages. 'I asked for only those supporting legal Gay marriages to respond to the question of whether it's OK for adult male and female siblings to marry,' Schlessinger said. 'Except for one fax, they all said yes,' she reported with disgust." - Dr. Laura quoted by the New York Post, 2/16/00

[Tucson will be holding a rally against Schlessinger and her proposed fall television talk show on Sunday, August 20. For more information, or to volunteer, call (520) 624-1779 or (520) 519-6768.]



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# The 2000 Godat Award:

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Two years ago an award was inaugurated to recognize extraordinary long-term contribution by an individual to Tucson's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. The first recipient, and the person for whom Wingspan has named this award, is Ken Godat, past president of Wingspan. Last year the Godat Award celebrated Jean M. Baker for her tireless personal commitment and ongoing public advocacy.

Now, Wingspan is accepting nominations for this year's Award Recipient, to be honored at Wingspan's Third Annual Benefit Dinner, on Saturday, September 30, 2000 at the Marriott University Park Hotel.

**Please nominate someone for this year's Award by completing the form below. Attach the form to a single-page letter that explains why you think this person is a worthy recipient.** Any individual may be nominated. A nominating committee has been formed to review nominations and select the most deserving nominee.

- 1: To help you formulate your nomination, you might like to consider the following questions:
  - 2: How has this individual made an outstanding contribution - what needs have been met?
  - 3: What role did this person play and how did she/he demonstrate particular initiative?
  - 4: What has been this person's impact on the community?
  - 5: What special challenges did this person face in making his/her contribution?
- Are there any other reasons why you think this person deserves the Godat Award?

Nominee's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Address and Phone, if available. \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail or hand deliver this form along with your attached nominating letter no later than 5 P.M., Friday, July 14, 2000, to:  
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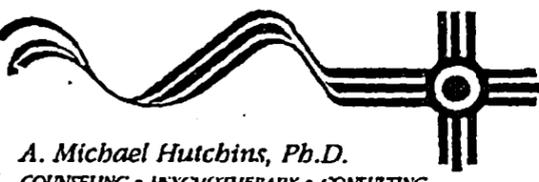
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**Same-Sexed Commitment In The Bible**

Frequently, when I go to weddings (the heterosexual kind), I get a good chuckle. In about half of the Christian weddings I've been to, including the ones I've performed, the couple has selected a reading from the Hebrew scripture that goes like this:

Wherever you go, I will go. Wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people. And your God will be my God. Wherever you die, I will die. And there be buried beside me. May the worse thing in the world happen to me. If I ever forsake you! (Ruth 1:16-17)

This passage is a beautiful commitment of love between two people. It stirs images of romance, yet is filled with a sense of practical reality. What gives me a good chuckle when I hear this reading at heterosexual marriage ceremonies is that Ruth spoke these words to Naomi. These are words of commitment from one woman to another.

Briefly, the story of Ruth and Naomi is a story of two women left to fend for themselves after the deaths of their respective husbands. With no rights in ancient society, widows were left on their own without property or inheritance because only men could own property or inherit wealth. Widows had to depend on their relatives to take care of them. In this case, the relatives would not take them in. So Ruth, the younger, pledges her faithfulness to Naomi. She then concocts a plan. Getting a distant wealthy relative drunk, Ruth slips into his bed and night and, as the Bible so coyly says, "uncovers his feet." Later, she tricks him into confessing that he took advantage of her. The result was that he was forced to take both Ruth and Naomi

into his herim. (Yes, lots of Old Testament men had huge herams. The model of the nuclear family is simply one Biblical paradigm of family among other types of family units. But that's another topic.)

Ruth was a bold, courageous woman. She was wise and knew how to take care of herself. She loved Naomi deeply and did everything necessary to assure that both of them would be cared for properly.

Ruth was the grandmother of David, the greatest King of Israel. She is also one of the ancestors of Jesus. Her actions, which we many would consider unethical today, are lauded in the Bible. She's a hero. Further, she did what she did out of love for a woman.

Were Ruth and Naomi Lesbians? I don't know. The Bible doesn't tell us that. But remember: the concept of homosexuality is a modern one. There wasn't an understanding of sexual orientation in any culture until the birth of modern psychology. As with most people in the Bible, we aren't told who had sex with whom. That's not why they wrote the story.

We do know this: that the commitment of love for Naomi by Ruth was legendary. While there are other commitments recorded in the Bible, the commitment Ruth made to Naomi is probably the most beautifully.

[Louis F. Kavar, Ph.D., is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, a counselor, hypnotherapist, and spiritual director in private practice in Tucson. He can be contacted at 290-1591 or by e-mail at LouKavar@aol.com.]

**A View From The Rock**  
A Commentary From Cornerstone Fellowship

Grace and mercy are two words we use to describe God's amazing character. And although we often use them interchangeably, they do have slightly different meanings.

Grace, when acted out, is the giving of something not deserved. In our case, we sin and fall short of being holy in all we do and say, and yet, God offers us a gift. The gift is his son, Jesus Christ. The gift provided by Jesus is forgiveness for our sins. We don't deserve it, and the Bible says we cannot earn it. And yet, there it is. Freely offered with no strings attached. That's grace!

Mercy on the other hand is the act of not getting what we do deserve. Again, we are sinful people who struggle to do things God's way and hence, we sin. We deserve punishment for our sins. We deserve to be shunned by a righteous and holy God. But, that's not what we get. Rather, God offers us forgiveness or continues to give us health, or perhaps continues to bless us in numerous other ways. We don't get what we deserve. That's mercy.

You can see why we get the two confused as the results of being offered grace or mercy result in much the same blessing.

Now, its one thing to recognize that God is able to give us grace and mercy even when we do something really terrible. But what about us and our interactions with

each other? Scripture says we are to treat each other with grace and mercy as well. My answer to that is we must decide today, right now, who needs our grace and mercy. There is already someone in our lives who has sinned against us and needs us to forgive him/her or that person has gotten himself/herself into such a mess you would rather not get involved. But that's just it. Unless we get involved and try to live our lives as God instructs us to in his word, than we cease to mature spiritually. And I think we also limit ourselves from the great number of blessings that could be ours if we will just offer some of that grace and mercy to others. We must decide right now though who it will be first. Because as soon as you stop reading this and put this newspaper down, it will be too easy to then treat others just as we always have. It takes a conscious effort to change our ways especially if it means treating someone we'd rather avoid with love, forgiveness....grace....mercy.

I'll close with this thought. Who are we to withhold mercy? who are we to withhold grace, when we ourselves need so much of it from God? I think if we would each realized just how blessed we are to know the Lord and accept from Jesus so much mercy when we just can't do things the right way, then we would see others in a different light and be compelled to offer the same. Remember, make up your mind now before you put this paper down, as to who you will treat with mercy and grace today.

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# UPDATE

## Geico Pulls Ads From 'Dr.' Laura

WASHINGTON, DC - In a statement, the insurance giant GEICO has announced it will no longer permit its advertising to appear during Laura Schlessinger's radio program.

"We have decided we will not continue our advertising on the 'Dr. Laura' radio program," the statement read. "GEICO is an equal opportunity employer and does not condone discrimination of any type directed toward any minority," the statement continued, directly linking GEICO's decision with the controversy over Schlessinger's anti-Gay statements.

The statement, provided to StopDrLaura.com by GEICO's assistant vice president and director of communications, Walter Smith, points to a flood of concerned messages from consumers regarding GEICO ads during the "Dr. Laura" radio show. "Recently, we have received a great deal of feedback — some positive, mostly negative — regarding our advertising on the 'Dr. Laura Schlessinger' radio program. Most of the negative feedback has been from the Gay and Lesbian community, which finds many of Dr. Laura's comments concerning sexual orientation to be highly offensive and prejudicial."

For three weeks, the StopDrLaura.com site had urged viewers to contact GEICO. The site, which has received a flood of over 30 million hits and millions of unique visitors since its March 1 launch, contained contact information for GEICO and other companies connected with Schlessinger's program.

GEICO joins a growing list of major corporations that have distanced themselves from Schlessinger, including Procter & Gamble, United Airlines, American Express, Xerox, Toys R Us, More.com, BoxLot, and Amica Insurance.

"Corporate America has spoken: Schlessinger is bad for business," said Joel Lawson, a co-founder of StopDrLaura.com. "Paramount is the only company in America that hasn't figured this out."

## Ab Fab Veterans Reunite For New Series

LONDON, UK (LT) - The talent behind the hit BBC series Absolutely Fabulous—including writer-actress Jennifer Saunders and actresses Joanna Lumley, Julia Sawalha, June Whitfield, and Jane Horrocks—will reunite for a new sitcom, Mirrorball.

The new show, which Saunders will write, centers around a former dancer and a former disco diva, both past their primes but still game, and their adventures in London's West End. Paul Lee, chief operating officer of BBC America, describes Mirrorball as "irreverent, indecent, and completely inebriated."

The show is slated to debut in the United Kingdom in early 2001; it will later screen in the United States on BBC America (the pilot episode) and Comedy Central (all other episodes). No word yet on the total number of episodes that will be produced.

## Gore Tells Group To Choose 'Tolerance'

WASHINGTON, DC - In response to a letter from the conservative Catholic League seeking his condemnation of the World Pride celebration in Rome, Vice President Al Gore told the group that he favors tolerance for Gays and Lesbians.

Catholic League president William Donohue wrote to Gore demanding that he back the Vatican's request to have the pride event postponed because it is taking place at the same time as the Vatican's Holy Year Jubilee. In his response Gore said that he supported "all organizations that are committed to ridding our society of bias and prejudice" but said he did not agree with the call to postpone the festival.

"This is one issue where I will be unable to help," Gore said. "I believe that the larger issue is one of tolerance. Just as I will stand by you whenever you are working to fight intolerance on religious grounds, I also believe we need to be tolerant when it comes to sexual orientation as well." Donohue condemned Gore's response as "deeply insulting" and proof that Gore was "wedded...to the politics of the radical Gay agenda."

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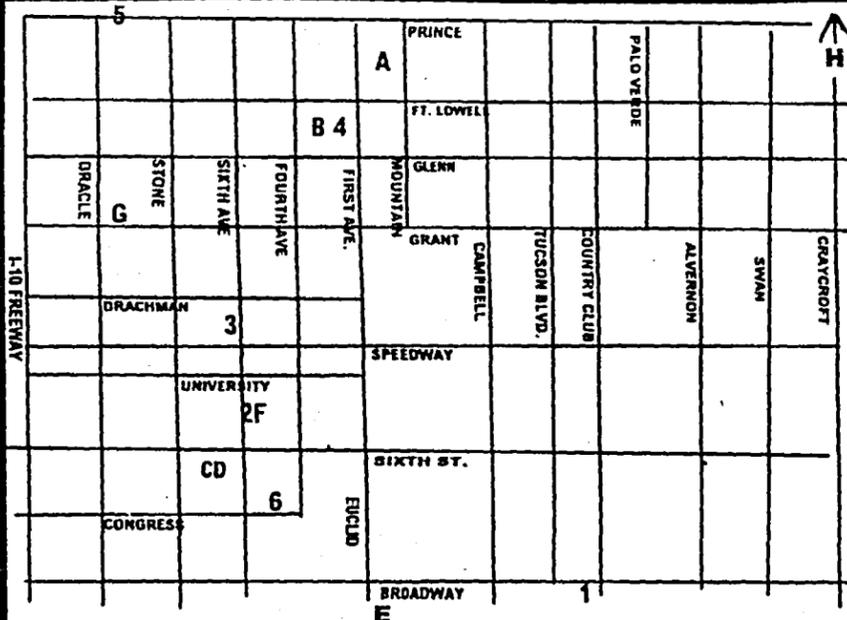
High Series Scratch - Just Jack1, 678; Nice N Sleazy, 1660.

High Game Scratch - Heather H., 208; Just Jack1, 256; Nice N Sleazy, 596.

High Series Handicap - Sarah S., 638; Joe L., 722; The Nut Sack, 1940.

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# Reaction To The Supreme Court Ruling On The Boy Scouts

WASHINGTON, DC - The editorial boards of the country's two most influential newspapers, The New York Times and The Washington Post, weighed in against the Supreme Court's decision to allow the Boy Scouts of America to continue its discriminatory ban on Gay membership in the organization.

The New York Times said the decision "was a disappointing departure from a proud line of high court precedents erasing discrimination in public accommodations." The decision reached by the court, said the newspaper, was "one of its lowest moments of the term."

The Times praised the four dissenting justices for adhering to the test the court has traditionally applied to groups attempting to escape from anti-discrimination provisions. The Scouts, it noted, had failed to show that admitting Gay members was fundamentally incompatible

with the organization's core mission.

The majority made no effort to assess the Scout's core message, which makes no mention whatever of homosexuality. The dissenting justices say that had the majority applied this simple test as the court had done in all similar cases, they could not have reached a decision favorable to the Scouts in this case.

Said The Times: "James Dale, the excluded Eagle Scout, deserved better. So did the rest of the nation."

The Washington Post said the "opinion is more a comment on the First Amendment's broad scope than a validation of prejudice. The Boy Scouts' discrimination against Gays remains as offensive and wrong a position following the court's decision as it was before."

The Post, rather than analyzing the arguments in the case, chose instead to point out that the Boy Scouts' effort to exclude Gay people, "places them outside the ever-widening circle of acceptance of Gays and Lesbians in this country."

"[F]ree association is a two-way street," said The Post, "and many Americans are increasingly disinclined to associate with organizations that give open vent to indefensible prejudices."

"Some Boy Scout troops are sponsored by government agencies or public schools, and the organization has a federal charter. An enormous number of boys participate in scouting programs around the country. All of this relies on public goodwill, which the scouts place in jeopardy over a matter that is, at best, tangential to their core mission."

The Arizona Daily Star said "the Boy Scout ruling, the court struck a blow against the most American of principles - equality. And it came down squarely in favor of homophobia."

"Set aside for the moment the idea that discrimination runs counter to everything the scouts try to instill in boys," the editorial continues, "we [The Star] don't for a minute buy the idea that because this is a private organization, it has the right to discriminate against homosexuals. At a time when homosexuals are making gains in acceptance among Americans, the court set the cause back years."

With a victory from the Supreme Court, the national leadership of the Boys Scouts of America can reassert the rightness of its ten-year battle over Gays. But to hear it from past Gay scouts and current scout leaders, Gays have been and will always be a part of scouting. What will likely prevail, say many, is adherence to a 'don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue' policy governing Gay participation in scouting.

"We make no effort to discover the sexual orientation of any person," Carrol Murray, communications director for the Chief Seattle Council told the Seattle Times. But, she added, a troop could not accept "an avowed homosexual" as a leader or as a member.

All 340 Boy Scout councils across the country must adhere to this policy, Murray said. Within the Chief Seattle Council, some members "do not agree with the policy but continue to support scouting because it is such a good character building organization for young men," she said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWENTY

## Murder Focuses

Continued from Page Five

my forgiveness. The other two, they don't, God forgive me."

"All I want to do is justice," he said, adding he wants the attack to be listed as a hate crime. The Rev. Nelson Staples, pastor at the Warren family's church, appealed to worshippers to phone the local prosecutor to persuade him to charge the teenagers with a hate crime.

Thus far, the Sheriff's department has been unmoved. "In none of the statements that I received, no one that I've talked to thereafter has ever indicated to me that its cause was sexuality or the color of his skin," said Watkins. "Until I receive that evidence, I can't very well say it was a hate crime."

Brenda Warren, sobbing at her husbands side said that the department's refusal to bring hate crimes charges against the teens ignores the brutality of the crime. "If it's not hate, what is it?" she said. "I just want someone to tell me what it is."

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# Non-Bar Calendar

Groups | Clubs | Organizations

## THURSDAY, JULY 13

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Join Bill for Dinner Out as we go to Little Bohemia for some eastern European fare. Please phone in your reservation to Bill as soon as possible so we can notify the restaurant of the number of men attending. For directions and reservations, please contact Bill at 546-7539.

## FRIDAY, JULY 14

Bears of the Old Pueblo General meeting and Potluck. A really great way to meet the Bears and get a chance to participate in club planning. Bring a dish and find out why being a Bear of the Old Pueblo is so special. More info call 327-1620 or visit the web <http://www.botop.com>

## SATURDAY, JULY 15

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 6:00 p.m. Join Jerry and Les for their second Mystery Dinner. Everyone is assigned a role to play for the evening and everyone must try to solve the murder which has occurred. Dinner will be served at 6:00, and the game playing begins then. For directions and reservations, please contact Les or Jerry at 690-9565.

## SUNDAY, JULY 16

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 6:30 p.m. Steve hosts an evening devoted to Mah Jong. If you don't know how to play, they gladly teach you. For reservations, details, and directions, please call Steve at 388-4849.

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 19

Tucson Prime Timers Luncheon at 12:30 p.m. at the Wildcat House, 1801 N. Stone Avenue. For more information call 747-5669.

## THURSDAY, JULY 20

Poz Cafe Monthly Luncheon - providing a delicious free lunch, along with friendship, games and social activities. Open to all HIV+ adults and one guest (partner, family, friend or volunteer respecting confidentiality/privacy concerns). Doors open at 11:30 a.m. Lunch is served at noon and games, crafts and social time until 2:30 p.m. Located at St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church, a Gay friendly church at the corner of River and Swan. RESERVATIONS REQUESTED. To reserve your space or request transportation, call the TIHAN office at 299-6647 by Monday, July 17.

## FRIDAY, JULY 21

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Join us for our monthly Pizza Party held at Jerry & Les' home. Simply bring \$4.00 and join in for a fun evening of food and good conversation. Salad and dessert are also served. Vegetarian pizza offered as well. For reservations and directions, please call Jerry or Les at 690-9565. Please note: reservations should be made by Thursday, July 19 at noon so we can order the proper number of pizzas (but we do order a couple of extra pizzas just in case this isn't read until the day of the event).

Dinner with the Bears of the Old Pueblo and guests. Bears go Italian this month. Call the Bear Line at 327-1620 or visit their web site at <http://www.botop.com>. Be sure to RSVP by July 19<sup>th</sup>.

## SATURDAY, JULY 22

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Join Bill as he hosts Pinochle Night. If you're a fan of the game, this is the place to go. If you don't know how to play, but want to learn, we'll help you out. For reservations and directions, please call Bill at 297-3569.

Christmas in July Party! A great annual event with the Bears of the Old Pueblo and their guests. Traditional holiday fixins will be provided, just bring a dessert of a holiday themed side dish. Don't forget to bring a gag gift for the "white elephant" gift exchange. For time and location call 327-1620 or check out their website at <http://www.botop.com>

## SUNDAY, JULY 23

Tucson Prime Timers dinner 5:30 pm. At Shooters Steakhouse, 3115 E. Prince Road. (East of Country Club (North side of Prince). It's Prime Rib Night! For more information call 747-5669.

## MONDAY, JULY 24

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Bridge night. Bridge for men who want to refresh their bridge skills (or just have fun); table talk playing. For reservations and directions, please call Tom at 326-6196.

## THURSDAY, JULY 27

1. Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. A night is devoted to getting out the MSN newsletters. It's a fun way to help the organization and get to know the MSN guys. Dessert and door prizes are provided. For reservations and directions, please call Jerry at 690-9565.

2. Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 8:00 p.m. Join us for the MSN Premiere of "Happy, Texas", about 2 escaped cons masquerading as gay pageant directors in a small Texas town. A funny comedy, with heart. For reservations & directions, please call Les or Jerry at 690-9565.

## SATURDAY, JULY 29

Bears of the Old Pueblo Lemmon Rock hike! Now here's an image - Bears in the woods! Bears and guests will meet at the McDonald's - the corner of Tanque Verde and Catalina Highway at 8:00 a.m. to pool up Mount Lemmon. Bring your own water and picnic lunch. This is a hike of light to moderate difficulty with some of the best scenic views of the surrounding mountain ranges. This is a wilderness area so no pets on this trip please. (520)327-1620 or <http://www.botop.com>

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome) 7:00 p.m. Join us for our Topic of Discussion as we look at "Friendship". Do you have enough friends? Do you make time for the ones you have. Want to learn how to make new friends?

# Bar Calendar

Of Upcoming Events

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 12

IBTS - 'The Girlie Show' hosted by Lucinda Holliday featuring Mr. Kenneth Blake, Angela Dodd and Faith Michaels.

## SATURDAY, JULY 15

VENTURE-N - Beer Bust and Chili Feed with the Bears of the Old Pueblo on the patio. 50¢ beer and soda draughts, \$1.50 beer and \$1.00 bowls of that great chili. All tip benefits our community while you have a great afternoon with the Bears.

## SUNDAY, JULY 16

IBTS - In addition to the Bloody Marys Bar and Karaoke on the patio, the party continues :30 to 8:00 p.m. with the benefit Bar-B-Que/16oz Beer Bust, proceeds to the Arizona Angels Softball Team. Then, at 9:00 p.m. there's a special benefit show for Mr. Kenneth Blake who is a candidate in the Miss Western States Pageant. Show features Kenneth, Phaedra, Faith Michaels, Janè Starr and surprise guests.

VENTURE-N - Super-Sub Sunday with Bears of the Old Pueblo. Come on down and get a piece of their 6-footer (sub-sandwich) and the fixins'. Suggested donation is \$2.00 with proceeds going to exchange student Jeremy Hawkins.

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 19

IBTS - The Girlie Show starring Lucinda Holliday, Mr. Kenneth Blake, Samantha White and Domino Blush. 9:00 p.m.

## SATURDAY, JULY 22

IBTS - 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Grey Eagle Arm Wrestling Tournament Benefit for TIHAN. 4:00 p.m. Sign-up packets available at IBT's and Woody's. Mark your calendars.

## SUNDAY, JULY 30

IBTS - Today's Benefit Bar-B-Que / 16oz Beer Bust will go to the folks at the Tucson 'Stop Dr. Laura' Committee.

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

IBTS - It's IBT's 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bash! Watch out!

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# Daily Bar Calendar

## Sunday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Beer Bust 5-10, \$1.25 pitchers. Latin Music with DJ Hill 9-1. Shot specials all night.

IBT's - Open 11am-1am. Happy Hour 11-4pm, \$2.00 domestic beer and well. \$1.75 well & domestic beer 4-9pm. Benefit B-B-Q and Beer Bust for community organizations 4:30-7pm. Karaoke with Billy Dee on the patio 4:30-7:30. Hi energy dancing 9pm to close. All drink specials not available during special events.

STONEWALL - Open Noon. All well drinks \$1.75 til 8pm. Free Pool noon til 5pm. Dance Club opens 9pm with Mix Master David Z playing House & Hip Hop. New digital Karaoke surround sound system (in the bar) 9pm to close. Popcorn, steaming buns & hot weenies ... free.

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio open noon. Patio Beer Bust 3-7pm 75¢ draft, \$2 pitchers. 301 Dart Tournament 5pm \$3 entry fee (pot matched). Boss Burgers 5-7pm Hides Leather Goods opens at 4pm.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 3-7 pm. Volleyball 5:30 pm. B-B-Q 5:30-9pm. \$2.50 burger; \$1.50 Hot Dog. Karaoke with Billy Dee 9pm to close. Patio Bar Open.

## Monday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Happy Hour Two-For-One 2-7. Free pool 2-4. \$1.50 Wells 8-midnight, 25¢ cups of draft 8 to closing.

IBT's - Open 10am. Martini Monday all day all call martinis \$2.50. Happy Hour 10am-4pm, \$2.00 domestic beer and well. \$1.75 well and domestic beer 4-9pm. 9pm to closing, \$1.50 / 32oz pitchers. Karaoke Billy Dee 7:00-9:30pm Retro 80's dance 9:30pm to closing. All drink specials not available during special events.

STONEWALL - Open at noon. All well drinks \$1.75 til 8pm. Free pool all day and all night. Dance Club opens 9pm with DJ CrispX spinning Circuit Noise. Popcorn, steaming buns and hot weenies...free

VENTURE-N - Open 6am. Dart Tourney 8pm, pot matched. Patio opens 5pm

WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 3-7pm. Karaoke w/Billy Dee 9pm to close. Special drink prices 8pm to close for American Airlines - American Express - AOL employees.

## Tuesday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour Two-For-One 2-7pm. Pool toumey 7:30pm. \$3 entry, pot matched. \$1.50 longnecks for pool players. \$2 Long Islands all nite. Dance to music w/DJs.

IBT's - Open 10am. Happy Hour 10am-4pm, \$2.00 domestic beer & well. \$1.75 well & domestic beer 4-9pm. 9pm to close \$1.75 well. Wear an IBT's T-shirt get happy hour prices 9 to close, or buy an IBT's T-shirt for \$5 and get a complimentary drink. House Hi-Nergy Dance 9pm to closing.

STONEWALL - Open Noon. All well drinks \$1.75 til 8pm. Free pool all day and night. Dance Club opens 9pm. with DJ Eduardo featuring international music. Popcorn, steaming buns and hot weenies ... free.

VENTURE-N - Open 6am. Patio open 5pm.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 3-7pm. Trivia Party 8pm-close. Top score on NTN per game wins special prizes. Skyy's the limit \$2.25.

## Wednesday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour Two-For-One 2-7pm. Free Pool 2-4. \$1.50 pitchers 9-close. 80s Retro DJ Sarafina. No cover. IBT's - Open 10am to 1am. Happy Hour 10am to 4pm, \$2.00 domestic beer & well. \$1.75 well & domestic beer 4-9pm. \$1.75 Bud Products 9pm to close. All drink specials not available during special events.

STONEWALL - Open Noon. All well drinks \$1.75 til 8pm. Free pool noon til 5pm. New Digital Karaoke surround sound system (in the bar) 9pm to close. Dance Club opens at 9pm with DJ Eduardo. Popcorn, steaming buns and hot weenies ... Free.

VENTURE-N - Open 6am. Patio opens at 5pm.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 3-7pm. Volleyball Court. Open this evening. Spaghetti Feed 6-8pm \$2.50. Patio bar open.

## Thursday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour 2-7pm, 2for1 Free pool 2-4. Karaoke with Liz 9pm to close. \$1.50 Tequila & 75¢ Watermelons.

IBT's - Open 10am to 1am. Happy Hour 10am-4pm \$2.00 domestic beer and well. \$1.75 Well & domestic 4-9. Underwear Nite. \$1.50 well and \$1.75 domestic beer to those in their underwear (pant check available). Hi energy dancing 9-close. All drink specials not available during special events.

STONEWALL - Open Noon. All well drinks \$1.75 til 8pm. Dance club opens at 9pm. Dance with DJ CrispX to Circuit Noise. Popcorn, steaming buns and hot weenies ... free.

VENTURE-N - Open 6am. Patio open 5pm. Day prices for men in leather 7pm to close. Pool Tournament 7pm-ish. \$3 entry. Hides Leather shop opens at 8pm

WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 3-7pm. Trivia Thursday 8pm-close. Top score on NTN per game wins special prizes.. Volleyball Court is Open. See bartender. Pato Bar Open.

## Friday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour Two-For-One 2-7. Free pool 2-4. Free food at 5:30pm. Dance music 9-1 w/ DJ Hill. Drink specials every 1/2 hour

IBT's - Open 10am. Happy Hour 10am-4pm \$2.00 domestic beer and well. \$1.75 well & domestic beer 4-9. Live Jazz on the patio with the Susan & Tracey 5:30-8:30pm. Patio Bar 9-1. Dance Party 9 to 1. All drink specials not available during special events.

STONEWALL - Open Noon. All well drinks \$1.75 til 8pm. Free pool noon til 5pm. Dance Club open 9pm. Dance with DJ David Z. to High Energy Music. Popcorn, steaming buns and hot weenies ... free.

VENTURE-N - Open 6am. Snacks served at 5pm. Patio open 5pm. Hides Leather Store opens 8pm.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 3-7pm. Martini Party - Well Martini's \$2.50 all day. Call Martinis \$3 from 4pm to close. Volleyball Court is Open. See bartender. Patio Bar Open.

## Saturday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Open at 2pm. Drink specials all day. Pool Tournament 6:30pm \$3 entry. Pot matched. \$2 pitchers for pool players. Dance music w/DJ Hill 9-close. Drink specials every half hour..

IBT's - Open 10am to 1am. Happy Hour 10am-4pm \$2.00 domestic beer and well. \$1.75 well & domestic beer 4-9pm. Patio bar -1. Dance 9-1. All drink specials not available during special events.

STONEWALL - Open Noon. All well drinks \$1.75 til 8pm. Free pool noon til 5pm. Dance Club opens at 9pm with DJ David Z. Popcorn, steaming buns and hot weenies ... free.

VENTURE-N - Open 6am. Patio Bar open at 3pm. Patio Beer Bust with 50¢ drafts, \$1.50 pitchers. Hides Leather Store opens at 8pm.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 3-7pm. Volleyball Court is Open. See bartender. Steak Fry 5-9pm Filet Mignon, vegetables, salad, roll & potato \$4.50. Patio Bar Open.

NOTICES

TUCSON CATHOLIC GAY & LESBIAN FAMILY MINISTRY. Currently meeting the 4th Monday of every month at SS Peter & Paul Church, Madonna Hall 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Fr. Fiedler in attendance every meeting and willing to speak one on one. Reaching out to Parents and Families. For more info call Doc or Barbara 293-6624.

SAA (Sex Addicts Anonymous) meets once a week on Sundays. Gay men and women who wish to stop compulsive sexual behavior, please call (520)570-1225 for information.

LUTHERANS CONCERNED - Tucson chapter for Gay/Lesbian Lutherans meets 4th Sunday, 6:30 p.m. each month at Santa Cruz Lutheran Church, 6809 S. Cardinal Ave. For more information write: LC, 7014 E. Golf Links Road, PMB 212, Tucson, AZ 85730.

ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS: Confidential individual or group support for Gay, Bisexual or Trans men who are victims/survivors of domestic violence. For more information call 624-0348 (24-hour line)

REVELLE GAY MEN'S CHORUS rehearses Tuesdays 7-10pm at MCC Church, 3269 N. Mountain. Have any history/experience singing? Join us!! Call 681-1369 to audition. 617-3100 for more info.

MENS 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 Jerry at 690-9565 for information and a newsletter. Check the Non-Bar Calendar in the Observer.

SOFTBALL - For info on the Tucson Greater Softball Association T.G.S.A., please contact Mary 770-8979 or Bertie 318-3415.

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

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SPORTS TEAMS and updates on Gay Games 2002, contact TEAM ARIZONA at their website: teamarizona.org

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

BISEXUAL INFORMATION/SUPPORT GROUP for women and men. Meetings-1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. 624-1779.

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

COMMUNITY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (CBA), Tucson's Gay and Lesbian business networking group holds regular meetings the third Thursday of every month. Call Greg Hollman 529-7542 for more info.

TUCSON LESBIAN/GAY ALLIANCE (TLGA) meets on the second Tuesday at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th Street at 7pm. For more information call 622-3200.

SOUTHERN ARIZONA GENDER ALLIANCE (SAGA). Meetings on the 1st Monday, 7pm. Dezert Girtz (MTF) Meets 2nd Monday at 7pm. Dezert Boyz meets 3rd Tuesday at 7pm. of every month. All meetings take place at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. Call 624-1779 for more info. SAGAE-mail@aol.com http://members.aol.com/sagaemal

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 DUNGEON TUCSON'S 100% CONSENSUAL, Pan-Fetish, Pan-Sexual, Informational, Educational, Safe Space for the B&D, S&M, D&S and TV community. Call us at (520)325-0131, or http://www.azds.net/dd

LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA. Local chapter of the nation's largest Gay and Lesbian Republican organization. Meets the first Tuesday evening of each month. For information, call Patrick at 615-1887.

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

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

GLSEN - Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network meets first Thursday of every month at 4:30pm at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th Street. 743-4800.

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NOTICES

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

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

LESBIAN/GAY/BI-SEXUAL OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS. Saturdays 1 to 2pm new location Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. Contacts 325-6676 or 327-4293.

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 791-7876.

GRACE GROUP - CATHOLIC GAY/LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP meets every 2nd Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the Madonna Hall at Santa Peter and Paul Catholic Church, 1436 N. Campbell across from University Hospital. For more info. Call Eddie Betrano 888-4595.

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 Brenda at 884-9920, Ext.448 or Emmett 322-6057 (evelten@ix.netcom.com)

AZdykes is a new email list for Lesbians living in Arizona. For information mail tyan@theriver.com and request guidelines.

OUTLOUD! Tucson's premiere Local Lesbian and Gay Radio Show, broadcast every Wednesday at 6:03 pm on 91.3 FM, Community Radio KKCI. The show "This Way Out", a nationally syndicated Lesbian and Gay radio show is aired at 5:30 pm every Wednesday.

THEATER / DINNER / ETC! Non-Smoking Lesbian Network meets every 3rd Saturday night of each month. If you'd like to meet women 35+ (flexible) and socialize in a smoke-free environment 888-8010 before 10:00 p.m. The group dines out and attends shows or movies. Now in their 16th year! (2nd in Tucson).

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)327-1620 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910, or come to our general meetings the second Friday of every month. Location listed on our hotline.

LAMBDA CAR CLUB, a social organization of Gays and Lesbians who share interest, information and fellowship involving all cars and trucks. New Southern Arizona Region now in Tucson. Call the HOTline for info at 888-5541

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

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

CRONIES SOCIAL GROUP. A Social group for Gay men who enjoy the fellowship of their peers. Call Leo at 624-6765.

T-SQUARES Lesbian and Gay square dance club meets every Tuesday from 6:30-9:00 p.m. at Cornerstone Fellowship Social Hall, 2902 N. Geronimo (near 1st Ave. and Laguna). Open to All. Call Liz at 325-9466 or Ray at 749-5247.

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

GAY & LESBIAN SPIRITUALITY GROUP of St. Phillips in the Hills Episcopal Church meets first and third Mondays. Call David, 323-7943 for more information.

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 Chorus rehearses Monday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30pm at Armory Park Senior Center, 220 S. 6th Ave. Call 791-9662.

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., MCC Church, 3269 N. Mountain. All alcoholics welcome.

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

WINGSPAN - Tucson's Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Community Center, 300 E. 6th 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.

NOTICES

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.saat.org. VOLUNTEERS WELCOME.

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP. Involving discussion, support and activities. Designed to support each other. Meets 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month from 9:30 to 11am. Alternate Saturdays the group meets for social activities. For info call Dorian Easty, facilitator. 882-7723

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 575-8660 or write P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740-6264. All replies confidential.

ARE YOU GAY OR LESBIAN and someone else's drinking is getting to you. Call Wingspan at 624-1779 about a new Al-Anon group being organized in Tucson.

YOUNG AND GAY?

GLBT Youth 23 and under, meet every Saturday in Tucson for a ring, support and information. Meetings are held at 300 E. 6th Street from 3 to 4:30 pm. You are not alone. For more info call Wingspan, 624-1779.

The TUCSON Chapter of PRIME TIMERS INTERNATIONAL invites Gay or Bisexual men and their admirers to join and share Prime Timers fellowship. We welcome mature men (and admirers) who wish to become involved with planned and future Prime Timers activities. Meetings luncheons and dinners are held monthly. For dates, times and information call 584-0280, leave name and phone number.

TUCSON GAY 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 881-1794 - 8 am - 5 pm Mon. - Fri.

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

SUPPORT GROUP: Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals meet weekly for open discussions in a loving, supportive atmosphere. Meetings Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:30 pm at St. Francis in the Foothills Church, Swan and River Road, Room 43. Call the church at Davey at 886-1208 or Brian at 882-4726 for information.

HKE & BIKE DYKES. Meets 2nd Monday at 7pm. Call 327-7239 for info.

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.

GAY COWBOY CLUB - Nationwide Personal Ads. Admirers welcome too. Send stamp for information: Mavericks, Box 9543, Santa Fe, NM 87504.

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### Reaction To The Supreme Court

Continued from Page Seventeen

Former scout leader J. Carlos Velazquez, who runs a Minneapolis-based center for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered youth, told the Minneapolis Star Tribune, in his opinion, witchhunts are unlikely and he doesn't think there will be many high-profile dismissals of scouts. But, he said, "each district is probably going to act this [ruling] out differently."

Two years ago Velazquez was a scout leader and an administrator in Sierra, Nevada. He said other scout leaders knew he was Gay but that he was never asked to relinquish his membership. He expects that in light of the ruling, people will be much more guarded with their personal lives and faced with choices others don't have to make.

Kent York, director of communications for the Indianhead Scouting District in St. Paul, said his district would abide by the ruling, but wouldn't push to make an issue in recruiting scout leaders. "We don't ask an adult's orientation, we look at their leadership ability ... their ability to inspire confidence," he said.

But others, especially Gay scouts and scoutmasters, have been deeply wounded by the ruling and say they can't just carry on as before, as if nothing had happened. Gerry Tyrrell, co-founder of the advocacy group Rainbow Families and whose son is 9 years old said the ruling was a disservice to all Gay parents.

"As a former Boy Scout, I find the Boy Scouts' position that Gay men are not appropriate role models for the scout's oath and laws to be a perpetuation of this ignorance about Gay men," he said. "I don't

want my kids in an organization that will discriminate against me and my family."

Having won the right to exclude Gay people from its ranks, the Boy Scouts of America, according to critics, now must live with that decision at a time when the nation -- and the majority of its civic institutions upon which the Boy Scouts depend -- is hurdling in precisely the opposite direction.

Ruth Harlow, deputy legal director of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, put it this way: "Their leaders and lawyers have convinced five members of the United States Supreme Court of their narrow, discriminatory vision. Now," she said, "they have to live with that vision."

As conflicted as city officials may be about it, The New York Times reports municipal governments in more than a dozen cities, including Chicago, New York, Washington and San Francisco, have severed civic ties with the scouts or are considering measures to keep them from using public property because its policies run counter to local anti-bias laws.

David Rice of Scouting for All, a group that opposes the BSA's Gay ban, told The Times the high-profile fight and the affirmation of a discriminatory policy would spur corporations and other civic groups to review their ties to the scouts.

"This narrows the organization and pushes it more firmly into the hands of religious conservatives and the right wing. Many public-spirited companies will find they can no longer be involved with the scouts," he said.

### AIDS Conference

Continued from Page One

nearly all scientists and health officials.

"Some in our common world consider the questions that I and the rest of our government have raised around the HIV/AIDS issue as akin to grave criminal and genocidal conduct," Mbeki said at the conference. "What I hear said repeatedly, stridently, is, 'Don't ask questions.'"

Mbeki's stance prompted some 5,000 doctors, scientists and other AIDS professionals to take the extraordinary step worldwide to sign the Durban Declaration which stresses the "clear cut, exhaustive and unambiguous" link between HIV and AIDS.

South African officials expressed offense at the declaration, rightly judging it to be a rebuke against the president. The signers say that reopening the debate over the cause of AIDS at this stage in the epidemic condemns hundreds of thousands of Africans to infection and -- given the costs treatment and the lack of resources to pay for them -- death.

World health officials say that one in four sub-Saharan Africans will die of AIDS. More than two million people in the region died in 1999 alone. AIDS is wiping out an entire generation and gutting the national work force of whole countries, robbing them of doctors, teachers and engineers.

Dr. Peter Piot, the head of UN-AIDS, the United Nations agency monitoring the spread of AIDS worldwide, said that at least \$3 billion a year is urgently needed in Africa to take even basic

preventive measures and provide minimum standards of care.

"We need billions -- not millions -- to fight AIDS in the world. We can't fight an epidemic of this magnitude with peanuts." The \$3 billion figure, he pointed out, "is ten times what is being spent today."

### World Pride

Continued from Page One

with lions!" More than 1,000 Catholics had protested pride the week before in a seven-mile torchlight procession beginning at midnight behind the banner, "In defense of the natural and Christian order."

Italian Lesbian activist Imma Battaglia, spokesperson for pride organizers through many weeks of struggle, declared, "No one will ever be able to stop us ever again. We'll continue the fight for freedom, equality and respect."

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