

UofA Stabbing Update: Is The Perpetrator Competent?

By Mark R. Kerr

TUCSON (ON) - The competency of the alleged assailant of a Gay UA student is being questioned again.

Gary Grayson is accused of stabbing a Gay UA student on Fourth Avenue, February 6, 2000. Grayson was formally indicted February 18, charged with one count of attempted murder and two counts of assault.

The incident sent shockwaves through Tucson's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) community, who hadn't seen such an incident in more than 20 years. A march and rally were held by the community during the Summer to mark the attack.

As the GLBT community marched, justice proceeded. At a hearing held September 12, Pima County Superior Court Judge Michael Alfred ruled that Gary Grayson wasn't presently competent to stand trial.

Susan Easer, one of the two prosecutors handling the case, said Alfred made his ruling after the second psychiatric

evaluation had been completed on Grayson. She said Grayson was moved to the Arizona State Hospital to be "restored to competency."

The next hearing, held January 22, 2001, Grayson was determined to have been restored to competency and the April 3 trial date was set, but Easer said that changed due to a maneuver by defense attorneys.

The defense is having Grayson examined by a psychiatrist to determine whether he is competent to stand trial. Questions have arisen whether Grayson has been taking his medication, since he hasn't been "assisting" his attorney's.

A status conference will take place Wednesday, May 23, to either set a trial date or have Grayson sent back to the Arizona State Hospital to restore his competency again.

Easer said that she will prosecute this case fully under Arizona law. If convicted on the attempted murder charge, Grayson faces 7-21 years in prison. On the two aggravated assault charges, he could get 5-15 years each, but the sentence cannot run concurrently since it was for the same crime.

U.S. Supreme Court Rules Against Medical Marijuana Use

WASHINGTON, DC - The Supreme Court handed medical marijuana users a major defeat, ruling that a federal law classifying the drug as illegal has no exception for ill patients, the Associated Press reported.

The 8-0 decision was a major disappointment to many sufferers of AIDS, cancer, multiple sclerosis, and other illnesses. They have said the drug helped enormously in combatting the devastating effects of their diseases.

The court's action does not strike down state laws allowing medical use of marijuana, but leaves those distributing the drug for that purpose open to prosecution.

Justice Stephen Breyer did not participate in the marijuana ruling because his brother, a federal judge, initially presided over the case.

"In the case of the Controlled Substances Act, the statute reflects a determination that marijuana has no medical benefits worthy of an exception (outside the confines of a government-approved research project)," Justice Clarence Thomas wrote for the unanimous court.

Thomas noted the act states marijuana has "no currently accepted medical use."

The federal government triggered the case in 1998, seeking an injunction against the Oakland Cannabis Buyers Cooperative and five other marijuana distributors.

Justice John Paul Stevens, in a concurring opinion joined by two colleagues, said the court majority went too far.

It should have left open the possibility that an individual could raise a medical necessity defense, especially a patient "for whom there is no alternative means of avoiding starvation or extraordinary suffering," Stevens said.

He said the ruling could lead to friction between the federal government and states that have passed medical marijuana laws.

"This begs the question, What will the multitude of federal prosecutors do in the nine states that have passed medical

access laws?" for marijuana, said Allen St. Pierre, executive director of the NORML Foundation. NORML stands for the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws.

"Surely the prosecutors can't hope to arrest and attempt to prosecute individual medical marijuana patients," St. Pierre said.

U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer, brother of the justice, sided with the government. All the clubs except the Oakland group eventually closed down, and the Oakland club turned to registering potential marijuana recipients while it awaited a final ruling.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the lower court, ruling that medical necessity is a legal defense. Charles Breyer followed up by issuing strict guidelines for making that claim.

Voters in Arizona, Alaska, California, Colorado, Maine, Nevada, Oregon and Washington also have approved ballot initiatives allowing the use of medical marijuana. In Hawaii, the legislature passed a similar law and the governor signed it last year.

The cooperative argued that a drug may not yet have achieved general acceptance as a medical treatment, but may still have medical benefits to a particular patient or class of patients.

Thomas said the argument cannot overcome the intent of Congress in approving the statute.

"It is clear from the text of the act that Congress has made a determination that marijuana has no medical benefits worthy of an exception," Thomas wrote.

"Unwilling to view this omission as an accident, and unable in any event to override a legislative determination manifest in a statute, we reject the cooperative's argument."

Advocates of medical marijuana say the drug can ease side effects from chemotherapy, save nauseated AIDS patients from wasting away or even allow multiple sclerosis sufferers to rise from a wheelchair and walk.

There is no definitive science that the drug works, or works better than conventional, legal alternatives.

Several states are considering medical marijuana laws, and Congress may revisit the issue this year. A measure to counteract laws like California's died in the House last year.

Texas Governor Signs Hate Crimes Bill

AUSTIN, TX - Republican Texas governor Rick Perry signed the James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Act into law, strengthening the penalties for offenses against minorities, Gays, and others.

The measure was named for the East Texas black man who was dragged to his death from a pickup truck in 1998 by three whites. Perry's predecessor, George W. Bush, had refused to support the measure two years ago, saying all crimes are hate crimes.

"With my signature, Texas now has stronger penalties against crimes motivated by hate," said Perry, who had been noncommittal until the signing. "This law sends a signal to would-be criminals that if you attack someone because of their religion or race or gender, you face stiffer penalties." As Perry signed the bill, he was surrounded by Byrd's parents and lawmakers who had pushed for the legislation.

Byrd's mother, Stella, said before the signing that she is "very pleased that he changed his mind, and thank God for that too. I think he finally realized it was a good bill." Two of the men who killed Byrd are on death row. The third received a life sentence. The hate-crimes measure, which received final legislative approval ends

years of debate. Texas already has a hate-crimes law that increases penalties if a crime is proved to be "motivated by bias or prejudice," but it does not list specific categories of people who would be protected. Some prosecutors have said it is too vague to enforce.

Two years ago a similar bill passed the Texas house but was turned down by the senate when critics complained it created unnecessary distinctions for Gays and Lesbians. George W. Bush refused to support the measure, and Democrats later criticized him for that during his presidential campaign. As recently as Thursday, May 10, Perry said he hadn't decided whether he would sign the bill and was concerned it would "create new classes of citizens." "As governor of a very large, diverse state, in all matters it is desirable to seek common ground, common ground for the common good," Perry said.

WORDS THAT SEND CHILLS DOWN YOUR SPINE

"My words are like a dagger with a jagged edge
That'll stab you in the head
Whether you're a fag or lez
Or the homosex, hermaph or a trans-a-vest
Pants or dress - hate fags? The answer is yes!"

Eminem - "Criminal" - from *The Marshall Mathers LP*

UPDATE

Desert voices Concert June 15

TUCSON - Desert Voices, under the direction of Artistic Director Keith A. Koster, present their annual Gay pride concert, "Now & Then" taking a look back at America's best music of the 20th century, June 15, 8:00 p.m., at the PCC Proscenium Theatre, 2202 W. Anklam Road.

The performance will feature all of Desert Voices' favorite groups, including the women's barbershop quartet Alegria, the tight harmony men's quartet, Four Brothers, and Women With Voices, Desert Voices' female ensemble, and Una Voz, the chorus' premiere mixed ensemble, will be featured in several favorites. The chorus will share the music of Broadway favorites Oklahoma and West Side Story. In celebration of Gay pride, the concert will feature several audience favorites of Lesbian and Gay significance.

Concert tickets are \$10/\$12 in advance, \$15 at the door can be purchased through the chorus hotline, (520) 791-9662. Tickets are also available at Antigone Books, Tucson Trunk, Rainbow Planet Coffeehouse, Hear's Music and Zip's University. The concert will be ASL interpreted.

Jell-O Wrestling Update

TUCSON - The winning ticket was pulled for the 14th Annual Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza and Benefit Auction raffle. The trip for two to San Francisco was won by Trace Nuttall of Tucson.

Trace and his guest will fly round-trip to San Francisco courtesy of Southwest Air, stay at the Beresford Hotel, enjoy brunch for two at the Garden Court Restaurant and have \$200 in American Express Travelers Checks to spend courtesy of Tom Donohue with American Express One Business Travel Services.

Raffle sales brought in \$4,000 of the \$23,000 raised at the May 6 event to benefit HIV/AIDS services of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation.

TLGA Seeking Board Members

TUCSON - The Tucson Lesbian & Gay Alliance, producers of Gay Pride Week and OUToberFEST 2001 "Out in the Desert" are seeking energetic, creative and reliable board members to help produce Tucson's Pride events throughout the year.

"Right now, the board is at half of its working capacity. It is going to become increasingly difficult for the seven existing board members to effectively carry out their volunteer duties as OUToberFEST 2001 draws closer. The board is expecting an attendance of 9,000 at OUToberFEST this year and seven board members are not

enough to produce a successful festival of that magnitude," says president, Chad Froeschke.

Those interested in becoming a board member should call the OUTline (520) 622-3200. TLGA monthly meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month at Wingspan at 7:00 p.m.

Positions Available At SAAF

TUCSON - The Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) is looking for qualified individuals for the following positions:

Gay Men's Health Project Outreach Specialist: Energetic individual to provide outreach, recruitment, and health ed. for Gay and Bisexual men in so. AZ. Must be familiar with Gay bar culture and possess excellent communication skills. Bilingual/bicultural pref. Salary up to \$22,000, excellent benefits.

Volunteer Coordinator: Experienced volunteer professional to coordinate volunteers, manage speakers bureau, supervise volunteer work parties. Requires degree & experience in human services; public speaking & volunteer coordination experience. Salary up to \$23,000, excellent benefits.

To apply, pick up job description and application instructions, Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., at 375 S. Euclid Ave., or call 628-7223, or see www.saaaf.org. Open until filled. AA/EOE

Green Thursday To Hold Auditions

TUCSON - Green Thursday Theatre Project announces auditions for its summer production of Rain, a drag campy parody, Tuesday, May 29, 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the HazMat Gallery, 191 E. Toole Avenue.

Actors will be reading from the script. As this is an adaptation, scripts will be unavailable beforehand, but actors are encouraged to watch the 1932 film version, starring Joan Crawford. Actors of color and Transgendered actors are very much encouraged to audition.

Rehearsals for Rain will begin June 18 and the production will open on Thursday, July 26. To make an audition appointment, call (520) 795-4322.

Tucson GLBT Commission Meeting Rescheduled

TUCSON - Due to an error on the part of the City Clerk's office the GLBT Commission meeting has been rescheduled for Tuesday, May 22, 5:30 p.m.

Meeting will be held at the Equal Opportunity Office Conference room on the first floor, 100 North Stone across the street from the Main Library.

IN MEMORIAM



WILLIAM E. BRUDER JR.

Born in Indianapolis, Indiana on December 15, 1965, died in Tucson, on May 13, 2001 at 12:15 a.m.

Survived by parents, Mother, Mrs. Yvonne Frederick of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and Father, Mr. William E. Bruder Sr., of Sierra Vista. Brother Curtis Brown of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma and Niece, Destiny Frederick of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Preceded in death by Brother, Craig Brown and Sister, Connie Bresbears. Also left behind Partner, Ruben C. Gomez, two lovely dogs, Princessa and Sarah, and real good friend, William Schober.

He sorely will be missed for his computer services that he has given to all his friends and family. Also, his gregarious personality. His partner will also miss his wonderful smile, good conversation, warm touch and being held in his arms, plus his wonderful culinary presentations.

A memorial celebration will be held Sunday, May 20, 5:30 p.m. at 3625 E. Bellevue, Apt #2. In lieu of flowers, donations should be sent to SAAF.

The Commission expressed apologies to those if this rescheduling causes an inconvenience.

RGMC Concert June 1-2

TUCSON - Reveille Gay Men's Chorus (RGMC) of Tucson will be tribute to Diana Ross and the Supremes, Martha and the Vendellias, the Shirelles and Teddy Bears, just to name a few, at their concerts, June 1-2, 8:00 p.m., at the Proscenium Theater, Pima College West, 2201 West Anklam Road.

Director Jim Taylor has re-keyed and re-arranged songs, including "You Can't Hurry Love," "To Know Him is to Love Him," "When Will I Be Loved," and many more for the 35 voices of Reveille. Some will be done by the entire chorus, others by soloists and small ensembles, and it will be like revisiting the AM radio dial.

Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. Advance tickets are available at Antigone Books, 411 N. Fourth Ave.; Tucson Trunk, 5605 E. River Road, and Rainbow Planet Coffee House, 606 N. Fourth Avenue, as well as calling the Reveille hot line, (520) 617-3100.



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Home Depot Adds Sexual Orientation To Non-Discrimination Policy

ATLANTA, GA (WS) - Home Depot, the largest home improvement retailer in the country, will add sexual orientation to the list of classes covered by its nondiscrimination policy.

The announcement Friday, May 11, reverses an earlier decision in which the company said the addition was not necessary.

The issue first came up after Home Depot opposed a shareholder proposal to add the category to its nondiscrimination policy. The company responded that it doesn't discriminate based on sexual orientation and didn't need to change its policy. But after the company's proxy statement and the shareholder proposal were distributed last month, several longtime Home Depot employees objected.

"[The employees] said, 'I've worked here a really long time and never been discriminated against,'" said Suzanne Apple, Home Depot's vice president of community relations and social responsibility. "[But] we realized it was important to make this particular category explicit."

Home Depot has nearly 1,200 stores and employs about 230,000 people. While such shareholder proposals are typically voted down, advocacy groups credit such proposals with drawing attention to issues like discrimination against Gays and Lesbians.

A similar proposal will be considered by shareholders of Exxon Mobil Corp. at its May 30 annual meeting. The com-

pany opposes the policy, saying in its proxy statement that Exxon Mobil opposes all forms of discrimination.

Openly Gay Herbits To Leave Pentagon Post

WASHINGTON, DC - An openly Gay Pentagon consultant who screens applicants for top-level Defense Department jobs is leaving his position as early as this week.

Social conservatives complained loudly last month when they heard that the consultant, Stephen E. Herbits, was playing a critical role in screening Pentagon job applicants. Congressional sources said that Herbits's presence at the department was prompting the Senate GOP leadership to slow the nomination process for Pentagon appointees, although they are needed to conduct budget and policy reviews.

Herbits's exit comes after prominent GOP senators complained that "the Pentagon seems to be turning away a lot of good people," according to a congressional source who requested anonymity. Rear Adm. Craig Quigley, a spokesman for Defense secretary Donald Rumsfeld, said Herbits decided to leave the job on his own and that his departure has nothing to do with complaints from GOP senators.

"It is absolutely not true that he is leaving because of pressure from the Hill. That is flat untrue," Quigley said. "He will leave at his own request and at a time mutually agreeable to the secretary. The secretary is grateful to Mr. Herbits. He values highly [the] advice, counsel, and assistance that he has provided the department and the secretary over this period." Herbits has worked as a Pentagon consultant since February 7. Regulations allow government consultants to work 130 days in one year,

continually or at staggered times. Politically, Herbits, who opposes the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy, has supported both liberal Democrats and conservative Republicans.

Miller Lite Unveils Groundbreaking Gay-Inclusive Ad

NEW YORK, NY (GFN) - As part of Miller Brewing Company's ongoing ad campaign, the latest TV commercial for Miller Lite breaks new ground in its representation and inclusiveness of the Gay community.

The ad - entitled "Switcheroo" - features two women flirting with an attractive man at the end of the bar. When another handsome guy sits down beside him, the women think they're about to hit the jackpot - there's a hunky guy for each of them. But when one man takes the other's hand and both men look up and smile, the disappointed women sigh, "Well, at least he's not married."

Designed and produced by Ogilvy & Mather, "Switcheroo" will be seen nationally on network prime-time programming and sports broadcasts - including during the NBA playoffs - as well as on national cable networks ESPN, Comedy Central, Sci-Fi Channel, F/X, USA Networks, TNT, E! Entertainment Television and VH-1. Miller Brewing Company expects the ad to air for at least the next four weeks.

"Switcheroo" also can be viewed at The Commercial Closet (www.commercial-closet.org).

Mainstream advertising rarely includes images of LGBT people, and when it does, it often makes them the butt of

jokes. Miller's bold decision to launch a smart, funny, Gay-affirming national ad is a major step forward for Gay visibility and inclusiveness. Check it out!

Man Pleads Guilty To Shooting In Virginia Gay Bar

ROANOKE, VA - A man who opened fire in a Roanoke Gay bar last fall, killing one man and wounding six people, pleaded guilty to murder, ending a case that spurred a national outcry against prejudice.

Ronald Edward Gay, 55, a former Marine who told police his violent outburst came after years of being ridiculed over his surname, also admitted to six counts of malicious wounding. He faces a maximum sentence of more than four life terms in prison, the Washington Post reported.

Authorities said Gay walked into the Backstreet Cafe on Sept. 22, pulled a pistol from his trench coat and sprayed bullets into a crowd of about 50 people who were drinking and dancing. As Gay calmly walked out of the bar, telephone operator Danny Lee Overstreet, 43, lay dying on the floor and six other patrons were wounded.

Gay, a Vietnam veteran, told a Roanoke Circuit Court judge that during the 1980s, he was on a mission to kill Gay people but later buried his feelings, according to the Associated Press.

Defense attorneys considered backing out of the deal late in the 90-minute hearing. But Gay ultimately chose to plead guilty. "Yes, I shot a bunch of homosexuals," he said in court.

IBT's Party Hardy Sunday Line-up May 20th

11am - 6 pm - Jeff's Bloody Mary/Recovery Bar

4:30 pm - 7:30 pm - Karaoke on the patio with Billy Dee

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

8 pm - The Fabulous Bud Team with their Special Games and Great Prizes

9 pm - Sign up for Wet Shorts...\$125 First Place Prize (minimum 4 contestants)

Monday Draft Beer Special 9 pm til close

Bud/Bud Light small pitchers \$1.50 or try our new pints at \$.75 plus hot dance til close

IBT's is Tucson's only Gay Dance Club 7 Nites A week with DJ Q and Raynman



Wednesday, May 23rd, 9:00 pm, "The Girlie Show"

hosted by Lucinda Holliday, starring: Jane Starr, Samantha White, and Veronica Lake

Bear it all (well not quite) on Underwear Thursday's 9 pm til close

happy hour prices for those in their briefs

Friday's Jazz on the patio 6 til 9 pm with Susan Artemis & Tracy York

Coming Events

Sunday, May 27th, 8 - 10 pm from Phoenix the talented Kenny Thames

Monday, May 28th, 11:00 am 'Monday Morning Madness'

the most decadent show fo the year!!

website: ibts.net



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Candles Burn To Dispel The Darkness Of AIDS

TUCSON - Danny Blake loves his job and family, enjoys rare cool summer nights and indulges in chocolate more than he should.

To enjoy these simple pleasures, the 51-year-old Tucson man takes close to a dozen pills a day for AIDS.

More than 300 people gathered at Reid Park on Saturday night, May 12, to remember loved ones who have died and to celebrate survivors like Blake, who was diagnosed with AIDS in 1987, the Arizona Daily Star reported.

Organizers of the sixth annual Tucson AIDS Candlelight Service, which coincides with worldwide AIDS Awareness days, asked people to take part by writing messages about how HIV/AIDS has affected their lives or the life of a loved one.

The messages were displayed during the vigil on a bright community HIV/AIDS canvas.

"James, we never did get to go to IBT's," someone named David wrote about a loved one and the date they missed at a Tucson nightclub.

An anonymous author inscribed in blue ink: "To the 165 loved ones and family members I have lost. My world is not as bright without the brilliance of your life."

The service was sponsored by a group of community and health organizations, including Wingspan - Tucson's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community center.

Blake said he hoped the event helped people realize AIDS is preventable. Now that people speak openly of the disease, even in classrooms, he said, there is no excuse for failing to take precautions about sex.

"I wouldn't date in this society without being tested," Blake said. "It's not worth it. I feel nauseous all the time."

SPORTS

DESERT COYOTES LEAGUE FINAL OVERALL STANDINGS

	PW	PL
The Breeders	151.0	59.0
Mama's Family	119.0	91.0
Gutter Snipes	119.0	91.0
Slutopoly	117.5	92.5
Gay Divorcees	117.0	93.0
Sluts-R-Us	116.5	93.5
Tres Amigos	116.0	94.0
Team Ate	114.0	96.0
Rebellious	112.0	98.0
The Hoochies	110.5	99.5
The Nut Sack	105.5	104.5
Oompah Loompahs	95.0	115.0
Judy's Truck Stop	94.0	116.0
All That & Then Some	89.0	121.0
Wicked Witches	88.0	122.0
Erratica 5	75.0	135.0
*Position Is Everything	31.0	39.0

*Joined at beginning of third session of league.

DESERT COYOTES UPDATE

TUCSON - The Desert Coyotes wrapped their winter season with a roll-off between the top four teams: The Nut Sack, The Breeders, Team Ate, and Mamas Family.

These teams who qualified for the roll-off had three more games to bowl to see who would be crowned league champ. Did the Nut Sack pull off the upset, being one bowler short? Was Peter F.'s amazing 199, enough for Team Ate? Were the Breeders, who out bowled the league entire season, able to strike it rich on the lanes? Did Mamas Family bowl well and end the curse of "Eunice and Ed?"

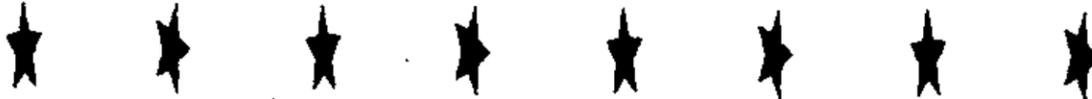
These questions are to be answered at the league banquet, to be held Wednesday, May 16, with the results being published next week. ...

Tucson's Summer GLBT league, the Summer Coyotes, will hold their organizational meeting, Wednesday, May 30, 7:00 p.m. at Golden Pin Lanes, 1010 W. Miracle Mile.

Teams will consist of three people. Skill isn't important, having fun is the prerequisite. Bowling will start at 8:00 p.m. that night and for the next ten weeks. If interested, just show up for the meeting. For more information, call (520) 323-6449.



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MAY 27th
FLAMINGO HOTEL

BENEFIT FOR T.I.H.A.N.

Dinner & Show - \$10.00

Show alone - \$5.00

Dinner - 6:30 PM

Show - 8:00 PM

Bush Unveils First Slate Of Judicial Nominees

WASHINGTON, DC - The Bush White House rolled out its first slate of nominees to the federal judiciary, kick-starting what is expected to be one of the most bruising ideological fights with Senate Democrats since the start of the new administration.

The first group of eleven candidates features several prominent conservatives whose unorthodox views on the separation of church and state and the reach of the federal bench are likely to provoke the heated opposition of key Democrats on Capitol Hill.

In an attempt to get the upper hand and avoid antagonizing Democrats, the White House trimmed three conservatives from its list of appeals court nominees, but others remain.

Congressional observers are also quick to point out that every report coming from the White House over the last several weeks points to the likelihood that the remainder of Bush's picks will be ideologically skewed to the right.

Bush himself underscored these concerns when he said, "The role of a judge is to interpret the law, not to legislate from the bench." The phrase, "legislating from the bench" is used by conservatives in attacking the pronouncements of moderate and liberal judges.

"I urge senators of both parties to rise above the bitterness of the past, to provide a fair hearing and a prompt vote to every nominee." The New York Times quotes Bush as saying during a White House ceremony. "I ask for the return of civility and dignity to the confirmation process."

Gay civil rights advocates warn the community ignores the issue of federal judges at its peril. Everything from the legality of domestic partnerships, workplace protections, the reach of civil rights laws, family law relating to adoption and custody rights, hate crimes laws, marriage rights -- virtually the entire body of the Gay civil rights agenda -- are shaped by the federal courts.

Senate Democrats have for weeks been locked in a titanic struggle with Republicans over the nominating process. Senator Patrick Leahy of Vermont, the ranking Democrat on the Judiciary Committee, has been clashing with Judiciary

Chairman Orrin Hatch of Utah over the use of "blue slips" that allow senators from a nominee's state to block a nominee's confirmation.

Senate Democrats say their input and their power to veto nominees is essential if the Bush White House is to be prevented from stacking the judiciary with hardline conservatives.

When the Republicans took control of the Senate in 1994, Hatch wrote to President Clinton telling him no nomination would proceed, even to a hearing, without the approval of both Senators from the nominee's home state. Republicans were so effective in exercising their veto, fully one-eighth of the federal judiciary now stands vacant.

With Bush in the White House, Hatch sought to rewrite that rule again, allowing a nomination to proceed with only the approval of one (presumably Republican) Senator, erasing the threat of Democratic influence. Democrats, united in the face of this threat, dug in and vowed that no nomination from the White House would be allowed to go forward until Hatch and the Republican leadership ceased its effort to change the "blue slip" rule.

Republicans conceded defeat in that battle and agreed to continue the practice of allowing senators veto power over prospective judges from their home states, but the larger battle is anything but over.

Most Democrats are demanding that some of the judges blocked by Republicans under Clinton be given consideration alongside those now being presented for confirmation by Bush. This situation affects one of the eleven judges presented.

Judge Terrence Boyle, a staunch conservative and former aide to Senator Jesse Helms, has been nominated by Bush for elevation to the Fourth Circuit. Senator John Edwards, a North Carolina Democrat, has already indicated he will block that nomination until the administration agrees to name some Clinton nominees blocked by Senate Republicans.

Said Sen. Edwards, "Until we find some constructive process to put people on the court from North Carolina that allows for some balance, I would not be supporting the nomination of Judge Boyle."

Gays & Lesbians More Likely To Smoke Than Other Adults Despite Risks

ROCHESTER, NY - A recent Harris Interactive (Nasdaq: HPOL) study conducted with Witeck-Combs Communications confirms that adult members of the Lesbian and Gay communities are more likely to smoke than are heterosexual adults.

This is despite the fact that they are more likely than other smokers to believe that smoking causes lung cancer and heart disease, and will probably shorten their lives. And, like other smokers, the overwhelming majority of Lesbian and Gay smokers has tried and failed to give up smoking many times.

Main findings of the Harris Interactive/Witeck-Combs study are:

Over a third (36%) of adults aged 18 and over who self-identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender (LGBT) report that they smoke cigarettes compared

with a quarter (25%) of all adults.

Three quarters (75%) of LGBT smokers say they have tried to give up, compared to 80% of all adults. On average they have tried, and failed, to give up eight times, the same frequency reported by other smokers.

Virtually all LGBT smokers say they believe that smoking increases their risk of lung cancer (98%) and of heart disease (98%) and "will probably shorten" their own lives (96%). These numbers are higher than the responses for all adult smokers (88% of whom believe smoking increases their risk of lung cancer; 84% believe it increases their risk of heart disease and 80% believe it will probably shorten their lives).

Knowledge of the risks of smoking has not been a strong enough motivator to stop them from smoking.



YES, SIR!

THURSDAY, MAY 17

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7PM TO CLOSING

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by

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'Gays Go Straight' Paper Unleashes Storm

NEW ORLEANS, LA - Two studies reaching opposite conclusions on the mutability of sexual orientation are again thrusting the American Psychiatric Association into the center of a pitched cultural battle over homosexuality. The New York Times reports.

In a highly controversial paper, Dr. Robert Spitzer, a psychiatrist at Columbia University, concluded that the mental health profession has "totally bought the idea that once you are Gay you cannot be changed."

"The subjects' self-reports of change appear to be, by and large, valid, rather than gross exaggerations, brain-washing or wishful thinking," said Spitzer in a summary of his paper, presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychiatric Association in New Orleans.

"If somebody wants to change, and it's not because they are just responding to pressure, it shouldn't be automatically assumed that it's irrational or giving in to society," Dr. Spitzer said in an interview.

Spitzer based his study on 45-minute interviews conducted over the telephone with 143 men and 57 women who had sought to fight their same-sex attractions through so-called "ex-Gay ministries" and other reparative therapy methods. He and his colleagues concluded that 66 percent of the men and 44 percent of the women interviewed had achieved "good heterosexual functioning," he said.

The conclusions were immediately condemned by other psychiatric professionals and Gay rights advocacy groups who branded Spitzer's study as seriously flawed.

Of the 200 people interviewed by Spitzer, they point out, 43 percent were referred to him by ex-Gay ministries. Another 23 percent were referred to him by the anti-Gay National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality (NARTH), which advocates the use of reparative therapy.

"Many of the people were referred by therapists who gave the names to Spitzer, and so the whole way in which these people were found is problematic," Marshall Forstein, a psychiatrist at Harvard Medical School told the Washington Post. "Is there a cohort of people who were not referred because the treatment failed?"

In an interview with the Times, Spitzer conceded the number of Gay men and women who could successfully convert to heterosexuality was likely to be "pretty low." He also admitted the subjects in his study were "unusually religious" and were not necessarily representative of most Gays and Lesbians in the United States.

Of those who participated in the study, 78 percent had spoken publicly in favor of efforts to convert homosexuals to heterosexuality; 93 percent said religion was "extremely" or "very" important in their lives.

Spitzer's findings conflict with those of another study also to be presented at the conference. That study, conducted by Dr. Ariel Shidlo and Dr. Michael Schroeder, two psychologists in New York, found that of 202 homosexual subjects who had received therapy to change their sexual orientation, 178 reported that their efforts "failed," many were harmed by the attempt to change and only 6 achieved what the researchers called "a heterosexual shift."

Dr. Schroeder said that the 18 subjects who qualified themselves as "successes" in adopting a heterosexual lifestyle did not fit "into what the public sees as success," meaning they had not purged their same-sex desires. They had only suppressed, ignored or chosen not to act on them.

Schroeder notes the 18 "successes" continued to struggle with same-sex desire or had chosen to be "celibate." Many of those Shidlo and Schroeder focused on had invested 5 to 15 years in the therapies. When these efforts ended in failure, the researchers said they experienced "an inordinate sense of loss."

The American Psychiatric Association officials distanced themselves from Spitzer's research and said there will be no change in the association's conclusion that homosexuality is neither a mental disorder nor a condition in need of "treatment."

Daniel Borenstein, association president and a psychiatrist at the University of California at Los Angeles, told The Post, "There are a group of people who think all homosexual behavior must be changed and has to be changed and can be changed, and they try to impose their values on [Gay men and Lesbians], which is inappropriate."

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POLITICS 2001

by Mark R. Kerr

"Sine Die, Die, Die!"

A slew of automobiles, trucks and SUV's was seen leaving the 1700 block of West Washington in Phoenix, Thursday afternoon, May 10, headed for the four corners of the state after Arizona's 45th Legislature had sine die for this first session, going a smidge over the 100 days allotted for them to conduct the state's business.

Arizona's Legislature had taken a week off, to see whether Governor Jane Hull would sign or veto certain budget bills, and went back to business on Thursday, May 10, to vote on possible veto overrides but it wasn't the budget that was the story of the week, HB 2016.

Sponsored by openly Gay state Representative Steve May, R-Paradise Valley, HB 2016 would repeal Arizona's archaic sex laws dealing with sodomy, oral sex and non familial cohabitation. May's bill would also allow unmarried (same-sex and heterosexual) couples to take tax deductions prohibited to them because of the state law prohibition two people, not related, from living together.

HB 2016 received final approval on May 2, and was sent to Hull's desk, where the governor had five working days, or until Tuesday, May 8, to either sign the bill, veto it, or let it become law without her signature. The governor's office said Hull had received more than 6,000 responses, urging her to veto HB 2016.

At 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 8, Francie Noyes, Hull's press secretary announced that the governor had signed HB 2016.

Proponents and groups, such as the Arizona Human Rights Fund, the state-wide Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered rights group, praised Hull for affixing her signature on May's bill.

Repeal opponents, such as state Representative Randy Graf, R-Green Valley, acknowledged that the laws are not enforced and may even be unenforceable. Still, he argued, repealing these statutes is a mistake. "Quite frankly, this country was founded on moral principles," Graf said.

This is interesting coming from Graf, since as a then candidate for the Arizona House in District 9 in Pima County, he filled out (and faxed) a questionnaire (dated 1-26-00) for the Arizona Human Rights Fund, stating he would vote in favor of legislation repealing Arizona's archaic laws dealing with sodomy, oral sex and cohabitation. Graf went on in the questionnaire to state his support of prohibiting workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity so long as it does not mandate quotes, preferential treatment, affirmative action or domestic partner benefits and it exempts employers with fewer than 15 employees and religious institutions. Later in the questionnaire, Graf also expressed his support of prohibiting workplace discrimination in governmental employment on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

"Make no mistake, passage of House Bill 2016 will not end the discussion; many issues raised by this measure are

left for future lawmakers," Hull wrote in her letter to Arizona House Speaker Jim Weiers explaining her decision on HB 2016.

Hull was prophetic as the ink had barely dried before the self-righteous cops, led by state Senator David Petersen, R-Mesa, and Len Munsil of the Center for Arizona Policy, a right-wing, anti-Gay political group, rallied supporters of the laws and talked of a referendum on HB 2016. Petersen later announced that they will try to overturn it by gathering 80,000 valid signatures of registered voters in the next 90 days.

If they are successful in gathering the signatures, it would stall the repeal until a referendum could be held. Petersen said the new law would have schools talking about the Gay lifestyle and use governmental health benefits to pay for sex changes. How could this be since the law doesn't deal with schools or how government entities in the state dictate how medical benefits can be directed towards what procedures?

Steve May said "any politician who tries to reinstate the laws would be laughed out of office." Something that has happened to some of Arizona's noted politicians, too many times to list.

In an interview, Hull summed it up best. "At the end of the day, I returned to one of my most basic beliefs about government, it does not belong in our private lives." It doesn't and after Hull signed HB 2016, Arizona's won't on August 8, 2001, the day HB 2016 goes into effect pending petition action. So the countdown has begun. For what? Stay tuned. ...

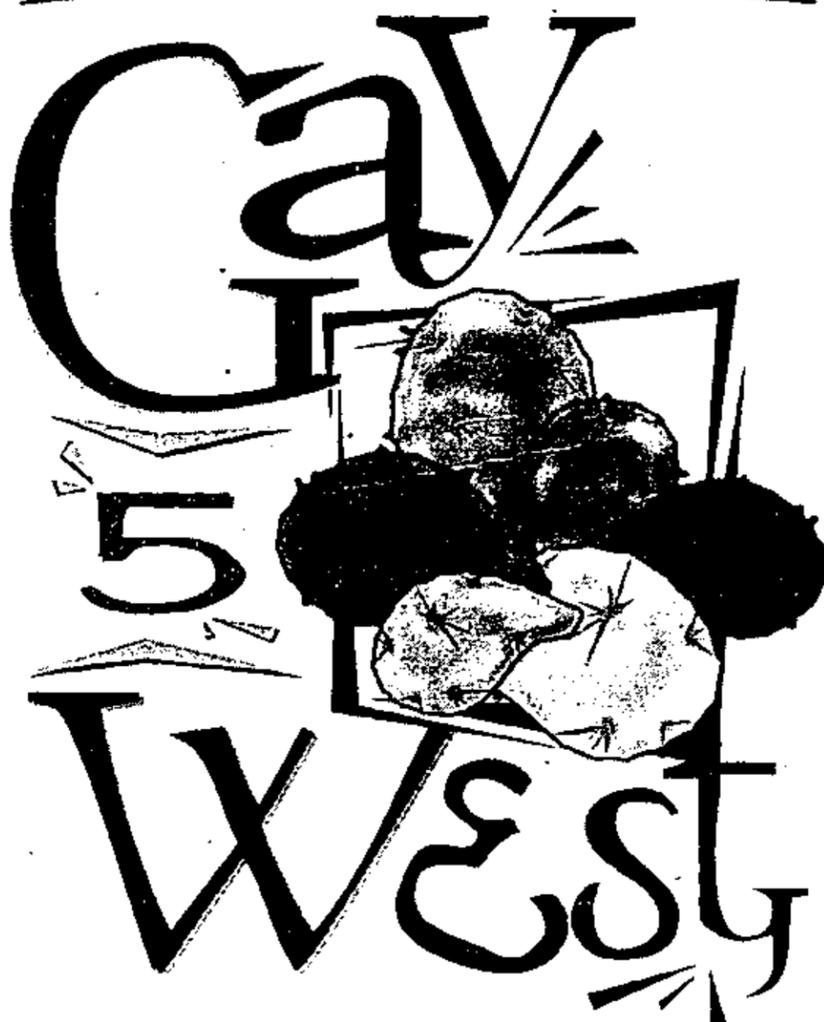
In other legislative news, HB 2270, Arizona Employment Non-Discrimination Act didn't get the concurrence vote in the Arizona House before the session ended. HB 2270 would have prohibited discrimination in public sector employment based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Supporters said the votes are there, but time ran out on this bill. ...

In Washington, D.C., U.S. Senator Jesse Helms, R-NC, says the Boy Scouts of America is facing "malicious assaults by homosexuals" and wants Congress to cut off funding to schools that push troops off campus because of their anti-Gay membership policies.

The Senate is expected to vote this week on an amendment to the education bill that was inspired by controversies in Chapel Hill, N.C., and several other school districts throughout the nation. The districts, which ban discrimination against Gays, have backed away from supporting the Boy Scouts after a U.S. Supreme Court decision last summer upheld the organization's right to exclude gay people as members and leaders. When introducing the amendment on the Senate floor, Helms said that "radical militants" are trying to undermine the court decision by kicking Scout troops off campus, adding that they "demand that everybody else's principles must be cast aside in order to protect the right of homosexual conduct." The amendment would deny federal education funding to schools that discriminate against the Scouts when determining which outside groups may use schools.



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PHOTOS



LOVE LETTERS

'The Kids Are Alright'

For the past year and a half, I've made reference to "the kids"; that is, the two daughters and son of my former partner, with whom I recently separated. Saying goodbye to "the kids" was a difficult, emotional day. I felt as though I betrayed their trust in me, which I gained by being part of their family.

during our lives to learn from and broaden our experience. What I have learned from the kids is, that being Gay does not mean you have to run from the idea of a traditional family. It may look a little different, but it doesn't have to be political or scandalous. It can be pretty wonderful. And even though their father and I ultimately could not agree on how we saw ourselves as a couple, we never faltered in how we saw the kids as an integral, vital part of the family.

The boy, who is the middle child, and I were especially close. At thirteen, he is too smart for his age, or his own good. I remember distinctly when the day when he and I were at the local mall, and we ran into somebody he knew from his school. When his friend asked him who I was, I smiled as he tried to explain: "...he's my...he's my dad's...I'm his..." And then he paused, and came up with the only reasonable explanation: "He's my friend."

I think I've also learned that parenting agrees with me, in the end, I believe that I helped the kids learn some lessons; that adults can communicate without yelling, for example. Or, being treated as an equal means taking some responsibilities for their actions. And that being a parent, although difficult, is made up more of common sense and clear direction rather than the necessity of some hidden straight gene to get it right. It didn't hurt that I felt like I had a lot in common with the kids; that I could name all of the locations of MTV's Real World earned me big points early on.

I nick-named him Twig, as in: "remember I can snap you like a twig"; a common and good hearted threat I often delivered to him when started to play his music too loud, or gave me some other kind of grief. The nickname stuck, and Twig found new ways to drive me crazy every other weekend - a craziness which I looked forward to, and know that I will now miss. He is also at an age when he and his father often clash, and I found myself in a role as both step-parent and buffer to the two of them.

But, things change. And for now, at least, I have stepped out of that parent role and have begun a new stanza in my life -back in the city where I came from, and away from the kids that made the last year and half remarkable in so many ways. I miss them already, and I hope that I will see them from time to time; and maybe someday, I might have the opportunity to be a part of a child's life again. It has been an enriching journey, during which I have seen a lot of hope in the eyes of the next generation. I can listen to the kids and understand -and believe, for the first time, that there will be a point in our future where acceptance of different lifestyles will not be unlikely. Or, as Twig once told me: "You're Gay, Thomas. But you're still cool."

There were moments with the girls, as well. With the oldest, we talked about dating - she was at that age when a certain boy caught her attention. And the youngest and I played games: monopoly, yahtzee, and computer games. She and I shared Jelly Belly's - toasted marshmallow and bubble-gum flavor was our favorites. Sunday breakfast was a big deal on our weekend with the kids. Pancakes, bacon, scrambled eggs - we all dove into the process and ate the results.

When Twig and I spent some time together that last weekend, he asked about his father and my separation. Would it be permanent? Would I still see them? Would I still take them on a senior trip somewhere in the world? Who would talk to him now? As his questions displayed wisdom beyond his years, my heart continued to break. When he left on that Sunday, Twig threw his hand up and waved goodbye from the front of the house - neither of us could really face one another, and we knew it. He gave me a sort of salute, and then piled into the back seat of his dad's car. I shut the door, and cried.

My world view tells me that we use every situation we find ourselves in

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LETTERS - LETTERS - LETTERS - LETTERS - LETTERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE SIX

EDITOR:

As the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) prepares to accept a GLAAD media award for the Millennium March on Washington (MMOW) Weekend Equality Rocks Concert, many questions about MMOW remain.

HRC was one of two organizations that announced to our community that MMOW was going to occur. They said so themselves in their original MMOW press release. Many staff members and board members of MMOW came from the staff and board of HRC. The financial success of HRC's Equality Rocks came from MMOW participants. HRC, Equality Rocks, and MMOW are inextricably connected.

HRC cashed in on Equality Rocks. HRC may have millions of dollars for their new headquarters, but the hard working street vendors who made that weekend possible never got paid for their services. How could this happen?

In a Washington Blade Article, former HRC and current MMOW Board Member Michael Armentrout promised to open the books this week! This is the most recent in a long trail of broken promises to tell the truth about their financial information. We've been asking them to open the books for two years (one year before the March even happened). We're still waiting.

HRC cannot separate Equality Rocks from MMOW. Tell HRC and what's left of their MMOW Board of Directors to take responsibility for MMOW! Open the books! Let us know what really happened!

Adhoc Committee for an Open Process
Washington, DC

EDITOR:

Last Sunday, I was at the Reno Gannon Jello Wrestling event and I had a terrific time. I have been at many of these events in the past years and I want to say that this one was the best organized and the most fun at which to be. I want to commend the individuals who were responsible for organizing and planning this great fund raiser and also those who were the active and entertaining participants.

I wonder, after fourteen years as an activity geared primarily to the Gay community, if it isn't time to open this fund raiser to the straight community. This would mean a larger venue and the inclusion and participation of our many straight friends. There's a whole lot of money out

there and SAAF would certainly benefit from all those straight dollars. It's just something to think about. But no matter how it is planned for next year, I'm looking forward to being there.

Hal Bardach
Tucson, AZ

The Arts

MAY 16 - 20

The Arizona Theatre Company presents the Royal National Theatre's production of William Shakespeare's "Hamlet". It opens Wednesday, May 16 at 7:00 p.m. Six performances only. Temple of Music and Art, 330S. Scott. For ticket information call 622-2823 or visit the ATC box office at the Temple.

MAY 27 - JUNE 10

The Southwest Premiere of "Catch A Falling Star" concludes the Invisible Theatre's 30th season. In this quirky new comedy, unconditional love is put to the test when TV star Ginny Wakley comes home to tell her parents a dark, desperate secret before they read it in People magazine. Three generations of family dynamics, conflicting religious beliefs, soul-baring revelations and surprises galore all come together before a final unpredictable epiphany that reminds us all of where home really is. Show runs Tuesday thru Sundays. Tickets are \$16, \$18 and \$20 depending on the performance date. For reservations and ticket information call the theatre at 882-9721. Invisible Theatre is located at 1400 N. First Ave (the Northeast corner of First and Drachman).

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Non-Bar Calendar

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 16

Tucson Prime Timers Lunch 1:00 p.m. at Cafe Terra Cotta, 3500 W. Sunrise (Southside). Call 529-9344 for details.

FRIDAY, MAY 18

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join us for our monthly Pizza Night. For only \$5, you get pizza, salad, side dishes, and dessert-and a chance to meet 50-70 really nice guys. The pool is also open. For reservations and directions, please call Jerry at 690-9565.

SATURDAY, MAY 19

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Get the latest on kitchen gadgetry when Jon presents "The Pampered Chef". This kitchen demonstration includes food to sample and products to check out (with no hard sell or obligation to buy anything)-and it's fun, too. For reservations and directions, please call Jon at 881-5958.

SUNDAY, MAY 20

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:30 p.m. The Triangle Tribe, a support group within MSN, meets every Monday at this time to explore relationships among men and learn about oneself. For more information, please contact Thomas at 318-1650.

MONDAY, MAY 21

Tucson Prime Timers Lunch 1:00 p.m. at Hometown Buffet, 5101 N. Oracle (NW corner River). Call 529-9344 for details.

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:30 p.m. The Triangle Tribe, a support group within MSN, meets every Monday at this time to explore relationships among men and learn about oneself. For more information, please contact Thomas at 318-1650.

TUESDAY, MAY 22

#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Our twice-monthly Bridge Night is a good place to play a friendly game of bridge with nice guys. If you don't know how to play, this is a good place to start. For more information, please contact Perry at 321-4387.

#2 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join us as we get out our monthly 10-page newsletter. It's simple, and you get a chance to meet new guys as we assemble the newsletter. The work goes quickly, and is usually done with 45 minutes. For reservations and directions, please call Jerry at 690-9565.

#3 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 8:00 p.m. Join us for the MSN Premiere of "The Twilight of the Gods", a movie starring Brendan Fraser as a gay man with a sister who may be pregnant with a gay child. For reservations and directions, please call Les at 690-9565.

SATURDAY, MAY 26

Tucson Prime Timers Breakfast 9:30 a.m. at The Good Egg, 7219 E. Speedway (NE corner Kab). Call 529-9344 for details.

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Bill for a fun evening of Pinochle. Like all our games, we're willing to teach if you'd like to learn. It's a nice way to spend an evening with good guys! For reservations and directions, please call Bill at 297-3569.

SUNDAY, MAY 27

#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 1:00 p.m. Art & Jeff host "Soup & Salad Cinema". They'll serve up a homemade soup, along with salad, and then show the film "The Journey of Jared Price"-about a young man from the country who moves to LA. For reservations and directions, please call Jeff or Art at 762-9135.

#2 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. The Tucson Pops present a concert under the stars, and the men of MSN invite you to join them as we listen to some classical/popular music on a warm, summer night. For more information, please contact T. Jay at 881-7919.

Tucson Knight Owls present "Hits Way Off Broadway" a benefit for T.I.H.A.N. at the Flamingo Hotel. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. and a big show at 8:00 p.m. Dinner and Show \$10.00 or the Show alone for \$5.00.

MONDAY, MAY 28

Tucson Prime Timers Lunch 1:00 p.m. at Hometown Buffet, 5101 N. Oracle (NW corner River). Call 529-9344 for details.

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:30 p.m. The Triangle Tribe, a support group within MSN, meets every Monday at this time to explore relationships among men and learn about oneself. For more information, please contact Thomas at 318-1650.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30

Tucson Prime Timers Dinner 6:00 p.m. at ELLE, 3048 E. Broadway (SW corner Country Club). Call 529-9344 for details.

THURSDAY, JUNE 21

6:00 - 9:00 p.m. AIDS 101 and Volunteer Orientation at Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation - SAAF, 375 S. Euclid. Call 628-7223 to register.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23

9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. SAAF AIDS Educator Training. Become knowledgeable about HIV and learn to conduct an HIV education presentation. Call 795-7223 to register. (Free to volunteers. Nominal fee to others).

BAR CALENDAR

OF UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16

IBTS - 9:00 P.M. The 'Girlie Show' starring Aja Simone, Ansgela Dodd, Mr. Kenneth Blake and Miss Kristin.

THURSDAY, MAY 17

VENTURE-N - Leather and Uniform Nite. \$2.00 well or domestic for those in leather or uniforms from 7:00 to closing.

FRIDAY, MAY 18

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Hip Hop with DJ Hill 9:00 p.m. to closing. \$1.00 Hot Sex Shots or \$3.00 White Russians all night long!

SATURDAY, MAY 19

VENTURE-N - Bears of the Old Pueblo Beer Bust on the Patio Groovin', Cruisin' and Boozin'!

SUNDAY, MAY 20

IBTS - Party Hardy Sunday Line-up: 11:00 a.m. Jeff's Bloody Mary/ Recovery Bar from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Karaoke with Billy Dee on the patio from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Benefit Bar-B-Que / Beer Bust from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. This weeks proceeds go to IBT's Arizona Angels softball team. 8:00 p.m. the fabulous Bud Tema with their special games and great prizes. Then at 9:00 p.m. sign-up for the Wet Shorts Contest. \$125 first place. (Minimum four contestants).

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23

IBTS - 9:00 p.m. The 'Girlie Show' hosted by Lucinda Holiday featuring Janee Starr, Samantha White and Veronica Lake.

SUNDAY, MAY 27

IBTS - The very talented Kenry Thames from Phoenix will be appearing from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 28

IBTS - 'Monday Morning Madness' -the most decadent drag show of the year. Watch for more details.



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The 5th Annual Gay West will be held at Old Tucson Studios with the gates opening at 6:00 p.m. Enjoy a country & western dance under the stars with country DJ Don Ridge from Charlie's in Phoenix or rock with HI-NRG dancing mixed by DJ Tim Outland from the Crowbar in Phoenix. Plus other surprises and all the fun, games, rides, food and excitement of Old Tucson Studios. \$12.00 in advance. \$14.00 the day of the event. A Pride week event! Show your Pride!

Daily Bar Calendar

NOTE: Bar owners or managers are responsible for keeping this standard listing up to date. Check with the bartender to be sure the specials listed are actually available.

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 - 9am-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.

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. Dart tournament 3pm. Happy Hour 3-7pm. Patio Bar open 5:30-close. Pick-up Volleyball games 5-7. \$2.50 sirloin burger or chicken 5:30-9:30pm. Karaoke with Billy Dee 9pm to close.

YARD DOG - Open Sundays 10am - 1am. Bloody marys & Screwdrivers \$1.75 from 10am - 1pm. 50¢ off any Rum 1pm-7pm.

Monday

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

IBT's - 9am-4pm, \$2.00 domestic beer and well. Happy Hour \$1.75 well and domestic beer 4-7pm. 7-9pm \$1.50 well and domestic. Small pitchers Bud/Bud Light \$1.50 from 9pm to close. DJ Rayman plays house music 9pm to close. All drink specials not available during special events.

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.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Scotch until 7pm

Tuesday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour Two-For-One 2-7pm. Pool tourney 7:30pm. \$3 entry, pot matched. \$1.50 longnecks. for pool players. \$2 Pitchers all nite. Country music with DJ S. 8:30 to closing.

IBT's - 9am-4pm, \$2.00 domestic beer & well. Happy Hour \$1.75 well & domestic beer 4-9pm. Tee's & Tattoo Nite, wear an IBT's T-shirt or IBT tattoo 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.

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

WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 3-7pm. Top Dart Tournament with Doc. Pot matched. Trivia Party 8pm-close. Top score on NTN per game wins special prizes. Sky's the limit \$2.25.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Tequila until 7pm

Wednesday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour 2-4-1 from 2-7. Dance Music with DJ S. 9pm-close. \$2 Long Island and \$1 Puckers all night.

IBT's - 9am to 4pm, \$2.00 domestic beer & well. Happy Hour \$1.75 well & domestic beer 4-7pm. \$1.50 well & domestic 4-9pm. All drink specials not available during special events.

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

WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 3-7pm. Pick-up Volleyball games start 7pm. Hot Dogs 50¢, \$1.50 small pitcher Bud & Bud Light 5-9pm. Patio bar open 7pm-midnight.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Vodka until 7pm

Thursday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Karaoke w/Stephanie 9-close. \$2 Kamikazees and \$1 Hot Sex.

IBT's - 9am-4pm \$2.00 domestic beer and well. Happy Hour \$1.75 Well & domestic 4-9. \$1.50 well and domestic 7-9pm. Hi energy dancing 9-close. All drink specials not available during special events.

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 plus 50¢ off all Big Ass drinks. Top score on NTN per game wins special prizes. Volleyball Court is Open. See bartender. Patio Bar Open 7pm to midnight.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Bourbon til 7pm

Friday

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

IBT's - 9am-4pm \$2.00 domestic beer and well. \$1.75 well & domestic beer 4-9. Live Jazz on the patio with the Susan & Tracey 6-9pm. Patio Bar 5-1pm. Dance Party 9 to 1. All drink specials not available during special events.

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 Martinis \$2.00 all day. Call Martinis \$3 from 4pm to close. Volleyball Court is Open. Patio Bar Open 7pm - midnight.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Gin until 7pm.

Saturday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Open at 2pm. Pool Tournament 6:30pm \$3 entry. Pot matched. \$2 pitchers for pool players. Dance music w/DJ Hill 9-close. Drink specials every 1/2 hour.

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

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

WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 3-7pm. Pool. Toumey 2pm. Patio Bar & Volleyball Court open 5:30 - close. Sleek Fry 5-9pm Filet Mignon, vegetables, salad, potato & roll \$4.50.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. Beer Bust 3-7pm. 75¢ glass, \$2.25 pitcher. 50¢ off any Rum 1pm to 7pm.

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.saaaf.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. Altamata Saturdays the group meets for social activities. For info call Dorian Easty, facilitator. 682-7723

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 38284, Tucson, AZ 85740-8284. All replies confidential.

TUCSON GLBT AL-ANON GROUP meets Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th Street. Call 624-1779 for more information.

YOUNG AND GAY?

GLBT Youth 23 and under, meet every Saturday in Tucson for sharing, 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 WORLDWIDE** invites Gay or Bisexual men and their admirers to join and share Prime Timers fellowship. We welcome mature men (and admirers) who wish to become involved with planned and future Prime Timers activities. Meetings luncheons and dinners are held monthly. For dates, times and information call 529-9344, 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 - 328-AIDS. Hours M-F, 8:00 am to 10:00 pm. Information, counseling, HIV-related services, Tucson.

LUTHERANS CONCERNED - Tucson chapter for Gay/Lesbian Lutherans meets 4th Sunday, 8:30 p.m. each month at Santa Cruz Lutheran Church, 8809 S. Cardinal Ave. For information visit www.lctucson.org 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)

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

TGNatArizona: The central source for news and information for, by and about the TS, TG, and Gender-variant communities of Arizona. Website URL: <http://www.tgnat.arizona.org> - e-mail address: aigoodrum@uswest.net or:

GAY OR BI-SEXUAL MEN in relationships with women. Need friends you can talk to? Weekly support group meets Wednesdays 8:30 - 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.

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. For more information call the church at 289-9063 and ask for a contact person.

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

GREATHER PHOENIX GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (GPGCC) P.O. BOX 2087, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2087. E-mail: webmaster@gpgcc.org or call (602)225-8444.

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

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

ATTENTION ALL NUDISTS - Tucson Tanners is a nudist group open to all - Nude activities scheduled both indoor and outdoors. Not "Gay Only", but Gays are welcome and invited to join. For further information send SASE to: Tucson Tanners, P.O. Box 84-G, Cortaro, AZ 85652.

INNER WISDOM - Try hypnotherapy for pain relief, past life exploration and addiction release. Also available: Spiritual Counseling and Dream Interpretation. 578-9020

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO - a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, Call the Bears Hotline (520)790-5775 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 or visit our website at www.bobp.com All are welcome to our general meetings/potlucks on the 2nd Friday of every month, 7pm at Sentinel Bldg. On the City of Tucson Resource Campus, 310 N. Commerce Park Loop on Bonita St. between St. Marys and Congress.

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE .25 PER WORD \$5.00 MINIMUM



CLASSIFIEDS



CLASSIFIED ADS MUST BE MAILED NO PHONE ADS

NOTICES

SOFTBALL - For info on the Tucson Greater Softball Association T.G.S.A., please contact Mary 770-9979 or Berie 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 626-7223.

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

COMMUNITY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (CBA), Tucson's Gay and Lesbian business networking group holds regular meetings the third Thursday of every month. Call 615-6436 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.

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 8 weeks. 694-7083.

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>

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.

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 293-8824.

SAA (Sex Addicts Anonymous) has 5 meetings a week in Tucson. People who wish to stop their compulsive sexual behavior, please call (520)570-1225 for current information.

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)371-1192

CRONIES SOCIAL GROUP. A Social group for Gay men who enjoy the fellowship of their peers. Call Leo at 624-8768.

LIGHTNING LIGHTING will provide lighting for AIDS and related benefits at no charge. For more info call Adrienne at 889-7288.

NOTICES

GAY & LESBIAN SPIRITUALITY GROUP of St. Philips 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. 8th Ave. Call 781-9662.

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.

MEN'S SOCIAL NETWORK: Social organization for men of all ages. Building an extended Gay family in Tucson. Monthly social potluck gatherings the first Saturday of each month and almost weekly social activities. Call Jerry at 690-9585 for information and a newsletter. Check the Non-Bar Calendar in the Observer.

T-SQUARES Lesbian and Gay square dance club meets every Tuesday from 8:30-9:00 p.m. at Cornerstone Fellowship Social Hall, 2902 N. Geronimo (near 1st Ave. and Laguna). Open to All. Call Liz at 325-9486 or Ray at 749-5247.

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 Care Teams 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 325-8878 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 and 4th Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the Madonna Hall at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, 1438 N. Campbell across from University Hospital. For more info. Call Ernie Slaight 721-2003.

SMART (Self Management And Recovery Training) is 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 884-8920, Ext.448 or Emmett 322-6057 (evallen@ix.netcom.com)

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

OUTLOUD! Tucson's premiere Local Lesbian and Gay Radio Show, broadcast every Wednesday at 8:03 pm on 91.3 FM, Community Radio KXCL. 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).

SOUTHERN ARIZONA GENDER ALLIANCE (SAGA). Meetings on the 1st Monday, 7pm. Dazert Girlz (MTF) Meets 2nd Monday at 7pm. Dazert 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/sagae@mail>

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TENSE? STRESSED OUT? Relax for an hour with a Full Body Rub by Frank. Private studio, off-street parking. 271-3660 days, evenings. 881

COME BACK TO BLISS. Experience a massage steeped in rich tradition combining ancient, sacred and intimate healing techniques. Strong, yet gentle hands work with your complete comfort in mind. In & Out, Days & Evenings, sometimes at a moment's notice. Call Glen, CMT 907-2551 for the touch you so richly deserve. Experienced, professional, and kind ... not bad looking either! 875.

ALTERATIONS AND REPAIRS

Let me keep your clothes fitting properly and in good repair. Experienced - Economical - Prompt. Merle Hudson, 888-7284 in Tucson. 890

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Gay Men's Health Project is a collaborative effort of Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF), Pima County Health Dept., and Wingspan

HIV testing done with Orasure™

Pima County Health Department is currently using Orasure™, the new HIV test that is administered orally. Orasure™ is easier, painless and just as accurate as previous testing methods. If you have any questions about Orasure™, please feel free to contact the Gay Men's Health Project (GMHP) at 628.7223 or email us at gmhp@saaf.org.

El examen del VIH lo hacemos con Orasure™

El Departamento de Salud del Condado Pima esta realizando los examens del VIH con Orasure™. El nuevo examen del VIH es administrado oralmente, es facil, sin dolor y es igual de seguro que el metodo anterior. Si tienes preguntas del nuevo metodo de examen oral (Orasure™) confia y llama a The Gay Men's Health Project (GMHP) al 628-7223 o mandanos correo electronico a gmhp@saaf.org

T HOROSCOPES

BY C. LICHTENSTEIN

Lovely Venus has been wending its way through lusty Aries and our quest for love and acceptance has acquired all the subtlety of a pair of hot pink chaps and a whip. Chalk it up to sheer luck and ride 'em cowpoke!

decide to do now. Hey, you can't help but feel pretty lucky. However, do not tempt the fates with outrageously destructive behavior. There are some things even delightful Venus cannot forgive.

ARIES

MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

Proud Rams pack a pistol when Venus sits in their own sign. You exude charm and you're not above cashing in a few of your social chips during this lucky streak. Venus certainly provides the personality plus you need to make things happen. Therefore, dear, queer friend, don't waste this delightful transit on selfish and petty pursuits. I elect you leader of the pride pack.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22

Venus in Outer directed Aries enables you to plow ahead on the job with fabulous results. Proud Scorps can take the workplace by storm if they so decide. As appealing as ruler of the watercooler may sound, I advise you to put this lovely energy into where it will have the most long lasting effect: on your fitness and diet. It's easier to play the field when your uniform fits properly.

TAURUS

APRIL 21 - MAY 21

Rainbow Bulls are not the most prescient of people but now your intuition is strong and grandly beneficent. Venus in Aries lends a certain verve and panache to all your actions. Use it advantageously cousin; there is much to be done and not a great deal of time to do it. Grand causes call for grand designs. Pull out the blueprints and plan a pink palace.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22

Gay Archers can have a grand Gay time when playful Venus glides through pioneering Aries. Expect a little happy zetz in your cerebellum that sends your Gay muse into overdrive. Create, create, create. Other manifestations include party hearty times, vivacious company and perhaps even a fleeting romance. It seems that life continues to be interesting. You lucky thing.

GEMINI

MAY 22 - JUNE 21

Charming Venus transits forceful Aries and helps you gather the pride forces for a real movement Out. Forward march friends! Take your camaraderie to the limit even if the limit is how many pints you can hoist at the neighborhood bar. Proud Twins are naturally festive and friendly. Now you are social director extraordinaire. Plan an extravaganza that makes the tabloids.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20

Stoke the home fires as happy Venus traverses Aries. The planets almost mandate that you entertain more at home. Queer Goats come to grips with family issues at this time as both sides want to kiss and make up. Decide what you expect from these relationships and go for the gold. Do not compromise on your happiness for the sake of accord; that would make Venus very sad.

CANCER

JUNE 22 - JULY 23

Pink Crabs can slyly sip the power away from snarling corporate sharks when lovely Venus waltzes through domineering Aries. Think of this transiting energy as a velvet glove wrapped around an iron fist. Fall back on charm when you are sorely tempted to scream. The secret is, of course, to avoid emotional rainstorms that can turn your successful act into ruinous rust.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19

Good thing that Venus in Aries helps you communicate more effectively now that you need it! Aqueerians are all mouth now (make good use of time!) and can use this delightful planetary spurt to state your convictions proudly and unequivocally. Carry the rainbow banner and stake your claims for equality. You will be amazed at what you can accomplish now.

LEO

JULY 24 - AUGUST 23

Want to escape? Let relaxing Venus in independent Aries provides you with an appealing alternative to the day to day drudgery. Take a vacation if you have the time and the dough. If you're a little short on either ingredient, use this delightful transit to expand and enliven your immediate world. Spicy food and or spicy company can do wonders for your Outlook.

PISCES

FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20

Guppies come into a little money when lovely Venus travels through unflappable Aries. You'll earn it and spend it now but I suggest that you stow something away for the inevitable rainy day. Although Venus (and Pisces for that matter) aren't known for shouldering financial responsibility well, prove the skeptics wrong and invest your best. Become Gay P. Morgan.

VIRGO

AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23

Mighty Aphrodite charges through pioneering Aries and provides a spark or five in your sex life. Lucky queer Virgins can sample the best of all worlds during this delightful transit if they open themselves up to all that life has to offer. Randy Venus provides a joi de vivre so go all Out and vivre. Dive into the deep end if you are daring enough, but be sure to pack a bathing cap.

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LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23

Harmony rules when warm and cuddly Venus transits confident Aries. Proud Libras can count on the strong support of partners for whatever crazy things they may

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- been kicked, hit, shoved or had objects thrown at you or around you?
- been threatened with being "outed" if you do not comply with your partner's demands?

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