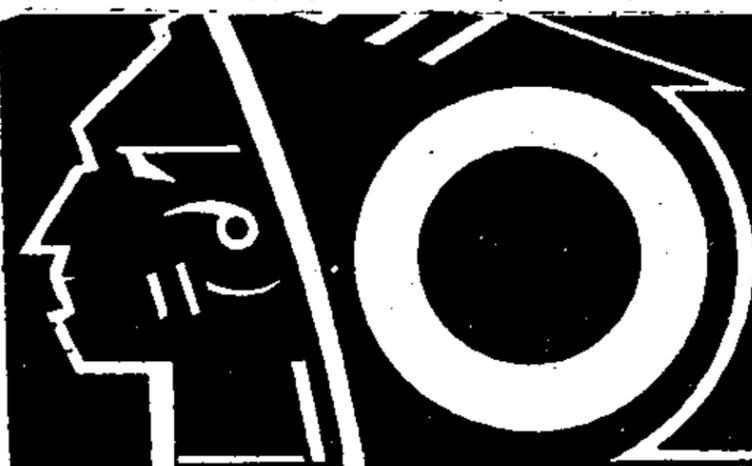


HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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THE WEEKLY OBSERVER

JANUARY 2, 2002

ISSUE 910

TKO Donates Christmas Dinners To Tucson Needy



TUCSON - TKO (Tucson Knight Owls) held several fund raisers to enable them to continue their annual Christmas Dinners to Needy Tucsonans program. This year the club raised enough money to purchase 26 Turkey Dinners with all the trimmings. Each dinner feeds four people. TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network) delivered the food to the needy families.

Pictured above prior to loading the food for delivery are (l to r) Scott Blades, Executive Director of TIHAN, Sarah Pratt, TIHAN's Volunteer Coordinator, and Merlin Cummins, President of TKO

Eligibility For Sept. 11 Victim Fund Still Unclear

WASHINGTON, DC - While the Sept. 11 victim fund rules do not specifically state whether same-sex partners of victims are eligible, they can file claims.

The Justice Department announced the terms by which the victims' families and survivors of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks can begin applying for federal aid. While the rules do not specifically state whether same-sex partners of victims are eligible, they do allow Gay families to file claims, reported the Gay.com/Planet-Out.com network.

"I would have preferred more clarity -- but that small step is huge in a history of the federal government ignoring us," said Joe Grabarz, the executive director of New York's Empire State Pride Agenda.

Kenneth Feinberg, the lawyer named to oversee the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001, announced families and survivors will be eligible for at least \$500,000 each in aid. The federal fund is part of a \$15 billion federal airline assistance package approved by Congress in late September.

Offices opened Friday, December

21, in New York and Washington to begin taking applications. Feinberg says that eligible Americans could receive a \$50,000 advance quickly, and that he wants money distributed within 120 days of receiving applications.

"It is encouraging that the government has not excluded Lesbian and Gay partners and their children in helping all families that endured losses with this tragedy," said Jennifer Middleton, staff attorney with the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. "But same-sex partners were not explicitly recognized, and they will still face hurdles with a more complicated and uncertain process toward assistance," she said.

The regulations authorize compensation to relatives or "personal representatives" of a deceased individual who was physically injured or killed as a result of the attacks. In terms of determining who is "the personal representative," the regulations instruct Feinberg to rely on state law.

That has Gay rights organizations like the Human Rights Campaign con-

CONTINUED ON PAGE SIX

Egyptian Teen's Sentence Reduced, Anti-Gay Crackdown Continues

CAIRO, Egypt - An Egyptian court reduced a 16-year-old boy's sentence for practicing homosexuality from three years in prison to six months, in a case that brought widespread condemnation from rights groups.

The court's decision means that Mahmoud Abdel-Fatah Ibrahim, who has been jailed since May 11, will be released this week and begin six months on probation.

Ibrahim was sentenced Sept. 18 to three years in prison for debauchery; the youngest in a group of 52 men arrested aboard a Nile riverboat restaurant in Cairo.

The presiding judge, Mostafa Rashad, said Ibrahim's youth was the main factor in reducing the sentence.

"The child by nature is ignorant, with no religious restraint, and does not know his interests," court transcripts of the judge's remarks said. "This is why the court saw to a great reduction in his sentence."

In September, a juvenile court said Ibrahim underwent a medical examination that proved he had committed debauchery. Homosexuality is not explicitly referred to in the Egyptian legal system, but a wide range of laws covering obscenity and public morality are punishable by jail terms.

In November, 23 men arrested on the riverboat and tried by a state security court were convicted on similar charges and sentenced to one to five years in jail. Twenty-nine men were acquitted.

The harshest sentence in the case was handed down to Sherif Farahat, who was charged for debauchery, contempt of religion, and exploiting Islam.

Human rights groups condemned the arrests and sentences, saying the men were unfairly targeted.

Verdicts of state security courts can only be approved, reduced or overturned by the president. President Hosni Mubarak has not yet approved the sentences of the 23 men.

Despite the change in the sentence, the anti Gay crackdown continues. Two Egyptian university students have been convicted of offering Gay sex online and sentenced to one year in prison, judicial officials in Cairo confirmed.

The Boulaq misdemeanor court on Thursday convicted Sherif Abu Bakr, from the Cairo engineering college, and Khaled Mohammed, from the science college, of indecent acts.

The two were charged with setting up a Web site offering Gay sex for 100 Egyptian pounds per hour, officials told the news agency on condition of anonymity.

A security agent, posing as an interested male, arranged a meeting with the students at a five-star hotel, where the two were arrested, the officials said.

Federal Employees Won't Get DP Benefits

WASHINGTON, DC - The Office of Personnel Management announced that it would not expand the list of those available for long-term health insurance coverage, as allowed under the law. Instead, officials said they would stick to the current list of eligible parties, leaving out the grandparents, brothers and sisters, foster children, and domestic partners of federal employees.

Gay activists called the decision shortsighted and said it would limit the government's ability to compete for qualified employees--especially since approximately 150 of the Fortune 500 companies offer domestic-partner benefits to their employees. "OPM's decision to adhere to the strict language of the legislation, rather than taking the bold steps necessary to provide a competitive and fair compensation package for all federal employees, is bad for morale, puts the federal government at a competitive disadvantage, and discriminates against Gay and Lesbian families who deserve equal benefits for equal work," said Winnie Stachelberg, HRC's political director. "These benefits are a matter of fairness and would not have cost taxpayers because the insurance premiums will be paid by enrollees."

Others said the decision wasn't surprising considering that the Bush-appointed head of the OPM, Kay Coles James, has served on the board of directors of Focus on the Family and as vice president of the Family Research Council. In her 1995 book, *Transforming America From the Inside Out*, James likened Gay people to sinners, grouping them with alcoholics, adulterers, and drug addicts, according to a press statement from the Gay political group National Stonewall Democrats.

UPDATE

TIHAN Training Sessions To Be Held

TUCSON - The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) will be conducting a volunteer training session on Saturday, February 9, 2002 at Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church (2331 E. Adams).

There are four orientation times set for your convenience; one orientation must be made before training. The orientation dates and times are: Monday, February 4 at Grace St. Paul's 2 - 3:30 p.m. & 7 - 8:30 p.m.. Orientations at the TIHAN office (492 N Alvernon) are Tuesday, February 5 & Wednesday, February 6, both from 7 - 8:30 p.m. The cost for training is \$15.00 which covers lunch and materials, scholarships are available upon request.

Volunteer staff give social, emotional, and practical help to those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. Volunteer staff are needed for CareTeams, Poz Programs, Educational forums, and community outreach. Come and join us in being a part of the solution in an effort to educate faith communities about HIV/AIDS. For more information on volunteer opportunities, please call the TIHAN office, (520) 299-6647, and ask for Todd.

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 Bohnett 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.

AHRF Lobby Day January 28

PHOENIX - Do you believe that Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) people should have equal rights in Arizona? Do you want to meet your Arizona legislators and talk with them about issues that are important to you? Do you want to ensure that GLBT Arizonans are treated fairly in the workplace? If so, then you'll want to participate in the fourth annual Lobby Day on Monday, January 28, 2002 sponsored by the Arizona Human Rights Fund (AHRF).

The goals of Lobby Day are to educate Arizona legislators about Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender issues, to advocate for the passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) during the 2002 Arizona Legislative session, to empower GLBT citizens to participate in the political process, and to introduce GLBT citizens to their elected representatives and vice versa.

AHRF is a non-partisan, membership organization whose purpose is to secure, protect, and defend the rights and welfare of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered people. Each year AHRF selects an issue to address with the Arizona legislature. This year, AHRF's legislative agenda is passage of ENDA, which would bar employment discrimination against GLBT people in Arizona.

Lobby Day is a critical part of AHRF's strategy to pass ENDA and to educate Arizona legislators about GLBT issues. It is a personal connection with GLBT citizens that will persuade Arizona legislators to pass GLBT-friendly legislation, including ENDA.

To prepare volunteers for Lobby Day, AHRF will hold a Citizen Lobbyist Training Day on Saturday, January 19, 2002 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Tucson-Pima Main Public Library, 101 N. Stone Ave., Tucson. The goal of this training is to inform citizen lobbyists about the legislative process, train citizen lobbyists how to effectively lobby their legislators, and educate citizen lobbyists about ENDA. AHRF strongly encourages all citizen lobbyists to attend this free training.

You can register for Lobby Day and the Citizen Lobbyist Training by contacting the Southern Arizona AHRF office at (520) 990-5162 or saz@ahrf.org. You can also obtain a lobby day registration form from the AHRF website at www.ahrf.org.

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 Robinson, (520) 670-9500, or Steven Baker, (520) 388-5650.



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For more information, call Melissa at 628-7223.

December 2001

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New Year's Eve Dance

Monday, December 31st
8 p.m. to 1 a.m.
The Hut--315 N. Fourth Ave.

\$20 per person at the door

Advance tickets available at
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411 N. 4th Avenue 300 E. 6th Street

Ⓜ Smoking on heated patio only

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Informing the Community
The Observer

New Afghan Rulers Better For Gays?

WASHINGTON, DC - The interim government scheduled which took office in Afghanistan on Dec. 22 will discontinue executions of people charged with sodomy and will likely adopt a more tolerant policy on human rights for Gays, according to a spokesperson for the Northern Alliance, the Afghan military faction that fought against the Taliban, the Washington Blade reported.

Haron Amin, who appears frequently on U.S. television news programs on behalf of the Northern Alliance, said Dec. 18 that leaders of Afghanistan's newly installed interim government are outraged over human rights abuses by the Taliban regime and will embrace the principles of human rights.

"This issue [of anti-Gay persecution] would have to be brought up in a court," he said. "The Taliban killed people for all kinds of reasons, not just sexual orientation."

The international human rights group Amnesty International has documented cases where Taliban authorities executed men charged with sodomy by using military tanks to topple cement walls on top of them, crushing them to death.

Amin said he could not predict how the new interim government would address specific human rights issues, such as anti-Gay persecution, but said he was certain the government-sponsored abuses of women and minorities under the Taliban government would be discontinued.

"The new administration will be much more tolerant," he said.

Amin's comments came as the Northern Alliance - in coordination with the U.S. bombing campaign - ousted the Taliban from power. The bombing was part of the U.S.-led war against terrorism that began after the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Several leading Afghan political factions, including Northern Alliance members, reached an agreement to form a post-Taliban, interim government following a series of meetings last month in Bonn, Germany.

The factions selected Hamid Karzai, an ethnic Pashtun tribal leader with strong ties to the West, as the interim government's prime minister.

Daniel Brumberg, a professor of government at Georgetown University's school of international relations, said Karzai is known as a moderate who holds "secularist" views on the subject of religion and government.

Brumberg said that while Afghanistan's conservative, Islamic traditions would make it unlikely that Karzai would openly embrace Gay rights, he said the changing conditions brought about by the ouster of the Taliban will enable Karzai to at least put an end to draconian practices such as summary executions of Gays.

"This will be a power-sharing government, so there may be a lessening of Islamic fundamentalism," Brumberg said. "But it won't be a secularist state any time soon."

Since the United States began its war against terrorism in late September, Gay rights advocates have expressed concern that many of the Arab and Islamic countries that signed on as coalition part-

ners in the war routinely treat Gays as criminals.

For example, some coalition partners, including Saudi Arabia, Yemen and the United Arab Emirates, have laws that call for the death penalty for sodomy, similar to the laws adopted by the Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

Gay rights organizations, including the International Lesbian & Gay Human Rights Commission, said they recognize the need for the United States to align itself with Islamic and Arab nations in the war against terrorism. But they said the United States and other Western allies should use their relationship with Arab and Islamic countries to persuade those governments to improve conditions for Gays.

Human rights groups such as Amnesty International note that the so-called Bonn agreement, which established the framework for the interim government in Afghanistan, includes language calling for the establishment of an independent commission to monitor human rights and to investigate human rights violations. The agreement calls for the United Nations to assist the commission.

"Amnesty International believes there is some good human rights language in the Bonn text that can be built upon in the future," said Alistair Hodgett, the group's spokesperson. "References to human rights, social justice, international law, and the rule of law are particularly welcome."

Hodgett said that while the Bonn

agreement is silent on the question of anti-Gay persecution, he is hopeful that the agreement's call for the establishment of an independent judiciary and the creation of a pluralistic democracy would lay the groundwork for curtailing persecution of minorities, including Gays.

The U.S. government also plans to cite the Bonn agreement as a means of encouraging the new Afghan government to respect the human rights of all groups, said Richard Boucher, a spokesperson for the State Department.

In a press briefing on Dec. 14, Boucher said human rights "has been very much a part" of the U.S. effort to bring about change in Afghanistan.

"After the horrible excesses of the Taliban and some of the others who have been in Afghanistan, I think Afghans themselves understand this to be a critical is-

sue," Boucher said. The human rights commission established under the Bonn agreement, Boucher said, calls on the new government to develop institutions to protect human rights.

"And this remains an important goal of the United States," he said.

Faisal Alam, founder of the Gay Islamic group Al Fatiha, said his group is monitoring the latest developments in Afghanistan and is cautiously optimistic that the climate for Gays there will improve, at least somewhat.

"We know the new government is likely to continue Islamic traditions," Alam said. "My feeling and my hope is the new government won't kill Gay people. But we are not likely to see Gays supported."

Alam said that while groups have

CONTINUED ON PAGE FIVE

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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/16 oz Beerbust for the Arizona Angels Softball Team

8:30 pm- Fundraiser Show for the Arizona Angels starring: Deora Le Blanc, Janee Starr, Stella Virgin, and Foxy

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Wednesday, January 2nd
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hosted by Lucinda Holliday
starring: Alexia and Faith Michaels

Coming Events:
Monday, January 7th, the return of "Ajia Sez", be prepared
Wednesday, January 9th, A Night of Comedy with
Lucinda Holliday and Ajia Simone

website: ibts.net

Retro 80's Dance Thursday's
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\$1 pints bud/bud light
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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.

Wingspan Domestic Violence Project Welcomes New Staff

TUCSON - The Wingspan Domestic Violence Project (WDVP) announced the addition of two new enthusiastic and dynamic staff, Thomas Paredes and Meg MacDougal.

Both Thomas and Meg will be taking over the position of Advocate from Leticia Reyes, who has accepted a position with the Brewster Center. Although we'll miss Leticia, both personally and for her dedicated service to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) victim/survivors of domestic violence, we are delighted to welcome Thomas and Meg!

Thomas Paredes brings two year's experience as a Salud Es Poder Community Peer Leader in Nogales. Thomas is bilingual (Spanish/ English) and bicultural, and has extensive experience providing community education and prevention information about HIV/AIDS. Thomas witnessed first-hand the effects of domestic violence as a Judicial Enforcement Officer in Santa Cruz County for two years. He is currently majoring in Psychology at Pima Community College. In addition to his hours at Wingspan, Thomas will provide weekly outreach services for the WDVP at the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation and at the El Pueblo Neighborhood Center. Additionally, Thomas will provide outreach services in Nogales two times a month.

Meg MacDougal brings over 1,000 hours of domestic violence training on subjects including abuse in the LGBT communities, racism, sexism, suicide intervention, sexual abuse, ritual abuse, civil and criminal procedures, and coordinated community response to domestic violence. A graduate of Bates College in Lewiston, Maine, Meg most recently provided exten-

sive direct services to victim/survivors of domestic violence in Portland, Oregon. She also developed, implemented, and evaluated a bilingual legal advocacy program. Meg has traveled in Zimbabwe, South Africa, Namibia, Tanzania, and Europe. Meg will take an active role in the WDVP's volunteer and community education program, as well as provide crisis intervention and advocacy services to LGBT victim/survivors of domestic violence.

WDVP offers 24 hour free and confidential crisis intervention, advocacy, emergency shelter, and outreach and education to LGBT victim/survivors of domestic violence in Southern Arizona. If you are someone you know needs help, please call our 24 hour crisis line (1-800-553-WDVP/624-0348). To have the WDVP staff provide your organization with a cultural competency training on LGBT issues and/ or domestic violence, please call our business line at (520) 624-0348.



New Year's Eve Dinner
6 til 10 pm
Appetizers, Filet Mignon & Swordfish,
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party favors &
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at midnight
special Karaoke 9 til close

Sunday Bar-B-Que
\$2.50 from 5 til 9 pm
plus volleyball
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(weather
permitting)

**Saturday
Bar-B-Que**
\$5 for
Steak or Fish
5 - 9 pm
complete dinner

**Karaoke
with Billy Dee**
**Sunday &
Monday**
9 til close

Wednesday Chili Day 6 til close
\$1.00 chili dog or bowl of chili AND
9 - close Underwear Night with Michael
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By Elizabeth Birch
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COMMENTARY

Resolutions For A Changed America

As 2001 draws to a close, America's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community can look back on many significant gains. A marked increase in the number of employers offering domestic partner benefits. Rhode Island's addition of gender identity to its non-discrimination law - and the happy end to a lawsuit challenging Maryland's non-discrimination law. Hawaii's and Texas' passing hate crimes laws that cover sexual orientation. The successes were myriad and heartening.

But the GLBT community - along with the entire country - will forever remember this year for the Sept. 11 attacks and the terrible results that are still being played out in the world.

One of the many lessons America learned from Sept. 11 is that there were GLBT victims and heroes, with names and faces and ordinary life histories. Because so many in our community are now committed to living honestly, we had the privilege to learn about these brothers and sisters now that they are gone. Like many of those who died, they also left behind grieving partners, children, houses with mortgages, unpaid car loans, monthly bills - the same sad remnants of so many of the lives stolen by the terrorists.

One key difference for the survivors in our community, however, has been their inability to rely on the same safety net that has caught other surviving families. Because our laws and society don't recognize our relationships and our families, survivors from the GLBT community have had to fight for relief funds from the federal government and from some state and private agencies. They will never get the same

Social Security and pension benefits other surviving families have received, and have taken for granted as their due. And if these GLBT families never put their legal houses in order, the survivors now face losing their homes, their children, their health insurance - their basic security.

The events of Sept. 11 made clear the power of living outside the closet. They also made clear how vulnerable the GLBT community remains.

As we look to 2002, remember that New Year's resolutions aren't all about quitting smoking or losing a few pounds. They can also be about taking the time to thank those who deserve it, protecting our loved ones and working to make a safer and more accepting world for generations to come. Here are a few suggestions:

Write your will. Sept. 11 should be a wake-up call for everyone, but especially Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Americans. Because the law does not recognize our families, it is imperative that we specify who will receive our money and possessions when we die. While many aspects of this planning revolve around couples and children, it is also important for single GLBT Americans, especially those who may not have good relations with their biological families. Other important documents to consider are powers of attorney, living wills and hospital visitation authorizations. For more information and sample legal documents, visit www.hrc.org/familynet.

Come out to your health care provider. Being honest about your sexual orientation or gender identity can be a matter of life and death - or, at a minimum, essential to getting effective care and treatment. There is still much misinformation in the medical world about GLBT people and many stereotypes to overcome. By being out, you will help educate your doctor and ensure that you get appropriate care.

Come out to your elected officials. Politicians can ignore us if they don't know we exist. You can take advantage of HRC's Action Network, pay a local lobby visit, or write a letter about an issue that concerns you. Not only will you be exercising your right to political action but you'll be assisting local, state and national organizations working on GLBT issues.

Be a mentor. Many GLBT adults we've spoken to say that their coming out journeys would have been easier had there been an understanding ear. Contact your local GLBT youth group or community center to see how you can help. You can also pay a visit to your old high school's guidance counselors to share your experiences and explain the needs of GLBT students.

Thank someone. Far too often, we only speak up when we're unhappy or disgruntled. Thank your mom for including your partner in family gatherings. Praise an elected official for voting your way on a piece of legislation. Thank the person who delivers food to your homebound neighbor living with AIDS.

Remember the pioneers. Too many GLBT people have forgotten (or never learned) the history of our movement. We're quick to name the Ellens and Eltons as trailblazers because they're famous today. But what of Bayard Rustin, Phyllis Lyons, Del Martin and Frank Kameny? What about Barbara Gittings, Lisa Ben, Harvey Milk and Christine Jorgensen? Get to know the giants whose shoulders we - as well as Ellen and Elton - stand upon.

As a most difficult year draws to a close, we look back with gratitude to those GLBT Americans whose honesty has made all our lives easier and more complete. And we look forward to those whose openness will help effect the change we need to protect all our families.

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New Afghan Rulers Better For Gays? Continued from Page Three

formed over the years representing Gays in a number of Islamic countries, he is unaware of the existence of any Gay Afghan group. The lack of such an organization, and the lack of any visible presence of a Gay community in Afghanistan, means that those who favor improvements in the treatment of Gays in Afghanistan must direct their attention "to our own governments," Alam said.

"We should put pressure on the United States to take a stand on human rights for Lesbians and Gays in all countries, including Afghanistan," he said.

The Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan, which formed in the 1970s in opposition to the Soviet Union's occupation of Afghanistan, has called for a secularist government with a complete separation of church and state.

Alam and Michael Heflin, director of Out Front, an Amnesty International project that monitors anti-Gay persecution, said RAWA's strong human rights positions and its outspoken efforts to end discrimination against women in Afghanistan make the group a potential ally for Afghan Gays.

The group's extensive writings on the Internet make no direct mention of Gay rights. The group did not respond to an e-mail message seeking comment on Gay issues. A Baltimore-based representative of RAWA, who is affiliated with the University of Maryland, did not return a call by press time.

On its Web site, RAWA warns that the Northern Alliance and other Afghan military and political factions that have fought against the Taliban have themselves engaged in human rights violations against women and other minorities.

"All of them have a [rifle] in one hand and the [Koran] in the other to kill, intimidate, detain and mutilate our people arbitrarily," an essay on the RAWA Web site says. The essay was especially critical of the Northern Alliance, saying its leadership was responsible, in part, for repressive policies against women prior to the Taliban takeover.

Amin, the Northern Alliance spokesperson, said one or two of the seven

factions that made up the Northern Alliance in the early 1990s engaged in human rights violations. He said the other factions condemned these abuses.

"Our policy has been to condemn, not condone, human rights violations," Amin said. "We support bringing to justice those who perpetrated human rights violations."

Brumberg, the Georgetown University professor, said one of the Northern Alliance's leaders, Burhanuddin Rabbani, who was the recognized leader of Afghanistan before the Taliban takeover in 1997, is an Islamic fundamentalist who is believed to be responsible for some human rights abuses.

Brumberg noted that, with Rabbani's allies playing a significant role in the new interim government, the issue of whether anti-Gay persecution will end remains in question.

"Most of the players come from factions and groups that don't have a good record on human rights," Brumberg said. "So the best you can expect is that the new players will just ignore Gay issues and will not continue with the excesses of the Taliban."

With Rabbani passed over for the post of prime minister in favor of Karzai, Brumberg said reports have surfaced that the interim government is considering appointing Rabbani as the head of a newly created Afghan Supreme Court. Such a court would be responsible, among other things, for hearing cases involving human rights abuses.

To call for trials or investigations of past human rights violations, including the persecution of Gays, "will open a can of worms for these new people coming to power," Brumberg said, because many of them have been involved in such violations.

"I can't imagine in all of this there will be too much emphasis on Gay rights," he said. "I can't imagine there will be any emphasis on Gay rights. But it's possible that the new regime would at least curtail some of the abuses of Gays and women that occurred in the past. That may be about all you could expect."

Eligibility

Continued from Page One

cerned. HRC says the regulations' deference to state law may result in some same-sex partners and non-biological children being excluded from receiving funds. HRC says in almost all states, probate laws do not recognize same-sex partners or non-biological children as beneficiaries if someone dies without a will.

"In this time of great suffering, our families, like any other, need relief and not rejection," said HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch. "We will continue to work with the Bush administration and the special master (Feinberg) to ensure that all of the surviving domestic partners of victims are treated fairly by this fund," she said.

ERSLETTERSLETTERSLE TTERSLETTERSLETTERS

EDITOR:

I would like to extend a formal and sincere apology to a lady that I have done a great wrong to.

Although her first name is Lupe, I don't know her last name. Recently at a local saloon, someone thought that their jacket came up missing, and that this lady (Lupe) stole it. The jackass that I can be at times, took it, her jacket away from her, and wrongly called her a thief. Needless to say she was quite upset. After that day, I soon learned that the other garment was found, and the jacket I took was indeed Lupe's.

I haven't seen you Lupe, God knows I've looked for you, but no luck locating you. I'm glad to hear that you have retrieved your coat. I know you probably don't want to see me, but I apologize to you from the bottom of my heart. I'm so sorry girl, and hope someday you'll find it in your heart to forgive me.

Sincerely,
Denver Coleman
Tucson, AZ



Drug-Resistant Strain Found In Half Of Americans With HIV

CHICAGO, IL (GFN) - For more than half of North Americans infected with HIV, their infection is resistant to one or more of the drugs used to inhibit its spread.

According to a study presented, 51 percent of the 210,000 HIV-positive Americans are infected with a strain that is resistant to more than one drug, while 20 percent of all new infections are drug-resistant "even before we start antiviral therapy," said lead author Douglas Richman.

"The high proportion is surprising," Richman told the 41st Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy. "If they are drug-resistant viruses, there are fewer options of treatments."

"There needs to be more use of drug resistance testing to manage patients who have failed treatment" to help select drugs more likely to work, he added.

In 1999, Richman tested 1,647 HIV-positive patients from 10 U.S. and Canadian cities in a study conducted under the aegis of the Department of Veterans Affairs in San Diego, California.

"I'm confident there is a lot more multiple drug class resistance" now than in 1999, he said, adding drug-resistance was more pronounced in "Gay white males with a good level of education" than in women or people from less privileged backgrounds.

Gay white males are more likely to

have better access to treatment than the other groups, and thus more likely to develop resistances to certain drug therapies. But Daniel Kuritzkes said the figures showing 20 percent of new infections are drug resistant before therapy means that educators and health care practitioners are doing an inadequate job at increasing awareness about safe sex.

"We are doing a pretty poor job at counseling patients regarding safe sex," the University of Colorado at Denver AIDS specialist said, since drug-resistant infections are likely passed from an infected patient already in treatment and ignoring physicians' recommendations about sexual activity.

Other studies showed that HIV was capable of mutating to the point it would resist all treatment. But Samuel Bozette, a colleague of Richman's, offered a glimmer of hope: "Many of the previous studies were relatively small and in highly-selected populations, so accurate estimates were not possible."

There are four classes of drugs that can control, but not cure, HIV. Its capacity to develop resistance to drugs is "a time bomb" for researchers who must now redirect their efforts to test resistance in their patients, said Gilles Force of the French hospital Notre Dame of Perpetual Mercy.

"Resistance-testing is closer and closer to be selected as standard care," Kuritzkes said.

Democrats Frustrate Bush/GOP Domestic Agenda

WASHINGTON, DC - There are signs in Washington the Bush administration is growing increasingly frustrated over its inability to translate its astronomical public approval ratings into support for its domestic agenda.

Though they strongly support the nation's war effort, Democrats continue to hammer away at what they say is Republican mismanagement of the economy and ideologically warped budget priorities. This isn't political posturing, they insist. Their constituents feel exactly the same way.

House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt sums up Democratic sentiment this way: the President is managing the war well, but Republican lawmakers are mismanaging the economy and mismanaging the budget. Other Democrats say Republican attempts to wrap naked partisan ambition with the American flag is inspiring public fury.

Recent polls indicate the split between the war effort and domestic issues is shared by a majority of the American public. Overwhelming support for the Commander in Chief in military and security matters is not translating into support for a conservative domestic agenda. Period.

Democratic pollster Stan Greenberg told National Public Radio that the public is making a key distinction between its support for Bush on national security issues and other domestic priorities.

"They think the White House has a lot on its hands - waging a war, tremendous problems, etc. They want the White

House to focus on the terrorist threat, to get the job done. But they want other people, who they like in Congress, to think about the economy, the rising problems in health care, education - and they think Democrats can devote more of their attentions, more of their energies to that."

Democrats are being advised by party leaders not to attack Republican policies by directing their ire at Bush, but by focusing on Republicans in Congress. Political observers say there's no reason to focus on Bush at all, especially when Republicans in Congress make such juicy targets.

House Republicans are seen by the public as the most partisan players on the national scene. They are seen as the most ideologically rigid, and the most persistent in pushing an agenda that falls outside mainstream concerns. The tax cut passed earlier this year is a good example, the so-called economic stimulus package is another.

Bush badly stumbled when he declared he had a "bipartisan agreement" on the economic-stimulus package. Democratic majority leader, Senator Tom Daschle of South Dakota declared publicly no such agreement existed.

"We have always wanted to get an agreement, but we also believe a bad deal is worse than no deal at all," Daschle said. "I don't know of a deal."

In another sign of its frustration, the White House has indicated it may in-

CONTINUED ON PAGE FIFTEEN

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T HOROSCOPES

BY C. LICHTENSTEIN

Sometimes the most delightful things come from the most unexpected places. This week the jolly Sun moves into Capricorn and conjuncts delightful Venus. Don't sneer at a seemingly less than attractive opportunity; There may be royalty hidden within that smoochy frog. Read ahead kids and see where you can find gold among the dreck.

ARIES

MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

Pink Rams feel on the short end of a professional stick but the conjunction of the Sun and Venus can turn all sticks into golden divining rods. Step up to the corporate plate and hit a home run. You know much more than you think and are capable of much more than the current administration believes. Prove them wrong, stage a corporate coup and throw the bums out.

TAURUS

APRIL 21 - MAY 21

You have probably been traveling more but enjoying it less. Take heart Gay Bull, there is a good lesson to be learned from all your travels and travails; everything will fall into place during the Sun / Venus conjunction. Who knows; You may embark on a new phase of study which will prove to be extremely rewarding. Become too smart for your own good, baby.

GEMINI

MAY 22 - JUNE 21

Since the conjunction between the Sun and Venus heats up your sexuality, I suggest that you give lovers and potential lovers a long, long rope (for lassaing). The scaly toad that you turn your nose up at today could be the king or queen of your wet dreams later this week. So hedge your bets queer Twin and play deliciously hard to get. (Some of us like it that way...)

CANCER

JUNE 22 - JULY 23

Just when you may toss it all away in a particular relationship, the optimistic Sun conjuncts sexy Venus and rearranges your priorities. Wet towels on the floor and dirty underwear on the pillow aside, there may be one or two things that you like about the old dear. Gay Crabs should not take any firm stands now. I advise a reclining or prone position instead. Ahem.

LEO

JULY 24 - AUGUST 23

Even if you feel like a mangy old rat on a treadmill, the Sun and Venus conjunction will make even the most onerous job a little more interesting. Try to learn as much as you can from every little boring task. Queer Lions may soon begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel at work. (Let us hope that it is not the light of an oncoming train...)

VIRGO

AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23

If the Sun and Venus pile too much on your goodie plate, don't panic. Proud Virgos may not be as energetic as they used to be but are certainly no slouches around party central. But all play and no work make proud Virgins dull party hounds. Use this fabulous opportunity to hone your more artistic and creative skills. So what's your motivation, pal?

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23

Queer Libras may find their home life a center of activity during the Sun and Venus conjunction. Take the bitter with the better in any family situation; who knows what breakthroughs are possible now? The secret is the strive for mutual respect, if you possibly can. Of course they may have their inane opinions but as long as you remain proudly true to yourself, you will prevail.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22

Rainbow Scorps may inherit a rare case of foot in mouth during the Sun / Venus conjunction. But all's well that ends well as the frank opinion that you blurt out may be just the bit of fresh air needed to get things on track again. Say what you mean after careful consideration. Perhaps it's time to write that great Gay manifesto. Use it manifest your destiny. No names please!

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22

Money lessons hit fast and furious during the Sun / Venus conjunction. All that glitters may not be gold so get your values in sync with your personal finances. A minor shopping spree that puts you in the hole could prove to be a valuable lesson. Hmm. Perhaps Gay Archers should buckle down, don their green eye shades and do their financial homework. How boring...

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20

There is more than enough activity going on in your sign this week when Sun and Venus rub lasciviously in Capricorn and set off sparks. Queer Caps should take their pride to the streets while this fabulous energy propels you into the limelight. Be kind and magnanimous to all; you never know who will figure prominently in your life's goals and it would be a shame to snub 'em.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19

A spark of intuition leads to new rewards during the Sun and Venus face-off. Aquarians feel at one with our community as the planets provide an outlet for your charitable efforts. The problem is that you may not see Cinderella as a breakthrough role. But grab it while you can dear, queer friend. Once you clean the chimneys, you will get to the ball and fit into those glass slippers.

PISCES

FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20

Who knows what pals are capable of during the Sun and Venus conjunction? Try not to be too suspicious of all the friendly going on; you may jump to the wrong conclusions and upset the applecart of true comradeship. Go with the flow Guppie and give your social circle a wide berth. The group dynamic may in fact direct you to your life's mission so stop kvetching and listen!

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TELL OUR ADVERTISERS YOU SAW THEIR AD IN THE OBSERVER

During this past year America got a new president, elected by five members of the U.S. Supreme Court, disenfranchising the 100-or-so million who went to the polls, especially in the state of Florida.

In the first year of the new millennium, this country had a faltering economy for which people received a check from the federal government, tax relief to go spend to boost the economy which didn't help matters when thousands of those American tax payers received a pink slip from their place of employment.

In Washington D.C., Congress resumed their partisan sabre-rattling, making sure their spin got on the Sunday morning, news talk programs. George W. Bush continued to tinker, with tax breaks and those wonderful checks, reducing the budget surplus to a mere pittance.

Everything changed on September 11, ending the aura of perceived invincibility that the electorate, and the citizens of the U.S., not registered to vote, had, ending the "year," in a matter of speaking, starting this country down another path full of uncertainty.

For Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Americans, it was a year to wonder what would happen with a person occupying 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, who was not supportive on issues of concern. Would the occupant of the White House undo what the previous administration and Congresses had done in the past eight years? A rundown of what took place on the national level:

An investigation in May revealed that the Salvation Army has been in secret negotiations with Bush Administration officials to throw its support behind the controversial "faith-based initiative" in exchange for an Office of Management and Budget policy change that would allow the Army to discriminate against Gays and

POLITICS 2001

by Mark R. Kerr

'2001'

Lesbians in violation of local civil rights laws.

Sen. Jesse Helms, R-NC, introduces an amendment to the Senate education bill that could result in the withholding of federal funds from schools that refuse to sponsor Boy Scout troops in light of their ban on Gay Scouts and leaders. The final bill, passed out of a House-Senate committee conference in November, eliminates language that might have mandated sponsorship but retains language mandating equal access - a right already guaranteed the Scouts by law. The Human Rights Campaign also works with allies in Congress to remove a specific anti-Gay reference from the final bill.

George W. Bush refuses to recognize or observe Gay Pride Month in June. A spokesperson says Bush "does not believe in politicizing people's sexual orientation," but that he will continue to recognize celebrations that "recognize minorities and women that have been traditionally under represented in the work force."

A coalition of anti-Gay religious leaders calling itself the "Alliance for Marriage" launches an attempt, in July, to amend the U.S. Constitution to ban equal marriage rights for Gays and Lesbians.

By a 12-7 vote, the Senate Judiciary Committee sends the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act to the Senate floor. The hate crimes bill has yet to be voted on in either the Senate or the House.

A bi-partisan coalition of congressional leaders introduces the Employment

Non-Discrimination Act, which would prohibit job discrimination based on sexual orientation. In the aftermath of September 11, consideration of the bill is postponed until early 2002.

A version of the "faith-based initiative" that would allow charities that receive federal funds to discriminate against Gays and Lesbians in employment, even if such discrimination violates local or state anti-discrimination laws, is approved by the U.S. House. One of the sponsors of this bill was the openly Gay Republican Member of Congress from Tucson, Jim Kolbe. Senate leaders express concern over the discriminatory provision of the bill, saying that the so-called "charitable choice" components of the initiative violate the First Amendment by allowing religious organizations to use tax dollars to engage in employment discrimination.

A long-standing amendment that had blocked the District of Columbia from implementing the 1992 D. C. Health Care Benefits Expansion Act, which extended domestic partner benefits to District of Columbia employees, was repealed by a vote of Congress.

In Arizona, GLBT citizens had something to celebrate, when the state legislature, thanks to effort of openly Gay state Representative, Steve May, R-Paradise Valley, who spearheaded a bill to repeal Arizona's seldom enforced, 100-year-old archaic laws, which dealt with cohabitation and sodomy, and were used to discriminate against the GLBT populace. May's measure also allowed same-sex couples to utilize federal tax deductions for dependents which were out of reach, due to the archaic

laws.

Another bill going through the state legislature, which would have forced cities to give public funding to organizations that discriminate, was defeated thanks to May and the other two openly Gay state Representatives, Ken Chevront, D-Phoenix and Ed Poelstra, R-Tucson, who was the first such person from Tucson to sit and serve in the Arizona House, who all organized the opposition to the measure.

State Senator Elaine Richardson, D-Tucson, kept the hopes of passing legislation protecting the employment rights of GLBT Arizonans alive, with three different measures. Time and the conservative Republican state House leadership killed the measure for the past session but the Arizona Human Rights Fund (AHRF), the statewide GLBT rights group, is making passage of such a measure a top priority for the 2002 regular session.

In the past year, the GLBT community rallied around openly Gay Tempe Mayor, Neil Giuliano, facing a recall election because of his attempt to stop Tempe from giving public money to organizations that discriminate. Giuliano scored a resounding victory over the homophobes, with close to 70% of the vote in the September election.

In Pima County, thanks to the efforts of the Independent Redistricting Commission, the area will have two Congressional Districts but one less legislative district. All that is up in the air, since as of press time, the maps had not been sent to the U.S. Justice Department for approval, and the flurry of lawsuits still to be filed.

The City of Tucson's GLBT Commission continued their wonderful work, getting the United Way to change their anti discrimination policy, adding Transgender to the list of protected categories, naming



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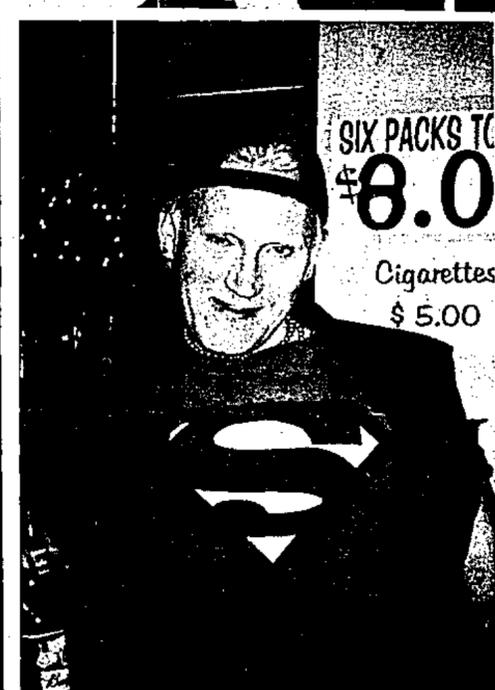
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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE
by Lee Thorn

'Money Versus Talent'

If one were to make an accurate list of Tucson's world-class institutions, it would be a very short document. It might only have one entry. But if the list were to be rigorously accurate, it would have to include the Davis-Dominguez Gallery at 154 East 6th. The inclusion would be required because Davis-Dominguez does what it does as well as anyone in the world.

How can that possibly be? How can that be in Tucson? Simple: David-Dominguez has, for the last quarter century, been making a successful business of representing mostly local artists who have been making contemporary art on a world-class level.

That doesn't mean that they've been representing celebrity artists. They haven't. But the fact is that celebrity in contemporary art has infinitely more to do with the long-term patterns of who's been sleeping with whom in places like Soho than it has to do with aesthetics.

Anybody can look up who's a celebrity in the art world at any given moment. It takes a knowledge of art history and an eye for originality to know what is and what isn't aesthetically significant at any given moment. Davis-Dominguez has that knowledge and that eye. It hasn't needed celebrities.

They also have the courage of their convictions. That's essential in a town like Tucson with its legendary inferiority complex. It means that they weren't ashamed to show local artists. It means that they haven't felt an overwhelming need to be trendy. It means that they haven't pandered to artistic illiterates. Their gutsy guiding principle, to quote one of the intrepid principals, has been, "We show what we like."

There are other good galleries in town, and Davis-Dominguez will magnanimously name them to anyone who argues for its primacy, but no one has really functioned at its level of excellence. Not that others haven't tried. It would be hard to guess how many galleries that were seriously trying to sell contemporary art have opened and closed in the wink of an eye in our fair city over the last quarter century. Several dozens at least. Many went under in less than a year.

But if Davis-Dominguez has had serious contemporary art pretty much locked up these last decades, the plot now thickens in the form of a gallery that is well

established in Scottsdale, a gallery that has recently opened a huge branch here in Tucson. For context it must be understood that there's such a strong art market in Scottsdale that it's as hard for a gallery to fail there as it is for one to succeed here.

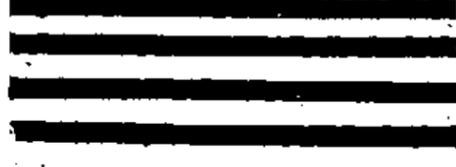
The invading Scottsdale gallery has some big advantages over Davis-Dominguez. It has all the money in the world. It has a much larger gallery space. And it has found that it can entice artists who've never heard of loyalty away from Davis-Dominguez. It's shaping up to be a classic battle of money versus talent. While Davis-Dominguez doesn't have the money or the space, it has a much better eye for individual works of art and a far greater ability to create a coherent exhibit.

Putting together an interesting show has always been one of Davis-Dominguez's strong suits. The new guys, in their opening attempt at least, seem rather indifferent to orchestrating a show. In this first effort an enormous portion of the space is given over to an embarrassingly derivative group of works recalling Mondrian, or perhaps Mondrian-inspired wrapping paper used on an interminable series of little boxes that fairly scream "BORING!"

There are lots of reasons to hope that Davis-Dominguez will win the battle, or at least survive it. What they've already done in this town is miraculous and would, in a just world, be greatly rewarded. On top of everything else, when you visit the gallery they come out and talk to you knowledgeably, intelligently and endlessly about their artists and art in general, even though they can see at a glance that you're strictly a looker — not a buyer.

In fairness it must grudgingly be disclosed that the challenger is called Vannier Galleries and is located in Casas Adobes Plaza, up there at Ina and Oracle, a trendy part of town. The new folks tell me that their Scottsdale artists are begging them not to send their work to Tucson.

[Thorn welcomes comments, suggestions for future columns, and tips on Local skulduggery that ought to be exposed. Write to Box 85571, Tucson, AZ 85754.]



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LONGSHOTS . . . by Thomas Long

'Last Call'

I've been "out" now for almost twenty years - and during that time, I've had my fair share of favorite haunts - places that I gravitated toward because there is a certain feeling you get by going into a bar or nightclub and knowing many of the faces there. In my hometown of St. Louis, these have manifested themselves in a handful of places - the late, lamented Upside, the frenetic downtown Twist, and the dark, unkempt Loading Zone.

The Zone closed recently - it's owner, who I had known for a majority of these twenty years - passed away suddenly. It was a shocking moment, one that gave me absolute clarity about my own mortality, as well. My peers - many of whom had died from AIDS - are now passing on for other, more urbane reasons. Heart problems. Old age. The inevitable was knocking on my door, and my locks are breaking down.

But it was the Zone itself that had become testament to my life and times. Picture if you will, a long narrow establishment, with a commanding bar in the center of the room. As you entered, a VJ was seated in a control room above the door - accessible only by a rung ladder. On Tuesday, the night you would most likely find me there, Joey was in the booth, playing clips of old movies, Broadway musicals and concerts. It was "Show Tune Tuesday" and a fine tradition, to boot. It attracted a crowd every week, and although many of those were regulars, new faces often appeared as well. I mean, you haven't lived until you've seen a hundred Gay men singing Greased Lightning in unison.

It wasn't a terribly clean place: the glare of the video monitors throughout the space provided just enough light to make us all realize that it was close to being a dump. The floors were uneven, the bathrooms, at times, unspeakable. But people liked it here - in it's heyday, Friday nights were a mass of people, edging one another, pushing through the crowd. Whatever current music was in vogue would be playing on the monitors, and many times you would catch patrons staring blindly at the videos being played before them. Lost in their own thoughts, nursing a beer, or a Cape Cod, or a Cosmopolitan - the latest in a long line of whatever drink was in fashion. For me, it was Zima, usually. With a shot of Midori on nights that I felt daring. And the bartenders there knew that - they knew me, and there is a sad comfort there.

There was a rickety staircase that went up to a second level, a perch from where you could stand in the dark and watch people trickle in; a vantage point that allowed you to see the subtle (and sometimes obvious) cruising going on below. There I would sit on a stool, leaning against the railing, and watch: my whole life before me.

It was also the place of many memories - my fellow cast-mates from a nudie play would gather after every Tuesday rehearsal, singing along with the video clips, amazing ourselves that we knew all the words. Brad knew most of them, and it is there that our friendship blossomed - over a rousing, screaming match chorus of "And I'm Telling You I'm Not Going". It was on this bar that we danced one night, in our underwear. And I promised never to do that again. It was here that I met and became friends with Rex, with whom I have lost touch but still remember. Here, also,

where I spent hours playing pool, with many people including my friend Mickey. We knew each other for years, but it was at the Zone on one Friday night that it evolved into something else as well.

I venture out less and less these days; and with the closing of the Zone, there is another place that I will no longer frequent. There are places in our lives that become more than they really are; sometimes, they represent an era, or a thought, or an event that we will forever associate with our life. As I pass by the Zone now, and peer in, the bar still set up, deathly quiet, the rung ladder still leading to a place of sound and music, I can't help but remember and wax nostalgic. From within the darkness of the place, I see shadows moving - and they are my ghosts, singing along with Lucille Ball, in Mame; or Dolly Parton, in The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas. Off-key, surrounded by friends, enveloped in the moment.

In my mind, someone is shouting "last call", and I smile and jiggle the door of the place. It is locked now, so I take one last look and move on.

SPORTS

DESERT COYOTES LEAGUE UPDATE

TUCSON - The Desert Coyotes, Tucson's GLBT and straight-supportive bowling league, resumes their season on January 9, 2002.

For those who would need a bowling stats fix, here are the season achievements so far, for the men in the Desert Coyotes bowling league.

High Average - Erick J., 220; Jeffrey T., 214; Keith D., 210.

High Series Scratch - Erick J., 731; Jeffrey T., 727; Keith D., 723.

High Game Scratch - Keith D., 289; Erick J., Jeffrey T., Jack S., 279.

High Series Handicap - Dave F., 799; Dan D., 794; Mark K., 780.

High Game Handicap - Jack S., 307; Jeff S., 301; Jim V., 297.

The bowlers, captains and league officers of the Desert Coyotes bowling league want wish everyone a safe and Happy New Year.

POLITICS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE NINE

one of their many successes during the past year but the Commission faces it's greatest challenge in their three year existence, dealing with the situation of the assault by the off-duty Tucson Fire Fighter of a Gay man, and the city government's "action taken," especially after the Council elections, held in November, which the Republicans were victorious, thanks to early voting and a lot of money from independent campaign committees, and the end result is a new, conservative City Council.

A lot has happened during this past year, the first year of a new millennium, but we, as a community, face uncertainty with the upcoming, new year, because our society has changed due to the terrorist actions of September 11; and those changes, good or bad, won't be completed in just a commercial break. One period has ended and a new, unknown era has started for us all.

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Dear Jenn:
 My best friend and I are both married. We've had several discussions about our interest in trying Bisexuality. I've been a bit hesitant to "make a move" on her though, since it might risk our friendship... but I don't really see how we're going to explore this any other way. It's not like we meet bi women on a regular basis. Should I just take the plunge?

Buddy Buddy

Dear BB:
 Well, darlin', much though I'd like to tell you to make your move, if only so you can discover the deliciously decadent world of gal on gal lovemaking, I just can't. You hit the nail on the head when you said you risk your friendship if it doesn't work out - are you sure you're ready for that? Particularly since it doesn't really sound from your letter as though you're bubbling over with unexpressed lust and longing for her! It's almost as though you're feeling so negative about your chances of ever meeting another woman that's bi that you're settling - and trust me, convenience is not the best way to pick a partner for the horizontal mambo.

bigroups near you. Not only will reading through the sites you find tell you a lot about what it means to be Bisexual, many of the sites also have bulletin boards and chatrooms which give you an opportunity to connect with other Bisexual women in the comfort of your-own home. Another way to find local groups is to call your local queer community resources center and ask what's available. You may find not only bi women's discussion groups, but also coming out groups, sports teams and volunteer opportunities where you can start connecting with other queer gals! Try taking a women's or queer studies course at your local college - there's usually plenty-o-gals in them, and you know you're going to need to borrow class notes from the really good looking ones! Finally, think about where you are right now - this is Womanline! You're surrounded by a veritable treasure-trove of young starlets who are looking to meet a gal like you. I'd sit right down and spend a piece of time working on a snappy personal ad - with a picture - so you can get busy meeting some of them.

The best part is, all of these things can be done with your best friend! After all, you're both looking for the same thing, right? It just doesn't have to be with each other! This way you don't have to it alone, too - it can be awfully intimidating, venturing into the wild and wonderful world of queer gal dating on your lonesome. This way no matter what ups and downs you encounter in your search for a special gal, you'll always have one another. And that can't be bad!

Good Luck!
 Jenn

Rather than focusing on her as a potential lover, think about what else could be out there for you. Clearly you don't see a lot of options for hooking up with potential galpals, but you'd be surprised what's available to bigrris nowadays, both in their home towns and via the internet! The key is that you need to be proactive in order to actually hook up with what's out there. Try surfing the net by typing in "Bisexual" or "Bisexuality", or check out <http://www.bi-resource.org/groups.html> for a listing of

Entertainment Briefs

Out actor-writer-director John Cameron Mitchell received a Best Actor, Musical or Comedy, nomination as part of the 59th annual Golden Globes. Also of note to Gay audiences: Dame Judi Dench and Kate Winslet were both nominated for their portrayal of Bisexual novelist Iris Murdoch in Iris; Tilda Swinton was cited for her role as a mother protecting her Gay son from blackmail in The Deep End; and Six Feet Under, Will & Grace, Me and My Shadows: Life With Judy Garland, and Wit all scored several nominations in the television category. The Golden Globes will be presented on January 20. ...

Sir Elton John-along with the Eagles, the Dixie Chicks, Billy Joel, Sheryl Crow, Steve Nicks, No Doubt, Ozzy Osbourne, Weezer, and many others-will perform at benefit concerts the night before the Grammy Awards in February in Los Angeles, according to the Los Angeles Times. What makes these benefit shows unusual is that they aren't for charity but for the Recording Artists Coalition, an activist trade group of artists who are taking on major record labels. Proceeds from the five concerts-which will be held at venues all over Los Angeles on February 26-will be used to help the coalition launch a legislative assault against the Big Five music conglomerates to stop what some artists call unconscionable business practices used to deny musicians their fair share of royalty earnings," according to the paper. ...

The Library of Congress has added another 25 films to the National Film Registry, among them GLBT cult favorite The Sound of Music as well as Woody Allen's Manhattan, which costars Meryl Streep as the Allen character's Lesbian ex-wife. Being placed on the registry ensures that

these films will remain preserved, either through the library's preservation program in Dayton, Ohio, or in collaborative ventures with film archives, studios, and independent producers. Here is a complete list of the 2001 additions to the registry: Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein (1948), All That Jazz (1979), All the King's Men (1949), America, America (1963), Cologne: From the Diary of Ray and Esther (1939), Evidence of the Film (1913), Hoosiers (1986), The House in the Middle (1954), It (1927), Jam Session (1942), Jaws (1975), Manhattan (1979), Marian Anderson: The Lincoln Memorial Concert (1939), Memphis Belle (1944), The Miracle of Morgan's Creek (1944), Miss Lulu Bett (1921), National Lampoon's Animal House (1978), Planet of the Apes (1968), Rose Hobart (1936), Serene Velocity (1970), The Sound of Music (1965), Stormy Weather (1943), The Tell-Tale Heart (1953), The Thin Blue Line (1988), and The Thing From Another World (1951). ...

Nineteen-year-old Stuart Wells, who played the Gay best friend in the Oscar-nominated Billy Elliot, has given up on Hollywood in favor of enlisting in the British army. Wells recently made a film in Spain with Willem Dafoe, and is currently featured on the hit British TV series Peak Practice, but his younger brother persuaded him to join up. "I've always wanted to join the army but got sidetracked from this goal when Billy Elliot became a big hit," said Wells in a statement released by the army recruiting office. "While I really enjoy acting itself, there's an awful lot of hard graft and boring meetings which no one sees and which I don't enjoy at all."



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It Wasn't A 'Hallmark Moment'

PROVIDENCE, RI - Fred Kuhr was delighted when he recently found some mainstream Christmas merchandise geared toward Gay people, the Providence Journal reported.

The discovery occurred in Amy's Hallmark, where Kuhr and his partner, Kip Roberson, went to shop for Christmas cards.

What they found were Kiss Kiss Mistletoe Bears.

The stuffed bears have magnets in their noses. Put boy bear near girl bear and you have an ursine lip lock. But Kuhr found two bears - two boy bears - who were lip-locked.

Apparently, someone at the kissing-bear factory had mismatched nose and magnet. Polarities were reversed, affections realigned.

Says Kuhr, "I said to my partner, 'I want these.'"

But a clerk refused to sell them, asserting that the bears could be sold only in boy-girl kissing pairs.

"I said, 'Please show me where it says I can't buy two bears of the same sex.'"

Thus, the Kissing-Bear Brouhaha. It has already made the pages of Boston's The Newswatch, a Gay-and-Lesbian newspaper where Kuhr is its news editor.

He says he spent about five minutes debating the store's policy on kissing bears, during which no reference was made to sexual orientation. Then the clerk called security, and a security guard arrived and told Kuhr and Roberson they would have to leave the store.

"We went downstairs to Papyrus, another card shop," says Kuhr, "and we realized the security guard was still with us. He said, 'You can't go into this store you have to leave the mall.'"

Kuhr asked to speak to a security supervisor. He was told there wasn't one. He says he asked if it would be OK if he and Roberson came back later to see a movie, as they had planned. He was told no.

Let's recap. A man tries to buy two

bears, because he finds they have endearing qualities. He takes issue with the rejection of his purchase due to previously unstated heterosexual bear guidelines. He and his partner are escorted not only from the store but also from all of Providence Place mall.

Kuhr and Roberson complained to Fitzgerald Himmelsbach, Providence Mayor Cianci's liaison to the Gay community. The couple filed a complaint with the state Commission for Human Rights.

All because the folks at Hallmark couldn't just laugh along with a man who had found a delightful glitch in cuddly commercialism.

The management of Providence Place did apologize, says Kuhr. He hasn't heard from Hallmark.

Lisa Kahn, manager of Amy's Hallmark, said yesterday that she had not been in the store at the time of the incident but would probably have allowed Kuhr to buy the bears, to "avoid all this" and keep a customer happy. She said she had advised her staff to sell the bears only in boy-girl pairs because it was in keeping with the way they are advertised.

Kahn said the request to have Kuhr and Roberson escorted from the store had nothing to do with their sexual orientation. It was made, she said, because they had gotten into a shouting match with other customers.

Asked about future kissing-bear sales policy, Kahn said, "I'm selling these bears however anyone wants to buy them at this point."

The outrage here is not the refusal to sell two boy bears. It sounds more like a violation of a few basic American rights, doesn't it?

Democrats Frustrate

Continued from Page Seven

stall two controversial presidential nominees who have drawn strong criticism from Democrats, while Congress is in recess.

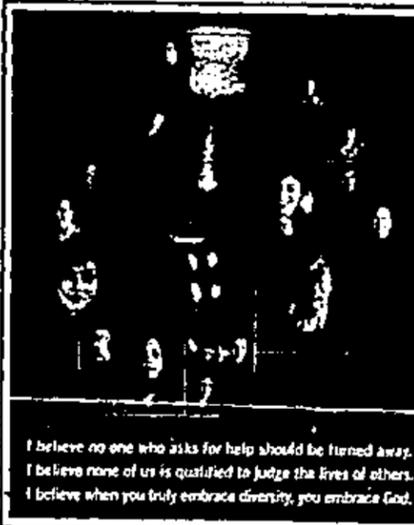
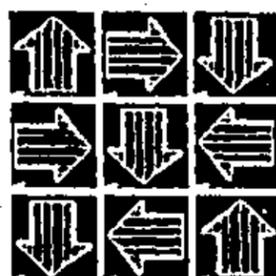
Otto J. Reich, Bush's nominee for assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs, and Eugene Scalia, the nominee for Labor Department solicitor have been held up by the Senate for months as unacceptable choices.

U.S. Health Budget

Continued from Page Seventeen

Club issued a partisan analysis of the budget vote, noting that the final figures came closer to the Republican House numbers and were higher than the Democratic Senate. In a statement headlined "GOP House Hangs Tough Against Lower Democratic Senate Funding," the club praised the result, while noting that "more funding will be needed for ADAP at some point next year."

Both the Log Cabin Club and HRC praised the \$3 billion increase for medical research in the budget of the National Institutes of Health.



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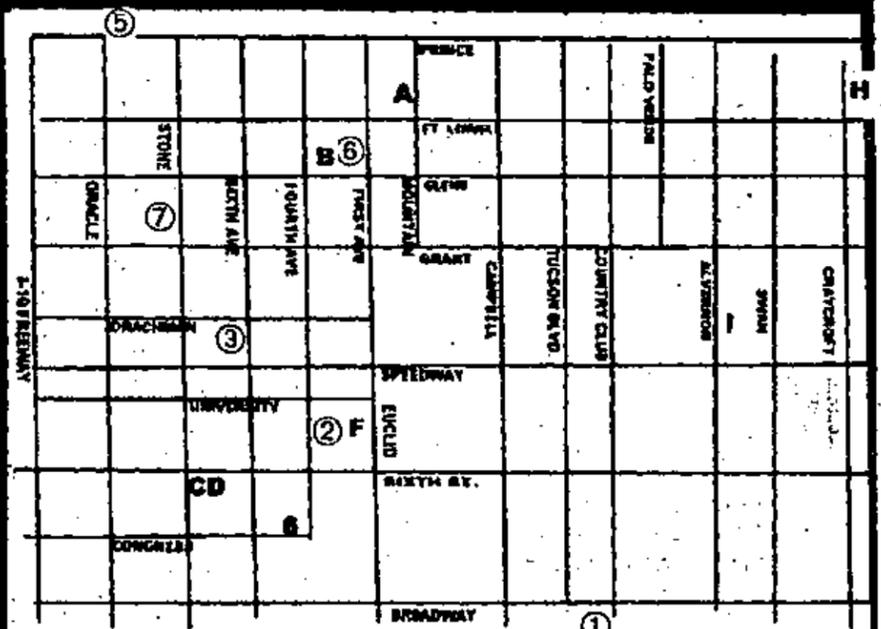
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Congratulations Venture-N



TUCSON - December 10th, 2001 marked the 10th anniversary of the Venture-N. Shown above is owner Jim Dondson. This anniversary marks the fact that the Venture is the oldest Gay bar in Tucson operating under the same ownership for these past ten years. Congratulations to Jim and the staff of V-N.

U.S. Health Budget Criticized Over AIDS Funding

WASHINGTON, DC - The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) expressed disappointment in the budget approved by Congress for the Department of Health and Human Services for FY 2002, citing a need for more AIDS funding.

Although funding both for the Ryan White Care Act and the critical AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) was increased, an HRC statement said the budget "fell short," and Political Director Winnie Stachelberg urged "the president and Congress to recognize that our nation's response to the domestic and global epidemic must be strong and comprehensive," the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network reported.

Ryan White funding was increased by 6 percent, ending at \$1.9 billion, slightly

more than the \$1.8 billion requested by the Bush administration. As for the drug assistance program, it gained only \$50 million in new funding, of which \$40 million will simply cover the increased price of drugs.

HRC, the nation's largest Gay and Lesbian political organization, said the ADAP budget didn't just fall short, but fell "woefully short." More and more drug assistance programs are being closed to new enrollment "because of increased need and too little money from the federal government," said HRC's senior policy advocate, Christopher Labonte, who called the

ADAP funding rise "inadequate."

Although the number of Americans living with AIDS or HIV rose 10 percent over the year ended June 2000 (and 33 percent over the three years ended June 1999), the Center for Disease Control and Prevention received a fractional rise in funds for prevention, increasing \$38 million to \$691.5 million for the 2002 budget.

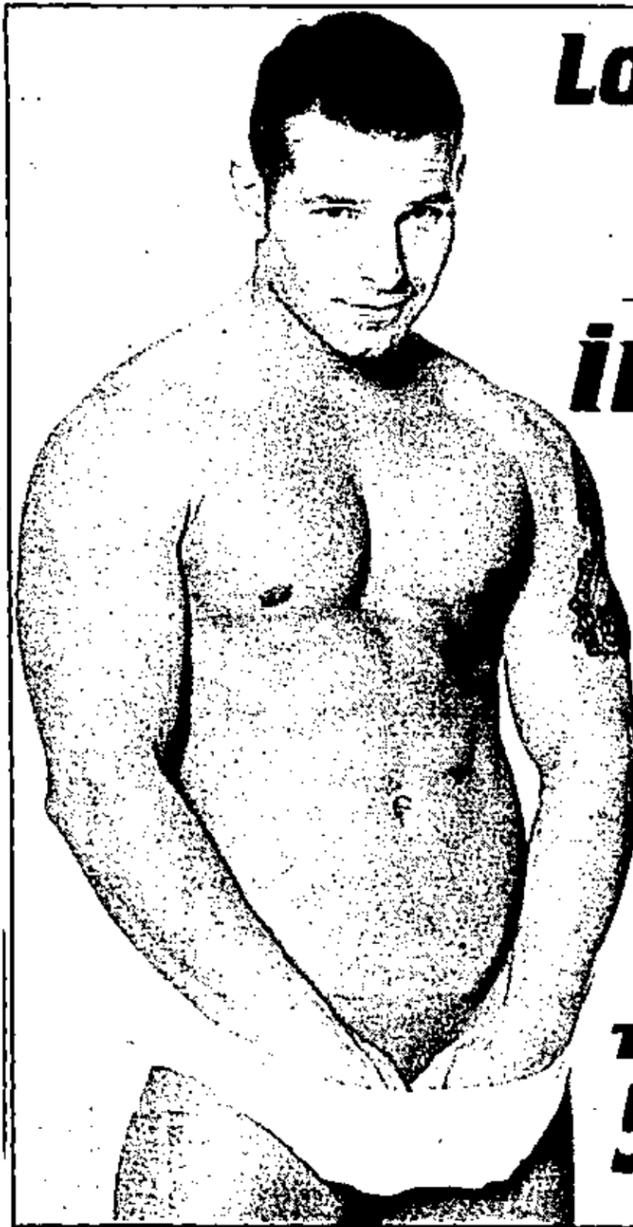
Every year, Labonte said, some 40,000 Americans seroconvert, particularly young Gay and Bisexual men of color. "The CDC must receive the tools necessary to achieve their goals of significantly reducing new HIV infections over the next five years."

The Republican Gay Log Cabin
CONTINUED ON PAGE FIFTEEN

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Non-Bar Calendar

Groups / Clubs / Organizations

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 818-1818, 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

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Jerry and Lea 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 Lea at 690-6665.

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.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Carl hosts the Tucson Stockmen-an investment club spun off from MSN. If you'd like to know more, please call Carl at 331-4238.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2

Tucson Prime Timers, Video Night at 7:00 P.M. Movies with a non-pornographic gay theme will be shown. Phone: 740-0620

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 1:00 p.m. Join the guys of MSN for a Lunch Out at the Tucson Mall. With a myriad of choices from the food court, you can get your favorite type of food and share a lunch with your family. For more information, please call Jerry at 660-6665.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5

#1. 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 818-1818, or Jack at 881-5733.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join us for our monthly Potluck and Social Gathering where we invite you to have dinner and get to know the nice guys of MSN. It's a nice, safe setting in which to meet new men and greet old friends. For directions, please call Jerry at 690-6665.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 2:00 p.m. Come to another Music Appreciation as we listen to some of the works of Maria Callas. If you're interested, there will be a luncheon at 1:00. For directions and reservations, please call Bill at 297-3569.

MONDAY, JANUARY 7

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 318-1850.

Tucson Prime Timers, Lunch at 1:00 P.M. The Wildcat House 1801 N. Stone Ave., South of Grant Rd.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Joe for an evening out at Rainbow Planet. This is a chance to have a cup of coffee and chat with the men of MSN. For directions or more info, please call Joe at 886-1538.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Tom hosts Bridge Night. If you're a beginner or an old pro, join the guys for a fun, relaxed night of Bridge. For reservations, please call Tom at 328-6196.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 8:00 p.m. Join Jorge for Dinner Out at one of Jorge's last minute choices. For details and reservations, please call Jorge at 690-6665.

Tucson Prime Timers, Breakfast at 9:00 A.M. The Egg Connection 3114 E. Fort Lowell Rd., SE corner of Ft Lowell Rd. & Country Club.

Tucson Prime Timers, Video Night at 7:00 P.M. Movies with a non-pornographic gay theme will be shown. Phone: 740-0620

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 8:00 a.m. Join Curt for a moderate hike (3-5 miles). This first hike will get your new year off to the right start. For more information, please contact Curt at 722-1842.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. Marv will host Pinocle & Pizza beginning with a chance to share some pizza and meet and greet the other players over pizza (\$5), followed by Pinocle at 7:00 p.m. For more information, please call Marv at 745-0304.

BAR CALENDAR

OF UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

IBTS - Party line-up includes Jeff's Bloody Mary Recovery Bar from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. \$1.50 Bloody's, Screws or Mimosas. Karaoke with Billy Dee on the patio from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., Benefit Bar-B-Que / Beer Bust from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. This weeks proceeds go to IBT's Arizona Angels softball team. Then at 8:30 p.m. a special fund raising show for the Arizona Angeles Softball Team starting, Deora La Blanc, Stefa Virgin and Foxy.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE

AINT NOBODY'S BIZ - Drink specials, Midnight Toast. No Cover. DJ Hill 7:30 to closing.

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

JAKE'S - New Year's Eve Fetish Ball. Come in and show us your favorite fetish! Well drinks only \$1.75 always..... Opens at 5:00 p.m. Dance Room opens 10:00 p.m. Free favors with champagne toast at midnight.

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

WOODY'S - 6:00 until 10:00 p.m., New Year's Eve Dinner \$10.00. Filet Mignon or Swordfish complete dinner, appetizers and dessert served in a heated tent! Party favors and complimentary Champagne toast at midnight. Special Karaoke from 9:00 p.m. till closing. Make your reservation today at Woody's. (Certain minimums required for event).

YARD DOG SALOON - A slightly different New Year's Eve party here. Bring your own hat and noise maker and get 25¢ off your first drink. Also surprise gift for the best hat. Champagne toast at midnight.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1 - NEW YEARS DAY

YARD DOG SALOON - New Year's Day Recovery Party from 6:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Ham hocks, black-eyed peas and corn bread will be served with Bloody Marys, Screwdrivers or Mimosas only \$1.50

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2

IBTS - Diva-Licious Show 9:00 p.m. Hosted by Lucinda Holliday and starring Alexa and Faith Michaels.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4

JAKE'S - AGRA (Arizona Gay Rodeo) Fundraising Party for Road Runner Regional Rodeo (RRRR). 9:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. Contests, games, 50/50 raffle. Party with the cowboys and cowgirls before the rodeo.

MONDAY, JANUARY 7

IBTS - The return of "Alja Sez"! Be prepared.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9

IBTS - "A Night Of Comedy" with Lucinda Holliday and Alja Simone.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12

JAKE'S - Miss Gay Tucson USofA pre-Pageant show and Party starting at 8:00 p.m. Watch for details.

MONDAY, JANUARY 14

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 318-1850.

Tucson Prime Timers, Lunch at 1:00 P.M. The Wildcat House 1801 N. Stone Ave., South of Grant Rd.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Joe for an evening out at Rainbow Planet. This is a chance to have a cup of coffee and chat with the men of MSN. For directions or more info, please call Joe at 886-1538.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16

Tucson Prime Timers, Video Night at 7:00 P.M. Movies with a non-pornographic gay theme will be shown. Phone: 740-0620

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join us for Pizza Night, as we enjoy an evening of good food and camaraderie with the guys. This month, the party will be on the east side of town. For reservations and directions, please call Joe at 545-6885.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19

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 818-1818, or Jack at 881-5733.

Tucson Prime Timers Lunch/Business Meeting at 12:00 Noon. The Hometown Buffet 5101 N. Oracle Rd., Just north of River Rd.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 8:00 a.m. Join Curt for a moderate hike (3-5 miles). For more information, please contact Curt at 722-1842.

MONDAY, JANUARY 21

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 318-1850.

Daily Bar Calendar

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. Volleyball games start 7pm. Underwear Wednesday with Fleuban & 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.

AINT NOBODY'S BIZ - 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 6-7. (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 airloin 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.

AINT NOBODY'S BIZ - Happy Hour Two-For-One 2-7. Football Madness \$1.75 Miller specials 2to 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 Mundie 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.
 VENTURE-N - Open 6am. Patio 5pm. Daily specials til 7pm.
 WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 3-7pm. Karaoke w/Billy Dee 9pm to close. Special drink prices 8pm to close for American Airlines - American Express - AOL employees.
 YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Scotch until 7pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

AINT NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour Two-For-One 2-7. Free food at 5:30pm. Dance music 8:30-1 w/DJ Hill. 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 Martinis \$2.00 all day. Call Martini's \$3 from 4pm to close. Volleyball Court is Open. Patio Bar Open 7pm - midnight.
 YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Gin until 7pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

AINT NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour Two-For-One 2-7. Pool toumey 7:30pm. \$3 entry, pot matched. \$1.50 longnecks for pool players. \$2 Pitchers Bud & Bud Light. Country music with DJs. 8:30-1
 IBTS - 9am-4pm, \$2.00 domestic beer & well. Happy Hour \$1.75 well & domestic beer 4-9pm. Tee's & Tattoo Nite, wear an IBT's T-shirt or IBT tattoo get happy hour prices 9 to close, or buy an IBT's T-shirt for \$5 and get a complimentary drink. House Hi-Nergy Dance 9pm to closing.
 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 8pm-1. Top score on NTN per game wine special prizes. \$3 Zombies. Jungle Juice or Mal Tai.
 YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Tequila until 7pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

AINT NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour Two-For-One 2-7. College Nite. Dance Music with DJs 9pm-close. \$1.75 Buds or \$2 Kamikazees 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.

AINT NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Open at 2pm. Pool Tournament 8:30pm \$3 entry. Pot matched. \$2 pitchers for pool players. Dance music w/DJ Hill 8:30-close.
 IBTS - 9am-4pm \$2.00 domestic beer and well. Happy Hour \$1.75 well & domestic beer 4-9pm plus the Jazz on the patio 6-9 with Susan Artemis and Tracy York. Dance 9-1. All drink specials not available during special events.
 JAKE'S - Open 5pm daily, Well \$1.75. Dance Room open 9pm - 1am. House Dance Nite
 VENTURE-N - Open 6am. Patio Bar open at 3pm. Daily special til 7pm. Patio Beer Bust 3-7pm.
 WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 3-7pm. Pool Toumey 2pm. Patio Bar & Volleyball Court open 5:30 - close. Steak & fish Fry 5-9pm Filet Mignon or Swordfish with trimmings & roll \$4.50
 YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. Beer Bust 3-7pm. 75¢ glass. \$2.25 pitcher. 50¢ off any Rum 1pm to 7pm. Kennel open 6pm

AINT NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour 2-4-1 from 2-7. College Nite. Dance Music with DJs 9pm-close. \$1.75 Buds or \$2 Kamikazees 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.

AINT NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour 2-4-1 from 2-7. College Nite. Dance Music with DJs 9pm-close. \$1.75 Buds or \$2 Kamikazees 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.

AINT NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour 2-4-1 from 2-7. College Nite. Dance Music with DJs 9pm-close. \$1.75 Buds or \$2 Kamikazees 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.

European Market & Deli
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Food from around the world

- Sandwiches
- Smoked Salmon
- Ice Creams
- Smoked Meats
- Caviar
- Chocolates
- Cakes
- Gifts

—All from Europe!

NOTICES

TUCSON INTERFAITH HIV/AIDS NETWORK (TIHAN), a coalition of faith communities committed to a compassionate response to HIV/AIDS, provides HIV education in congregational settings, volunteer CareTeams to support HIV+ persons, a referral network of HIV-sensitive clergy, and interfaith services of healing and hope. For more information call 298-8647.

LESBIAN/GAY/BI-SEXUAL OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS. Saturdays 1 to 2pm new location Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. Contact: 325-6878 or 327-4293.

ANONYMOUS HIV COUNSELING AND TESTING is available through the Pima County Health Department at sites throughout Tucson. Very Gay Friendly. For more information or to make an appointment call 791-7878.

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, 1436 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 792-4907, Ext.388

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

OUTLOUD! Tucson's premiere Local Lesbian and Gay Radio Show, broadcast every Wednesday at 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 855-8010 before 10:00 p.m. The group dines out and attends shows or movies. Now in their 18th year! (2nd in Tucson).

SOUTHERN ARIZONA GENDER ALLIANCE (SAGA). Meetings on the 1st Monday, 7pm. Desert Girls (MTF) Meets 2nd Monday at 7pm. Desert Boys 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 602-279-4806.

DESERT DOMINION TUCSON'S 100% CONSENSUAL, Pan-Fetish, Pan-Sexual, Informational, Educational, Safe Space for the B&D, S&M, O&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 within these agencies. Website: AAPSP.org or e-mail: AAPSP@aol.com or call Dave (520)745-9059 (Tucson) or Kim (602)534-8219 (Phoenix)

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

TUCSON CATHOLIC GAY & LESBIAN FAMILY MINISTRY. Currently meeting the 4th Monday of every month at SS Peter & Paul Church, Madonna Hall 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Fr. Pfleider in attendance every meeting and willing to speak one on one. Reaching out to Parents and Families. For more info call Doc or Barbara 293-8624.

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, 6809 S. Cardinal Ave. For information visit www.lctucson.org write: LC, 7014 E. Golf Links Road, PMB 212, Tucson, AZ 85730.

ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS: Confidential individual or group support for Gay, Bisexual or Trans men who are victims/survivors of domestic violence. For more information call 624-0346 (24-hour line)

REVELLE GAY MEN'S CHORUS rehearses Tuesdays 7-10pm at MCC Church, 3259 N. Mountain. Have any history/experience singing? Join us! Call 617-3100 for more info.

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

SENORRAP, a discussion group for older LGBTs, meets from 7 to 8 pm on the last Sunday of every month at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St.

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE .25 PER WORD \$5.00 MINIMUM



CLASSIFIEDS



CLASSIFIED ADS MUST BE MAILED NO PHONE ADS

NOTICES

"OUT ON THE TRAILS" - EQUESTRIAN FUN! Rider Club farming. 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. 828-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 575-8880 or write P.O. Box 38264, Tucson, AZ 85740-8264. All replies confidential.

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

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

The **TUCSON Chapter of PRIME TIMERS WORLDWIDE** invites Gay or Bisexual men and their admirers to join and share Prime Timers fellowship. We welcome mature men (and admirers) who wish to become involved with planned and future Prime Timers activities. Meetings, luncheons and dinners are held monthly. For dates, times and information call 529-8344, 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 681-1794 - 8 am - 5 pm Mon. - Fri.

AIDS HOTLINE - 328-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 blende you can talk to? Weekly support group meets Wednesdays 8:30 - 8:00 pm. Licensed psychologist/facilitator. Call 745-6977 in Tucson for more information. Strictly confidential.

WINGSPAN - Tucson's Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Community Center, 300 E. 6th St., offers support groups / info line / social events / library / meeting space. Volunteer Opportunities. Board meetings every 2nd Thursday (open to all), 6:00 p.m. Information 624-1779.

SUPPORT GROUP: Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals meet weekly for open discussions in a loving, supportive atmosphere. Meetings Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:30 pm at St. Francis in the foothills Church, Swan and River Road, Room 43. For more information call the church at 298-9063 and ask for a contact person.

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

GREATER PHOENIX GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (GPGLOCC) P.O. BOX 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2097. E-mail: webmaster@gpglocc.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. 322-5865. Leave message.

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

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

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

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO - a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, Call the Bears Hotline (520)780-6775 or write P.O. Box 4391D, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 of visit our website at www.bobop.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 686-6541

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. EEs 581-8850 or Ronn 866-2364.

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

CRONES SOCIAL GROUP. A Social group for Gay men who enjoy the fellowship of their peers. Call Leo at 624-8758.

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

LIGHTNING LIGHTING will provide lighting for AIDS and related benefits at no charge. For more info call Adrienne at 828-7288.

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 579-9827 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. 9th Ave. Call 791-9662.

Join the **LESBIAN & GAY PUBLIC AWARENESS PROJECT**. In Tucson write Awareness Project, 3661 N. Campbell Ave. #365, Tucson, AZ 85719.

AA Meeting with HIV/AIDS focus, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., MCC Church, 3259 N. Mountain. All alcoholics welcome.

MEN'S SOCIAL NETWORK: Social organization for men of all ages. Building an extended Gay family in Tucson. Monthly social potluck gatherings the first Saturday of each month and almost weekly social activities. Call Jerry at 690-9565 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 MEN'S MESSAGE GROUP meets the 3rd Sunday of each month. It is a good way to meet other men of all ages, safely, and with the art of nurturing touch. There is a fee. You must sign up in advance to participate. Call Marc at 881-4562 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 615-8436 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 6 weeks. 684-7063.

TUCSON GREATER SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION. Interested? Call Kelly Quinn, (520)742-7866 or go to our web site http://www.tgsofball.org

PERSONALS

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 - 881-4562. 908.

ROOMMATES

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SERVICES

CONSCIOUS CONTACT. Swedish-Style full body massage. Relaxation, stress, tension release. In-home, hotels, resorts. 7-days/evenings. Call John, LMT, (520)490-4862 905.

LET ME PAMPER YOU! With a Full Body Swedish massage in a quiet, relaxed atmosphere. \$35 for a full hour. Ralph (520)853-7496. 918

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