

U.S. Supremes Will Hear Sodomy Case

WASHINGTON, DC - On Monday, December 2, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear the case of Lawrence and Garner v. Texas, a sodomy challenge that has the potential to overturn the 1986 precedent of *Bowers v. Hardwick*.

The Supreme Court's 5-4 opinion in *Bowers v. Hardwick*, ruling that Georgia and other states had the right to criminalize sodomy on grounds of public morality, set the Gay rights movement back on its heels. Although the decision has since been eclipsed by the pro-Gay ruling in *Romer v. Evans*, (striking a Colorado amendment that prohibited Gay rights laws or policies), conservative courts still cite *Bowers v. Hardwick* to support anti-Gay rulings on a range of issues, the *Gay.com/PlanetOut.com* Network reported.

Since *Hardwick*, the composition of the Supreme Court has changed dramatically. With six new justices, only justices Rehnquist, O'Connor and Stevens remain from the *Hardwick* Court. The 1996 *Romer* court, however, is unchanged from the day when it ruled 6-3 that the Colorado amendment trampled on the Gay community's right to equal protection by treating Gay Coloradans differently under the law for no reason other than general hostility.

Unlike *Hardwick*, the Texas case rests both on the right to privacy and the right to equal protection. Texas's sodomy law applies exclusively to homosexuals, treating Gay men and Lesbians differently than straight Texans, and requiring the state to present the court with a rational reason for the disparity. "Animus alone," the *Romer* decision said, is not a good enough excuse.

The Texas case stemmed from the arrest of two Houston men who were having sex in their own bedroom when the police entered their home on a false emergency call. John Lawrence and Tyron Garner were arrested, and jailed for a night. The matter went up the ranks of the Texas courts, winning an appellate court ruling, but losing to the full appellate court of the Houston area. Subsequently, the state's highest criminal court declined to review the case, and Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund petitioned the high court in July.

The Supreme Court accepts a small fraction of the petitions submitted, and does so generally with an eye towards resolving or clarifying an important constitutional issue.

Justices Rehnquist and Stevens would be expected to maintain the positions they took in *Hardwick*, the former in the majority and the latter in dissent. Justice O'Connor voted with the majority in *Hardwick*, but also voted with the majority in the

equal protection case of *Romer*. As for the rest of the court, Scalia and Thomas are staunch conservatives.

Ginsburg, Souter and Breyer are likely on the Gay rights side. And Kennedy, like O'Connor, is considered a swing vote — a swing vote who nonetheless authored the strong majority opinion in *Romer*.

Advocates for Gay rights praised the high court's announcement.

"This is a significant step forward because it means the court has seen the serious constitutional problems with these (sodomy) laws and is willing to look at them closely," said Ruth Harlow, Lambda's legal director, in a written statement. "We now have an opportunity to convince the court to remedy the widespread harms to Gay and Lesbian people caused by Texas's law and others like it."

Amsterdam Loses Luster As Gay Capitol

AMSTERDAM, The Netherlands - Once hailed as the Gay capital of Europe, the famously tolerant Dutch capital of Amsterdam has become a bit too sleepy for the bulk of Gay tourists, who have deserting its streets for attractions in Berlin, Paris and London.

South Africa's AFP reports that the shift is having a devastating impact on Gay businesses in Amsterdam. "Gay tourism dropped by almost 35 percent in the last five years," said Siep de Haan, a spokesperson for Gay Business Amsterdam.

"But even these figures don't take into account the collapse of the tourism industry after the September 11 attacks, so we estimate Gay tourism has now dropped by 50 percent," he said.

Amsterdam has long boasted the highest number of Gay attractions per square meter in Europe, some 150, in a city that is relatively small when compared to other European capitals. But the growth in Gay tolerance generally and the rise of Berlin as a new cultural force in particular has hit Amsterdam's fortunes hard.

While the British-based Rough Guide travel guide still touts Amsterdam as Europe's most Gay-friendly city, it no longer is classified on Europe's cutting-edge. "The club scene is relatively subdued, even modest," it says.

To revive Amsterdam's popularity, De Haan urged the city council "to loosen

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Sweeping Family Law Changes Advocated

WASHINGTON, DC - The American Law Institute, an powerful and influential organization comprised of lawyers and judges, has issued a call for sweeping changes in family law that would improve divorce settlements for women and establish new rights for unmarried Lesbian and Gay couples.

The New York Times reports the raft of proposals are meant to reflect broad social changes in society felt over the last 30 years. Given the prestige of the institute, the findings are likely to have a major impact. The Law Institute has had immense influence on the development of American law since the group was founded in 1923.

The American Law Institute has devoted 10 years to drafting the recommendations, which seek to make family law more predictable and consistent. The Times notes the institute's recommendations on commercial law, torts, contracts, criminal law and other topics have been adopted by many states.

The proposals, circulated among state officials in recent weeks, have already prompted an outcry from conservatives, who say the proposals undermine the sanctity of marriage.

The institute says judges are allowed too much discretion in divorce proceedings. Decisions on alimony, child custody and the division of property vary wide-

ly by state, and even among judges in the same state.

The report says that a parent's sexual orientation should not be a factor in decisions on child custody, and that domestic partnerships should be treated like marriage in many important respects.

Criticizing the assumption that Gay people are frequently judged to be inferior parents, the institute declares, "Homosexual conduct, like heterosexual extramarital conduct, should be disregarded unless shown to be harmful to an individual child." Judges, it says, should not be swayed by stereotypes or "prejudicial attitudes."

Regarding the legal status of unmarried couples, the institute said "domestic partners are two persons of the same or opposite sex, not married to one another, who for a significant period of time share a primary residence and a life together as a couple."

At the end of an intimate relationship, the report said, "a domestic partner is entitled to compensatory payments" similar to alimony "on the same basis as a spouse."

Ira Ellman of Arizona State University who helped author and edit the report, told the Times, "Our purpose was to adapt family law to changes in the family as an institution. The law has to take account of social changes driving the family."

Tucson Marks World AIDS Day

TUCSON - The stigma that AIDS is the "wrath of God" persists, presenting the biggest obstacle to easing the world's epidemic, local activists said.

The most important action anyone can take - and that everyone must take - is to change people's attitudes from condemnation to compassion, then educate them about prevention and treatment, said Scott Blades, executive director of the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network.

That was the message of a network-sponsored forum, held Sunday, December 1, at the Armory Park Center, 220 S. Fifth Ave., that commemorated World AIDS Day, the Arizona Daily Star reported.

Several people with AIDS talked about discrimination they face and the attitudes behind that discrimination that stand in the way of the world making progress against the disease.

Bryan Huston said that when his best friend died of AIDS in 1988, Huston's boss fired him "because they were afraid I had it." Huston was diagnosed with the disease in 1994.

Since Georgeannie Figueroa was diagnosed HIV-positive in 1997, she and her family have suffered from the stigma that comes with the disease.

"Conditions have been placed upon me as to where I can go, with whom I could be seen," she said.

Figueroa said she and her five children have had to endure "painful, shameful experiences" because of how people have treated her and her family.

She was raised Catholic and was especially pained to be rejected by the church after she contracted the disease.

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UPDATE

TKO Holiday Show December 8

TUCSON - Tucson's Knight Owls (TKO) will be putting on their third annual Holiday Magic Show, Sunday, December 8, 7:00 p.m., at the Clarion Santa Rita, 88 East Broadway.

Proceeds from this year's show will benefit the programs of TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network).

During this time, TKO is raising funds as well to sponsor holiday meals for people living with HIV/AIDS. According to organizers, a complete turkey dinner, with all the trimmings, costs \$35. In 2001, organizers said they were able provide 32 meals and hope to exceed that this year.

Misti Malone and Mama Reyna will host this year's Magic Show, with a special guest appearance by Daphne Steele, Miss Carousel 2002. An impressive show line-up awaits this year's audience. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at The Yard Dog Saloon, 2449 North Stone, Venture-N, 1239 North 6th Avenue, and the TIHAN office, 492 North Alvernon Way.

TKO is a social club that raises funds for community organizations. For more information, contact Merlin Cummins of TKO at The Yard Dog Saloon (520) 624-3858, or Scott Blades at TIHAN, (520) 299-6647.

Straight Allies Forum December 10

TUCSON - What do Cher, Jean Baker, Betty DeGeneres, Kathy Najimy and Garth Brooks have in common? They are all straight allies and Wingspan is hosting a forum that spotlights and celebrates our straight allies, Tuesday, December 10, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., at 300 East Sixth Street.

A straight ally is someone who is not Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender (LGBT) but advocates for equal rights and fair treatment of LGBT people. At the forum, how to become a straight ally and inspiring other potential straight allies will be discussed so grab your straight friend or family member and come to the forum.

This forum is open to everyone. Following the panel presentation, there will be an audience discussion and free reception. For more information, call (520) 624-1779.

Position Available At TIHAN

TUCSON - The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network, a coalition of faith communities committed to a compassionate response to HIV/AIDS, seeks a Director of Education to coordinate HIV/AIDS awareness and education programs.

Requires experience in volunteer coordination, program administration, education/curriculum planning, and a substantial knowledge of HIV and accompanying issues. 30 hours/week, flexible schedule (some evening and weekend hours required), benefit package. \$10-12/hour, depending on experience. Job description available at www.tihan.org.

Submit resume and list of three professional references to TIHAN, 492 North Alvernon Way, Tucson, Arizona 85711 or e-mail to employment@tihan.org. Review of resumes begins December 9. AA/EOE

Tucson Pride Elects New Officers

TUCSON - At the annual meeting of Tucson Pride Inc. (TPI), officers and directors were elected for 2003: Wendy Bailey, President, Nancy Robinett, Vice President, Arnette Miller, Vice President, Janette Bunge, Treasurer, Bob Bowers, Secretary, and directors Joanne Contreras, Brian Fox and Jennifer Lopez.

The next monthly meeting of Tucson Pride is Tuesday, December 10, 7:00 p.m., 845 S. Craycroft Road. TPI is in need of additional board members. Anyone who is interested in helping with planning, producing and promoting Pride activities for the Tucson community is welcome to become involved.

Tucson Pride sponsors and produces Pride Week, which has included Gay West for the past 6 years co-sponsored by Old Tucson Studios. Pride Week 2002 was 10 days of educational and social activities for the community. Tucson Pride also sponsors and produces OUToberFEST each year which is a day-long festival with entertainment, food and vendors. Additional information is available at www.tucsonpride.com.

Domestic Partner's Registry Discussion December 16

TUCSON - A discussion on a proposed ordinance for a domestic partnership registry in the City of Tucson will take place Monday, December 16, 7:15 p.m., at the new Wingspan Annex, 739 N. Fourth Ave.

Wingspan and the City of Tucson Commission on GLBT Issues are co-sponsoring this event and is open to all. Members of the Commission, who drafted the document in collaboration with representatives from Wingspan, will facilitate a discussion on the implications of Domestic Partnership Registration for the GLBT community and present the research and criteria framing the current working draft. This is an opportunity for interested community members to get more information and to contribute input.

Come and join in for the inauguration of this important civil rights initiative. For more information, call (520) 624-1779.

3rd Annual Activist Collaboration Symposium Dec. 6-7

TUCSON - The Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Studies is presenting the third annual Activist Collaboration Symposium, Friday and Saturday, December 6-7.

This event includes: "Performing the Border: Film Poetry, Installation Arts," Friday, 5:30 to 9:00 p.m., at the Center for Creative Photography on the University of Arizona (UA) campus; a plenary panel, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to noon, Integrated Learning Center, UA campus; and, workshops, beginning at 1:30 p.m., also at the Integrated Learning Center, UA campus.

For more information, call (520) 626-3431, or go online to wingspanaz.org.

Rainbow Support Group Celebrates Anniversary

TUCSON - The Rainbow Support Group will be marking their fifteenth anniversary serving GLBT Tucsonans with a celebration, Sunday, December 8, 5:00 p.m., at the Rainbow Planet Coffeehouse, 606 N. Fourth Avenue.

Current members of the group are looking forward to seeing people who had helped, in past years, to build the group into the organization marking three decades of existence.

In 1987, the group was established by the St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church (UMC), as part of the church's effort to become a Reconciling Congregation, which accepts all people regardless of sexual orientation. St. Francis was the first church in Arizona to become a Reconciling Congregation.

"Over the 15 years of our GLBT support group's existence, we have offered it as a place where members of the community could feel safe regardless of previous religious experiences for good or ill," said the Rev. Susan Mullins, Associate Pastor of St. Francis in the Foothills.

St. Francis' Support Group (now known as the Rainbow Community Support Group) was formed to provide a safe place for support of discussion of any important issues affecting our lives. The purpose was to create an environment of healing, loving energy to support Gays, Lesbians and Bisexual persons. The Support Group is also an outreach to the larger Tucson Community. One does not need to attend St. Francis in order to be a member.

From the late 1980's until the mid 1990's the Support Group was very active in the Tucson LGBT Community and in addition to providing support also produced a Social Calendar with a host of activities each month.

As time progressed, as well the maturation of LGBT Tucson, and the birth of many new groups and organizations, the focus for the group changed from social activities to its primary focus being of one of support but as the times change, so does the Rainbow Community Support. For the twenty-first century, based upon the needs and requests of those attending, the focus is shifting back towards more social activities, with meetings, 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., on the second and fourth Thursday of each month, with a social event at the Rainbow Planet Coffeehouse on the third Thursday of each month.

If you are interested in attending or for more information about the group, call the St. Francis office, (520) 299-9063.

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It's More Than You Think

World AIDS Day: Confronted by the Choice of Ignorance vs. Education.

By Elizabeth Birch

World AIDS Day is a time to observe new scientific breakthroughs, examine the current state of the crisis and remember loved ones who have fallen victim to the disease. This somber day takes on new significance in light of the recent elections that have caused great uncertainty about the direction of HIV/AIDS public policy, particularly in regards to prevention efforts. If our nation is to succeed in limiting new infections and effectively battling the epidemic we must begin with an honest, science-based dialogue that deals with four central facts:

If used properly, condoms work the vast majority of the time and they have saved millions of lives.

A substantial number of teenagers are going to have sex regardless of how many times we tell them to "just say no". For example, more than half of those aged 15 to 19 have had sex. For 18-year-olds, the figure is 70 percent. These sexually active young men and women deserve to know how to protect themselves and not have their health compromised through state-sanctioned ignorance.

There is no scientific evidence that abstinence-only programs work. And these programs are highly unrealistic considering most people do not marry until their late 20s.

Abstinence-only education programs are essentially worthless for Gay and

Lesbian teenagers because the message of "no sex until marriage" excludes these young men and women who cannot legally marry. With Gay men still making up a significant portion of new HIV infections, any program that ignores these at-risk individuals is ineffective and will continue the proliferation of the disease unchecked.

Unfortunately, efforts to teach inclusive and effective science-based HIV prevention are under a concerted attack by right-wing ideologues who are putting politics ahead of people, and indoctrination in front of education. With the Bush administration backing abstinence-only "education" efforts, America is increasingly putting its young people in harms way and risking an explosion of new HIV/AIDS cases.

Consider that the federal government is now giving more than \$100 million a year to states to teach abstinence-only education. The percentage of public schools replacing comprehensive sex-ed with abstinence-only education has gone from 2 percent 10 years ago to 25 percent today. While abstinence should be taught as a viable option as part of a comprehensive sex-ed program, we have an obligation and a responsibility to provide our children with a broad base of knowledge so they can effectively protect themselves from HIV. Sadly, the scientific facts are not what interest those who push abstinence-only programs. Their position is based solely on their interpretation of morality and a desire to foist it upon our nation regardless of the health, economic or social consequences.

To accomplish their political goals, they have recently waged war against condoms, distorting the medical facts to sabotage public confidence in these prophylactics.

For example, on MSNBC's Donahue Show, Christine O'Donnell, a spokesperson with Savior's Alliance for Lifting the Truth (SALT), contradicted decades of medical facts by proclaiming "condoms will not protect you from AIDS".

On the MSNBC show Hardball, Andrea Lafferty, Traditional Values Coalition spokesperson said kids are choosing to abstain because they "understand the dangers of STD's, that condoms do not prevent them and that condoms don't always work." Later on the same show, Lafferty tried to demagogue the issue by accusing those who advocate comprehensive HIV/AIDS education as "latex educators" and she tried to intimidate a political opponent by calling her a "sex promoter".

The list of right wing commentators who attack condoms, while extolling abstinence-only programs is lengthy. But wishful thinking on abstinence-only education will not stop the spread of the disease. The reality is that 40,000 people are infected each year in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that there could be as many as 300,000 people in this nation who are unaware of their HIV status. It is clear that Gay and Bisexual men are among this group, considering that 42 percent of all new AIDS cases in the country still occur within the Gay and Bisexual community.

Even more alarming is that Gay and Bisexual youth, African-Americans and Latinos compromise a disproportionate share of the new HIV infections in this country.

These statistics are sobering, but we are fortunate because the numbers could be much higher if it not for effective prevention programs that includes information on condoms. In the end, this battle over America's HIV/AIDS public policy comes down superstition vs. science, and education vs. ignorance. We must work to see that science and education win, or World AIDS Day will soon become a grim reminder of how we chose policies that allowed the epidemic to spiral out of control and infect a new generation of young men and women.

[Elizabeth Birch is the executive director of the Human Rights Campaign.]

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More Men Having Sex With Men, According To Report

ATLANTA, GA - A recent nationwide survey shows that a larger proportion of men say they are having sex with other men than in the 1980s, although whether that trend stems from an increase in same-sex activity or an increased willingness to report it remains unclear.

John E. Anderson of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and his coauthor found that surveys collected since 1996 showed that 3.1%-3.7% of men reported having had sex with another man during the previous year. This is a sizeable jump from 1988 estimates of 1.7%-2%, they note.

However, along with this increase in reported activity, Anderson notes that attitudes about the acceptability of same-sex activity have also changed. In fact, he and his colleague, Ron Stall, found that between 1996 and 2000, up to 34% of survey respondents said they believed homosexuality was

generally not wrong, while only 24% of people who completed the survey between 1988 and 1994 had similar attitudes toward same-sex activity. As such, society is still far from being completely accepting of Gay men and Lesbians, Anderson notes. Therefore, even the current estimates of how many men have sex with men are likely too low. "Male-to-male sex is still a sensitive, stigmatized behavior and...is likely to be underreported to some unknown degree," Anderson said. "Even though these recent estimates are somewhat higher than other surveys, they probably are still low."

The results from the current study, published in the November issue of Sexually Transmitted Diseases, stem from a series of surveys conducted between 1988 and 2000. Each survey included information collected from 500 to 1,200 adult men about their previous sexual experiences. The surveys asked about same-sex activity over the past year and all during adulthood.

Little Good News On World AIDS Day

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa - Millions around the world marked World AIDS Day on Sunday, December 1, with marches, prayers and speeches alongside evidence that shows the epidemic is grimly outpacing every effort to contain it.

In China, officials instructed one million students to launch a new national AIDS awareness campaign while in Britain, health experts warned of a startling spike in new infections. In South Africa, the country worst hit by the disease, activists held a mass funeral for babies.

"We pay tribute to all the children who have passed away in our care," the Reuters news agency quotes Jackie Schoeman of the Cotlands Baby Sanctuary. The group held a ceremony Sunday in Johannesburg to inter the cremated ashes of some of the littlest victims.

Sunday's World AIDS Day activities highlight how dangerously the disease has spread since it was first detected among Gay men in the United States in 1981.

Estimates released by the United Nations last week indicate that more than 40 million people worldwide are infected with HIV - the vast majority of them in sub-Saharan Africa.

Eastern Europe and Central Asia, with 1.2 million cases, now show the fastest growing epidemics, while officials fear that China and India are AIDS time bombs. AIDS will have killed 3.1 million people by the end of this year, while five million more will have been infected, UNAIDS said in its report.

One million Chinese are thought to be infected with HIV -- a number that the UN estimates could reach 10 million by the end of the decade.

In New York City, where the Gay community suffered the first major U.S. outbreak of AIDS more than 20 years ago, a World AIDS Day rally emphasized the disease's spread to every community.

"It's time to stop the denial, the partying and the pretension: AIDS kills Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and straight people," said Doneley Meris, who helps run mental health and social services for people living with HIV and AIDS.

In San Francisco, where the Gay community was decimated by the disease, AIDS activists gathered to honor victims of the deadly illness with a ceremony at Golden Gate Park's National AIDS Memorial Grove.

Former President Clinton, in an article published Sunday in The New York Times, urged governments to do more to bring treatment to the developing world.

"Given that medicine can turn AIDS from a death sentence into a chronic illness and reduce mother-to-child transmission, our withholding of treatment will appear to future historians as medieval," Clinton wrote, "like bloodletting."

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Gay World In Brief.

Orlando Passes Gay Rights Law

ORLANDO, FL - The city council voted Monday night, December 2, to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

The ordinance, which passed 4-3, adds sexual orientation to the list of characteristics already protected by the city's anti-discrimination law, including race, national origin, religion, gender, disability, age, and marital status. The measure bans discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations.

Businesses with fewer than six employees, landlords with fewer than four units, churches, religious groups, and private clubs are exempt. Businesses found discriminating against Gays, Lesbians, or Bisexuals could be fined \$500 per violation. Eight other Florida cities and counties already extend anti-discrimination protections to Gays and Lesbians.

Elton Calls Madonna's Bond Theme 'The Worst'

LONDON, UK - "It is the worst Bond tune of all time," says Sir Elton John, as quoted in the British Sun tabloid, describing Madonna's single "Die Another Day" from the James Bond film of the same name.

John reportedly insists that movie bosses on the Pierce Brosnan blockbuster would have been better off asking Shirley Bassey or Elton himself to perform the single.

"It hasn't got a tune," John complains in the tabloid interview. "James Bond themes are usually very camp, and this one's different. They should have gone for somebody like Lulu and Shirley Bassey, or maybe I'm in that league. I don't think it's the best Madonna record, and I'm a big fan."

Man Acquitted Of Harassing Gay Couple

MONTREAL, Canada (GFN) - A man was acquitted on charges of criminal harassment against two Gay men who last year made headlines by becoming Quebec's first same-sex couple to be married.

The judge's reasons for acquitting Robert Walker of harassing Roger Thibault and Theo Wouters were not immediately available, according to a report in the Toronto Star.

Walker's trial heard that he lived peacefully beside the couple for 17 years in the suburban community of Pointe-Claire.

The friendly neighbor relationship began to disintegrate in May 2000 after a verbal confrontation over Walker's barking dog spiraled into months of rancor and police complaints.

According to court testimony, the couple said they were nearly run over a couple times by a car, had golf balls fired into their yard and were spat at.

Wouters and Thibault, who lived together for 28 years, become symbols of the Gay-rights movement in Canada because of their marriage.

Television cameras captured their wedding earlier this year. About 4,000 people also held a march in support of the couple's demand to be left in peace.

U.K. Rights Law Drops Word 'Homosexual'

LONDON, UK - Because of complaints about the term "homosexual," new wording has been drafted in British legislation to promote equality in the workplace for Gays and Lesbians, reported 365Gay.com.

Following a number of objections from groups that found the word offensive and outdated, Barbara Roche, the Equalities minister, has decided it should be replaced in forthcoming anti-discrimination legislation.

Draft regulations, which will likely become law by December 2003, instead use the phrase "orientation towards people of the same sex" to define Gays and Lesbians.

The new legislation will make it illegal for the first time for an employer to discriminate against an employee or prospective employee on the basis of sexuality.

Killer Claims Mental Abuse

SYDNEY, Australia - A man who pleaded guilty to murdering his two lovers, disemboweling them and flushing their organs down the toilet told a Sydney court he was "not a violent man," reports the Sydney Morning Herald.

Damien Anthony Peters, 33, said he killed his former roommates Andre Akai, 50, and Bevan Frost, 57, after contracting HIV from Akai, and suffering years of mental and physical torture.

Peters admitted killing Akai between February 19 and March 1 last year after an argument. The defendant said at the time he was on drugs and extremely depressed.

Kate Traill, Peter's attorney, told the court that principles of battered wife syndrome applied in a homosexual relationship when someone had been subjected to years of abuse.

She said Peters should not be given a life sentence because he already had a reduced life span after contracting HIV.

Prosecutor Paul Conlon said that after stabbing Akai with a kitchen knife, Peters dismembered the body and disposed of parts in a large bin at the Housing Department estate. Other parts were flushed down the toilet, while the remainder was packed in a leather suitcase collected by garbage men the next morning.

When asked if he had anything left to say, Peters told Justice James Wood: "I've been to confession, so I can let it rest. I did love the man, and after all of what I went through, to snap - it's not me. I'm not a violent person."

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POLITICS 2002

by Mark R. Kerr

'Democracy and Freedom Are Priceless and a Fading Memory'

For those who think the Homeland Security Act and the Patriot Act are really great, then why are two former conservative Republican Members of Congress, Representative Dick Armey, the former House Majority Leader, of Texas, and Representative Bob Barr, of Georgia, are now working for the American Civil Liberties Union, that liberal organization that fights for the rights and civil liberties of Americans, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender as well?

No matter, the media is whipping itself into a battle frenzy over Iraq. All Iraq, all the time. What about the economy, layoffs, and the fact that Congress didn't extend unemployment benefits?

Who cares, just instead, watch or read G.E.-AOL-TimeWarner-Viacom-Pulitzer-Gannett, drive our suburban urban vomit-mobiles to the store, especially during these times, to put themselves further into debt for ungrateful people while your purchases are going to be tracked and put into a computer file but if and these days, when you can't pay for those goodies, what few rights you have to get out of bankruptcy are gone but fear not, an answer has arrived.

Run for Congress or President, your new key to financial salvation and thanks to the Federal Election Commission, it could happen to you!

The opening to a late-night infomercial starring Dionne Warwick and Erik Estrada aside, the Federal Election Commission, by a vote of 5-1, approved a new rule that permits campaign committees to pay a

salary to a candidate for Congress or President (those who aren't seeking public funds to live in 1600 Pennsylvania - primarily Republicans).

This rule has a provision that restricts such payments to a pro-rata amount totaling the lesser of the candidate's income during the year prior to running, or the salary paid to those holding the office being sought. Members of the U.S. Congress, House and Senate, make \$150,000 a year while the President gets \$400,000 annually.

Who came up with this proposal? Commissioner Michael Toner, an appointee of Dubya, former Chief Counsel to the Republican National Committee and General Counsel of the Dubya-Cheney Coup. Afterwards, he stated that the Commission, in "some small measure to do something to make some of these races more competitive."

What malarkey indeed! Doesn't the McCain-Feingold campaign finance law come into play, since it prohibits campaign funds from being converted to personal use, including the payment for home mortgages, clothing, household food items?

Of course not since democracy and freedom are priceless, and a fading memory but lets watch Larry King, he's having Kitty Kelly on for the umpteenth time this week, and she'll be discussing her new, unauthorized biographies of Saddam Hussein and Osama, and Don Rickles will also be featured! Whoopee!

La Conexión Latina

Salud es Poder

Nunca te confíes de nadie

En el año 1994, la vida me sonreía, buen empleo, juventud, recién ingresado a la carrera, acababa de conocer el ambiente gay (fiestas y bares) y sobre todo lleno de salud y con muchas ilusiones en la vida. Pues bien, esto pasó en octubre por la noche, me tomaba unas cervezas en un bar gay, cuando como en cámara lenta se abrió la puerta y entró un bato moreno, de bigote, con su sombrero, pantalones de mezclilla y botas negras. Nos quedamos viendo por un lapso de segundos, me gustó y después de tomarnos dos cervezas, salimos de ahí y nos fuimos a un hotel. Fue un flechazo a primera vista. Ya en el hotel le pregunte si traía condones a lo que respondió que no. Yo tampoco traía preservativos, por lo tanto le dije que nada mas nos acariciaríamos y así pasó. Por la mañana me pidió ser su pareja a lo cual accedí de inmediato. Él era de otra ciudad y empezamos a vernos cada fin de semana.

En noviembre fuimos a una boda en otro pueblo. Llegamos al hotel, empezamos a tomar cerveza mientras se llegaba la hora de irnos al baile. Empezamos a acariciarnos cuando no supe como pasó, pero cuando menos pensamos ya habíamos tenido nuestra primera relación sin condón. También me percaté de que había habido sangre, pero no le tomé importancia, ya que anteriormente habíamos hablado acerca del SIDA y él me comentó que ya se había hecho la prueba y había salido negativo. Yo también me la acababa de hacer, mi resultado fue negativo. Fue por eso que no sentí ningún temor, nuestra relación siguió viento en popa, en

diciembre, me enfermé de una gripe que me duró 15 días, pero era muy rara, ya que me dio vómito, diarrea, hipersensibilidad en el abdomen y me crecieron los ganglios en el cuello. Fui al doctor y me diagnosticó dengue, pero me sugirió entre otros análisis los del VIH. Yo no hice caso pero en marzo del 95 fui a hacerme la prueba. En abril me dieron el resultado. Salí positivo. Lo primero que pensé fue en que lo había infectado. Cuando llegué a mi casa le llamé para darle la noticia, a lo cual respondió "no importa yo te voy a seguir queriendo igual". Le pedí se hiciera la prueba, y al día siguiente me dijo que ya lo había hecho y que todo estaba bien. Yo le creí pues en ese momento no sabía mucho del VIH.

Seguimos nuestra relación y en septiembre del mismo año, me encontré a un ex de él. Su ex me dijo que mi pareja estaba infectado desde el 93 y que esa había sido la causa de su separación. Sentí que el mundo se me derrumbaba, más que nada por la mala fe de mi pareja. Cuando le reclamé lo negó y se agarró a golpes con su expareja por habérmelo dicho. En abril del 96 empezó con crisis fuertes de la enfermedad. A pesar de todo, a mí me tocó cuidarlo hasta que yo empecé a sentirme cansado. Hablé con él y en diciembre, cuando estaba recuperado, me fui de su vida pues ya no sentía amor por él. Más que por mí, lo hice por mi familia, pues ellos no tenían porque sufrir por mi culpa al verme enfermo. Él murió en el 2001. Yo en este año es la primera crisis seria que he tenido, pero gracias a SAAF y su programa estoy en

CONTINUED ON PAGE EIGHT



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WHAT MAKES OUR TOWN TICK?

(calabazamusic@yahoo.com)

By Jerry D.

DVD: A Fun Rental

Hello readers! I hope everyone had a safe and fun holiday. I got to spend the time with family and friends, and I am thankful for all that they give to me all year long. Sometimes it takes a holiday to remind us of our true blessings, and when that occurs it makes the holiday fully worth the while.

Part of my relaxing weekend involved watching a couple of DVD movies I had rented. I love being on the cutting edge of technology; but as I grow older, I find it is not as important to be the first on my block with any electronic device. I usually leave that to the tech fans and then decide if I am going to follow the flock. A DVD player has been a sound investment, as it will play my music, show me movies, and other visual treats that I am so fond of.

The holiday season of course brings movie releases to DVD in hopes that sales are generated with the blockbusters being sold. The two rentals I viewed this weekend were no exception and were even in the hottest battle this summer for the public's dollar. The warm months, with the little consumers getting out of school, usually bring movies with more action and explosions for your money. The rentals were movies I had seen in the theatre, but still wanted to take the time to enjoy in my own home.

What I am raving about though is not the production itself. In case you are wondering, the movies were "Spider-Man" and "Star Wars, Episode II." The treat of the DVD rental came with the addition of the second disc. Both movies included a second disc which held the true treasure in the DVD realm. The extras included with each feature outdid both movies by a huge margin. I thought that just watching the movie was going to be entertaining, but the extras proved me wrong.

Each release included a "Making Of" feature. In this age of information we are hungry to find out just how certain things are done, created, and produced. The documentary on each movie includes interviews with the stars, production secrets and deleted scenes. The work involved in making these documentaries almost equals the time and effort the actual film needs. The credits at the end of each "Making Of" sequence was as long as the actual movie.

The natural procession would be to watch the movie (usually disc 1 on most sets), then watch the extras to take in what you viewed in the feature. What the extras on a DVD allows is the ability to take in the information, then enjoy the feature with an informed mind. Sometimes watching a movie you know all about is boring, but for the most part it is exciting when you can enjoy the action and not let your mind wander as to how that last scene was created.

Movie producers are looking for more and more ways to generate revenue

from blockbusters costing millions and millions to produce. The average person is not going to pay upwards of 35 dollars for a feature, snacks and parking more than one time per movie. The video release has gotten to be almost a repeat of the experience at the theatre and will leave most audience members wanting more. DVD gives you the luxury of a rental with the extras no other medium could deliver.

I am sure with older movies, the extras might not be as lucrative as with new features. Those of us who are movie buffs already know who was really going to play the Tin Man in "The Wizard Of Oz." There are some gold mines in the lot though, and if you like to curl up with a good movie, then DVD is definitely a new wave to sail us to that wonderland that the motion picture was designed to do. Have a good week!

[Jerry can be reached at calabazamusic@yahoo.com.]

Tucson Marks World AIDS Day

Continued from Page One

"My church didn't want anything to do with me," Figueroa said.

The stigma seems especially strong among people of faith, Blades said. Those are exactly the people who should be the most compassionate, he said.

"There's a great need for more compassion," he said. "And who better to give compassion than the spiritual community?"

"It's a family health issue, not a moral issue," Blades said.

That's the kind of attitude that would provide the education and treatment essential to easing the AIDS epidemic, he said.

"People need to stand up and say openly, 'My brother has AIDS; my friend has AIDS; my boss has AIDS,'" Blades said.

That message will be communicated to all Arizonans in a wide-ranging media campaign that's just been launched by Tucson-area AIDS activists.

The yearlong HIP/AZ campaign, which also will include Spanish-language messages, will get the word out via public service announcements in broadcast and print media. It will include billboards and advertising on Sun Tran buses, said Jay Moman, who helps run an Arizona Department of Health Services AIDS-treatment program in Pima County.

To find out more about the campaign or to find about HIV and AIDS programs in Pima County, call the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, (520) 628-7223, or go to www.hipaz.org.

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A few decades ago, when carjacking had become a major industry in southern Florida, a worldwide news sensation was created when carjackers blew away a German tourist who declined to surrender his rental car.

Americans were scandalized — by the behavior of the tourist. What did he care about losing a rented car? Were Europeans so dumb they didn't realize that you're not supposed to resist carjackers?

But then tourism began to fall off rather drastically and that industry started to scream foul. The tourist people argued that southern Florida's main industry was tourism and that there needed to be a major and very well publicized crackdown on carjacking.

Of course the apologists for the carjackers said, "Wait a darn second. The carjackers need that income. They've come to rely on it. And the carjacking business stimulates the insurance business and, for that matter, the auto manufacturing business. So let's not be too darn hasty about cracking down on carjackers. Let's educate European tourists so they won't do anything stupid and get themselves hurt."

The argument went back and forth on economic grounds, but nobody argued that stealing cars was just simply wrong, that it was wrong even if you needed the money and wrong even if you'd come to

NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

by Lee Thorn

Alternative Business Models

rely on it, wrong all the time in all circumstances, just totally utterly wrong.

That whole long argument from decades past, an argument which the tourism people eventually won, was brought back to mind by the recent Wall Street scandals. Consumer advocates argue that stealing from the consumer will result in a loss of confidence which will have negative long-term effects of the market. Wall Street apologists say that the market has come to depend on stealing, that thousand of jobs would be lost if they had to play fair. Neither side says that stealing is morally wrong.

To take the two most blatant examples, accountants cum consultants and analysts cum investment bankers, nobody denies the existence of the gargantuan conflicts of interest. No one denies that the "retail customer," who in other fraudulent enterprises would be called "the mark," is getting screwed. The apologists say (1) if we can't keep on screwing the marks this way, thousands of good jobs stealing from people will be lost, and (2) people who invest in the market should know that we lie and cheat for god's sake. They have no right to be as dumb as a German tourist driving a

rental car in Florida."

But before we surrender to the apologists and admit that every successful industry, be it carjacking in Florida or scamming on Wall Street, involves an element of theft, let's consider the squeaky clean gambling games of Las Vegas where long long ago somebody decided, quite rightly as it turned out, that they'd make a lot more money if they didn't cheat their customers.

In the myriad of gambling games there are myriad ways to cheat the customers, probably just as many as there are on Wall Street. But instead of having tons of rules specifying all the way that you weren't allowed to cheat the trade, Vegas decided on one rule: You can't cheat the trade in any way.

And instead of establishing commissions and committees to supervise dealers and pit bosses and all the various folks who run all the various games, they made it clear to everyone that cheaters were likely to be found buried in the desert with just one hand holding a playing card visible above the sand.

Vegas, despite all this honesty, is not really hurting. It's true that they've had to diversify and become more family oriented in recent years. but the long ago decision to run honest games was undoubtedly the best one for their long-term bottom line.

And, to be honest about it, Wall Street is going to survive whether it cleans up its act or not. The reason is that there's a sucker born every second.

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

San Jose Adopts Gender Identity Protection

SAN JOSE, CA - Prompted by the recent slaying of Transgendered teen Gwen Araujo in nearby Newark, Calif., the San Jose city council voted unanimously to add Transgendered people to the list of groups protected under the city's anti-discrimination policy, reports The [San Jose] Mercury News.

Councilman Ken Yeager proposed changing San Jose's harassment policy after learning about the beating death of Araujo last month. Araujo was murdered when some men with whom she'd had sexual relations discovered she was biologically male.

Members of the Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee, a Gay and Lesbian political advocacy group that Yeager co-founded in 1984, approached Yeager and Mayor Ron Gonzales about amending the city's anti-discrimination policy to add protections for gender identity. Current classes covered include race, color, ethnicity, national origin, disability, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, and religion.

Bicycle Drive Underway For Kids Xmas Present

TUCSON (ON) - A drive for bicycles, in fixable condition, has been announced by the owners of the Venture-N and the Yard Dog Saloon.

Jim Dondson and Ray Gregg are seeking any size and style bicycles to fix up and given to underprivileged children, December 15, in the Balboa Neighborhood area, where the Yard Dog is located.

People wanting to donate a bicycle should bring them to the Venture-N for refurbishing. More information about this effort in next week's Observer.

La Conexión Latina

Continued from Page Six
franca recuperación, mi consejo es no se confien de nadie al tener relaciones sexuales. Si no hay condón, es mejor no hacerlo aunque sea tu pareja quien te lo pida, ya que se mueren muchas ilusiones y tu vida cambia de manera radical si resultas positivo. En Salud es Poder agradecemos la colaboración para este artículo de nuestro voluntario "el Extraterrestre". ¡Buen trabajo muchacho!

Invitamos a nuestros lectores a colaborar con sus artículos sobre cualquier tema relacionado a la prevención del VIH. Para más información llama al teléfono (520) 628-7223 o salud@saaf.org.



A Home for the Holidays... is it really too much to ask?



Nobody should be without a home during the holidays, and pets are no exception. As families get together to celebrate, many shelter animals are waiting for someone to give them a loving home of their own.

Won't you help? Consider adopting a new furry best friend, give a gift certificate for a Humane Society adoption, or make a donation to ensure that even more of our wonderful homeless animals will have an opportunity to find their own special someone. Use the form below to make your donation, stop by the shelter, or make a secure donation online at our website — www.humane-so-arizona.org

Check our website each day through January 5th to view the day's special pet, sponsored by local businesses and individuals. To find out how you can become a Home 4 the Holidays sponsor, call 321-3704 x 177.

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The Humane Society of Southern Arizona's Adoption Center is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week; closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Have a safe and happy holiday season!

HOROSCOPES

BY C. LICHTENSTEIN

Ho ho ho kids, it's December and time to display your festive ornaments. Have you been naughty or nice? Leave it to Venus and Mars to ask the question and retro Saturn to provide the answer. Here's wishing you a lump or two in your favorite stuffed stocking!

ARIES

MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

You don't need mistletoe for your kisser this December as Venus and Mars spin your social orbit into the Outer limits. Queer Rams are hot to trot and gallop through more sexy liaisons than they can shake a tail at. By the 23rd, the Sun turns your attention away from dalliances and helps you manifest your professional destiny. Are you master of your domain or just a serf?

TAURUS

APRIL 21 - MAY 21

You work hard for what you get this month with retro Saturn. At least partners are around to help you smooth out the rough edges. Whisk your special someone away on a winter adventure after the 23rd when the Sun spurs you to explore new territories. If you are a Gay Bull still on the hoof, find a few jolly elves and inflate your good points. One may just be your personal Santa...

GEMINI

MAY 22 - JUNE 21

Pink Twins feel an energetic surge to work work work as Mars and Venus push your pencil throughout the month. But as you burn the midnight oil on some irrelevant little project remember that even Bob Cratchet had a day off. Take time to smell the yule log. After the 23rd the Sun encourages you to hang your Christmas balls at every party in town. On Comet! On Cupid!

CANCER

JUNE 22 - JULY 23

Holiday party hearty pink Crabs get a lift (or is it a rise?) with Venus and Mars this December. Champagne and romance are in the air! Let the corks pop and breezes blow! But take it all in moderation lest you fog your senses; by the 23rd, the Sun travels into Capricorn and quick flings become commitment rings. See how easily a hot pink Crab becomes a steaming bisque?

LEO

JULY 24 - AUGUST 23

There is nothing like chestnuts roasting on an open fire especially when Mars and Venus warm your homelife this December. Proud Lions are happy in their cages and are roaring to celebrate the holiday with a few good friends. But book them early, pardner; Pals are difficult to pin down with retrograde Saturn. Why not curl up with a particular pal instead of a crowd of them?

VIRGO

AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23

Retro Saturn may throw a few rocks on your professional superhighway but queer Virgos can find a way around the boulders. Venus and Mars give you the gift of glib gab this December and you can charm even the most dangerous snakes. Put career problems aside after the 23rd when the Sun slips a little hot toddy in your eggnog. Early retirement anyone??

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23

Santa delivers the goods to you and sends the bill to someone else. What size package do you expect, Gay Libra? Retro Saturn sez keep the festivities closer to home; vacations are more trouble than they are worth. Plan a party after the Sun ambles into Capricorn on the 23rd and be sure to include a host of wild ho ho hos. Well, maybe just one wilde ho host is enough...

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22

If you feel a surge of popularity, thank Mars for jumpstarting your charisma. Gay Scorps are too hot to handle and melt the snow as they plow through. Before you wade through puddles of "what was" and "what might have been", take a cue from retro Saturn which adds a whip to every helping of whipped cream. Slow and steady not only wins the race, it also wins the racy

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22

Gaze into a crystal ball or two and see your future. Venus and Mars provide a third eye for every queer Archer with vision this December. The Sun provides much needed cash in your pocket after the 23rd. Try not to spend it all in one place; Just like cooking oil, it is more fun to spread it around for the fullest effect. Use your oil to light a few yule logs as you go, go, go.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20

If you go head over heels for some pretty face this December, chalk it up to retro Jupiter and enjoy the rise and the inevitable fall. There will be plenty of compadres around to cushion every bump, thanks to Venus and Mars. Your personal star begins to shine around the 23rd when the Sun injects a bit of oomph into your appearance. Or maybe it is the festive tinsel nipple rings...?

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19

Aqueerians see themselves as corporate moguls this December thanks to Mars and Venus. How much can you pull down? How high is up? But all take and no give makes you one big Christmas ham. Turn your attention to more charitable pursuits after the 23rd when the Sun casts a spotlight on your mercenary tendencies. Giving is as good as it gets, comrade.

PISCES

FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20

Guppies simply cannot swim in the same old rank tank this December. A confluence of planets - Saturn, Jupiter, Mars and Venus - compel you to shed your old skin and dive into new waters. Spend your Christmas break in warmer climes with Sandy Claws or the slopes with Santa Claus. By the 23rd your pals want to get in on the action. Share and share alike, cousin!

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GENDER PRIDE

BY JONI K. MAJISTE

As I said last week, we in the Transgender community need to honor our Gay, Lesbian, and straight allies. We mustn't let a few hostile elements in the Gay community discourage us. We're too few in number, and too stigmatized in the wider society, to succeed on our own. In most cases it's been the very municipalities that already had Gay rights laws on the books where we've been successful in having laws passed to protect us.

Can we count the Democratic Party as one of our "friends"? It depends how the Democrats respond to the identity crisis they've brought upon themselves. They can continue to run wishy-washy "Me-too"

candidates who offer no clear alternative to the Republicans, while never doing a thing for people like us. Or they can cultivate leaders who truly champion the rights of all underprivileged Americans, including us. Unfortunately, if they don't do it I don't know who will. None of the national third parties seem to care about our issues.

As for the GOP, by now the last few moderates have been driven out, isolated, or defeated as the Party continues its rightward march. The word "Gay Republican" sounds as out of date as the phrase "log cabin." And if Republicans are hostile toward Gays, you can be sure there's no place in their narrow-minded cosmology for us at all. Any transpeople who continue to vote Republican are in total denial and have a serious identity crisis ahead of them!

In these counter-revolutionary times, it's a ray of sunlight that laws protecting the rights for Transgendered people have been passed in most of the largest cities in the United States. New York, Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Atlanta, Portland, Seattle, Dallas, Houston, Denver, New Orleans, Louisville, and Minneapolis-St. Paul have all passed anti-discrimination ordinances.

Phoenix, which doesn't even forbid discrimination against Gays, remains virtually the only holdout megapolis stuck in the past. But then, what can we expect from a Republican-controlled city? Unfortunately, with 60% of the state population, as Phoenix goes, so goes Arizona. What to do?

I have to change my E-mail address. The %\$#@* advertisers keep filling my inbox with so much spam I can't find my incoming messages. I've asked Yahoo for help repeatedly, but their suggestions don't help. Can anyone suggest a better provider? I'll try to have a new address shortly. Meanwhile, you can still write me at my business address, desertwordsmith@yahoo.com. See ya, Sweetie!

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A View From The Rock

A Commentary From Cornerstone Fellowship

Well, Thanksgiving has past and Christmas will soon be here. I hope you had a good Thanksgiving Day and did the one thing that day reminds us to do...thank God. After all the only reason the Pilgrims survived that year they first arrived here, was by the grace of God. The time they set aside (a week, not just one day) was to celebrate life, thank the Native Americans for all they had done to help the Pilgrims survive, and to thank God for His provisions, safety, and freedom.

Unfortunately, we all too often act as if Thanksgiving Day is a day of food and football, only. I hope each of you has realized just how blessed you truly are. Last week's sermon at church was about just that...recognizing all the blessings and even miracles that God provides each of us despite our situations.

Most of us have something right now in our lives that is difficult to deal with. If not now, it will certainly come in the future. That's how life is. For some its financial woes, for others it may be illness, and still others, the sadness of death. Whatever your situation today, I have two words of encouragement for you. The first is this: God knows about your suffering. We're told in the Bible that God knows everything and that nothing happens in this world without God allowing it. We also read in the book of Psalms that God counts our tears. He knows

your struggle. He cares. The second comforting thought is: God already has a plan for you in your situation. Many years ago He sent His Son, Jesus, to earth to live and die as a man. But in His death, He paid for all sin. So as you suffer, struggle or deal with anger, there is one thing you need to do. Reach out to Jesus. Ask Him into your life as your Savior, and He will give you all that you need. Now perhaps He may not give you physical healing or an overabundance of finances, but He will give you exactly what you need.

I truly don't know how people get through life who do not know Jesus as their Savior. Jesus is the one who guides me, upholds me, gives me reassurance and is always "there" for me. Without Him I wouldn't really have anything to thank God for. But with Him, well, I have everything to thank Him for.

Just because Thanksgiving Day has passed doesn't mean its too late to start thanking God. Why not start by getting to know Jesus Christ? I can guarantee that you will overflow with thanksgiving, even if your situation doesn't change. It's a God-Thing!

[The views expressed represent those of the writer and not necessarily the management and staff of The Observer.]

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John 3:16

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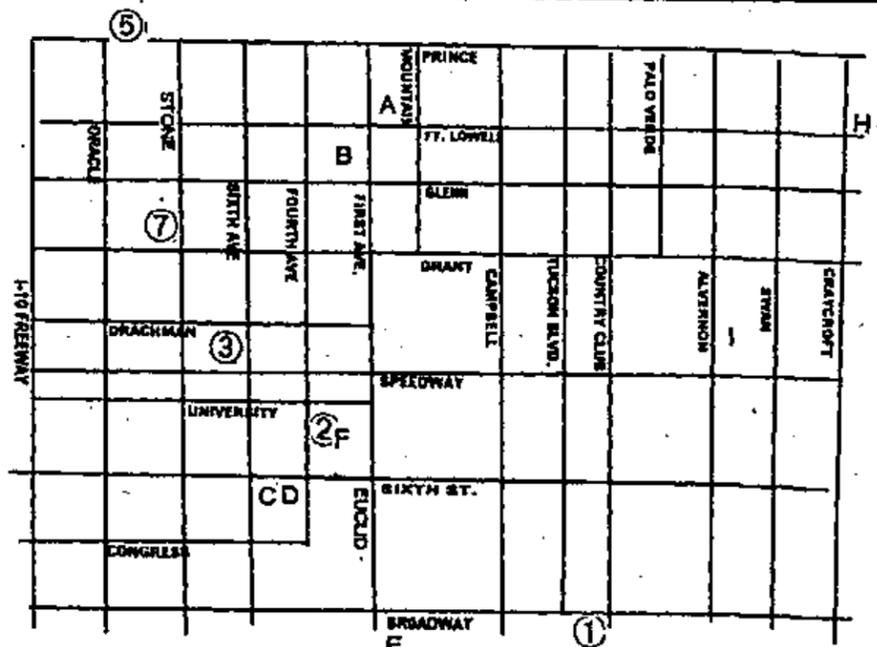
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My So-Called Life

There are the ones that ask why, and the ones that say why not, and then there are those that never take time to ask or even think to ask why does this disease called HIV exist and where did it come from. I just kept thinking thank God that my friends and me weren't bookstore junkies. We lead what I thought was "normal lives" and that's what kept us safe. In the next few years there were numerous funerals and wakes to attend and countless tears for lost friends cut down in their prime. I entered Keith's room and it had the typical pungent smell of rubbing alcohol and sterilized plastic whatever's (bedpans, urinals, etc.) lying around. A smell I now knew all too well. After awhile my old friend said to me, "I want to die, please help me to die and get this over with!" This was just one of many struggles Keith was having with AIDS, and he was tired and exhausted from the fight and had lost all hope. The doctor started the morphine drip a little stronger and a little faster. As time progressed and his lungs filled with fluids; I closed the door, lay beside him and just kept saying the words...Just...Let...Go! Just...Let...Go!

Just...Let...Go! We had made this agreement as friends years ago in the event that something like this would take place. We talked about our friendship and how we were proud to have had the treasure of a true friend. We lay there in each other's arms, while I repeated Just...Let...Go! Much to my surprise when he took his last breath and surrendered unto peace and long awaited tranquility, I shed not one tear because I knew he would no longer be in pain. Since that day I have never attended another funeral or wake...nor did I make a token appearance at Keith's.

Sometimes there is just too much reality that goes on (one can only see the same Box Office Smash so many times before one becomes numb to its message and/or meaning).

This was not how it was supposed to be. What the hell is going on and why is it happening to so many people? Am I the only one in pain because of all these people dying? I look around and see so many people sweeping it under the rug pretending it doesn't exist. Who the hell do I blame?

To be continued...

Send your questions to Dr. X at gmhp@saaf.org or mail them to SAAF/GMHP, 375 S. Euclid, Tucson, AZ 85719. You can also check out Dr. X online at www.gmhp.org.



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Grand Canyon Chorale Concerts Dec. 13-15

PHOENIX - Come celebrate the season with the Grand Canyon Men's Chorale (GCMC) at their annual holiday concert production, "That's Holiday Entertainment!", 7:30 p.m. December 13, two shows, 1:00 and 7:00 p.m., December 14, in the John Paul Theatre at Phoenix College, 1202 W. Thomas Rd., and "Holiday Traditions", 4:00 p.m. December 15, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 4027 E. Lincoln Dr., Paradise Valley.

In addition to a selection of traditional holiday favorites, this production features a Broadway-style segment, based loosely on "A Christmas Carol". The main character is "Bill" - a man who is too busy for the holidays. He encounters a mysterious "Holiday Spirit" who reveals the "spirit in the hearts of Holidays past, present & future." A special feature of the performances at Phoenix College will be a "visual interpretation" of The Twelve Days of Christmas.

The Grand Canyon Men's Chorale - more than 45 voices strong - sings a wide range of holiday music that will entertain, delight and inspire you. Conducted by Artistic Director, Marc Gaston, the GCMC proudly begins its 13th season. Tickets for the performances at the John Paul Theatre are \$15. Tickets for the performance at the Unitarian Church are \$10. Tickets may be purchased from any chorale member, at Root Seller Gallery, 1605 N. 7th Avenue, Phoenix, or by calling the Chorus Info Line at (602) 717-GCMC. Seating will be limited.

Amsterdam Loses Luster
Continued from page One

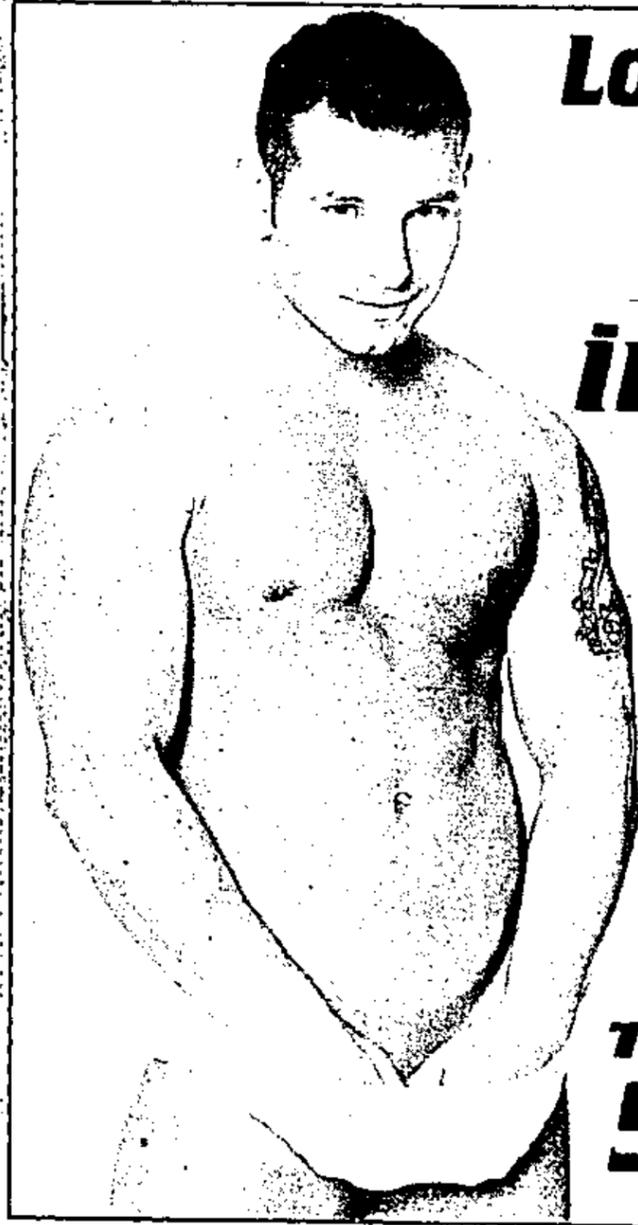
up" and focus on attracting Gay tourists. The Amsterdam tourist board concentrates too much on luring ageing rich Americans with images of tulips and windmills, according to De Haan.

"They should try to present more of the sex, drugs and rock and roll image to attract a younger crowd," he said. "More young people would mean more Gays."

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NON-BAR CALENDAR

GROUPS / CLUBS / ORGANIZATIONS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. The Canasta Club meets to play this fun card game. If you don't know how to play, we'll teach you. For directions and reservations, please call Bill at 297-3569.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

A Men's Fellowship Group starts at 7:00 p.m. at the Water of Life MCC. All men are invited to come and your expand your relationship with God. You need not be a church member to participate. For more information call (520) 292-9151

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Les and Jerry for the MSN premiere of "For A Lost Soldier", a coming of age story of a young boy during World War II. For reservations and directions, please call Jerry or Les at 690-9565.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

A Chanukah Extravaganza for Lesbian, Gay Bisexual and Transgender Jews and friends. Latkes, Dreidel and other Chanukah revelry. 8:00 p.m. Bring a gift for whole elephant (something you already have, or spend \$10 or less). Call Meredith at 388-5531 for RSVP and location.

1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 9:00 a.m. Join 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 Jack at 881-5733.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Bill will host Pinochle Night. If you don't know how to play, but would like to learn, this is the place. For more information, please call Bill at 297-3569.

Native American Two-Spirit sweat lodge ceremony for men (including transmen). 3:00 p.m. Kulstan@hotmail.com or EagleBearBoyd@aol.com.

Namoli Bennet performance at the Epic Cafe, 4th Ave. at University, 8:00 p.m.

Tucson Prime Timers Food and Drinks at Woody's 5:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

Tucson Prime Timers Brunch 10:30 a.m. at Casa Molina Restaurant, 3001 N. Campbell Ave. Buffet cost \$6.95.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

Tucson Prime Timers Lunch at 1:00 p.m. at the Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave. (South of Grant).

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.

Desert Girtz support group for transwomen and crossdressers. 7 PM, Wingspan

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Chris 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 Chris at 304-5814.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Perry hosts Bridge Night. If you're a beginner or an old pro, this is the place to meet for an evening of bridge for fun. For reservations and directions, please call Perry at 321-4387.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. The Canasta Club meets to play this fun card game. If you don't know how to play, we'll teach you. For directions and reservations, please call Bill at 297-3569.

Tucson Prime Timers Video Night, 7:00 p.m. Non-pornographic movies with Gay themes are show. Phone 740-0620.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

A Men's Fellowship Group starts at 7:00 p.m. at the Water of Life MCC. All men are invited to come and your expand your relationship with God. You need not be a church member to participate. For more information call (520) 292-9151

The Men's Relationship Group meets and will include a video on Tantra. A great way to meet new men and make friends and have some clean fun. Fee. Call Marc at 881-4582.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

December's Footloose Friday Dance starts at 8:00p.m. tonight. Water of Life MCC invites you all to bring your dancing shoes and kick up your heels at this chemical and alcohol free event. All are welcome to join the fun. For more information, call (520)292-9151.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:30 a.m. Join 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 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 great old friends. For directions, please call Jerry at 690-9565.

Tucson Prime Timers 5:00 p.m. food and drinks at Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle (North of Prince).

Bar Calendar

Of Upcoming Events

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

IBT'S 9:00 p.m. DivaLicious Show hosted by Lucinda Holiday and starring Janea Starr, Faith Michaels and Stella Virgin.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

IBT'S - Something new - "Buff and Bare Thursdays" 9:00 p.m. til closing. \$2.00 well or domestic Beer all night for Bare Chests.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

IBT'S - Party line-up includes Sean's Recovery Bar from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. \$1.75 Bloody Marys, Screwdrivers or Mimosa. Karaoke Party with Michael D. on the patio from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., Benefa Bar-B-Que / Beer Bust from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. This weeks proceeds go to Reveille Gay Men's Chorus. 7:30 p.m. It's 'Sissy Bingo' hosted by Lucinda Holiday and Aja Simone with prizes and surprises. 9:00 p.m. it's a special Benefit Show for Lucinda's Adopted Needy Christmas Family. Show stars Lucinda, Bunny FuFu, Aja Simone, Diana Fleire and Tabatha Lovell.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

VENTURE-N - IT'S THE Venture'S 11th Anniversary Party with lots of food, fun and men. If you have any photos of past Venture-N events bring 'em on by. The drawing for that beautiful crystal Dragon will take place tonight with all proceeds going to Pet Watch.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

IBT'S - 8:00 p.m. the Diva Licious Show hosted by Lucinda Holiday and starring Aja Simone, Bunny FuFu, Lady Ashley and Samantha White.

FRI-SAT-SUN, DECEMBER 13-14-15

IBT'S - Gay headquarters for the 4th Ave. Winter Street Fair. Shows 3:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday afternoon with a \$2 cover charge. Wait for the 9:30 p.m. show when there is no cover. The show stars Lucinda Holiday, Chantelle Douglas, Teri Aki, Janea Starr, Lady Ashley, Faith Michaels, Miss Gay America Dominique Sanchez, Aja Simone, Phaedra and Bunny FuFu.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

IBT'S - Special CD release party for Susan Artemis' new CD. 6:00 to 9:00 pm.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

YARD DOG - Come celebrate a Yard Dog Xmas with the 'Revellettes'. 8:30 p.m.

Arts & Entertainment

NOW SHOWING THRU DECEMBER 8

Internationally renowned photographer Lauren Greenfield shows the pressures of growing up female in the United States with her "Girl Culture" on view at the Center for Creative Photography, on the University of Arizona Campus, 1030 N. Olive road in the Fine Arts Complex (SE corner of Park Ave. and Speedway). Gallery is open Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Weekends 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information call 621-7968.

Also at the Center for Creative Photography are the works of a central figure in American photography, Lee Friedlander who explores the 1960s cultural imagery - hauntingly portrayed on TV screens.

NOW PLAYING THRU DECEMBER 8

The invisible Theater is playing the hilarious family comedy, 'Over The River and Through The Woods' at their theatre at 1400 N. First Ave. (at Drachman). Tickets \$20, \$22. For more info call 882-9721

NOW PLAYING THRU DECEMBER 16

Live Theatre Workshop presents "The Miss Firecracker Contest" by Pulitzer Prize winner Beth Henley. Directed by Jeremy Thompson this comedy takes place in the small town of Brookhaven, Mississippi, just days before the big Fourth of July celebration. Camelle (locally known as 'Miss Hot Tamale' anxiously prepares for the Miss Firecracker Contest. Being crowned Miss Firecracker, she believes, will redeem her from her tarnished reputation and give her the courage to leave town in a blaze of crimson glory. Showtimes are Thursday, Friday and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinee at 3:00 p.m. and early evening show at 7:00 p.m. Call 327-4242 to confirm dates and ticket information. Tickets range from \$12 - \$14. 5317 E, Speedway.

NOW PLAYING THRU DECEMBER 15

ATC - Arizona Theatre Company presents "The Fantastics", the world's longest-running musical. Music by Harvey Schmidt. Book and lyrics by Tom Jones. Show features songs like "Try To Remember" and "Soon It's Gonna Rain". Temple of Music and Art. Tickets \$31 - \$44. 622-2823.

NOW PLAYING THRU DECEMBER 8

The grand spectacle returns! Neil Goldberg's "Cirque". UA Presents contortionists, acrobats and gymnasts tantalizing the imagination in a show that thrills the entire family. The contortionists, the acrobats and the gymnasts scrape the ceiling, fly above the audience and twist their bodies with mind-altering madness as the incandescent sets and costumes tantalize the imagination in grand circus fashion. "Neil Goldberg's Cirque...is a spine-bending, eye-popping mixture of eerie music, surreal sets and amazing acrobatics. The show is a feast of commedia dell'arte, European-style circus and Las Vegas flash" raved the Arizona Daily Star. One week only at Centennial Hall. 621-3341.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

Desert Diamond Casino presents in it's Big Band Series, the Cab Calloway Orchestra with Calloway Brooks. Tickets \$5, \$10 and \$15. Call 393-2789.

Daily Bar Calendar

Sunday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Open 2pm. Beer Bust 5-10. \$1.25 pitchers Bud or Bud Light. Latin Music with DJ Hill 9pm to close. Drink & Shot specials all night.

IBT's - 10am-6pm \$1.75 Bloodys, Screws or Mimosas. Sangria Party \$2.50 from 4-1 Benefa B-B-Q and Beer Bust for community organizations 5:30-6pm. Karaoke with Michael D. on the patio 4:30-7:30. 8:30 shows or special events or HI energy dancing w/DJ Dr. Who. (Call for details). All drink specials not available during special events.

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

WOODY'S - Open 11am. \$1.50 Bloody Marys, screwdrivers, Mimosas; Happy Hour 11am-8pm \$2 well or domestic beer. Pabo Bar open 5-close. Pick-up Volleyball games 5-7. \$2.50 sirloin burger or chicken 5-9pm. Karaoke with Michael D. 9pm.

YARD DOG - Open Sundays 10am - 1am. Bloody Marys or Screwdrivers \$1.75 from 10am - 1pm. 50¢ off any Rum 1pm-7pm. Dinner and live Jazz 5-8pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Monday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Open 2pm. Happy Hour Two-For-One domestics and well 2-7pm. Free pool 8-10pm. 50¢ cups draft Bud & Bud Light 8pm to close.

IBT's - Open 11am. Happy Hours 11am-8pm. \$2 domestic beer and well. 4-9pm. Undie Mondie- Happy Hour prices for those in their undies 9pm-close. Queer As Folk shown beginning at 8pm. Hot Dancing follows. All drink specials not available during special events.

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio 5pm. Daily specials til 7pm.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic beer til 8pm. Karaoke w/Michael D. 9pm to close.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. 50¢ off any Scotch until 7pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Tuesday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Open 2pm. Happy Hour Two-For-One domestic beer & well 2-7pm. Pool tourney 7:30pm. \$3 entry. bar matches pot. Country music 9pm to close. \$2 bottled Bud products 8pm to close.

IBT's - Open 11am. Happy Hours 11am-8pm. \$2 domestic beer and well. 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 Dances 9pm to close W/DJ-Q.

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio 5pm. Daily specials til 7pm.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic til 8pm. Tropical drink specials 8 to close. \$3 zombies, Jungle Juice, Mai Tai's.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. 50¢ off any Tequila until 7pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Wednesday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Open 2pm. Happy Hour 2-4-1 domestic beer and well from 2-7pm. 90's retro music 9pm - close. \$1.25 pitchers of Bud/Bud Light or \$1 Tequila shots 8pm to close.

IBT's - Open 11am. Happy Hours 11am-8pm. \$2 domestic beer and well. 9pm "Diva-Licious" show w/Lucinda Holiday and guests. HINRG Dancing with DJ-Q. All drink specials not available during special events.

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio 5pm. Daily specials til 7pm.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic beer til 8pm. Volleyball games start 7pm. Underwear- fetish-leather nite with Michael \$1 off your favorite drink. Chili dogs or bowls \$1.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. 50¢ off any Vodka until 7pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Thursday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Open 2pm. Happy Hour 2-7pm with 2-4-1 domestic beer and well. Karaoke 9-close, with \$2 Karnazzes and \$1 Hot Sex.

IBT's - Open 11am. Happy Hours 11am-8pm. \$2 domestic beer and well. 4-9. Retro 80's Dance w/Jonathan HI NRG dancing 9-11. All drink specials not available during special events.

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio open 5pm. Daily special til 7pm. Pool Tournament 7pm. 3 entry. (Special prices for players).

WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic beer til 8pm. Trivia Thursday 8pm-close plus 50¢ off all Big Ass drinks. Top scores on NTH game wins special prizes. Free Pool 8 to close. Volleyball Court is Open. See bartender.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. 50¢ off any Bourbon til 7pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Friday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Open 2pm. Happy Hour 2-7pm with 2-4-1 domestic beer and well. Music with DJ Hill 9pm - close. Shot and drink specials all night. No cover.

IBT's - Open 11am. Happy Hours 11am-8pm. \$2 domestic beer and well. Live Jazz on the patio with the Susan 8-9pm. Pabo Bar 5-11pm. Dance Party 9 to 1. All drink specials not available during special events.

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio open 5pm. Daily special til 7pm. Happy Hour Buffet 5-7pm.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic beer til 8pm. Martini Party - Well Martini's \$2.00 all day. Call Martin's \$3 from 4pm to close. Volleyball Court is Open. Patio Bar Open 7pm - midnight.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. 50¢ off any Gin until 7pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Saturday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Open at 2pm. Pool Tournament 8:30pm \$3 entry. Bar matches pot. \$2 pitchers for pool players. DJ Hill 9pm-close. Drink & Shot Specials all night.

IBT's - 10am-8pm \$2 domestic beer and well. Dance Party 9-1 w/DJ-Q. All drink specials not available during special events.

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio Bar open at 3pm. Daily special til 7pm. Patio Beer Bust 3-7pm.

WOODY'S - Open 11am \$2 well or domestic beer. Til 8pm. Happy Hour 4-9pm. \$1.75 well or domestics. Patio Bar opens 5pm. 5-9pm Filet Mignon or Swordfish BBQ with all the trimmings \$5.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. Beer Bust 3-7pm. 75¢ glass. \$2.25 pitcher. 50¢ off any Rum 1pm to 7pm. Kennel open 5pm.



STEVE BARRETO
LOAN OFFICER

7400 N. Oracle Rd.
Suite 115
Tucson, Arizona 85704
(520) 544-3999
Fax (520) 544-8004
Cell 548-2381

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 Care Teams to support HIV+ persons, a referral network of HIV-sensitive clergy, and interfaith services of healing and hope. For more information call 299-6647.

LESBIAN/GAY/BI-SEXUAL OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS. Saturdays 1 to 2pm new location Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. Contacts 325-8876 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, 1438 N. Campbell across from University Hospital. For more info. Call Anabell at 325-0892

SMART (Self Management And Recovery Training) is a free non-12-step self-help alternative for people working to overcome addictive and other emotional problems meets in Tucson Monday thru Thursdays at different locations. For more information about SMART, contact Jennifer at 792-4607, Ext.398

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

OUTLOUD! Tucson's premiere Local Lesbian and Gay Radio Show, broadcast every Wednesday at 8:03 pm on 91.3 FM, Community Radio KXCL. The show "This Way Out", a nationally syndicated Lesbian and Gay radio show is aired at 5:30 pm every Wednesday.

THEATER / DINNER / ETC! Non-Smoking Lesbian Theater meets every 3rd Saturday night of each month. If you'd like to meet women 35+ (flexible) and socialize in a smoke-free environment 888-2010 before 10:00 p.m. The group dines out and attends shows or movies. Now in their 16th year! (2nd in Tucson).

SOUTHERN ARIZONA GENDER ALLIANCE (SAGA). Meetings on the 1st Monday, 7pm. Dazert Girlz (MTF) Meets 2nd Monday at 7pm. Desert Boyz meets 3rd Tuesday at 7pm. All meetings take place at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. Call 824-1779 for more info. SAGAEmail@aol.com http://members.aol.com/sagae-mail

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 802-278-4805.

DESERT DOMINION TUCSON'S 100% CONSENSUAL, Pan-Fetish, Pan-Sexual, Informational, Educational, Safe Space for the B&D, S&M, D&S and TV community. For more info call (520)792-8424 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)745-8059 (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. Fiedler in attendance every meeting and willing to speak one on one. Reaching out to Parents and Families. For more info call Doc or Barbara 293-8824.

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

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

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

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

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

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 forming. Looking for women and men to ride together on the trails of Southern Arizona. Must have own horse, truck and trailer. For more info write: 'Out On The Trails' P.O. Box 44045, Tucson, AZ 85733-4045

PASSAGES MENTALK - Discussion group and more. For men in their 30s, 40s and late 20s. A great way to meet people. Meeting 3rd Tuesday of each month at Wingspan 7-9pm. Call 760-8714 for more information.

SUPPORT GROUP FOR RECOVERING ADDICTS AND ALCOHOLICS. Group meets every Saturday 7-8pm in Cornerstone Fellowship hall, 2902 N. Geronimo. 622-4829 or 750-8404.

SOUTHERN ARIZONA STONEWALL DEMOCRATS meet 3rd Monday of each month 7pm at 4639 E. First Street. Call Jesse 743-4320 or Maurice 323-2293. All LGBT Democrats and supporters welcome. TucsonStonewall@aol.com

GUYS BOOK CLUB meets 4th Tuesday of each month at 7pm, Rainbow Planet Coffee House, 608 N. 4th Ave.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE CLINIC provided daily by the Pima County Health Department. Gay friendly. Confidential. Treatment and Medication too! Any questions? Call 824-8272

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. 626-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 Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 8pm. Alternates Saturdays the group meets for social activities. For info call Dorian Easty. 882-7723 Facilitator.

P.F.L.A.G. - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays - is a support group available to anyone who has a son, daughter or friend who is Gay. Call 575-8660 or write P.O. Box 36284, Tucson, AZ 85740-8284. All replies confidential.

TUCSON GLBT AL-ANON GROUP meets Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th Street. Call 824-1779 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, 824-1779.

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 890-4813, leave name and phone number.

TUCSON GAY INFORMATION AND REFERRAL. For information on human service organizations, health and mental health services, financial and government assistance, emergency services such as food and shelter, education, etc. Call information and Referral 881-1784 - 8 am - 5 pm Mon. - Fri.

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

GAY OR BI-SEXUAL MEN in relationships with women. Need friends you can talk to? Weekly support group meets Wednesdays 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Licensed psychologist facilitator. Call 745-8977 in Tucson for more information. Strictly confidential.

WINGSPAN - Tucson's Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Community Center, 300 E. 6th St., offers support groups / info line / social events / library / meeting space. Volunteer Opportunities. Board meetings every 2nd Thursday (open to all), 8:00 p.m. Information 624-1779.

RAINBOW SUPPORT GROUP: LGBT and supportive friends meet for open discussions in a loving, supportive atmosphere. Support meetings are the 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:00 pm at St. Francis in the Footfalls Church, Swan and River Road, Room 42. The 3rd Thursdays of the month, the group will meet at 7:30pm at Rainbow Planet Coffeehouse (608 North 4th Ave.) as a social outing. For more information call the church at 299-9063 and ask for a contact person.

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

GREATER PHOENIX GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (GPGLCC) P.O. BOX 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2097. E-mail: webmaster@gpglcc.org or call (602)225-8444.

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

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

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

NOTICES

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO - a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, Call the Bears Hotline (520)790-5775 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 or visit our website at www.botop.com All are welcome to our general meetings/potlucks on the 2nd Friday of every month, 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. Now Southern Arizona Region now in Tucson. Call the Hotline at 888-5541

LESBIAN AND GAY AL-ANON - Affected by someone's drinking? Meeting every Tuesday 6:45 to 9:45 p.m. at Lambda Center, 2940 E. Thomas, Phoenix. Elise 581-8850 or Rann 968-2384.

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

CRONIES SOCIAL GROUP. A Social group for Gay men who enjoy the fellowship of their peers. Call Leo at 824-6768.

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

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

COME EXPLORE YOUR SPIRITUALITY! St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church offers a variety of Gay and Lesbian groups and services for the spiritually minded. Come meet the Family! For more information call Debbie 579-9627 or David 323-7943.

LESBIAN/GAY WRITERS Workshop at 7:00 p.m. third Wednesday of every month. Read and critique current projects. Network and support. For info call 325-4737.

DESERT VOICES, Tucson's Gay & Lesbian Chorus rehearses Monday evenings from 8:30 to 9:30pm at Armory Park Senior Center, 220 S. 6th Ave. Call 791-9962.

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

AA Meeting with HIV/AIDS focus, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., MCC Church, 3269 N. Mountain. All alcoholics welcome.

MEN'S SOCIAL NETWORK: Social organization for men of all ages. Building an extended Gay family in Tucson. Monthly social potluck gatherings the first Saturday of each month and almost weekly social activities. Call Jerry at 690-9565 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 299-6647.

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

ARE YOU GAY OR BISEXUAL AND UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE? The Gay Young Men's Project is now looking for volunteers for the project. We need people who want to help create a positive social change for young Gay men as well as reduce the risk for HIV infection. For more information please call 626-7223.

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

COMMUNITY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (CBA), Tucson's Gay and Lesbian business networking group holds regular meetings the third Thursday of every month. Call 615-8436 for more info.

TUCSON PRIDE, INC. (Formerly Tucson Lesbian and Gay Alliance - TLGA) meets on the second Tuesday at 845 S. Graycroft Road at 7pm. Tucson Pride produces Pride events: Pride Week, Gay West and OUToberFEST. Inquiries about support groups and individual needs should be directed to Wingspan and other local agencies listed here. For more information call: 622-3200 or visit the TPI website at www.tucsonpride.com

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

TUCSON GREATER SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION. Interested? Call Kelly Quinn, (520)742-7895 or go to our web site http://www.tgsasoftball.org

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.

PERSONALS

ANYONE who can contact Joe Cox, please have him call Marc ASAP at 881-4582. It is important. 960

The **MAN TO MAN** social/erotic education CLUB is the terrific men's group that offers passionate friendships & fun activities. Marc 881-4582. 960

HOUSING/FOR RENT

FOR SALE. Nice one bedroom mobile home, 10x50. Lots of nice built-ins. All appliances, swimming, shed, excellent condition. Many upgrades. \$4900 obo. 403-2295 459

HISTORICAL 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH plus finished basement home. Hardwood floors. Fully restored with contemporary kitchen. Four blocks from UofA, Main Gate. West University neighborhood. Bob, 490-8137. 959

MIDTOWN 1 BEDROOM COTTAGE. Covered front and back porches. Fenced back yard. Pool. Small complex. \$425/mo. + Elec. & gas. 325-1934. 959

FOR RENT, GAY-OWNED. Large 2br/1ba. W/D, pool, private fenced yard. Covered patio, storage shed. Country Club/Giann area. \$585/mo. 240-2295 or 320-1952. 960

ONE BEDROOM DUPLEX. Speedway and Swan area. \$485.00. Water and Laundry included. Ramada and fenced backyard. No pets. No smoking. Call 327-3135 959

ROOMMATES

LARGE GAY/MALE HOUSEHOLD TO SHARE. Central - Grand/Avramon area. HUGE studios from \$345. Must see! ALL utilities included. FREE use of laundry, cable, pool, dishwasher. PRVATE patios. 327-3135. No pets, no smokers, please. FLEXIBLE lease terms 960

SERVICES

COMPUTERS EXTRAORDINAIRE. Your old system giving you trouble? Upgrade it for a reasonable price, or allow us to tailor make a system just for you. For home or business, we come to you with friendly, quality installation, instruction and service. Call Carl today @ 977-2572 and get a free quote. 961

FULL BODY SWEDISH MASSAGE FOR MEN. Best rates in Tucson! Try the rest. Compare the value! 7 days. \$30/hour. 327-3135. 965

HI-TEC PARALEGAL SERVICE: Bankruptcy \$155 • Divorce \$155 • Wills \$75 • Living Trusts \$399 • House Calls. (520)304-9798. Pager: 218-0218

FOUR HAND BLISS. The ultimate massage experience! Two athletic massage buddies who have been working on each other for years, have decided to team up to take care of you! Both trained and certified with years of massage experience. Let us pamper, touch and nurture you. Available 7 days with 24 hour notice, please. Email - Fourhandbliss@aol.com 961

RELAXING THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE. Experience the mind-body connection. Full hour \$40. Call Dale 546-5803. 957

28-YEAR-OLD ATHLETE provides a heavenly, unique mixture of Swedish deep tissue and tantric massage. Out Calls only. John 272-2263 963

END BACK PAIN. The back solution, massage and bodywork. 15 years experience. Tension Erasure - Stress Reduction - Relax for Health. Abe 294-4810 974

LET ME PAMPER YOU! With a Full Body Swedish Massage in a quiet, relaxed atmosphere. \$35 for a full hour. Ralph (520) 683-7498 975

ENJOY A NICE TOUCH. Attractive man offers a sensuous, relaxing massage. 10am - 6pm. 745-0231. 956

FULL BODY ORIENTAL MASSAGE. Experience the difference. By Appointment only. 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Call Danny Chong (520)270-8288 951.

TENSE? STRESSED OUT? Relax for an hour with a full body rub by Frank. Private studio, off-street parking. (520)271-3680 days, evenings. 956.

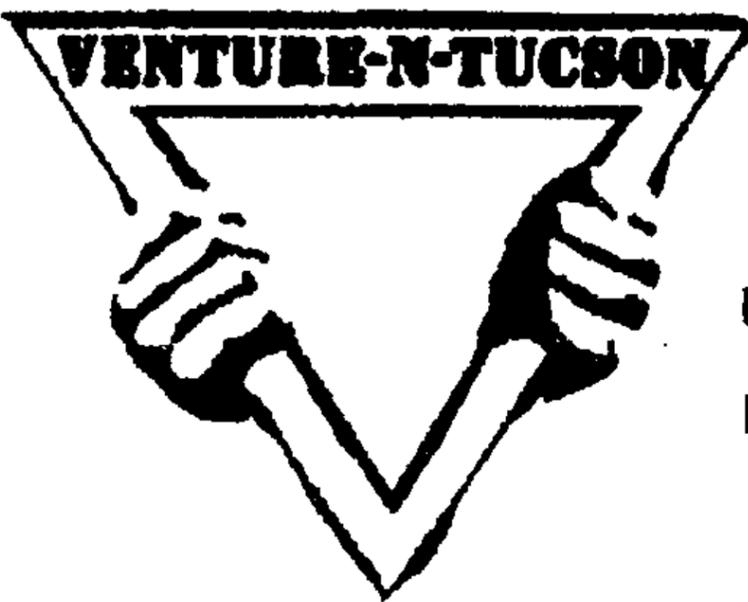
EXPERIENCE YOURSELF INSIDE OUT WITH EXPERT HOLISTIC TANTRIC MASSAGE tune-up. A good choice. 20 years experience. Quality - not cheap prices. Gift Certificates/House calls. Marc - 881-4582. Licensed. 958

A MAN'S FULL BODY MASSAGE: Relax with an unruffled session of skilled bodywork. Peaceful, private studio. Call Rick, (520)299-1792. 960

A SPECIAL TOUCH. Full body massage with complete relaxation. Young and professional. In/out calls. 7 days. New Location Call Joe, CMT, (520) 293-1776 958

HEAVEN SENT ME. Experience a massage steeped in rich tradition combining ancient, sacred and intimate healing techniques. Strong, yet gentle hands work with your complete comfort in mind. In & Out, Days & Evenings, sometimes at a moment's notice. Call Glen, CMT (520)907-2551 for the touch you so richly deserve. Experienced, professional, and kind... not bed looking either! 971

ALTERATIONS AND REPAIRS. Let me keep your clothes fitting properly and in good repair. Experienced - Economical - Prompt. Merle Hudson, (520)868-7264 in Tucson. 960



**TUCSON'S
ONLY
MEN'S
BAR**

**th
11 ANNIVERSARY PARTY
MONDAY, DECEMBER 9
FOOD, FUN, & MEN
DRINK SPECIALS**



CRYSTAL DRAGON DRAWING
Proceeds to PET WATCH



This week, bring in your photos of past Venture-N events.

VENTURE - N

1239 N 6th Ave. TUCSON, AZ 85705 (520) 882-8224