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Observing Tucson And
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THE WEEKLY OBSERVER

DECEMBER 10, 2001

ISSUE 909

NY Officials Ask Bush To Extend Fund To Include Gays

Pataki, Guiliani & Spitzer Send Letter To President

NEW YORK, NY - The Empire State Pride Agenda released a copy of a letter to President Bush from Governor Pataki, Mayor Giuliani and New York State Attorney General Spitzer asking the President to extend the coverage of the September 11 victim compensation fund to all those who suffered the loss of a loved one on September 11, regardless of sexual orientation.

The letter to the President, dated November 27, is the most high-profile of a series of requests to the Administration from elected officials, who represent those directly affected by the terrorist attacks, that all family survivors regardless of status be eligible for compensation. Senator Chuck Schumer made a similar written request to Attorney General Ashcroft on October 31 and Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton did so on December 12. The Pride Agenda also worked with state-based advocacy groups and activists in the tri-state area to have their elected officials go on record with the Attorney General requesting eligibility for same-sex survivors.

The Administration's answer to these appeals will become known this week when the U.S. Department of Justice releases its interim regulations covering the federal victims compensation fund, which will determine "who is family?" for purposes of compensation.

Commenting on the strong bipartisan support for the inclusion of Gay and Lesbian families, Joe Grabarz, Executive Director of the Empire State Pride Agenda - New York State's Gay civil rights and political advocacy organization - said, "The tragic events of September 11 have produced a tremendous feeling in America that we are all in this together. It's encouraging to see this spirit of unity demonstrated through bipartisan support for equality and fairness for everyone affected by this disaster. So far, Americans have rallied to ensure that no victim survivor or family is excluded from their generosity. Our representative government should do no less."

The federal compensation fund known officially as the "September 11 Victims Compensation Fund of 2001" was set up by Congress soon after September 11 and is part of the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act. It was established so that families would not be forced to seek damages through the normal process of litigation, which could take years and become a significant burden on the nation's court system. It was also set up to allow victim families to seek compensation directly from the federal government in-

stead of seeking redress from the airlines.

The letter to the President states, "families of the victims of the September 11th attacks reflect the full spectrum of the people of New York and of America in terms of gender, race, religion, color and national origin, as well as marital status and sexual orientation." It also says, "Some are unmarried life partners or other persons with whom they had shared a mutual interdependent relationship; others are non-biological children who may not have been formally adopted. The lack of formal legal recognition, however, does not mitigate the shattering impact of the death of a beloved companion, parent, or guardian. The emotional injuries are profound and will take time to heal. The economic losses are immediate as well as long term."

The letter also argues that providing federal fund compensation to Gay survivors would be consistent with what has occurred in New York since September 11

CONTINUED ON PAGE THIRTEEN

Salvation Army Fundraiser Under Fire

WASHINGTON, DC - The Salvation Army's tortured and equivocal stance on the issue of Gay and Lesbian civil rights and the rights of those it employs took another brave leap into the unknown.

The Washington Post reports residents in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia received fundraising notices this week with a small card headlined "Equality."

"We . . . Want you, our cherished donor, to know that we are all about equality in the workplace," the card reads, and "we employ qualified applicants, regardless of their race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or political views."

People For the American Way Foundation President Ralph Neas said the new fundraising campaign sends a false message to the public. "Either the Salvation Army is confused or it's trying to confuse the public," said Neas. "There's a huge gap between the claims of this direct-mail piece and the words and deeds of Salvation Army officials."

The mailing by the Salvation Army's National Capital and Virginia Division began arriving at the homes of potential donors only days after the organization's Nov. 12 decision to rescind a policy granting health-care benefits to the domestic partners of Gay employees.

Salvation Army Lt. Col. William Crabson told the Post the card was distributed by the local regional group and that its statements were accurate. "What we said we believe is correct. We serve without discrimination, we employ without discrimination."

But even if Lt. Col. Crabson has a firm grip on policy, he may not have the last word on the matter. In early November, the Salvation Army's Western Corporation announced it would agree to offer domestic partnership benefits to its employees in a bid to allow the religious-based social service agency to compete for taxpayer money from the city of San Francisco.

In 1998, the regional arm broke off its financial ties with the city rather than comply with the city's landmark Equal Benefits Ordinance. The San Francisco law requires companies and agencies contracting with the city to offer their employees who have registered domestic partners the same benefits as their married co-workers.

The decision set off a fire storm of protest among religious conservative supporters of the organization, including national lobbying organizations such as James Dobson's Focus on the Family.

"I don't believe our national leadership bargained for such a vociferous reaction to the initial decision to extend benefits out west, both internally and externally," said Mike Seely, spokesman for the Salvation Army's Northwest Division, part of the Western Territory.

Less than two weeks later the national leadership of the Salvation Army rescinded the Western arm's decision and prohibited regional offices from setting their own policies on employee benefits. "We deeply regret the perception that [the commissioners] surrendered any biblical principles in making the original decision," the leadership said in a statement.

In July, Salvation Army spokesman George Hood told the Washington Post that hiring Gay employees "really begins to chew away at the theological fabric of who we are." And, according to the anti-Gay organization, Concerned

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

LA NOCHE BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Tis the night before Christmas
And all through the casa
Not a creature is stirring
Caramba! Que pasa?

The stockings are hanging con mucho cuidado
In hope that St. Nicholas will feel obligado
To leave a few cosas aqui y alli
For chico y chica (y something por me).

Los Ninos are snuggled all safe in their camas
Some in vestidos and some in pajamas
Their little cabezas all full of good things
They all esperando que Santa will bring.

Santa esta at the corner saloon
Mui borracho since midafternoon.
Mama is sitting beside la ventana
Shining her rolling pin para mañana

When Santa returns to his home zigzagando
Lit up like the Star Spangled Banner cantando.
And Mama will send him to bed con a right
Merry Christmas a todos, y a todos good night!
Author Unknown

UPDATE

GLBT Commission Reception Jan 7.

TUCSON - The City of Tucson Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Commission - Outreach Subcommittee cordially invites all to a New Year's reception, Monday, January 7, 2002, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., 325 West Franklin Street, (between Main and Granada).

Commission members will be present to discuss plans and activities for the New Year, and to recap the accomplishments and activities of the Commission during 2001.

For more information, call Nancy Robinett, (520) 670-9500, or Steven Baker, (520) 388-5650.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

TUCSON - Come celebrate the birth of our Savior this Christmas Eve at the Water of Life MCC. Gather with your friends & family at our beautiful candlelight service Monday, December 24, 10:45 p.m.

On Christmas Day, a get together of singing Christmas carols starts at 11:00 a.m. with a potluck lunch to follow at noon. You need not be a member of Water of Life MCC to join us, just a desire to be among friends.

Water of Life MCC is located at 3269 North Mountain. The Fort Lowell entrance may be temporarily blocked off due to construction. Use the Prince entrance as an alternative route. We apologize for any inconvenience to may cause. All are cordially invited to attend services every Sunday at 10:15 a.m. For further information, call the church office at (520) 292-9151.



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Wingspan Seeking Volunteers

TUCSON - Is your New Year's resolution to make a difference, and have fun doing it? Wingspan, Southern Arizona's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center, is looking for fabulous, compassionate, smart people (just like you) to volunteer for our Information Referral Service, Domestic Violence Project Hotline, Youth Services, Library, Senior Companion Program, Facilities Maintenance, the newly-opened David Bohneit CyberCenter - and so much more!

Volunteer opportunities are open to people of any sexual orientation and gender identity. People of color, bilingual speakers, youth (18-23), seniors, people living with AIDS, people with disabilities, sign language interpreters, and people with computer skills are encouraged to volunteer.

So be a part of something larger! Learn new skills! Make new friends! Feel even better about yourself! You deserve it!

Training sessions begin January 12, but volunteer opportunities are ongoing! For more information and application, please contact Mark English, Volunteer Coordinator, (520) 624-1779 or volcoord@wingspanaz.org.

Salvation Army Fundraiser

Continued from Page One

Women for America Salvation Army Commissioner Lawrence Moretz stressed last month that the organization "has not changed" its position on "homosexuality" or other "basic doctrines or moral positions."

A national protest against the Salvation Army is ongoing. Instead of giving dollars, participants deposit slips of paper into the famous kettles that states a \$5 donation would have been made if not for the Salvation Army's discriminatory policies. Participants are encouraging others to give to charities that don't discriminate.

AGRA's Road Runner Regional Rodeo Moves To Scottsdale

SCOTTSDALE - AGRA's 2002 Road Runner Regional Rodeo (RRRR) is moving. This coming January 18-20 2002 will find the rodeo staged at Rawhide, Wild West Town in Scottsdale. Rawhide is located at Scottsdale and Pinnacle Peak Roads.

For the past 16 years, the venue has been the Corona Ranch & Rodeo grounds located in South Phoenix on Baseline Road & 29th Avenue.

Rodeo Director Bob Pimentel, Jr. says moving to Rawhide, the Wild West Town is only one of the exciting changes for the 2002 Road Runner Regional Rodeo.

Rawhide, Wild West Town is a first rate facility. There is the main Arena's, and two side arenas. This will allow the use of two arena's for a large contestant turnout. Events can run simultaneously in two arena's and have use of a warm up arena. This is a great plus for contestants and something that hasn't been available at past RRRR rodeo's.

This year AGRA has arranged with Greyline Tours a free shuttle service from at least four locations. You can park and then ride free of charge out to Rawhide from the 1st host hotel the Lexington, 100 W Clarendon, Phoenix, (602) 279-9811, Charlie's, 727 W Camelback Rd Phoenix, (602) 265-0224, Cash Inn Country, 2140 E McDowell, Phoenix, (602) 244-9943 or the 2nd host hotel the Hilton Gardens, Indian School Road, Scottsdale, (480) 481-0400. This means you can park and party and not worry about driving.

The pavilion, which will host Dance, Entertainment and Vendors, is more than 25,000 square feet. There is enough vendor space for well more than 100 vendors AGRA is hoping to host. The stage is a professional setup including lighting and dressing rooms. Another great feature is that the pavilion has both air conditioning and heating.

Friday night at Rawhide, there will be the Entertainment portion of the Royalty Contest for the contestants competing for the titles of Mr., MS., & Miss AGRA 2002. Following will be a concert by Country artist Scooter Lee, the stepping down of the current 2001 Royalty, the crowning of the 2002 Royalty and Dancing. Admission to Rawhide on Friday night is free however there is a \$5 dollar cover for Friday nights festivities in the Pavilion.

The entire Rawhide Wild West Town will be open to all who come through the gates on Saturday & Sunday at the rodeo admission price of \$15.00 per day. There will be a weekend package available which will include admission to all the events being planned for rodeo week-end

AGRA is very excited about our new location and are sure you will have the an even better time than you have had in the past, at this annual charitable event where all Rodeo proceeds all going to charitable organizations.

For more info call the AGRA Rodeo Hotline at (602) 265-0618 or visit the web site at www.agra-phx.com.

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Informing the Community.
The Observer

Openly Gay & Lesbian Soldiers Serve With Distinction

WASHINGTON, DC - Many Gays and Lesbians who have served openly in the U.S. military, prior to their forced discharges, performed their duties with distinction and were treated with respect and were fully accepted by their fellow service members, according to a newly released study.

The 90-page document, conducted by a University of California researcher, says its findings appear to refute assertions by military officials that homosexuality is incompatible with military service because it allegedly destroys morale and unit cohesion among rank-and-file troops, the Southern Voice reported.

And the study comes as America's military involvement expands overseas for its war on terrorism, yet branches of the military continue to expel openly Gay soldiers while suspending discharges of other uniformed personnel.

"It's the anti-Gay harassment, not the presence of Gays, that hurts unit cohesion," John Ralls, a spokesperson for the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, a group that assists Gays in the military, said in response to the study.

The study describes the cases of four Gay service members who continued their active duty status while challenging the military's ban on Gays. It also discusses previous studies on dozens of other Gays who came out while in the military.

"These service members maintained collegial relationships with co-workers, received outstanding evaluations, won awards, and received promotions during their periods of open service," the study says. "They also maintained high levels of responsibility, managing personnel, overseeing military budgets, and commanding troops."

University of California researcher Rhonda Evans conducted the study for the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Among the study's most striking example, the study says, is U.S. Navy Commander Zoe Dunning, who holds the distinction of being the nation's only openly Gay service member to be allowed to remain in the military.

Dunning, 38, disclosed her sexual orientation in 1993, after she had served in the Navy for 12 years, six years on active duty and six as a reserve officer. She began her career as a graduate at the U.S. Naval Academy.

Dunning said this in a phone interview from her San Francisco home that a Navy panel's decision not to discharge her amounted to "opening the door for me, but closing it for everybody else."

She said she decided to come out during a rally outside San Francisco aimed at putting pressure on President Clinton to keep his promise to lift the ban on Gays in the military. A Naval review panel initially ruled against her, directing that she be given an honorable discharge.

But in a development that surprised military officials and Gay activists, another review panel, to which Dunning filed an appeal, handed down a unanimous decision in December 1994 to allow Dunning to remain in the service.

The panel said her decision to

disclose that she was a Lesbian didn't violate the newly adopted "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy because Dunning never indicated an "intent" to engage in same-sex sexual conduct.

The "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, which Congress enacted into law in 1993, states that military authorities must make a distinction between a service member's "status" as a homosexual and whether a service member is likely to engage in "homosexual activity," which the policy prohibits.

The Department of Defense tightened its implementation rules for the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy shortly after the Navy panel ruled in Dunning's favor. The tightened rules hold that a service member's decision to disclose that he or she is Gay is tantamount to a declaration of "intent" to engage in a homosexual act and is thus grounds for discharge.

The University of California study points to Dunning's eight years in the military since the Naval review panel's 1993 ruling, calling her tenure a "case study" demonstrating that an openly Gay service member can serve with distinction.

The study notes that Dunning's case challenging the military's anti-Gay policy drew widespread press attention, ensuring that virtually all of her commanding officers, colleagues, and subordinates knew she was a Lesbian. All of them remained cordial and continued to work well with her, the study says.

Several of her colleagues testified in favor of her remaining in the military

during her discharge hearings, the study says.

In the years following her coming out, Dunning was promoted to the rank of lieutenant commander and commander. She has been assigned to a ship stationed in the Middle East and recently has helped to train Navy personnel headed for assignments associated with the U.S. military action in Afghanistan.

She has received a Navy achievement medal. Dunning, who has since received an advanced degree from Stanford University, currently serves as an assistant to the commander-in-chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

In addition to examining Dunning, the study explored the post-coming out experiences of three other service members: former Naval Petty Officer Keith Meinhold, former Navy Lt. Richard Watson, and former Army Reserve Lt. Steve May.

Unlike Dunning, Meinhold, Watson and May are no longer in the service. However, the study notes that they continued to serve in the military for several years after disclosing their sexual orientation.

In all three cases, the study says, fellow service members maintained a professional working relationship with them, providing first-hand proof that unit cohesion and troop morale remained high in the full and open presence of an openly Gay service member.

Ralls, the SLDN spokesperson, said several studies by the organization report widespread instances of anti-Gay

harassment within the military don't contradict the University of California study.

Anti-Gay harassment remains prevalent in units where military commanders don't take steps to reprimand or discipline service members who engage in such harassment, Ralls said.

"The military says it wants to stop harassment, but policies to curtail harassment have not yet been implemented," Ralls said. "We are not seeing adequate training programs, and those engaged in harassment are not being held accountable."

Dunning, who operates a management-consulting firm during her off-duty periods, continues to serve as a Naval reserve officer. She said an example of how her career has flourished as an openly Gay officer surfaced in a dramatic way last month, while she was assigned to a ship overseeing battle exercises in the Pacific in preparation for deployment to the Middle East.

While dining with a group of fellow officers onboard the ship, the USS Coronado, Dunning said, she recognized a lieutenant commander seated across the table from her. It was the former lieutenant who served as prosecutor during her 1994 discharge hearing.

As a full commander, Dunning was now a full rank above her former prosecutor, who currently was serving as judge advocate general, or JAG, officer on the Coronado.

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IBT's Sunday Party Line-up, December 23rd

11:00 am - 6 pm - Jeff's Recovery Bar with \$1.50

Bloody Mary's/Screwdrivers/Mimosas

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

5:30pm - 8pm - Benefit Bar-B-Que/Beerbust for

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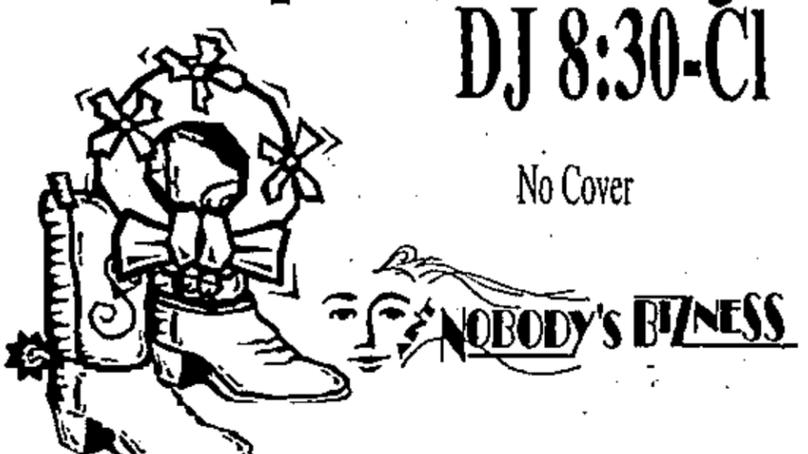
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Monday, Dec 24th

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Holiday Blues Strike Many GLBT People

LOS ANGELES, CA - It may be "the season to be jolly," but for many in the Gay and Lesbian community, the holidays lead to depression, anger and anxiety.

"Holidays bring up opening presents under the tree, the nuclear family, traditional American values and a longing to have that experience -- whether it's a fantasy or not -- because society tells us that is what is supposed to make us happy," said Joni Lavick, director of mental health services for the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center, Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

Since many in the GLBT community are disconnected and not accepted by their families, Lavick says that can lead to a great deal of stress. "All these images can create a feeling that you've failed, and shame that you don't have that," she says. "The most important thing to remember is not to buy into anyone else's definition of what family is," she says.

"One of the things we encourage is that GLBT people create their own family," says Joseph Neisen, executive director of New Leaf Services For Our Community, San Francisco's outpatient counseling center for the GLBT community. "Spend time with those people that you deem family, whether it's good friends or coworkers. Create new traditions around the holidays with your family of choice," he says.

Lavick says it's all about planning in advance. "Arrange activities for yourself. Think ahead about what will happen. How will it feel if I'm alone on Christmas day?"

Is there a way it's OK not to have a date on New Year's? Try and do some preparation. Are there people you could be with? Create support systems," she says.

Mental health professionals say having a support system during the holidays is especially critical for those with substance abuse problems. "If there aren't adaptive coping mechanisms, support or friends and you have this depression or anxiety, you might self-medicate with substances or alcohol to make you feel better for the short term. We see a lot of that," Lavick says.

It's such a common occurrence that after the holidays Neisen says there's usually a surge in requests for New Leaf's substance abuse services.

If you do happen to be with your traditional family over the holidays, Lavick says it's important to maintain realistic expectations. "A mistake some people make is to repair family ties, and it might not be the right time to do that," she says. "Don't project there will be this fantasy reconciliation in your head, because you will let yourself in for disappointment. Come to that place of acceptance where it's your family's problem, not yours, and it's not something that can be solved in an afternoon or a day."

And finally, if you just think nothing will make you happy over the holidays, Lavick says that's OK, too. "You should give yourself a break and not stress out that much. Just realize it's all part of the human condition."

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YARD DOG SALOON

"Wishes everyone a very Happy Holidays"

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Entertainment Briefs

Dame Edna Everage will return to Fox's Ally McBeal in a recurring role, the drag alter ego of actor Barry Humphries, will reprise her character Claire Ooms, which she introduced in two guest appearances this fall.

Out pop legend Sir Elton John will pucker up as the new spokesman for MAC's Viva Glam VI lipstick. Proceeds from sales of the lipstick will benefit the company's AIDS fund. Mary J. Blige and Shirley Manson will join John in the ad campaign, scheduled to launch in February, which will be shot by Gay photographer David LaChapelle. Mac's Viva Glam line has raised more than \$24 million for HIV and AIDS services since its creation in 1994.

Openly Gay 25-year-old Dallas bartender Brandon Quinton was voted off of Survivor, after he turned his back on the voting bloc created by his former Samburu tribe members. On the previous episode, Quinton switched allegiances to vote off Kelly Goldsmith, and that act led to this week's ouster. Because Quinton lasted as long as he did on the show, he will sit on the jury that will decide the ultimate Survivor winner. "I'm thrilled to death to be on the jury," said Quinton in his final words on the show. "I said all along that my main goal would be to be on the jury, because I want to determine who wins the million dollars."

Lucy Liu and Jersey Films are in negotiations to produce a drag comedy at Universal Pictures. The studio has paid \$1 million against \$2 million (if the film goes into production) for an untitled action-comedy pitch by Les Firestein and P.J. Pesce. The pitch revolves around a male fugitive who dresses in drag to elude a group of thugs, only to wind up being

mistaken for a mail-order bride. Liu will not star in the film, although she may play a smaller role.

Matt Damon (Ocean's Eleven) will appear in an upcoming episode of Will & Grace as a man vying with Jack (Sean Hayes) for the last spot in a Gay chorus. Damon previously played Gay in 1999's The Talented Mr. Ripley.

Writer-director Douglas McGrath (Emma, Company Man) is negotiating to write and direct a film about legendary Gay author Truman Capote for Killer Films. The movie would focus on the making of Capote's classic "nonfiction novel" In Cold Blood and would be adapted from George Plimpton's biography Truman Capote: In Which Various Friends, Enemies, Acquaintances, and Detractors Recall His Turbulent Career. "It's safe to say he didn't resemble anyone of either gender," says McGrath about Capote. "It's a funny and moving story. It starts out as a social comedy and ends up something entirely more heartbreaking."

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Sperm Donor Ordered To Pay Child Support

STOCKHOLM, Sweden - In a ruling that has the potential to greatly expand the notion of parental responsibility in Sweden, a county court has ruled that a man who donated sperm to a lesbian couple must pay child support after the two women separated.

donated sperm belonged to the donor, it was relatively easy for the judge to declare the donor the biological father, obliging him to pay child support. The court ordered the donor pay 2,838 crowns (\$265) per month, for care and support of the child.

The regional daily Nerikes Allehanda reported that the act of artificially inseminating the man's sperm did not sever him from his responsibility in bringing a child into the world. Though he was not listed as the child's guardian, his responsibility was the court's to determine.

The verdict poses a legal dilemma, however, because under Swedish law a sperm donor is not regarded as the legal parent of children conceived with the help of his semen. Sperm donors, however, are normally strictly anonymous, while in this case the man was a friend of the couple and his identity as the father is in no doubt.

Once the court was shown the

The man has appealed.

G/L Marriage Popular In The Netherlands

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands - Nearly 2,000 Gay and Lesbian couples were wed by Dutch civil servants in the first six months after Gay marriage was legalized this year, a government agency said.

Gay marriages comprised 3.6 percent of all new marriages. In April, this figure was more than 6 percent as Gays rushed to take advantage of the new law, but it gradually stabilized at around 3 percent.

The Gay marriage law that took effect on April 1 made the Netherlands the first country in the world to grant Gay couples full marriage rights, including the right to adopt children.

Sixteen percent of the people who married someone of the same sex had earlier been in a heterosexual marriage. Most were divorced, and a few were widows or widowers, the Netherlands said.

The Central Bureau of Statistics said 2,100 men and 1,700 women had married someone of the same sex by Sept.

Film Breaks Gay & Political Taboos

TAIPEI, Taiwan - A controversial Chinese film tackling the twin taboos of homosexuality and the Tiananmen Square crackdown in 1989 is expected to sweep the Golden Horse Awards, the Chinese version of the Oscars. The film, entitled "Lan Yu," filmed secretly in mainland China by Hong Kong maverick Stanley Kwan, is expected to sweep the Golden Horse Awards for best picture, best director, best actor and best cinematography, among other nominations.

The story leapfrogs in time, jumps noted only by the changing dialogue between the two men. Lan Yu is a kept man until Hangdong decides to embrace convention and marry a pretty interpreter. The doomed romance marches along lockstep with changes in Communist China and ends with the bracing realization that a deep love has been sacrificed for the worst of all possible reasons.

The film is based on a Gay erotic novel anonymously posted online. "Beijing Story" involves a 10-year relationship between worldly, macho, successful and connected Beijing businessman Chen Hangdong (Hu Jan) and a young architecture student Lan Yu (Liu Ye).

Kwan, 43, said in a recent interview that he knew the film would never get past the censors to be shown on the mainland but felt it was crucial to set the film in the Chinese capital with a crew made up of predominantly Beijing natives.

The story, like many Chinese period epics, traces the lives of its characters as they are buffeted by historical events - in this case the student-led democracy movement brutally crushed by the Communist government in 1989.

The film, which debuted in Hong Kong late last month, has won praise at international film festivals from Toronto to Brisbane.

One of the film's most moving scenes shows the character Hangdong driving towards Tiananmen Square searching for his lover Lan Yu as tanks and troops rolled in to crush the demonstrators.

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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

by Lee Thorn

'Quit Picking On Ashcroft!'

Attorney General John Ashcroft was whining about people not trusting their government at about the same time that somebody did a poll showing that 65% of Americans trust their government "to do the right thing." It's hard to figure what planet Ashcroft and the 65% have been living on.

reason that the Founding Fathers felt that we needed a system of checks and balances was because they didn't trust government to do the right thing. These were some very hip characters, the Founding Fathers. The system they built based on their deep distrust of government is still chugging along after 200 years.

Here on planet Earth, if you don't distrust government — yours, theirs, and everybody's — you're either very young or you haven't been paying attention. But instead of reciting the brutal, criminal, stupid, horrible things that governments have done from the reign of Caligula through the terror of Hitler to the mess of Watergate, it might be more instructive to present some theoretical principles that make governments of all times and all stripes eminently untrustworthy.

An equally strong testament to the Founders' distrust of the government that they themselves were in the process of creating is called the Bill of Rights. It protects freedom of speech from the government. If you trusted government, you certainly wouldn't need a document designed to protect your speech from government interference. The same reasoning applies to freedom of religion and freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures. The language of the Bill of Rights makes it clear that the Founders didn't even trust the government to be reasonable.

Let's start with the familiar axiom that "power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely." We've all heard this truism since we played in our sand boxes, but what does it really mean? Suppose that power means the freedom to make a decision without fear of suffering any consequences from it. If a government official had that kind of power, as of course they often do, what would prevent him from making dishonest and/or evil decisions? Absolutely nothing.

The best cure for trusting government, one that should have long since worked for Ashcroft, is having a job in the government. This fact is exemplified by the phrase "with military precision," a phrase used exclusively by civilians.

[Thorn welcomes outraged comments, suggestions for future columns, and tips on local skulduggery that is crying out to be exposed. Write to Box 85571, Tucson, AZ 85754.]

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Moving from the ancient truism of political philosophy to a surprisingly seldom discussed reason for governments' defects, consider the sad fact that governments are run by ordinary people. Getting a job in government doesn't suddenly make you smart or fair or honest — or anything. There's no reason to believe that government agencies have a lower percentage of bumbler and loafers and thieves than non-government enterprises.

A special reason not to trust government at this particular time in our history is the anti-transparency/anti-accountability tradition that has evolved since Vietnam and Watergate. Our government is loath to tell us who pulls the trigger and more loath to discipline anyone for pulling in inappropriately or ineptly. To put it bluntly, we don't fire bureaucrats for screwing up.

On top of everything else, being in government makes some people think that they're above the law, both statutory and moral law. Remember Nixon's infamous and all-too-revealing dictum: "If the President does it, it's not against the law"? He had come, apparently, to the point of confusing the powers of the American presidency with those of an absolute monarch.

But the same tendency appears regularly in less than Nixonian proportions. Government scientists conducting experiments that involved denying treatment to patients infected with syphilis have repeatedly reported that, at the time they were doing it, watching these patients become disabled and die, it didn't even occur to them that they might be doing something wrong! After all, they were working for the government.

Our Founding Fathers set up a government of checks and balances. There are three branches of government that check and balance each other. In nontechnical terms, checking and balancing means keeping the other branches honest. The

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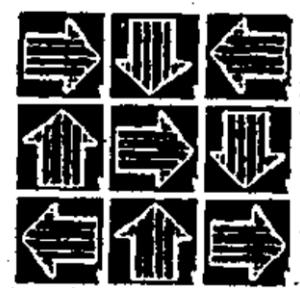
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When we realize that we are here to serve one another, life fills up with meaningful possibilities. When we serve we create a connection with others and our heart opens to those we serve. Service in its true spirit does not expect pay back, but when we express compassion, the love we give comes back to us multiplied.

Thank you to those individuals, organizations and businesses for giving so unselfishly to the Gay Men's Health Project and helping the program succeed in 2001. I look forward to working with all of you in 2002!!

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War Directs Attention To 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - At military bases across the country, troops mobilized for America's new war are saying goodbye to spouses and sweethearts with lingering embraces and teary kisses.

Unless they are Gay.

Gay soldiers reporting for possible combat are bound by the "don't ask, don't tell" mandate to keep their sexual orientation to themselves.

"There are moments that bring this policy into sharper focus. This is one of those moments," said Dixon Osburn, executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, formed to help Gays in the military.

Following the Sept. 11 attacks, the Pentagon suspended certain types of administrative discharges, but not the ban on serving as an openly Gay member of the armed forces.

Historically, discharges for homosexuality have decreased during times of war, according to the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military based at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

For instance, in the three years before 1966, the Navy discharged more than 1,600 sailors each year for homosexuality, said center director Aaron Belkin, quoting figures researched by Randy Shilts, who wrote "Conduct Unbecoming," and Alan Berube, author of "Coming Out Under Fire." But as military involvement in Vietnam increased, the number dropped to as low as 461 in 1970.

A Pentagon spokesman did not respond to calls and emails requesting comment.

"You can bleed, die and fight for your country when there's an external enemy. It seems unfortunate that America tends to feed on itself and harm itself when there's no external threat," said Richard Watson, a former Navy submarine officer who was discharged after he told his commanding officer he was Gay.

Several countries allow openly homosexual troops to serve, including Canada, Israel, Australia and Britain.

Supporters of "don't ask, don't tell" say allowing Gays to serve openly would undercut morale and unit cohesion. A non-Gay soldier, for example, might not want to share a foxhole with someone Gay.

Charles Moskos, a Northwestern University sociology professor who studies the armed forces and helped draft "don't ask, don't tell" for the Clinton administration, said the policy tried to steer a middle course.

"If you let open Gays in then you do have problems of personal privacy violations -- 'You will have to live with this Gay guy' -- and if you go back to the old order, which was the true witch-hunting, well that was just repressive and they got stigmatized," Moskos says. "It is a compromise, and that is why Congress passed it."

The policy allows Gays to serve provided they keep quiet about their sexual orientation. Supervisors are not supposed to ask about their sex lives.

Steve May, an Arizona lawmaker and Army reservist who drew national

attention when the Army tried to force him out for being Gay, said any large use of troops is likely to undermine support for the policy, reported the Associated Press.

"I think this is the death knell for 'don't ask, don't tell,'" May said. "It doesn't make any sense. I think most Americans want every American who is able to serve, to serve."

May, who was called up in 1999, came under investigation for speaking openly about being Gay. He fought his discharge, and the Army ultimately allowed him to serve out his tour, which ended in April.

After the Sept. 11 attacks, a number of Gays who had been kicked out of the armed forces got in touch with the Servicemembers Legal Defense League to see if there was any chance of re-enlisting, Osburn said. There wasn't.

But Watson, the former submarine officer, understands.

"Would I go back to defend this country and to serve? You bet," he said. "Even with all its pitfalls and all of its social ills, this is still the greatest place in the world."

Once Again, Jerry Falwell Advances Our Cause

By the Rev. Mel White

Thursday morning, September 13, before sunrise, our 800 line lit up with calls wanting a Soulforce response to Jerry Falwell's comments blaming Gays and Lesbians for the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C.

On Thursday, in one of his rare guest appearances on Pat Robertson's 700 Club, Falwell placed "a lot of the blame [for the destructive hijackings]" on the Federal Courts "for throwing God out of the public square" and on his usual list of those "who have tried to secularize America: pagans, abortionists, feminists, Gays and Lesbians who are actively trying to make that an alternative lifestyle, the ACLU, and People for the American Way."

With Pat Robertson nodding his assent, Jerry Falwell explained the tragedies in New York City and Washington, D.C., as proof that "God continues to lift the curtain and allow the enemies of America to give us probably what we deserve."

After his comments came under fire, the Washington Post called Falwell who placed "all the blame legally and morally on the actions of the terrorist." but he explained that America's "secular and anti-Christian environment left us open to our Lord's [decision] not to protect. When a nation deserts God and expels God from the culture, the result is not good."

Later in the day, on a CNN talk show, Jerry Falwell apologized for his remarks. Apologize or not, before we waste too much anger on the words of Jerry or Pat, let's consider the probable consequences of their politics of blame.

First, it was gratifying to learn that the White House immediately issued a statement calling Falwell's remarks "inappropriate" with a clear advisory that the "The President does not share those views." By frustrating the President's call for national unity during these most difficult days, Jerry and Pat have lost even more

political clout and public credibility. And I am grateful every time the President has cause to distance himself from leaders of the extremist right.

Second, I'm guessing that in the next few weeks, clergy and lay leaders alike from every faith tradition will distance themselves from Jerry and Pat's unwise and untimely dialogue increasing their isolation from the mainstream Christian community as well.

Third, many of our families and friends who are still confused by Jerry, Pat, and others who misuse the "clobber passages" to caricature and condemn us, will be shocked by this theological premise that God, let alone God's Gay and Lesbian children, could have anything at all to do with the terrorist's despicable acts. A member of my own family, with deep religious roots called Jerry's remarks, "The most ridiculous thing I've ever heard."

Every time Fred Phelps and his family appear at one of our Soulforce Direct Actions carrying his "GOD HATES FAGS" signs, I am grateful. Once again, Jerry and Pat have joined Fred on the front lines of ignorance and bigotry and I'm convinced that their words will help our cause. That's the good news. The bad news is that Jerry and Pat genuinely believe that the acceptance of sexual and gender minorities will lead to God's judgment and wrath against our nation.

Jerry and Pat are not phony. They are fundamentalist Christians and like fundamentalist Muslims, Hindus, and Jews, fundamentalist Christians are known by their "urge to purge." They believe they are called to "cleanse" society of all they find "unclean" and by cleansing society they will "save it."

Osama bin Laden is a Muslim fundamentalist. He believes that Allah wills him to destroy America, "the Great Satan." He is convinced that his war against our nation is Jihad ("holy war"). The terrorists who hijacked the planes and flew them into the World Trade center and the Pentagon were convinced that Allah will reward them for their sacrifice.

Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell are fundamentalist Christians. They believe that they are called by God to cleanse this nation of sexual minorities (and pagans, feminists, abortionists, etc.) and thus to save it. They believe that those who advocate the acceptance of sexual minorities (and other liberal causes) are an "abomination in God's sight" and must be converted or purged. And though Pat and Jerry have never called for violence against these "enemies of God" at least one of the biblical verses they misuse regularly to condemn sexual minorities states clearly that we are "worthy of death and should be executed, (Leviticus 20)."

[White is the head of Soulforce, for more information, go to their Web site, www.soulforce.org.]

GLAAD Bulletin

A Closer Look at Same-sex Marriage Issue: "Marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this constitution or the constitution of any state, nor state or federal law, shall be construed to require that marital status or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon unmarried couples or groups."

These words come from the re-

cently proposed Federal Marriage Amendment. The words fuel an already contentious controversy that is like a big slab of red meat thrown out for anti-gay organizations and media to leap upon and snarl over.

So much rhetoric has filled the media, particularly the oped pages, about this proposed federal amendment - the first one that would restrict rights instead of protect them or expand them in a quest for fair and equal treatment. Sizzling sound-bite phrases such as "fight the marriage battle," "win the war" and "blatant attack on religion" pepper any declaration of position. "Save the family," "Save marriage" and "Save the children" is the great hue and cry. "Stop the gay agenda," "Stop same-sex marriage," and "Stop homosexuals from destroying marriage" is the message.

The comments and perspectives go from mouth to print and broadcast without much challenge by journalists for clarity or a reality check.

How exactly will heterosexual marriage be destroyed or at the least made less attractive if same-sex couples obtain the right to legally recognize their unions? How is it, when secular marriage laws exist, that the suggestion of legalization for same-sex marriage is allowed to be framed as an attack against religion? The obvious questions go unanswered.

The Alliance for Marriage, the group behind the proposed federal amendment, posts the following on its Web page: Positive Effects of Marriage for Adults: Married Men and Women - Live Longer, Experience Less Depression, Have Lower Rates of Alcoholism, Have Lower Rates of Substance Abuse, Have Higher Income and Savings Levels.

Where is the media inquiry to this group on how any of these "effects" will disappear for opposite-sex couples if same-sex couples have access to the same? Why do the media underplay the underlying real story that this posting helps to reveal? The issue is not about any need to protect these benefits (and the countless other more tangible legal ones) of marriage for opposite-sex couples; it really is about denying them to same-sex couples because of deep-rooted, and often religion-based, homophobia strangling equal civil rights in our nation.

For all the hyped talk by the far right that the media are part of some grand liberal conspiracy, the same-sex marriage issue shows otherwise. A conservative leaning increasingly tilts news coverage, especially because the "marriage" news assignments often go to hetero-centric reporters.

Tune into talk radio and some prominent cable news channels; access Web sites and read regional newspapers. You'll find a collection of anti-gay commentators. To make their points and attract audiences, these reactionaries have no compunction about using logic along the lines of the grossly offensive "farm animal slippery slope" as their reasoning for no same-sex marriage. "If we let gays have 'special rights' and marry," they bellow, "the next thing will be people demanding to marry cows and sheep. Where does it end? Where does it end?"

It ends when marriage laws are applied equally. The law reads that an unrelated man and woman who have reached the age of consent are able to marry. But two men or two women meeting the same standards are ineligible; somehow this

CONTINUED ON PAGE THIRTEEN

Logic would state that a political party, picking up a seat during a general election for an office in a district where the opposition party holds an overwhelming registration advantage, would be very pleased and grateful to the candidate, now elected official for pulling of this miraculous feat.

This happened in Arizona, during the 2000 presidential election, in a political district where one political party, held a voter registration advantage, close to 10%, over the other main political party, and you would think the political party who gained the seat would be grateful and pleased, but this is Arizona, where logic and politics just doesn't mix.

An openly Gay, Republican candidate, Ed Poelstra, made a bid for the Arizona House of Representatives from Legislative District 14 in Tucson, also known as the "Starship Enterprise" district for its configuration, set up for Democrats to win, and win big, since they held the voter registration advantage, close to 10% over the Republicans.

Poelstra campaigned, going door-to-door to meet constituents and talk about the issues of concern in the district, unlike his Democratic opponent, Dimitri Downing, who took things for granted because of the registration numbers in his favor, which he thought would lead him to victory, resulting in a lousy campaign being run.

So what was the reaction of the Arizona Republican Party to Poelstra's candidacy? Indifference, with Poelstra getting a token contribution and help with one, small mailing, despite the fact Poelstra is a life-time Republican who served as a precinct committeeman and in several offices within the party organization.

With that, Poelstra had another

POLITICS 2001

by Mark R. Kerr

'Make AZ GOP House Member's Lives Miserable. Send Ed Back!'

mountain to climb, a financial one, for which he went several thousand dollars in debt, to continue his bid for office, not for the salary or perks, something the Arizona House of Representatives doesn't have or offer but to accomplish something and to better the lives of the constituents, Gay and straight of District 14 and Arizona.

So what was the reaction of the Pima County Republican Party to Poelstra's bid? Indifference, with some token support, because the district just wasn't competitive for them. Even with those snubs, Poelstra continued his run for the Arizona House.

Flash forward to November 6, 2000, voters in Arizona and across the nation went to the polls to decide who will serve in offices from President to Dog-Catcher, and settle the many issues and referendums, also on the ballot for their consideration. As we learned, some races for office weren't decided so quickly. Bush or Gore as the nation's next President, or in Arizona's case, Poelstra or Downing. After the ballots were counted in the Legislative District 14 contest in Arizona, with no "hanging chads" thanks to the optical scanning system implemented, the victor, a surprise to many, was Ed Poelstra.

With Poelstra's upset win, the number of Gay elected officials from Arizona increased to four, making it one of the highest number in the nation. Poelstra became the third openly Gay candidate to win a state legislative race, raising the

number of openly Gay state Representatives to three (with Ken Chevront, a Democrat from Phoenix, being re-elected and serving as House Minority Leader), and much to the chagrin of many Arizona House Republicans, the Republican Gay caucus was born, with Poelstra and Steve May from Paradise Valley, who was re-elected in 2000 to a second term.

So what was the reaction of the Arizona and Pima County Republican parties? Still, indifferent but are we not really surprised? Undaunted, Poelstra, on January 8, 2001, was sworn into office and went to work on education reform, affordable housing and having the Arizona Legislature addressing the problem in the state and reforming the state retirement system for correction's officers, so they could retire at 20-years, like most state government departments, instead of 25-years, which was the requirement, for which Poelstra said he had legislative success.

Poelstra has won high marks from legislative staff, for his hard work, and for the way Poelstra dealt with fellow legislators, lobbyists and most importantly, the staff, who really run things at the Capital. Some hands Poelstra did achieve success but in a lot of hands of poker, he lost, thanks to his fellow Republican House members, who beat up, legislatively, on the openly Gay freshman legislator from Tucson, most likely because they had two Gay members of their caucus, the other was the Chair of the Arizona House Ways and Means Committee.

Three issues doesn't a legislative track-record make. When it comes to issues of concern to Arizona's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) community, Poelstra was there fighting the battle to: get the seldom-enforced but still on the books to discriminate, archaic laws, dealing with sodomy and cohabitation; prevent legislation from passing which would have forced cities and towns to give public funding to organizations that discriminate; maintain funding for HIV/AIDS programs offered by the state; pass legislation which would protect the employment rights of GLBT Arizonans (Arizona ENDA) from being fired for their sexual orientation or gender identity. During the upcoming session in 2002, Poelstra will be a part of the fight to pass Arizona ENDA, and to pass legislation expanding the state's hate crimes law to cover misdemeanors.

With the new year also comes a new campaign, for which Poelstra is going to run for re-election but he's doing something most state legislators aren't doing for their campaign. Poelstra isn't moving, looking for a cheap apartment with a convenient address in a legislative district to his advantage, he's staying put. Poelstra's decision puts him at another disadvantage, since the new district where he lives, has the Democratic registration edge doubled to more than 14%. A daunting task, but Poelstra says he's up to it, but he will need the financial help to pull it off again and keep the Gay Republican caucus going, much to the dismay of many Arizona House Republicans.

Unlike the other Gay elected official from Southern Arizona, Poelstra has been there: fighting for legislation on issues of concern, attending and supporting many community events, including Tucson's OUToberFEST, where he helped with the reading of the Pride Proclamation. One

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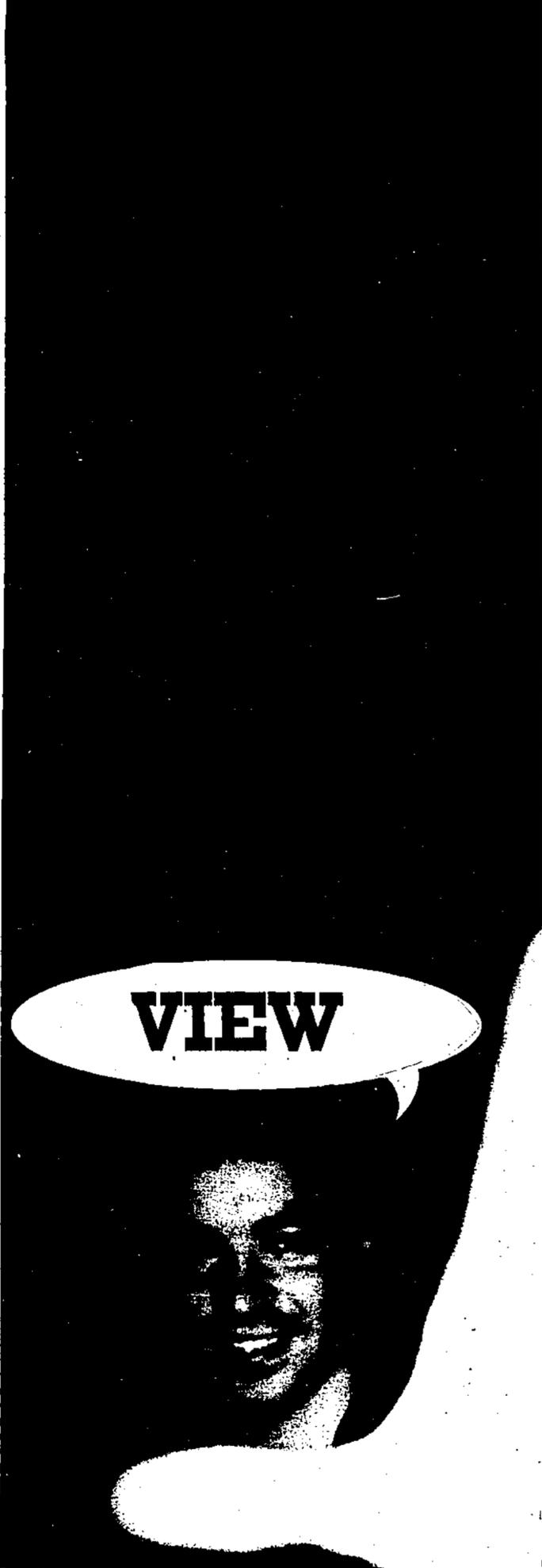
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Dear Dr. X:

I am dating this guy who I totally love. He's handsome, nice, funny, and secure. But, there is something that is bothering me. My whole life seems to revolve around him. We eat at the restaurants he likes, we hang out with his friends. I don't know if I'm complaining, but I seem to be losing my identity.

Signed,
Worried

Dear Worried:

You shouldn't have to feel this way. This could be the start of a very controlling relationship. I know you don't want to hear the term domestic violence but you need to realize that DV is based on power and control.

Many people don't realize that you don't have to be hit to be in a DV situation. Some examples include one partner controlling all the money, One partner making all the decisions. This situation can escalate very slowly and you won't see it until it's too late. My advice is to be more assertive and to have some free time for you. Hang out with some friends; go to dinner with your family or friends. If your partner is a jealous person, I would suggest you stay away from Gay bars and from past flames. Keep me posted.

Dear Dr. X:

I'm a 28 year old guy and I have a problem. I'm in love with my best friend's boyfriend. They are not right for each other! My friend tells me that they're not getting along. I also know for a fact that my friend has cheated on him. He doesn't deserve it. I would treat him so much better than him. Should I break them up and make him happy?

Signed,
Mr. Right

Dear Mr. Right:

Hello! How old are you? This is not high school! You need to act your age! You cannot go and break them up! It's not for you to decide if your friend is dating the right person. Also the fact that you like him is clouding your perceptions.

Okay, getting that out of my system here's my advice. Continue being friends to both of them. While this isn't going to necessarily get this guy to fall for you. It will get him to know you and consider you a friend. I wouldn't get involved

in your friends cheating either. If they do break up, I would suggest not getting in the middle of it. I would also make it clear to your friend that you are still going to be friends with both of them. Take it slow and try not to step on either one's feet.

But I have to be honest with you. This is going to be difficult owing to the fact that there may come a time when you and him are hanging out with your friend. I can already hear the awkward silence, and the even worse the fighting between your friend and the "backstabber".... you!

[Have a question for Dr. X? Contact him at GMHPoutreach@SAAF.Org or www.gmhp.org or SAAF, 375 S. Euclid, Tucson, AZ 85719, Attn: Dr. X.]

SPORTS

DESERT COYOTES BOWLING UPDATE

TUCSON - The Desert Coyotes, Tucson's GLBT and straight-supportive bowling league is taking their annual holiday hiatus and won't resume bowling until January 9, 2002.

All the bowlers and officers of the Desert Coyotes league want to wish everyone Happy Holidays.

Until bowling resumes, to quench the thirst of those who miss their weekly stats on the league, for the next three weeks, the season achievements will be posted.

High Average - Women: Heather H., 174; JoAnn S., 172; Lori C., 145.

High Series Scratch - Women: Heather H., 656; JoAnn S., 541; Lori C., 499.

High Game Scratch - Women: Heather H., 279; JoAnn S., 213; Lori C., 204.

High Series Handicap - Women: Heather H., 806; Lois Y., 684; JoAnn S., 682.

High Game Handicap - Women: Heather H., 329; JoAnn S., 260; Lori C., 252.

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NY Officials Ask Bush To Extend Fund To Include Gays

Continued from Page One

and cites actions by policymakers, local laws and court cases that provide a framework for New York's treatment of Gay survivors as family.

In addition to its advocacy work with Pataki, Giuliani and Spitzer on this matter, the Pride Agenda also urged the state's two U.S. Senators to make known their views, which resulted in separate letters being sent to Attorney General Ashcroft urging the Department of Justice (DOJ) to extend eligibility of the victims compensation fund to Gay surviving families. And in response to the DOJ's announcement that it was accepting comments on issues confronting the fund, the Pride Agenda advocated directly with DOJ on the need to extend eligibility to Gay and Lesbian families.

The Pride Agenda has also been active on this issue on a number of other fronts since September 11. Its advocacy work early on with Governor Pataki resulted in his issuance of an Executive Order on October 11 granting surviving partners of Gay victims of the WTC attacks equal benefits to spouses from the state's Crime Victims Board. This action by the Govern-

nor has been praised nationally for its compassion and fairness and has been pointed to by policymakers as how the U.S. Department of Justice should treat Gay survivors when determining eligibility for assistance through the federal victims compensation fund.

Another initiative was the Pride Agenda's work with other New York-based advocacy groups to have the Red Cross explicitly recognize same-sex survivors. This work resulted in the November 30 issuance of written guidelines clearly stating that same-sex survivors are eligible for September 11 family relief assistance and the establishment of specific criteria for staff to use when determining eligibility. And just last week, the Pride Agenda held a press conference with other advocacy groups to announce the establishment of a fund for Gay and Lesbian families in recognition of the fact that they have been denied the bedrock government protections—like Workers Compensation and Social Security—that are afforded automatically to spouses. The Pride Agenda contributed \$90,000—more than half of the total given to the fund thus far.

ERSLETTERSLETTERSLE TTERSLETTERSLETTERS

Dear Observer and Community:

I would like to convey our thanks for the wonderful efforts of the Tucson Knight Owls (TKO) and their fund raising efforts in support of people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS.

On December 2, TKO presented a fabulous "Holiday Magic" benefit show at the Flamingo Hotel, and raised thousands of dollars, part of which they are using to purchase full Turkey Dinners for people living with HIV/AIDS during the Holidays.

We are very grateful that TKO—for the second consecutive year—chose TIHAN as one of the charities to support with proceeds of their annual Christmas fund raiser. We had a great time at the show, and now we are excited that the money raised by TKO will be used for wonderful holiday dinners for 30 people living with HIV, their partners, families, and friends.

We would like to specifically thank the hard-working Merlin Cummins, president of TKO and producer of the show, along with all the officers and general

membership of the group. We also give thanks to the show's Director Mark L, MCs Christina de Alexis and Crystal Abrams, Zamora Monet (Miss Carousel 2002) and all the fantastic performers, Ray Gregg and the businesses and bars that supported the show, and the volunteers who made it all happen.

Through the talented performers of TKO and the generosity of TKO and the community that supported this benefit, people living with HIV will receive a great gift: delicious and nutritious holiday meals.

On behalf of all of us at TIHAN and those we serve, thank you TKO!

With love and gratitude,
Scott Blades
Executive Director
TIHAN

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POLITICS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE NINE

Phoenix activist questioned the community's support of Poelstra because of his view on a woman's right to choose. As previously reported in this column, Poelstra said to this reporter that he believes government has "no right to legislate in the area of a decision reached by a woman and her medical provider on this."

A song, written by Stephen Sondheim, for the Broadway musical "Follies," sums up Poelstra's experience so far: "I'm Still Here!" Tucson's GLBT community needs to help Poelstra in his effort during the 2002 campaign because he has done a lot for us, and to make the lives of the Arizona Republican House members miserable, if Ed is sent back, because they really hate the fact they have two Gay members of their caucus. Make checks payable to "Re-elect Ed Poelstra Exploratory," and send them to: P.O. Box 50142, Tucson, Arizona 85703. As an elected GOP official, Poelstra is facing a financial mountain again for this bid, no thanks to the Arizona or Pima County GOP, big contributors like Jim Click, or from Congressman Jim Kolbe, since he hasn't received help to erase the debt from his upset win in 2000. Make checks payable to "Poelstra 2000" and send them to P.O. Box 50142, Tucson, Arizona 85703.

GLAAD Bulletin

Continued from Page Eight

disparity does not qualify as a "special right" under the law for heterosexuals.

Media have an obligation to treat gay men and lesbians fairly even if governments and "faith-based" groups are loath to do so. It will be a welcome shift in coverage when easily refuted and inane comments are questioned to reveal the plain truth: access by gay men and lesbians to the benefits and obligations of marriage is not a religious issue, nor an extension of "special rights" nor a leftist "social experiment." It is simply fair and equal treatment and should be reported on as such.

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T HOROSCOPES

BY C. LICHTENSTEIN

SATURN has been a busy planet. Last week, the stern old sod "opposed" chatty Mercury. This week it impacts Venus. Will our big yaps now overturn the applecart of love? It all depends upon how well we handle this saturnian monster. Grab your sword and go get 'em, kids.

ARIES
MARCH 21 - APRIL 20
Try to avoid any legal negotiations during the Saturn / Venus opposition. What you believe to be true may not be and your emotional actions could be misconstrued. Rainbow Rams always feels they must seek justice and truth, but give it a rest this week. Don't travel far compadre; you need to ready and raring to get back into the fight next week at this time.

TAURUS
APRIL 21 - MAY 21
Sexual intimacy and the wilde pursuit of it is more expensive than you think when Venus opposes Saturn. Queer Bulls may be looking for love in all the wrong places and paying through the snout for the mere smell of it. Champagne does not flow from faucets dearie; make sure that obscure object of your desire is worth every penny and, if so, then break the bank.

GEMINI
MAY 22 - JUNE 21
Partner's words pierce your heart like swords if you let them. The problem is that you are far more sensitive than usual when Saturn opposes emotional Venus. The words and fur flies if you stir up the pot. Pink Twins are advised to take a deep breath suck in their guts and think of all the wonderful things that two people can share aside from an argument. How about making up?

CANCER
JUNE 22 - JULY 23
Now don't start imagining things at work, proud Crab. Chalk up your wilde and woolly imagination to the Saturn and Venus opposition and let things go by. The best advice that I can give is to "let sleeping dogs lie" on the job and don't overreact to any idle rumor or gossip. All this shall pass, including this transit and you'll be kaiser of the salt mines again soon enough.

LEO
JULY 24 - AUGUST 23
Personal reactions run counter to those of friends when Saturn opposes Venus. If proud Lions feel out of step with the group dynamic, the best thing to do is to step aside for the time being. You can either retreat to your garret and create the great Gay masterpiece or you can rely on the kindness of exotic strangers. And don't forget lovers; they needs loads of attention too.

VIRGO
AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23
Activities and emotional concerns at home may keep you from tackling necessary projects in your career. Venus opposite Saturn demands that attention be paid to professional landmines before they explode. Defer these issues at your own risk, dear queer Virgo; This is the time when you must keep all your wits about you and your tank cannot be half full.

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23
Proud Libras have trouble broadcasting their great Gay message Out when Venus opposes Saturn. Your steamy love notes are lost in the static and returned with postage due. Your mighty bellow sounds like a little squeal. Rather than play the lovesick pipepeak, keep your emotions close to the vest for the time being. Be sure to expose absolutely everything next week!

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22
The more you feel secure in your own value system, the more you realize that your beliefs are in conflict with others. There is no problem keeping your independent attitude during the opposition between arty Venus and sullen Saturn, but listen to what others say. Proud Scorps don't always have all the answers, although they often think they do. Ahem.

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22
There could be some disagreements with partners during the opposition between Venus and Saturn. Old hurts have a way of chafing under the skin and coming to the surface. Gay Archers are advised to keep their more emotional opinions and actions to themselves until this tricky transit passes next week. In the meantime, keep your sunny side up and go over easy.

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20
Pink Caps have their hearts in the right place, but they may not be able to act up on their hearts' desires. Lovely Venus opposite restrictive Saturn gives you grandiose desires with little application. Everyone appreciates your desire to do all you can for AIDS research or community Outreach, but build your ideas on solid ground so you can really construct something magnificent.

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19
Friends seem to have all the answers to your life's sticky little problems when Venus opposes Saturn and they don't mind telling you so. Of course, they may not be the answers that you want to hear. Aquarians are not ones to take advice but humor your pals and let them tell you how they view things. Who knows; there may be a valuable kernel of truth for your ears.

PISCES
FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20
Guppies usually know intuitively which way the winds blows in the corporate tornado. Now, when Venus opposes Saturn, you could be swept off your feet in an unexpected gust. Get your affairs in order, particularly when they involve family intrigue or emotional disagreements. You need an unsullied reputation for this transit so come clean. Rub a dub, bub.

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Palimony Bid In Canadian Estate Trial Fails

VANCOUVER, Canada - The Gay partner of a wealthy department store heir from British Columbia has lost his legal battle to win a portion of the estate, the National Post reports.

David Spencer, whose family started David Spencer Department Stores in British Columbia in 1873, cut Gregory Wald out of his will after Wald ran up a huge tab on his credit cards during their 2 1/2-year relationship.

Spencer was worth an estimated \$10-million when he died in 1998 at age 82. Wald sued for part of the estate.

"[David Spencer] being of clear mind was entitled to make the decisions that he made in relation to [Mr. Wald]," Justice Wallace Oppal of the British Columbia Supreme Court wrote in its ruling.

The decision came after a nine-day trial in B.C. Supreme Court in October. Wald complained in court that he had never been able to meet with his former lover to explain the credit-card situation that soured their relationship - a difficulty that Justice Oppal acknowledged.

"There is no doubt that Mr. Wald and Mr. Spencer had a deep affection and passion for one another. In the circumstances, I can well understand Mr. Wald's frustration at not being able to contact Mr. Spencer ... in order to explain the concerns relating to the credit cards."

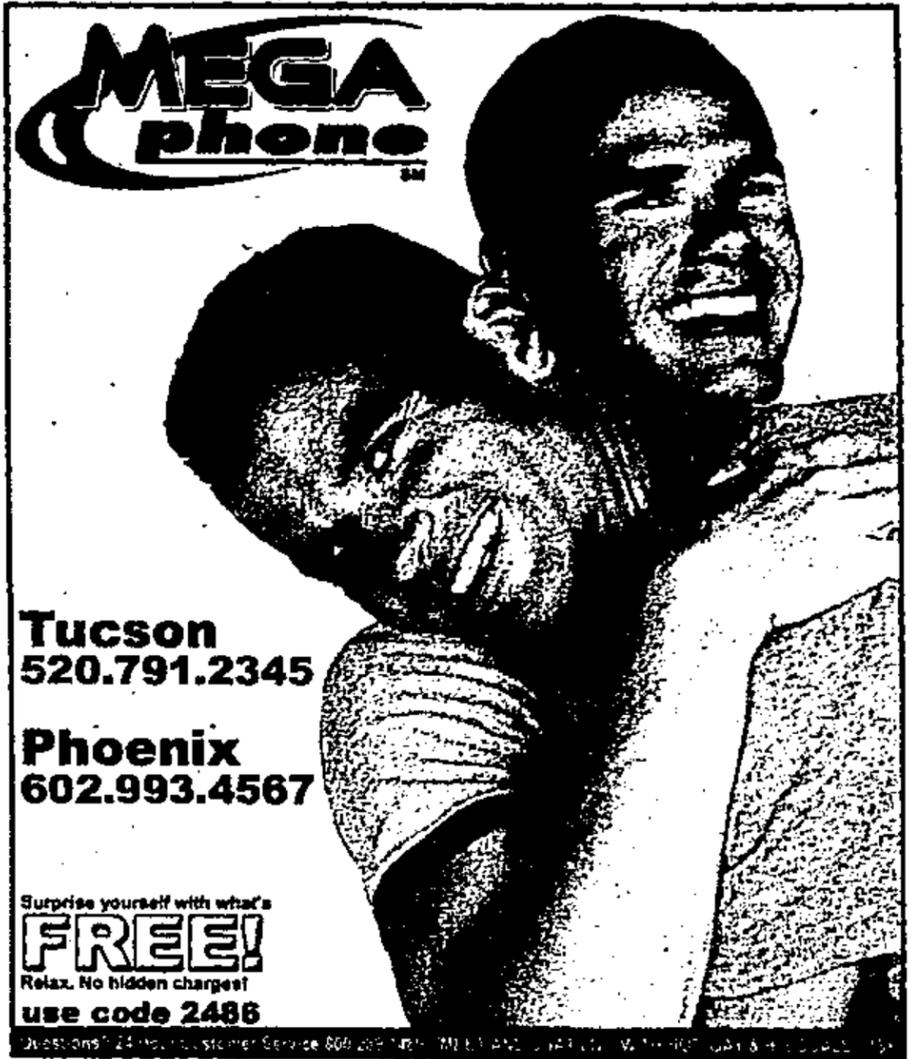
The pair met in July, 1993, at a dinner party held at Spencer's West Vancouver waterfront home. Wald, then 41, was a former Edmonton realtor estranged from his wife and the father of four daughters. Spencer, then 78 and newly single after the death of his male lover of 25 years. The two men began seeing each other romantically.

Spencer allegedly asked Mr. Wald to stay with him "for the rest of our lives," and purchased rings symbolic of their union. Spencer promised to provide his younger partner with a "life estate," income for life and a \$150,000 gift. Wald said he provided his lover with "love, attention and youth."

Wald's use of a pair of credit cards that Spencer provided his lover led to a deep rift in their relationship in 1995. In October, 1995 Wald withdrew nearly \$8000 in cash advances. After a September payment, he racked up charges totaling almost \$40,000. Wald denied any wrongdoing arguing there were no limits placed on his use of the cards, though the court notes Spencer's frugality.

Spencer apparently wept when shown the credit card statements by John Horning, described as Mr. Spencer's "financial watchdog." Spencer told his adviser to terminate financial support for Wald and cut him out of his will.

The judge wrote that Spencer was thinking clearly when he took the actions against Wald.



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Openly G/L Soldiers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE THREE

"We exchanged greetings," said Dunning. "The others at the table didn't know the nature of our past relationship. The fact that I had been promoted above him presented a certain irony."

The findings of the California study come as American is beefing up its military machine for a war on terrorism.

But as troops readied for battle after the Sept. 11 attacks, military officials made it clear that openly Gay soldiers are not welcome.

In the weeks following the attacks, the U.S. Navy and Air Force directed its commanders to continue to discharge Gay sailors under the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy while suspending discharges of other uniformed naval personnel on a variety of administrative grounds as part of a wartime "stop-loss" policy.

"It's a very important message that stop-loss orders don't affect discharges of Gays and Lesbians," Ralls has said. "Gay people cannot enlist."

The stop-loss orders apply to routine administrative discharges like the delay of early retirements or people who may not meet the physical fitness requirements, Ralls said.

Perspective

CONTINUED FROM PAGE FIFTEEN

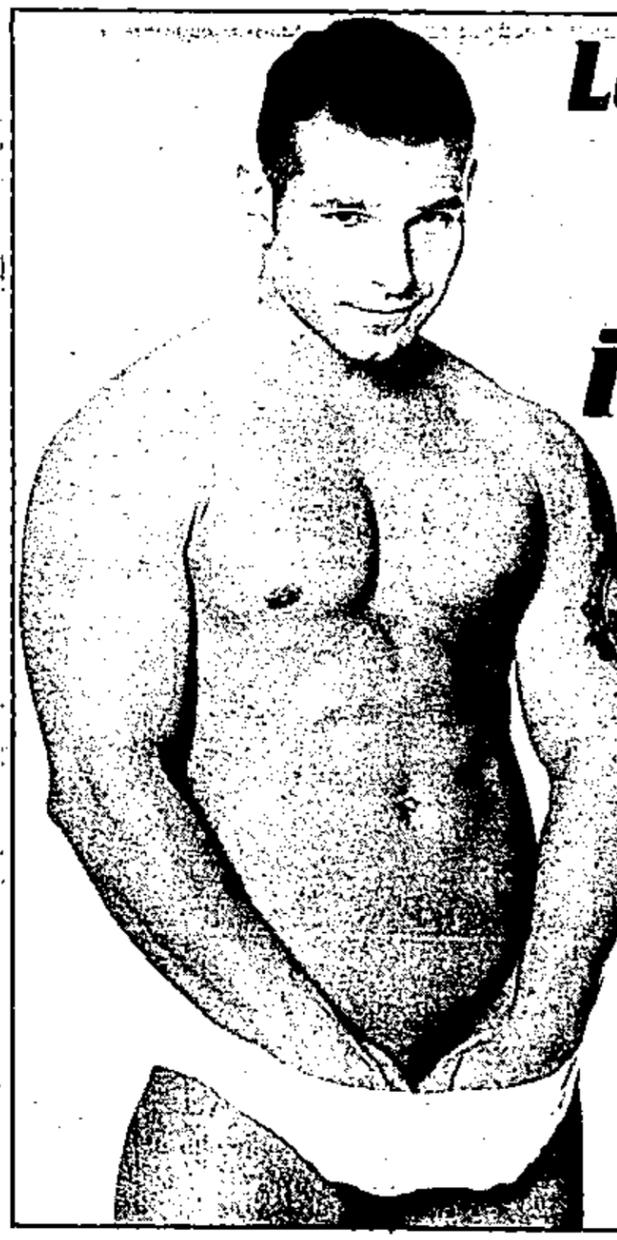
our public and private worlds are in turmoil, but don't forget during this season of peace and joy to be thankful for what you do have.

[Tom Mitsoff is a longtime daily newspaper editor and syndicated columnist. His web address is <http://www.tommitsoff.com>.]

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Non-Bar Calendar

Groups / Clubs / Organizations

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

Tucson Prime Timers Video night at 7:00 p.m. Movies with a non-pornographic Gay theme will be shown. Phone: 740-0620

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

#1. 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 690-6565.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 8:00 p.m. Join us for the MSN Premiere of the "The Closet", a delightful comedy about a straight man who "comes out" to avoid being fired. French, with subtitles. For reservations and directions, please call Les at 690-6565.

Christmas Party and Potluck dinner for Man to Man members and prospective members. Call 881-4682 for info and sign up.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 8:00 p.m. Bill will host Pizza & Pinochle Night beginning with a chance to share some pizza and meet and greet the other players over pizza (\$5), followed by Pinochle at 7:00 p.m. For more information, please call Bill at 297-3569.

Tucson Prime Timers drinks and food at 5:00 p.m. Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd. North of Prince Rd. Phone: 622-1835

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

Tucson Prime Timers Lunch at 1:00 p.m. The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave., South of Grant Rd. Phone: 622-1835

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. The Triangle Tribe is a support group that helps you deal with yourself and your relationships with others. For directions and reservations, please call Tom at 318-1650.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 1:00 p.m. The men of MSN celebrate the season with a Holiday Potluck Dinner. You're invited to bring a favorite dish to share with others and enjoy the holiday with family. For reservations and directions, please call Jerry at 690-6565.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. To cap our Christmas evening, we'll show a classic film: "The Apartment", starring Jack Lemmon and Shirley MacLaine. Jack is a guy trying to get ahead at the office, so he loans out his apartment to superiors on the prowl. For directions, please call Les at 690-6565.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26

Tucson Prime Timers Video Night at 7:00 p.m. Movies with a non-pornographic Gay theme will be shown. Phone: 740-0620.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 9:00 a.m. Join Rick and Jack for a morning of Volleyball. This is played for fun, and you'll get to know some nice guys as you play. For details and directions, please call Rick at 818-1616, or Jack at 881-5733.

Tucson Prime Timers drinks and food at Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle, North of Prince Road. Phone 622-1835

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

SeniorRap from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. An open discussion group addressing the interests and needs of senior LGBTs. All genders are welcome.

Tucson Prime Timers "SeniorRap" 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. Phone 740-0620.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

7:00 p.m. Join Jerry and Les for their annual New Year's Eve Game Night. The night is open to all sorts of games-both of the card and board variety. We'll toast in the New Year with sparkling cider and grape juice. For reservations and directions, please call Les at 690-6565.

New Year's Eve Country Dance from 8:00 to 1:00 a.m. at the Hut, 315 N. 4th Ave. \$20 per person. DJ dancing starts at 8:30 p.m. Champagne toast and party favors, snacks and desserts provided. Full Bar Service at regular prices. Shot specials all night. Gay/Gay friendly event. Brought to you by Something Special Mobile Music. Tickets available at Antigone and Desert Pride. Must be 21.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

SeniorRap from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. An open discussion group addressing the interests and needs of senior LGBTs. All genders are welcome.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

SeniorRap from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. An open discussion group addressing the interests and needs of senior LGBTs. All genders are welcome.

SUNDAY, MARCH 25

SeniorRap from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. An open discussion group addressing the interests and needs of senior LGBTs. All genders are welcome.

BAR CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

JAKE'S - Dance floor open 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. playing Latino Music. All well drinks \$1.75 at all times.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

JAKE'S - Dance Floor open 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. playing Country music. All well drinks \$1.75 at all times.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

JAKE'S - Dance Floor open 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. playing House Dance Music. All well drinks \$1.75 at all times.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

IBTS - Party line-up includes Jeff's Bloody Mary Recovery Bar \$1.50 Bloody Marys, Screwdrivers or Mimosa 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 week's proceeds go to TIHAN. Then at 9:00 p.m. Out-Of-Towners Nike. Hot dance music with DJ Rayman plus \$1.50 domestic beer and well.

WOODY'S - Bar-B-Que/ Beer Bust fundraiser 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. For the Tucson Aces Softball Team.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

IBTS - Aja says "Wear red or green" get an Aja Dollar off any drink or beer 9:00 p.m. to close. (No limits on number of Aja Bucks!)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25 - MERRY XMAS!

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Country Christmas Eve with drink specials all night. DJ 8:30 to closing. No Cover. Merry Xmas.

IBTS - Opens at 7:00 p.m. today. Hot dance music 9:00 p.m. to close.

VENTURE-N - Open regular hours on Christmas.

YARD DOG SALOON - Opens today at 5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26

IBTS - 9:00 p.m. - "Diva-Licious" show hosted by Lucinda Holiday with special guests.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE

IBTS Annual New Year's Eve Gala. No Cover. Light Buffet 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Party Favors, Balloon Drop at Midnight. Complimentary champagne Toast.

VENTURE-N - Another great Balloon Busters Ball. Get here early and stay late!

WOODY'S - 6:00 until 10:00 p.m., New Year's Eve Dinner \$12.50. Complete dinner, appetizers and dessert served in a heated tent! Make your reservation today at Woody's. (Certain minimums required for event).

Daily Bar Calendar

JAKE'S - Open 5pm daily. Well \$1.75.

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 5pm. Daily specials til 7pm.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 3-7pm. Volleyball games start 7pm. Underwear Wednesday with Reuben & Raul. Happy Hour prices for those in their undies. Patio bar open 7pm-Midnight.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Vodka until 7pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

JAKE'S - Open 5pm daily. Well 1.75.

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio open 3pm. Daily special til 7pm. Patio Beer bust 3-7. Burger Bar-B-Que 5-7. (Donation only).

WOODY'S - Open Noon. Dart tournament 3pm. Happy Hour 3-7pm. Patio Bar open 5-close. Pick-up Volleyball games 5-7. \$2.50 sirloin burger or chicken 5-9pm. Karaoke with Billy Dee 9pm.

YARD DOG - Open Sundays 10am - 1am. Bloody Marys or Screwdrivers \$1.75 from 10am - 1pm. 50¢ off any Rum 1pm-7pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Monday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Happy Hour Two-For-One 2-7. Football Madness \$1.75 Miller specials til close+Touchdown specials.

IBTS - 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. 9pm to close. Undie Munde' Happy Hour prices for those in their undies. Plus, small pitchers Bud/Bud Light \$1.50. DJ Rayman plays house music 9pm to close. All drink specials not available during special events.

JAKE'S - Open 5pm daily. Well \$1.75. Dance Room open 9pm-1am. Country music nite VENTURE-N - Open 6am. Patio open 5pm. Daily special til 7pm. Happy Hour Buffet 5-7pm. WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 3-7pm. Trivia Thursday 5pm-close plus 50¢ off all Big Aaa 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. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Friday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour Two-For-One 2-7. Free food at 5:30pm. Dance music 6:30-1 w/DJ Mid. Drink specials all night.

IBTS - 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.

JAKE'S - Open 5pm daily. Well \$1.75. Dance Room open 9pm - 1am. Country music nite VENTURE-N - Open 6am. Patio open 5pm. Daily special til 7pm. Happy Hour Buffet 5-7pm. WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 3-7pm. Martini Party - Well Martini's \$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 Q in until 7pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

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 HIR 8:30-close.

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

JAKE'S - Open 5pm daily. Well \$1.75. VENTURE-N - Open 6am. Patio 5pm. Daily specials til 7pm.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 3-7pm. 7pm Dart Tournament with Doc. Trivia Party 5pm-1. Top score on NTN per game wins special prizes. \$3 Zombies. Jungle Juice or Mai Tai.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Tequila until 7pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Wednesday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour 2-4-1 from 2-7. College Nite. Dance Music with DJs 9pm-close. \$1.75 Buds or \$2 Kamikazes all night.

IBTS - 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.

WHAT'S BLACK & WHITE & READ ALL OVER?



He who has a thing to sell and goes and whispers in a well, is not so at to get the dollars as he who climbs a tree and hollers!



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NOTICES

TUCSON INTERFAITH HIV/AIDS NETWORK (THAN), 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 298-8647.

LESBIAN/GAY/BI-SEXUAL OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS. Saturdays 1 to 2pm new location Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. Contacts 325-8878 or 327-4283.

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 791-7878.

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 Sleight 721-2003.

SMART (Self Management And Recovery Training) a free non-12-step self-help alternative for people working to overcome addictive and other emotional problems meets in Tucson Monday thru Thursdays at different locations. For more information about SMART, contact Jennifer at 792-4807, Ext.393

A2dylka 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 8:03 pm on 91.3 FM, Community Radio KXCI. 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 555-8010 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. Desert Qlitz (MTP) Meets 2nd Monday at 7pm. Desert 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/

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT GROUP FOR ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLES. Not a dating club. Discreet. Meetings every Monday evening. Call for more info. APEX (Arizona Power Exchange) 802-415-1123. 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, 8523 N. 14th St., #112, Phoenix, AZ 85014 or call 602-278-4805.

DESERT DOMINION TUCSON'S 100% CONSENSUAL, Pan-Peeth, Pan-Sexual, (Informational, Educational, Safe Space for the B&D, B&M, D&S and TV community. For more info call (520)792-6424 or http://www.desertdominion.org

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 with these agencies. Website: AAPSP.org or e-mail: AAPSP@aol.com or call Dave (520)745-9069 (Tucson) or Kim (802)534-6218 (Phoenix)

OLSEN - 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 St. 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)570-1226 for current information.

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 or 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, 3289 N. Mountain. Have any history/experience singing? Join us! Call 617-3100 for more info.

TOnetArizona: The central source for news and information for, by and about the TS, TG, and Gender-variant communities of Arizona. Website URL: http://www.tonetarizona.org - e-mail address: algoodrum@uwest.net.org

SENORRAP, a discussion group for older LGBTs, meets from 7 to 9 pm on the last Sunday of every month at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St.

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE .25 PER WORD \$8.00 MINIMUM



CLASSIFIEDS



CLASSIFIED ADS MUST BE MAILED NO PHONE ADS

NOTICES

"OUT ON THE TRAILS" - EQUESTRIAN FUN! Rider Club forming. Looking for women and men to ride together on the trails of Southern Arizona. Must have own horse, truck and trailer. For more info write: "Out On The Trails" P.O. Box 44045, Tucson, AZ 85733-4045

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. Alternate 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 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740-8264. All replies confidential.

TUCSON GLBT AL-ANON GROUP meets Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th Street. Call 624-1778 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, 624-1778.

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 681-1784 - 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.

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), 8:00 p.m. Information 624-1778.

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 299-9063 and ask for a contact person.

HKE & BIKE DYKES. Meets 2nd Monday at 7pm. Call 327-7739 for info.

GREATER PHOENIX GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (GPOCC) P.O. BOX 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2097. E-mail: webmaster@gpcc.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. Advertisers 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 85632.

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

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO - a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, Call the Bears Hotline (520)790-6775 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 or visit our website at www.btop.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.

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 at 688-6541

NOTICES

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, ID# 581-8850 or Roni 968-2384.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE GROUP - Outreach to Gay and Lesbian people in Arizona. Meets monthly. Write to P.O. Box 983, Phoenix, AZ 85001 or call Eddy Walters, (602)371-1102

CRONES SOCIAL GROUP. A Social group for Gay men who enjoy the fellowship of their peers. Call Leo at 624-6768.

T-SQUARES Lesbian and Gay square dance club meets every Tuesday from 8:30-9:00 p.m. at Coronation Fellowship Social Hall, 2902 N. Geronimo (near 1st Ave. and Laguna). Open to All. Call Liz at 325-9468 or Ray at 749-5247.

LIGHTING LIGHTING will provide lighting for AIDS and related benefits at no charge. For more info call Adrienne at 688-7298.

COME EXPLORE YOUR SPIRITUALITY! St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church offers a variety of Gay and Lesbian groups and services for the spiritually minded. Come meet the Phamily! For more information call Debbie 579-8827 or David 323-7843.

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 791-9862.

Join the **LESBIAN & GAY PUBLIC AWARENESS PROJECT**. In Tucson write Awareness Project, 3681 N. Campbell Ave. #345, Tucson, AZ 85719.

AA Meeting with HIV/AIDS focus, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., MCC Church, 3289 N. Mountain. All alcoholic 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 690-9565 for information and a newsletter. Check the Non-Bar Calendar in the Observer.

CARE TEAMS ARE AVAILABLE to offer support to people living with HIV/AIDS. The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network offers trained, compassionate and committed volunteers to provide services including friendly visits, light housekeeping, assistance with meals, shopping, errands, transportation and companionship for medical appointments, and respite care for primary care givers. No judgement or proselytizing - we are here to be of service. For information call Scott at 298-6647.

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.

THE MENS 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 681-4582 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 615-8438 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. 684-7063.

TUCSON GREATER SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION. Interested? Call Kelly Culin, (520)742-7885 or go to our web site http://www.tgsa softball.org

ROOMMATES

LOOKING TO MEET single, healthy, attractive 40s or older man with sense of humor for outings and companionship. Call 584-8243. 912

CHECK OUT the MAN TO MAN Club. We're terrific men's group that offers real social, supportive and passionate friendships. Call Marc - 881-4582. 908.

ROOMMATES

ROOM FOR RENT. New Westside home; view of mountains, fenced yard, energy efficient; W/D; and Ref. Mid 30s vegetarian, N/S Gay man seeks responsible man or woman to rent either 15x18 master bedroom & bath (\$400) plus utilities or 13x10 bedroom (\$250) plus utilities. Available Dec. 1. 624-0173 908

HOUSEMATE TO SHARE 14' wide manufactured home. 2br, 1 1/2 ba. Smoke and drug free. Prince/Oracle area, no pets. \$200/mo. References checked. 868-7264. 909

AVILA CHOLLA AREA. SEEK RESPONSIBLE PERSON TO SHARE 5br/3ba with one woman. Cable, washer-dryer. \$365/mo. Leave message 792-4726. 908

FOR SALE

CHECK US OUT Entertainment Center, dinette, aromatic candles, lovely artificial flowers, clocks, mirrors, bedroom furniture, sofas, recliners and lots of other things! We are now carrying store and factory liquidations. Everything to make your house a home. Jean's Furniture, 2404 E. Grant Road., 325-9494 909

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DR. BOB'S NIRVANA MASSAGE. Don't you deserve the ultimate in nurturing touch, magical muscular therapy and safe, profound relaxation? Professional, friendly, devoted massage therapist. Treat yourself! \$40. (520)318-1919. 902.

TENSE? STRESSED OUT? Relax for an hour with a full body rub by Frank. Private studio, off-street parking. (520)271-3600 days, evenings. 908

NEW YORK TRAINED. DEEP RELAXATION MASSAGE. It'll work out your kinks. 10 years experience. Centrally located. In & Out calls. Greg Sbrooth, (520)247-5238 910

EXPERIENCE YOURSELF INSIDE/OUT WITH EXPERT HOLISTIC & TANTRIC MASSAGE. 1st time discount. 20 years integrating body & spirit. Quality, not cheap prices. Marc - 881-4582. Gift Certificates. Licensed. 911

A MAN'S FULL BODY MASSAGE: Relax with an unattended session of skilled bodywork by Rick. (520)289-1782. 635 911

ENJOY A RELAXING & NURTURING MASSAGE by man with 7 years experience. Monday-Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Call (520)584-9243 911

A SPECIAL TOUCH. Full body massage with complete relaxation. Young and professional. In/out calls. 7 days. Joe, CMT, (520)917-5837 908

MASSAGE FOR MEN: Swedish full body. All ages welcome. For one hour of complete relaxation Call Marvin (520)289-9661. 536 911

FULL BODY ORIENTAL MASSAGE. Experience the difference... By Appointment only. 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Call Danny Chong (520)481-0603 904

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 (520)907-2551 for the touch you so richly deserve. Experienced, professional, and kind... not bed looking either 902

ALTERATIONS AND REPAIRS Let me keep your clothes fitting properly and in good repair. Experienced - Economical - Prompt. Marie Hudson, (520)868-7264 in Tucson. 916

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