

EDITORIAL

Say No To The Tucson Ashcroftian Proposal

Wingspan held a community rally outside their main office, 300 East Sixth Street, to galvanize support after they had been vandalized for the second time in 2002.

A memorial for Richard Heakin, the openly Gay young man from Nebraska who was brutally murdered outside a Gay bar on First Avenue, was held in 2002, on the twenty-sixth anniversary of his death at the site of the bar.

A march and rally, organized by several Tucson GLBT groups was held in 2001, to show support for the young University of Arizona student who was stabbed outside the Rainbow Planet Coffeehouse.

The Lesbian Avengers have held a GLBT Pride Parade in Tucson, down Fourth Avenue, for the past three years, starting in 2000.

A memorial on the University of Arizona Mall, for the slain, openly Gay University of Wyoming student, Matthew Shepard, was held in 1998.

Since 1978, Tucson has marked the anniversary of the Stonewall Riots and the birth of the modern GLBT rights movement with Pride Picnics and OUToberFEST.

All these have been held without incident but this could change with a proposal before Tucson's Mayor and Council, which would have Tucson's police having to give approval or disapproval for parades and assemblies that spill onto a roadway or block access to city property.

This Ashcroftian proposal was drafted in lieu of the 2001 post-NCAA basketball tournament riot that took place on Fourth Avenue, when a bunch of drunken fans ran amuck due to Tucson's police not keeping the reveler's in check and admittedly letting things get out of hand.

Some aspects of this attack on your

constitutional rights would require:

Permits should be requested at least 48 hours in advance, although the police chief could waive this requirement.

Grounds for denial are based on public safety, whether the event is too large for police to handle or one that might interfere with emergency vehicles and supposedly not for content.

Activities in city streets would be prohibited during weekday morning and afternoon rush hours.

No permit would be required for a procession, parade or assembly that takes place entirely on the sidewalk, as long as it "stands or travels in an orderly fashion," allows "passage of other pedestrians on the sidewalk" and crosses at crosswalks.

This proposal, which the Mayor and Council will consider Monday, March 17, would give the police chief too much power to shut down events and would solely depend upon the good will of the head of Tucson's law enforcement agency, who have been cooperative in the past but the question arises will that always be case, especially for GLBT Tucsonans?

Tucson Councilmember Steve Leal, in an interview, summed it best up when he said that this proposal would make the city appear to be clamping down on free-speech rights in response to increasing public demonstrations and that it this proposal "would be open to abuse," especially since the Tucson Police have a plan already to deal with potential revelers on Fourth Avenue in place for this year's basketball tournament.

GLBT Tucsonans must get on the phone and call the Tucson Mayor and Council comment line, (520) 791-4700, and urge them to vote down this proposed erosion to their civil rights.

Anti-Gay Bill Dies In Iowa

DES MOINES, IA - Legislative leaders said that a bill that would prohibit same-sex couples from adopting children won't make it to the state senate this session. The bill would have prohibited the Iowa Department of Human Services from allowing an openly Gay couple to adopt a child or serve as foster parents.

The bill has created a firestorm of protest, said Sen. Joe Bolcom, an Iowa City Democrat. "I'm still getting E-mail today," he said. The bill was considered by

the senate human resources committee on February 23 but did not come to a vote after a large group of Gay rights supporters showed up to hear the debate. "I don't think it ever had support in this chamber," Bolcom said. "It's just an exercise, I think, in terrorizing families in this state with what is a crazy idea."

Senate majority leader Stewart Iverson confirmed Thursday that the bill will not be reintroduced.

Minnesota Representative Questions Holocaust History

ST. PAUL, MN - Religious leaders and Minnesota Democratic lawmakers joined a survivor of the Holocaust in condemning Minnesota state representative Arlon Lindner for remarks he made questioning whether Gay people were persecuted by the Nazis during World War II.

"I can testify to the fact that homosexuals were indeed persecuted based on their sexuality," said Hinda Kibort, 81, an Edina, Minn. woman who was detained in German-run labor and concentration camps from 1941 to 1945. "I was there."

Lindner said that the idea that the Nazis persecuted Gay people is a "rewriting of history." But the Democrats said Lindner is the one doing the rewriting. "Revisionism of this kind is on a par with those who believe the Earth is flat and that the moon landing was fabricated on a sound stage in New Mexico," said state representative Frank Hornstein.

The lawmakers invited Lindner, a Republican, to join them and religious leaders next April for a tour of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. They also asked Steve Sviggum, speaker of the Minnesota house of representatives, to remove Lindner from his position as chairman of the house economic development and tourism committee.

Sviggum has responded that he

will not remove Lindner. "Representative Lindner's comments, even though they're inappropriate and they're wrong—when do I start being judge and jury?" he said. Sviggum then asked whether he should be expected to reprimand state representative Tom Rukavina for a statement he made calling state auditor Pat Awada "Osama bin Awada" for a proposal he made that would cut local government aid to cities in his district. "In a free society, we do have certain First Amendment rights," Sviggum said.

Lindner said he doesn't doubt Kibort's own recollections of Nazi actions but that he wonders why little attention has been paid until recently, in his view, to the Nazi persecution of Gays. He said he expects to be in legislative session on April 9, the date scheduled for the museum tour, and won't be going to Washington. "They talk about my particular views and so forth," he said. "But I guess I still feel like we've got a First Amendment that applies to everybody."

Lindner has introduced a bill into the Minnesota state legislature that would repeal an amendment to the state human rights law protecting Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Minnesotans from discrimination in employment, housing, education, and other areas. The measure also would remove sexual orientation as a protected class in hate-crimes laws.

G/L Figures Flawed In 2000 Census

AMHERST, MA - According to a study released by the Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies, the 2000 Census miscounted and failed to identify more than 100,000 same-sex couples living in the United States.

Data supplied by two separate surveys of self-identified LGBT couples show a Census Bureau undercount ranging from 16 to 19 percent. The results are documented in "Left Out of the Count: Missing Same-sex Couples in Census 2000," published this month by the IGLSS.

The surveys found that more than two-thirds of Gay respondents reported selecting the "housemates/roommates" box on the form instead of "unmarried partner."

Most of those said it was a conscious choice, something they attributed to privacy and confidentiality concerns plus a lack of census options to accurately describe their families and living arrangements.

IGLSS surveyed individuals in same-sex couples about their census responses at the Millennium March on Washington in 2000, which was held the same month 2000 Census forms were due. A second survey asked similar questions of online respondents to a Harris Interac-

tive/Witeck-Combs survey.

"The people we surveyed were politically aware and were more likely to know about and use the 'unmarried partner' option," according to Marc Rogers, one of the authors of the report. In terms of awareness, the "are a best-case scenario." The actual undercount, he said, "is likely to be far higher."

The U.S. Census Bureau will release a report this week listing a total of the 594,691 same-sex couples in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Gay Couple Divorces In Texas

BEAUMONT, TX - The state of Texas may not recognize marriages for same-sex couples, but that didn't stop a judge in southeast Texas from granting a Gay couple's divorce earlier this week.

Judge Tom Mulvaney of the 279th district court signed a divorce decree for Beaumont residents Russell Smith, 26, and John Anthony, 34. Smith and Anthony were granted a license of civil union in Vermont in February 2002. Mulvaney said the case

CONTINUED ON PAGE SIXTEEN

UPDATE

Syphilis Cases In Tucson Triples Since 2000

TUCSON - Health officials in Pima County report that new syphilis cases in the county have tripled since 2000, with Gay and Bisexual men accounting for more than one third of the new infections.

"This is a major group getting syphilis now here and across the country," said Elizabeth MacNeill, Pima County's chief medical officer, of Gay and Bisexual men. "They are way over represented in this resurgence. We suspect it's because a lot are not practicing safe sex." A total of 94 new syphilis infections were reported last year, up from 30 in 2000.

The county has issued a "syphilis alert" to emergency rooms, urgent care centers, health clinics, infectious disease experts, and doctors who treat AIDS, asking them to screen patients for syphilis.

"We're not fooling around with this; this disease can kill," MacNeill said. "It can be deadly to an unborn baby, it can cause birth defects, it can cause brain damage in anyone who isn't treated in time. The problem is that we had gotten this under such good control, many doctors haven't seen syphilis in recent years and won't know what the first signs are or what they mean. That has to change now."

For more information, call the Pima County Health Department, (520) 624-8272.

GLBT Meeting March 18

TUCSON - On Tuesday, March 18, the City of Tucson on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Issues will be holding their monthly meeting.

This meeting is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m., and will be held in the EOO Conference Room, First Floor, 100 N. Stone. It is expected that the proposed domestic partner ordinance will be one of many topics discussed by commission members.

For more information, or to find out what is on this month's meeting agenda, call (520) 791-4213.

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Wingspan & AHRF Nights At The Dog Park

TUCSON - Please join other LGBT and ally dog owners and our furry friends as we meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Reid Park Dog Park in Tucson.

The lighted and fenced one-acre site features a large open area for dogs to run and play with each other. The area is partitioned for large and small dogs. Dogs must have current licenses and tags to attend. The Reid Park dog park is located just across from the Reid Park Zoo entrance (off 22nd Street between Alvernon and Country Club) on a converted Little League field. The purpose of this free monthly event is to provide a social venue for LGBT and ally folks to get together and meet one another—and for our dogs to have fun! A representative from Wingspan and a representative from AHRF will be on-site to provide information about each organization and our upcoming events (and maybe even some treats for your puppy!) - we will be wearing AHRF and Wingspan T-Shirts so we will be easy to spot (...Spot, get it?)

So grab your dogs and your friends and drop by the Reid Park Dog Park Tuesday, March 25th between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. We will meet on the 4th Tuesday of every month (March 25, April 22, May 27, June 24, etc.) from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Questions? Feel free to contact either cathy@wingspanaz.org or kfelan@ahr.org.

Queen's Gay Dressmaker Dies At 93

LONDON, UK - Sir Hardy Amies, the openly Gay British fashion designer and longtime official dressmaker to Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, died Wednesday, March 5 his company announced. He was 93.

Amies died in his sleep at his home in the Cotswolds in southwest England, said Tim Maltin, managing director of Hardy Amies Ltd. Amies, who learned his dressmaking skills from his mother, a London seamstress, was known for elegance and good taste—values that sat well with the queen's preference for comfortable if not chic outfits. Appointed the queen's dressmaker in 1955, he was responsible for creating dozens of new royal outfits each year—from grand ball gowns to practical day dresses.

Critics thought his creations dowdy, but Amies was not one to apologize—not least for her majesty. "I don't think she feels chic clothes are friendly," he once told an interviewer. "The queen's attitude is that she must always dress for the occasion—usually for a large mob of middle-class people toward whom she wishes to seem friendly."

In a statement Buckingham Palace said: "The queen was very sad to hear of Sir Hardy's death. He contributed to her wardrobe over many years, and she is, of course, saddened that he has died."

Amies's many other customers included the queen's cousin Princess Michael of Kent and former daughter-in-law Sarah Ferguson, the Duchess of York. The stepmother of the late Princess Diana, Raine Comtesse de Chambrun, was also a regular client. Amies would advise his clients to always select the right dress for the occasion, to give the appearance of being completely relaxed—and never to show too much flesh. Once he said, "I hate strapless bodices, for example, because any man looking at one thinks, 'How the hell does she keep the thing up?'"

Antigone Books To Host Peg Cruikshank Mar. 18

TUCSON - Join us at Antigone Books, 411 N. Fourth Ave., for an event Tuesday, March 18, 7 p.m., as Peg Cruikshank will be in Tucson to celebrate the release of her new book, *Learning to be Old: Gender, Culture and Aging* (Rowman & Littlefield, \$22.95).

Cruikshank, a gerontologist at the University of Maine, sees old age as a time for the development of new talents, strengths, and opportunities. According to Cruikshank, age discrimination is a very real element in our society, despite increased knowledge about aging and improved longevity. She believes that aging is affected more by culture than by biological changes, and that being aware of that fact is essential if we are to achieve a comfortable old age. She is the author of *The Gay and Lesbian Liberation Movement* and *Fierce with Reality: An Anthology of Literature on Aging*.

The reading will be followed by a question and answer period. Refreshments will be served. For more information call, (520) 792-3715.

Grand Canyon Men's Chorale Presents 'Masquerade'

PHOENIX - The Grand Canyon Men's Chorale, under the direction of Marc Gaston, continues its 13th season with its Spring Concert and Fundraiser, *Masquerade—A Night of A Thousand Tales*, on Friday, April 4, and Saturday, April 5, in Kendall Hall at Central United Methodist Church, 1875 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix. Both performances begin at 7 p.m.

Masquerade will feature music in a variety of styles, including the Phoenix premiere of *Landscape*, a whimsical piece playing on what "Mary Had a Little Lamb" would sound like had it been written by Handel, Schubert, Verdi or performed as a Gregorian Chant, a Country Western or by a Harlem Gospel Choir. *Masquerade* will also include selections from *Phantom of the Opera* and Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Mikado*.

Tickets for each concert performance are \$15 per person, and are available through Chorale members, and the Root Seller Gallery at 1605 N. 7th Avenue. Seats for the special dessert reception may be reserved for \$12 per person, or \$40 per table of four, by calling the Chorale at (602) 717-GCMC (4262).

Grand Canyon Men's Chorale is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. For more information, please visit the Chorale's web site at www.gcmcp.org or send email to tickets@gcmcp.org.

Book Reading At Antigone's March 14

TUCSON - Antigone Books, 411 N. Fourth Avenue, will be hosting a book reading of "This Bridge We Call Home," Friday, March 14, 7:30 p.m.

This *Bridge We Call Home: Radical Visions for Transformation*, edited by Gloria Anzaldúa and Analouse Keating (Routledge, \$24.95), is an exciting new anthology in the tradition of the groundbreaking feminist work, *This Bridge Called My Back*. Offering a bold vision of women-of-color consciousness for the 21st century, *This Bridge* is a collection of 80 new writings. Contributor Shefali Mileczek-Desai, an American-born daughter of Indian parents, will discuss the book and read her essay, an exploration of the crossroads of culture, tradition, and feminist identity in her life.

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Observing Tucson and
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Informing the Community
The Observer

Calls For Help From G/L Troops Surge; Powell Supports Ban

WASHINGTON, DC - Since the start of the year, the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network has reported a significant increase in the number of calls from Gay military personnel seeking assistance.

In the period between Jan. 1 and March 1, SLDN received 170 calls for help, up 30 percent from 119 during the same time in 2002. And SLDN expects those numbers to increase throughout the year as the United States gears up for a possible war with Iraq.

"We project receiving a record 1,100 calls for assistance during the 2003 calendar year," said SLDN Executive Director C. Dixon Osburn. "As long as our military continues to discriminate against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Americans, SLDN will remain on the frontlines, providing zealous legal assistance to our clients."

SLDN was founded in 1995, two years after the start of "don't ask, don't tell." Since that time, the Washington-based legal group has seen its calls for help increase each year. In 2002, it received 913 calls versus 649 calls the year before.

"I think the war is playing a role in that increase," said Steve Ralls, director of communications for SLDN. "I think there's a greater awareness of SLDN, especially since the firing of the Arabic linguists and the (1999) murder (of PFC Barry Winchell) at Fort Campbell."

With the threat of war looming in the Middle East and with North Korea, more Gay military may call for assistance for fear of being harassed far from home

without the protection they can receive in America, Ralls said.

"There are service members making statements now, but we're telling them not to expect to be discharged before they're deployed if their papers have already come up," he said. "A lot of service members are being harassed and don't want to be deployed and be thousands of miles away from home."

In July 2000, the Department of Defense drafted the Anti-Harassment Action Plan, a directive which stated that "mistreatment, harassment and inappropriate comments or gestures, including that based on sexual orientation, are not acceptable? further, the directive should make clear that commanders and leaders will be held accountable for failure to enforce this directive."

The plan was developed after 80 percent of 75,000 active service members polled said they had heard anti-Gay remarks during the previous year and of that group, more than one-third confirmed either seeing or being the target of anti-Gay harassment.

Last year, the SLDN released a report with findings that showed while the Defense Department has implemented the Anti-Harassment Action Plan, the directive is not being practiced.

"The Pentagon's failure to move aggressively to implement the Anti-Harassment Action Plan is inexcusable," Osburn said at the time. "The Pentagon itself has said anti-Gay harassment undermines good order, discipline and morale. By tolerating continued harassment, ridicule and assault of men and women in uniform, the Pentagon

is working against what it knows to be in the best interest of our armed forces."

As for non-Gay people suddenly "coming out" to avoid going to battle, SLDN has a message for them.

"We won't help them," Ralls said.

In a related story, During a recent interview with the online news site Teenink.com, Secretary of State Colin Powell defended the military's ban on Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual service members.

Sidestepping a teenage reporter's question that asked if he thought "racism, religious discrimination and discrimination against homosexuals should be treated equally?" Powell demurred, saying, "I think it's a different matter with respect to the military, because you're essentially told who you're going to live with, who you're going to sleep next to."

Powell, who helped put the "don't ask, don't tell" policy in place, reiterated his support of the policy, emphasizing his continued support that "somebody who is openly homosexual does not serve."

A recent study in the current issue of International Security, refutes Secretary Powell's concerns and indicates that lifting the ban on Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual service members would not compromise the privacy of heterosexual troops.

The study, titled A Modest Proposal: Privacy as a Flawed Rationale for the Exclusion of Gays and Lesbians from the U.S. Military, notes that heterosexual service members already bunk and shower with acknowledged Gay and Lesbian troops.

The study also notes that, "Few heterosexual service members are extremely uncomfortable around homosexuals, and discomfort that does exist will diminish after lifting the ban."

The study, written by Professor Aaron Belkin of the University of California-Santa Barbara and Melissa S. Embser-Herbert, also points to a new barracks construction program which will soon provide almost every member of the armed forces with private bedroom and bathroom facilities, again rendering concerns about privacy irrelevant.

"Professor Belkin's study is well-documented proof that privacy is the latest flawed rationale for an indefensible policy," said C. Dixon Osburn, executive director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, or SLDN, a legal support organization for Gay and Lesbian members of the armed services.

"Secretary Powell's remarks are simply unjustified. The Secretary has acknowledged in the past that Gays and Lesbians have served our nation well. They continue to do so today, and our armed forces benefit from their talents."

Powell reiterated in the interview that Gays are welcome, as long as he doesn't know who they are. "Here in the State Department, sexual preference makes no difference; we have Gay ambassadors and employees throughout the Department. I don't know who they are and it's none of my business, as long as they do their jobs."

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Savage Makes Unremarkable MSNBC Debut

NEW YORK, NY - Whether it was a strategic ruse, commercial pressure, network intervention or fear, Michael Savage's much-protested debut on MSNBC Saturday, March 8, aired absent the radio personality's volatile racist and anti-Gay invective that has made him such a dubious national celebrity.

But by most accounts, Saturday's show was tame and neutered when compared to the incendiary radio broadcasts on which Savage has built his fame. "Anti-climatic" was how one GLAAD spokesperson put it, which after the build-up, came as a something of a surprise.

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation has been leading a spirited campaign against MSNBC's decision to give Savage a nationally televised platform. Along the way it way it picked up support the National Organization for Women and Fairness & Accuracy In Reporting, a media watchdog group.

Repeating threats made earlier in the week, Savage told the New York Post on Friday was prepared to file suit against GLAAD and other civil rights groups for protesting him and complaining to potential advertisers.

GLAAD's Joan Garry on Friday took aim at the network. "MSNBC is on record as re-branding itself as 'NBC News on Cable 24/7,'" she said. "Has NBC forgotten that they are the network of Tom Brokaw and Tim Russert? Have they considered the implications of airing 'Will and Grace' and 'The Matthew Shepard Story' and then turning around and providing a platform for someone who defames the very people they reach out to?"

Procter & Gamble and Kraft confirmed last week they would not be supporting MSNBC's "Savage Nation." Procter & Gamble spokesperson Gretchen Mutchnick told GLAAD that, "The show is clearly against our content guidelines, so this was an easy decision." Kraft also said the show violated its content guidelines.

"They can do what they want because I've hired an anti-defamation lawyer and they're just adding to the damages they'll pay," Savage said of GLAAD. "They're Nazi bastards from hell."

"If this program premieres," Garry said, "it will irrevocably damage the integrity not only of NBC's news division, but also that of a network with a strong track record of fair and accurate representations of our community."

More than 3,000 people sent e-mails to the network's parent company, NBC, complaining about Savage's racist and anti-Gay statements. Renna said she was thrilled and surprised at the level of the public response.

DA Launches Fight Against 'Gay Panic' Defense

ATLANTA, GA - Fulton County DA Paul Howard is launching a national battle to stop the use of the so called 'Gay panic' defense, 365Gay.com reported.

the country to focus on "understanding and defeating" use of anti-Gay defense tactics.

Howard says he was horrified the use of the defense tactic led to the acquittal of a man accused of killing one of his assistants. Last month a jury acquitted Rodericus Reshad Reed of murdering Assistant District Attorney Ahmed Dabarran.

"Gay crime victims must receive equal treatment as crime victims," Howard told the paper.

During the trial Reed's lawyer said his client became enraged when Dabarran suggested sex. Dabarran and Reed met on a phone chat line.

During the trial, Reed's lawyer turned the trial away from the defendant to focus on Dabarran.

Howard said on the weekend told Atlanta LGBT paper Southern Voice that he wants to bring together district attorneys and law enforcement officers from across

"This is a case of a man who lived two lives," attorney Vic Reynolds, told the court.

"By day an educated, articulate, felony prosecutor, a married man.

"The other side of a coin is a man who at 12:30, 1:30 and 2:30 in the morning

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As I See It

by Clark



AIDS. THE REAL WAR ON TERROR.

NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

by Lee Thorn

Education Again

I've done a column on the inherent conflict of interest involved with the so-called "accountability testing" that's currently sweeping the nation, and a column on the historical difference between "vocational training" and what used to count as education. But the topic of education is just like that of our endlessly lavish war on drugs and that of our pretend efforts to reduce illegal immigration — it won't stop raising its pimply head.

I just read an op-ed column on education, or at least the beginning of it, that was written by a friend of mine who happens to have had a lot of education. She starts out with a one-size-fits-all prescription for education based on the 100-year-old Montessori method... and that's when I lost interest.

How can a well educated person rush forward with a universal prescription for anything before she establishes who the patient is and what ails him?

If you look at the history of education in the Western world over the last century, no one model jumps out ahead of all the rest as being clearly superior. Passionate advocates abound for everything from the McGuffey Reader to the British "public school" system to the Summerhill experiments in freedom to literally dozens of others. A casual backward glance at these fairly recent cure-all educational dogmas ought to be more than enough to breed a bit of healthy skepticism. Does anyone remember "see and say"?

Before we start prescribing anything, we need to ask, "What is education in modern society?" Answer: It's a method for

keeping the young out of the labor market for ever longer periods of time.

Ever since the move from agrarian society to industrial, there's been a terrible shortage of work. It's been necessary to drastically reduce the number of hours in the work week. It's also been necessary to continuously expand the length of the average education to keep kids from displacing adults in the labor market. Early in this century you were considered educated when you completed eighth grade. Now everybody's after at least one master's degree. As Mr. Dylan sang, "Twenty years of schoolin' and they put you on the day shift."

If the reality of what education does is keep kids off the labor market, what we like to say that it does is prepare kids for the labor market. To be polite, I say "Hogwash." The vast majority of jobs that we do in this country could be taught to the average 13-year-old in six weeks. Since I have no statistical proof for this bold assertion, I'll ask the reader to provide his own proof by doing a mental inventory of all the dumb jobs he's had. And please don't hold me strictly to six weeks. I'm prepared to go as high as eight if necessary.

Having disposed of both what education actually does and the hogwash we like to say it does, let's consider some of the things that it clearly doesn't do in our time and place. No, I'm not going to make fun of our president for his inability to correctly pronounce "nuclear." And I'm not going to chide his so-called friends for failing to tell him that it's not "nuclear." The W isn't the first president who couldn't pronounce the word and who lacked a good friend to instruct him. Carter dropped the I and came

up with something like "nu-key-er."

But the larger point, beyond the good clean fun of ragging presidents, is that an amazingly high percentage of Americans can't easily, correctly and coherently speak their own language. Forget about the three famous r's of reading, 'ritin' and 'rithmetic -- we can't correctly speak!

Shouldn't an educated person be able to stand up without preparation and extemporize a few paragraphs in his native tongue without making errors in grammar or pronunciation? Shouldn't he be able to do it without repeating "you know" or "like" twenty times?

If we're going to prescribe some one-size-fits-all educational system, let's make sure that it at least teaches people to speak at least one language correctly. Better yet, why not permit a thousand systems to grow in the hope that a few of them won't be utter disasters.

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

ERS - LETTERS - LETTE RS - LETTERS - LETTER

EDITOR:

Gender Bender 4 an "Amazing Success"

Gay Men's Health Project held its fourth annual Gender Bender show on Sunday, March 9th at IBT's and raised over

\$3500.00 for Condom Brigade.

Condom Brigade is a grass roots project that provides local Gay bars and businesses on a weekly basis with condom packets (each packet contains two condoms and one tube of lube). Last year Condom Brigade distributed over 18,000 condom packets to the Tucson community. Gender Bender is a spoof on traditional drag performances, with bears or hairy men keeping all their hair, yet donning wigs, fabulous glitzy outfits and going under the mascara to emerge furry, fierce, and ready to entertain. Hosted by Scottasia Dahlink (GMHP's Manager Scott A. Davey) and Lucinda Holliday with performances by Jackie Oh No (Jack Durham), Sasha Valentine (Andy Sauers), Kenny & Dolly (Anne Maley & Cindy Jordan), Ima Heaux (James Cook), Walla Chifon (Eric Rau), Lily Loverly (Richard Zelens), Rhoda Pole (Cherwee Hughley), (John Revolva & Olivia Newtron Bomb (Judith Sands & Sherri Campbell), Felopia Tubulotta (Dan Borysewicz), Aubergine (Gary Rhine), Oso Linda (Luis Hilgado).

Very special thanks go out to all the above named performers and to all the backstage help, Billy Gerald (Janee Starr), Gabe Ochoa (Teri Akki), Miguel Soto (Stella Virgin), Andrew Raymer (Veronica Halliwell) and Mark Fetgatter (Bunny FuFu) for being incredible make-up artists and making the bears look beautiful. Special thanks to Lucinda Holliday, Samantha White and Janee Starr for loaning their clothes, wigs and accessories to help the bears look their best. Thanks go out to Dave Huff and Frank Shepis for giving us the space for the show and for donating \$150.00 to Condom Brigade. A very special thank you goes out to the GMHP board, Henry Sabia, Larry Maestas and Fred Rodriguez (and his partner Eric) for running the barbecue, selling t-shirts and running the info booth and to Amy Brazier from the SAAF development dept for donning male



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POLITICS 2003
By Mark R. Kerr

POLITICS: 2003 By Mark R. Kerr

On Monday, March 10, people converged on the Mall at 1700 West Washington to show the world their spouses and in many cases, their "pride and joy," offspring.

Ice cream, various flavored toppings, drinks flowed as these people, with their "Sears Photos", showing all, including disbelieving ultra conservatives, that Arizona's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Community are employed, own businesses and even have families too with the ice cream social, sponsored by the Arizona Human Rights Fund, the statewide GLBT rights organization.

This event, according to organizers, was to educate both legislators and GLBT Arizonans how state laws affect GLBT families as well.

Information was presented on various topics, such as: when a partner becomes disabled, dies and "powers of attorneys", and adopting children.

Financial questions, dealing investing, retirement benefits were also answered, and those present, hopefully got to speak, albeit in an informal manner, with state legislators to show them how Arizona's laws discriminate against their wage earning, tax paying families.

With that, the question arises whether legislators, especially the Republican leaders were focused on the issues of concern since frivolous legislation to:

- * restrict the time-frame to gather signatures for referendums and revisiting previous voter-approved initiatives, because they supposedly didn't understand "what they were signing on to," according to one legislator;
- * curtail homeowner rights to sue builders over defects in their houses;
- * pay jurors \$300 a day to serve, as well as giving a \$1,500 tax credit to those who home-school their off-spring, despite the fact the state doesn't have a dime to give on either;
- * disallow cities and counties, just like "Big Brother", from conducting background checks for individuals purchasing guns at shows/exhibits held at government-owned facilities; and,
- * require two forms of identification (one with a photo) to go to the polls and cast their vote, despite the fact its a clear violation of the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts, as well as wasting more than \$3-million in taxpayer money since the state requires every registered voter to have a voter identification card (costing about \$1.50 each to produce), naming several of the many proposals getting through legislative process while legislation (citing several measures) to:
- * protect the rights of all Arizonans in the workplace;
- * inform the state's future, the youth, what causes HIV/AIDS and how to prevent it, without any censorship;
- * ensure and protect the rights of GLBT youth to get a quality education in the state; and,
- * protect the rights of all Arizonans, regardless of race, creed, color, sexual orientation, national origin, gender identity,

religious believes from the hatred of others haven't gone anywhere.

Perhaps there were some legislators who did learn something from the AHRF event, one can only hope and what few supporters GLBT Arizonans have in both legislative chambers were present, to support AHRF's effort to showcase Arizona's GLBT families but some legislators were probably there focusing on what sprinkles were being served with the ice cream, just like Homer Simpson.

SPORTS

DESERT COYOTES BOWLING LEAGUE STANDINGS

	Won	Lost
Pseudovirgins	12.0	2.0
ToledoDeJaneiro	10.0	4.0
Aces Over Queens	10.0	4.0
Sofa King Sleazy	9.0	5.0
Mama's Boys	7.0	7.0
2 Dicks No Peter	7.0	7.0
Team Sux	7.0	7.0
The Nutz	5.0	9.0
Public Trough	5.0	9.0
3-4 Buddocks Luv	4.0	10.0
One Is Two Ain't	4.0	10.0
Itchy Balls	4.0	10.0

SEASON ACHIEVEMENTS

- High Average - Erick J., 207; JoAnn S., 170; ToledoDeJaneiro, 572.
- High Series Scratch - Erick J., 749; JoAnn S., 609; ToledoDeJaneiro, 1842.
- High Game Scratch - Erick J., 300; Heather H., 229; ToledoDeJaneiro, 674.
- High Series Handicap - Jason B., 782; JoAnn S., 753; Mama's Boys, 2170.
- High Game Handicap - Michael H., 312; Heather H., 283; Mama's Boys, 788.

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WHAT MAKES OUR TOWN TICK
by Jerry B.

Hello readers! With March in full swing, most sports fans can only dream of the line up presented to them this time each year. Here in the Old Pueblo we have a full plate of sporting events to remind us of the warmer months ahead. Spring training and softball fields are busy with players and fans. Of course there is also the coming NCAA tournament which will crown this year's best in college basketball.

I have mentioned in the past the views I have regarding college sports. There is of course the chance that any young person could have a dream fulfilled as well as be seen by millions of people. Unfortunately though there is the other side of the picture that seems to be more and more hidden through the years. That scenario is being played out both in the big schools and the small ones as well.

Just about a month ago, there was the story of LeBron James. Still in high school, James made daily headlines with his playing and athleticism. He was dubbed "King James", a name I am sure he will hear for a long time. The name though was not given to him by fans, family or fellow teammates. None other than an athletic shoe company bestowed it upon his highness.

College sports have always been in the frontline of debate regarding the treatment of its athletes. There have been numerous scandals and events, which have tarnished the organization created to promote sport amongst students. Attention has been given to the smallest of detail to assure that rules are being followed, sometimes at the cost of the students themselves.

This March there are no less than 5 major universities under investigation for some kind of rule infringement. There are suspensions, dismissals and even legal actions taken for the offenders. Somehow though the schools with the power and

Bring On The Madness

finance to back it, have found a way to take their punishment without it affecting the strength of the team. I know if I was in some kind of legal situation, my boss would not do all he could to make sure I could still make it to work.

As a whole, college sports are a good thing. There are many students who today would not be able to put a degree on their resumes had they not been able to run, jump or shoot their way through school. Given the opportunity, I am sure I would not think twice at a chance like that. The downfall of that praise is of course for every college phenom there are hundreds of stories going in the opposite direction. More attention is needed at that level so that when an athlete is still in the high school rankings, he or she would put more effort on the advantage the education they are receiving, not the endorsement looming in the future.

Our local university is once again in the limelight for a chance at another championship. They have faced a couple of incidents and seem to have alleviated the stress of the press. Ranked number 1 in the country, all eyes will be on them to see if they can complete the journey of a near perfect season. Those of us familiar with the history of the Wildcat basketball program know that it has been more misses than hit in the past, so getting out of the first round of the tournament is enough of a victory.

As most sport fans focus on that end of the collegiate sport spectrum, right here in town is a lesser-known success story. The Arizona women's softball team is at it once again. I don't know why the word

women is used in the title of the team, there is no men's softball team, so the gender badge should be dropped. Funding for this squad is about 1/25 of what the basketball program uses. They have less sponsorship, a smaller venue to play in, and a fan base of folks who consider themselves family.

Unlike the big time hoops team though, the softball program seems to still focus on the fact that the word University is first in their title. Graduation rates of the team are higher than ever, most with degrees in subjects that would take time on their own. A percentage of the squad is being considered for the Olympic team in Athens, 2004. That is the ultimate stage for a softball program. And aside from some local endorsements, the biggest press this season is for Jenny Finch being voted Sexiest Female Athlete at ESPN.com.

I would love nothing more than to see the basketball Wildcats walk away with the NCAA crown this year. I know the impact it would have for our city, state and university. Coach Lute Olsen deserves it on the year he was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame. I don't make sport predictions, so I won't jinx them in any way. I will however be on hand for as many softball games as I could attend. The team looks as good as ever, and is on route for their 3 NCAA crown in the last 5 years. All that with no controversy.

We are all fans of the heroes. Those who go above and beyond to give their best for a cause bigger than the one. All sport, no matter what the level or game is a quest to be the best. College sports

should put that emphasis on the learning and let the athletics be a by-product of that cause. Of course there are about 40 billion dollars in reasons that will never be the case, but hey, I can dream. Go see the Lady Cats (I didn't name them) if you can. They play at Sancet Field in the heart of the U of A campus. If you have a young daughter, take her along. No better hero for their minds could be found anywhere in town. Have a good week and write me at Calabazamusic@yahoo.com!

Letters . . .

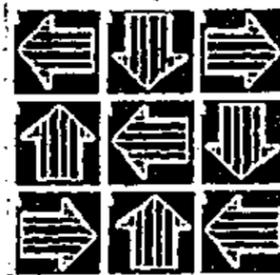
Continued from Page Five

drag and working the crowd. And last but not least to Gary Rhine GMHP's Outreach Specialist for all his hard work in helping get the show ready and for his two incredibly fabulous performances.

The show was an incredible success due to all the above named people and the incredible crowd and staff at IBT's who, with their thunderous applause, hoots and hollers, and deep pockets, helped make the night the success it was. Without all of you, Condom Brigade would be very hard to maintain. I couldn't do it without all of you, the fabulous Tucson community. Thanks for all your support and kindness!

Bearhugs, Scott A. Davey
GMHP Manager

[ED NOTE: Photos of the Gender Bender show may be found on page eight and nine of this issue of Observer.]



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HOROSCOPES

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Charmingly and arresting Venus snuggles delusional Neptune this week igniting our hearts and cooking them to a crisp. Love takes on a heated incandescence that can carry us to the moon and back. Feast away but beware of the heartburn afterwards, kids!

ARIES

MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

Randy rainbow Rambos are apt to find a gem among the trash when seductive Venus conjuncts foggy Neptune. Someone who you thought of as merely a friend becomes so much much more. A tornado of passion is unleashed and your best laid plans are laid out. Ah, but as the dust clears could that "gem" be just another strand of large plastic beads? Do you really care?

TAURUS

APRIL 21 - MAY 21

Your latest torrid affair could be splashed on the front page (or around the water-cooler) if Venus and Neptune have their way. Queer Bulls are swept off their hooves as a certain powerbroker grabs you by the horns and rides you. Yahoo cowpoke! Will you climb the ladder on your back? Alas all good things come to an end and so will you. Pack a pillow for the slide down, buster.

GEMINI

MAY 22 - JUNE 21

There is nothing as delicious as a spicy exotic feast and now, as Venus adds a but of zest to Neptune, pink Twins hunger for foreign fare. You amble off on far-flung romantic tangents, scattering your bag of breadcrumbs to find your way home. But the hungry birds have other plans, compadre. Life will have its dreamy surprises; a troll may become a billy goat gruff. Grrrr.

CANCER

JUNE 22 - JULY 23

There is a rocket in every pocket when randy Venus bumps and grinds against wily Neptune. Pink Crabs won't know what hit 'em when the urge to merge boils to a tasty bouillabaisse. Tuck in and take a bite yourself, chef. But will you find it filling enough? Chances are that later in the evening you will hungry again. Go for seconds and be as sloppy as you like.

LEO

JULY 24 - AUGUST 23

Proud, dramatic Lions are divas at heart and do not feel complete without an adoring audience. Take your bows while romantic Venus glides into giddy Neptune. Relationships become dreamy and creamy as your desires froth to a feeding frenzy. Satisfy your sweet tooth anyway you can. Single pink cubs become the toast of the town, at least in their own minds.

VIRGO

AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23

There is love percolating on the job when Venus slides into Neptune. Queer Virgins are apt to jump head first into a torrid office affair and think of the aftershocks later during this hazy transit. Okay. Now what? Perhaps it is wiser to hunt for game at the local health club where at least you can see the merchandise before you buy and can return damaged goods anonymously.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23

Life may seem a bit hum drum now but just wait until the conjunction between Venus and Neptune gets underway. Pack your party gear and boogie down! Gay Libras find a Pandoras Box of goodies at every party. But be warned; you may not know when enough is enough. There is nothing sadder than a dissipated old thing hanging around the twinkies, hoping for a nibble.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22

Venus conjuncts Neptune and stokes a long dormant need to change your surroundings. Renovate or detonate, proud Scorp? Sometimes we can achieve maximum change by just moving a few old pieces of furniture around but that won't do the trick right now. This transit compels you to splurge on those puce and orange plastic macrame plant holders but resist the urge.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22

Queer Archers think that they spout words of great wisdom when chatty Venus conjuncts spiritual Neptune. They think that their weighty opinions and studied theories need a wider audience. They pontificate ad nauseam. They become legends in their own mind. They will find themselves talking to the mirror. Good thing too. They have spinach in their teeth.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20

Pink Caps have a very strict value system in place - money and more money. Well the conjunction between ditsy Venus and unpredictable Neptune may just overthrow your capitalistic regime and install a social welfare state. There is a reappraisal afoot my friend and you may just find that there are things that simply cannot be bought. Things, yes. People? Don't be silly!

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19

Your public persona grows wilde and woolly when charming Venus abuts nether-worldly Neptune in your own sign. A-queerians are goaded to change their "look" and veer into the uber ranks of the fashionistas. But it is thin, botoxed line between high fashion and high farce. Someone will have compromising photos of you when this transit passes ... if you are lucky!

PISCES

FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20

Guppies feel that they can take on the world when Venus conjuncts Neptune. You are wise beyond your years; at least that is what you think. It is time to blast open your closet, rid yourself of unwanted baggage and become the joyful spirit you yearn to be. Your psychic line sizzles. Adjust your turban and see where your intuition takes you. Let's hope it is not to Newark.



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A View From The Rock
By Joy L. Childress *A Commentary From Cornerstone Fellowship*

On Management

Have you ever experienced a time when you were engaged in a conversation with someone, and the other person said a word that made a light bulb in your head light up and, suddenly, you understood what the meat of the conversation was all about?

This experience happened to me recently. My partner of 25, almost 26, years is in the hospital, and one of the elders from our church came to the hospital to see my partner. We had to wait a little while to get into ICU where my partner was. So, we talked about what was going on, and the elder said the word, "management" in our conversation.

That word jumped out at me, and the light came on, and I experienced an "ah ha" moment. Let me explain. Both my partner and I have entered the down hill and the autumn of our lives, nearing more and more towards the sunset of life. During this stage of life, I have found that little by little the body starts showing the wear and tear of life, and the organs in the body start breaking down, and life becomes a matter of "management"—taking increasing amounts of life-sustaining medicines, taking short trips to the hospital, taking many trips to the doctor, etc.—all in order to stay alive. There are things that we can no longer do.

We have had many good years together, many, many new and wonderful adventures; many places we've seen in our travels; many joyous moments. I will never regret being in a long-term Lesbian relationship. It has been a wonderful trip through life. But, now, things are changing. All things change in time. I'm not saying that we

won't have any more good times; we certainly will. But our relationship to life is different, now. It has now become a life of "management"—managing our health; managing our time; managing visits to hospitals and doctors, etc. There are times when I grieve for the experiences we had in our younger years.

However, there is a point when one realizes that there is no turning back the clock; no making the body younger and stronger like it once was. When I think of this, a deep sadness overcomes me, and I grieve. This is all part of the aging process of life. All of us as we age will become weaker, less healthy, less able to do the things we once did. What brightens my thoughts, however, is the truth that Jesus is in my life, and that God is the Supreme Manager of all that happens to me and to my spouse. If I didn't have Jesus in my life right now, I would be sorely miserable, and probably even a basket case. But I know that God is in control. He is in charge; so, my job is not to worry, but to trust Him that everything will work out. And as the aging process takes hold more and more, I know that Jesus will always be with me. I pray you have that same assurance.

I don't know about tomorrow, I just live from day to day; I don't borrow from its sunshine, for its skies may turn to gray. I don't worry o'er the future, For I know what Jesus said; And today I'll walk beside Him, For He knows what is ahead. Many things about tomorrow I don't seem to understand; But I know Who holds tomorrow, And I know Who holds my hand. — Ira F. Stan-Phill.

GENDER WORLD

BY JONI K. ROSE

March is Women's History Month. I guess it's pretty radical just talking about womyn's history, as most of what passes for history is from the masculine point of view. Yet womyn have come a long way. It's kind of like climbing a mountain. You can look down and admire the view and feel good about how far you've come. But then you look up to see how much farther you have to go, and you want to groan.

What troubles me is that at the moment we rather seem to be taking an overly-long rest. The average woman still earns only 75% of what the average man earns. It's good the governorship of a relatively conservative state like Arizona can pass from one woman to another. But the highest offices in the United States—President, Vice President, Speaker of the House, and Chief Justice—all seem to remain firmly in male hands, as always. All but a few of the highest-paid executives are still men.

I suspect the exceptional women who've made it to the top have played the men's game with them, and managed to win despite the odds. The reins of power are still mostly in male hands; and I don't see that it's changing very rapidly right now. The support that our unelected President claims for his testosterone-driven war campaign appears to come mostly from men. Everywhere we look, it's still mostly a man's world.

I wish I could say the Gay community is an exception, but all too often it's not. It's good that organizations like Wingspan and SAAF are dedicated to gender equality. On the other hand, the OBSERVER comes out once a week; but RUBYFRUIT only once a month. What happened to the woman who used to write a column for the OBSERVER?

Turn to the page in the OBSERVER that lists the Gay bars in Tucson, and count the four or five bars that cater mainly to Gay men (at least one of which is said to be hostile toward anyone who isn't macho) versus the one or two that are Lesbian-oriented (Okay, I guess we can count the November twice).

Transpeople know as well as anyone how unequal and confused the gender situation remains. Often we hear transmen talking how much more money they're making as men; while transwomen struggle harder than ever to make ends meet, still subject to ridicule for being feminine.

Anyway, Meryl's SexChat discussion group happens at 7 p.m. this Friday at Wingspan, 300 E. Sixth. The Native American sweat lodge for those who identify as womyn (irregardless of birth sex) is at 3 PM on Saturday the 22nd. Write Kulan@hotmial.com for information.

Here's something new: a GLBT Zen meditation group meets every Sunday morning from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at the Wingspan Annex.

The "Paint Your Gender outside the Lines" support group for gender-questioning youth under 24 meets Sunday the 23rd, at 3 p.m. at the QueerVoice Youth Lounge. For info call (520) 620-6245. A flier being given out at the Film Fest gave outdated information about that. And does that trans-AA group still meet third Sundays (Yes, that's this Sunday) at 4:30 p.m. at the Wingspan Annex? I thought it was defunct long ago; did someone resurrect it? Maybe I need to drop by this Sunday and find out.

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"For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."
John 3:16

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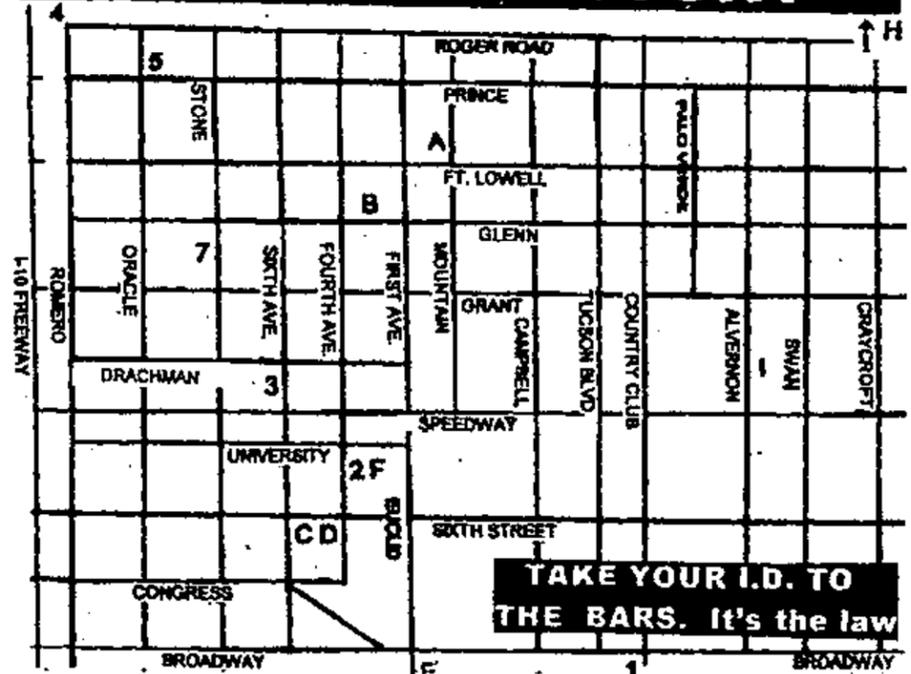
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- J. QUEER VOICE YOUTH CENTER 620-6245

- 1. AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ: 2900 E. Broadway - 318-4838
- 2. IBT'S: 816 N. 4th Ave. 882-3053
- 3. VENTURE-N: 1239 N. 6th Ave. 882-8224
- 4. NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL: 4001 N. Romero Road - 407-9622
- 5. WOODY'S - 3710 N. Oracle Road, 292-6702
- 7. YARD DOG - 2449 N. Stone, 624-3858

Getting back to my original topic, the Susie B. Broad Perspective on women in our community is on every Monday at 7 p.m. on KXCI, 91.3 FM. What'd I leave out? Write Joni at desertwordsmith@yahoo.com.



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Dear Dr. X,

I am just sick and tired of condoms. I want to feel a real man in a real way. I have been using condoms for years, but I remember not using them all too well. Is there anything else out there we can use besides condoms? Please help before I slip off the edge and end up with AIDS.

Hungry

Dear Hungry,

Don't feel so alone! I have been there and done that. There are many guys that hate them as much as you do. Maybe you could just take out about five condoms and cut them into little pieces and say, "You have ruined anal sex for me. I hate you. I hate using you. I hate that you always remind me of AIDS when I want to have hot sex." Then get back to reality!

Unfortunately, condoms are all we have right now and microbicides are years away. Female condoms are another alternative if the top does not want to wear a condom but the bottom still wants to be protected. If you don't use condoms, you and your partner are at risk of infection. I have found that when I really want the contact, and I hate condoms, a really good fingering can help.

This sounds kind of weak, but it is the skin-to-skin contact, and the feeling of doing something unsafe, and hot, and taboo that makes us want that rubberless F#S@. So find a guy with a thick finger and take a

ride. If this doesn't help at all, or seem like a viable option, I'm sorry. You are not alone. I cannot stress this enough. Lots of men hate them, and that is okay. Just remember how bad you would feel if you got infected or infected someone. The consequences of not using condoms are worse than wearing them and dealing with them. Talk to your friends, or call one of mine at the Gay Men's Health Project to discuss this further (520) 628-7223. You may be at a crossroads and at a very high-risk place in your life. That's okay just don't give up. If you are just venting, I'm proud of you. It's good therapy. Thanks for bringing up a very real issue, and revealing your feelings.

Dear Dr. X,

I love to eat butt (rimming) and also get my butt eaten. I have heard lots of different info about HIV and Hepatitis risk. Can you please clarify this for me?

Salad Tossor

Dear ST,

HIV is not your problem. The risk of getting HIV from anilingus or rimming is close to nothing. (I'll never be quoted saying the risk is zero or someone will prove me wrong.) You have many other risks with rimming. Start by being clean and make sure the other person is also (try taking a shower together, or using baby wipes). Next try saran wrap or a condom cut open flat to act as a barrier or dam. While rimming you can be exposed to any and all of the following:

Bacterial bowel infections like giardia; HPV (human papilloma virus or rectal warts); Hepatitis B and C (B is preventable with a series of vaccinations, both are very serious and difficult to treat. C is chronic and both can be fatal); NGU (nongonococcal urethritis) symptoms are similar to gonorrhea; And if I tell you any more you'll never have sex again!

I know all this sounds grim but don't panic. Rimming is a wonderful sensual act that can also be really risky. If you are going to rim be clean and try the use of an oral dam. Some people do something I call near rimming which is an act where you get close but don't come into direct oral contact with the anus or rectal opening (clean still being the operative idea). Good luck and know that our friends at the HIV/STD clinics through Pima County Health Department can answer specific questions over the phone (520) 791-7676 or in person and brochures are also available at SAAF.

[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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NON-BAR CALENDAR

GROUPS / CLUBS / ORGANIZATIONS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Bruce for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Bruce at 743-3890.

Tucson Prime Timers Lunch - 12:00 Guillermo's Double L Restaurant, 1830 S 4th Avenue. (6 & 26th St.)

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 1:30 p.m. Join Karl for an afternoon of miniature golf. For reservations and directions, please call Karl at 744-9017.

A Fellowship group starts at 7:00 p.m. at the Water of Life MCC. All are invited to come and 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 includes a video on tantra. A great way to meet new men and make friends. Fee. Call Marc 881-4582 to reserve a space.

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 1:00 p.m. Join the guys of MSN for a great Lunch Out at Maria Bonita, a place for great Mexican food. For directions and reservations, please call Paul at 293-1238.

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

#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. Karl 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 Karl at 744-9017.

Tucson Prime Timers Lunch/Business Meeting - Noon, Hometown Buffet, 5101 N. Oracle Rd.

Tucson Prime Timers Food & Drink - 5 p.m. Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd.

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 3:00 p.m. Art & Jeff host dinner and a movie. The film is "Wonderland", a film about 2 boys caught up in a murder at a club. For directions and reservations, please call Art or Jeff at 762-9135.

The Men's Massage Group meets. A great way to meet new friends and make friends. Fee. Call Marc 881-4582 for info and to reserve space.

MONDAY, MARCH 17

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 8:00 p.m. The Triangle Tribe is a support group that helps you deal with yourself and your relationships with others. For directions and reservations, please call Tom at 318-1650.

Tucson Prime Timers Lunch at 12:30 p.m., Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

TUESDAY, MARCH 18

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.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Karl for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Karl at 744-9017.

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

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

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:30 p.m. Jerry & Les show the film "Sordid Lives", which is billed as a black comedy about white trash. The film stars Olivia Newton-John and Delta Burke. For reservations and directions, please call Jerry or Les at 690-9565.

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 10:00 a.m. Join the guys for a road trip. We'll have a picnic near Texas Canyon and go for dessert (apple pie, of course) at the Cider Mill. For directions and reservations, please call Bill at 546-7539.

Bar Calendar

of Upcoming Events

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

IBT'S - 9:00 p.m. the "DivaLicious Show" hosted by Lucinda Holiday and starring Janee Starr, Lady Ashley and Faith Michaels.

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

WOODY'S - 3:00 to 7:00 the Bears of the Old Pueblo Beer Bust. \$1.00 16oz Bud and Bud Light.

YARD DOG SALOON - Celebrate a Roman Holiday here starting with Breakfast by Kenny Ann served from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Proceeds go to the kids at Balboa Neighborhood Community Center. 3:00 p.m. come celebrate Larry and Ken's Anniversary and finally a "Toga Party" begins at 7:00 p.m. with a \$100 first place prize for Best Toga! (In Case of a tie, prize will be split).

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

IBT'S - Party line-up includes Dennis' Recovery Bar from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. \$1.75 Bloody Marys, Screwdrivers or Mimosa's. Karaoke Party with Michael D. on the patio from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., Benefit Bar-B-Que / Beer Bust from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. This week's proceeds go to TIHAN. 8:00 p.m. Sissy Bingo hosted by Lucinda Holiday and Aja Simone. 9:00 p.m. it's a special Fund Raising Show for Veronica Lake, a candidate for Miss Gay Tucson-America. Show stars Veronica Halliwell, Janee Starr, Bunny FUFu, Faith Michaels, Teri Akki, Lady Ashley and Rebecca.

MONDAY, MARCH 17 - St. Patrick's Day

AINT NOBODY'S BIZ - Celebrate St. Paddy's Day here with 2-for-1 Wells and Domestic. Free Food from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. And then dance with DJ Hill from 8:30 to close. No Cover.

IBT'S - St. Patrick's Day Party with Rodger's famous Corned Beef and cabbage served beginning at 5:00 p.m. There'll also be Irish Whiskey drinks specials too!

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - St. Patrick's Day Celebration with BeBe's fabulous Corned Beef and Cabbage. Also there will be a Hawaiian Luau with Bar-B-Que Chicken or Luau Pig plus Beach Boy Music. Come on down.

VENTURE-N - Food will be served beginning at 6:00 pm. Drink specials and a door prize courtesy of Hershey of Tucson

WOODY'S - St. Patrick's Day Party featuring Leno's Corned Beef and Cabbage plus party favors and drink specials. Woody's is now serving fresh ground 'Seattle's Best' Coffee.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

IBT'S - 9:00 p.m. the "DivaLicious Show" hosted by Lucinda Holiday and starring Teri Akki, Aja Simone and Veronica Halliwell.

MARCH 21-22-23

IBT'S - 4th Avenue Spring Street Fair! Thousands of people!!!

MARCH 28-29-30

VENTURE-N - Hides of March!!! Plus a Pet Watch Yard Sale on the 29th. Need we say more. Mark the calendar and get there!

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join us for Hearts Night. This fun, but vicious game is easy to learn and entertaining to play. For reservations and directions, please call David at 743-2385.

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 9:00 a.m. Bill will host a day trip to Casa Grande for some shopping at the outlet mall. After lunch, we'll go to his parents' for dessert. For reservations and directions, please call Bill at 546-7539.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Marv 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 Marv at 745-0304.

Tucson Prime Timers Food & Drink - 5 p.m. Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd.

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. Join Bill for our annual Oscar Party. Space is limited, so be sure to call early. For reservations and directions, please call Bill at 546-7539.

Tantra Workshop 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. A new approach to sex. Discover a safe/better sex approach for fun and relationships. Call Marc at 881-4582.

MONDAY, MARCH 24

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

Tucson Prime Timers Lunch at 12:30 p.m. Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

TUESDAY, MARCH 25

#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. Join Willie for Bridge Night. If you don't know how to play, the guys are willing to teach you. For directions and reservations, please call Willie at 297-8756.

Daily Bar Calendar

specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 11am-1am Happy Hour 3-5. Shrimp Fry Dinner 5-8pm \$5.99. Karaoke 8pm-close. 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. Chill dogs or bowls \$1.

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

IBT'S - 10am-8pm \$1.75 Bloody's, Screws or Mimosa's. Sangria Party \$2.50 from 4-1 Benefit B-B-Q and Beer Bust for community organizations 5:30-8pm. 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.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 12pm - 12am. DJ "Rayman" high NRG dance music 8-close. "November Girls" 2nd/4th Sundays.

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, Mimosa's; Happy Hour 11am-8pm \$2 well or domestic beer Patio 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

AINT 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 Monde - Happy Hour prices for those in their undies 9pm-close. Queer As Folk shown beginning at 8pm. Hot Dancing follows with Johnny DJ. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 12pm - 12am. Happy Hour 3-5. Pool Tournament 7pm. Free pool 9pm-close.

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. 8pm to close.

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

Tuesday

AINT 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 Dance 8pm to close w/DJ-Q.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 12pm-12am. Happy Hour 3-5. Chicken BBQ Dinner \$5.99 5:00-8:00pm.

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

Wednesday

AINT NOBODY'S BIZ - Open 2pm. Happy Hour 2-4. 1 domestic beer and well from 2-7pm. 90s retro music 8pm - 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

Thursday

AINT NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Open 2pm. Happy Hour 2-7pm with 2-4-1 domestic beer and well. Karaoke 9-close, with \$2 Kamikaze's and \$1 Hot Sex.

IBT'S - Open 11am. Happy Hours 11am-8pm, \$2 domestic beer and well. 4-9 HI NRG video dancing with Johnny DJ 9-1 All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open noon. Grill open 12pm-1am. Happy Hour 3-5pm. 10oz Sirloin Steak w/potato & salad 5:30-8pm, \$6.99. Techno 8pm-close.

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 NTN game wins special prizes. Free Pool 8 to close. Volleyball Court is Open. See bartender.

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

Friday

AINT 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 5-9pm. Patio Bar 5-1pm. Dance Party 9 to 1. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 10:30am-1am. Happy Hour 3-5. Fish or Shrimp Dinner \$5.99 5-8pm. Country Western Dance with Libby 8pm-closing.

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

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

Saturday

AINT NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Open at 2pm. Pool Tournament 6:30pm \$3 entry. Bar matches pot. \$2 pitchers for pool players. DJ Hill 8pm-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.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 121pm-1am. Latino Nite. Drag Show 11:30rd Sat. 10:30pm. Free HIV testing by SAAF.

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 6pm. 5-9pm Fillet Mignon or Swordfish BBQ with all the trimmings \$5.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. Beer Bust 3-7pm. 75¢ glass, \$2.25 pitcher. 50¢ off any Rum 1pm to 7pm. Kennel open 5pm

NOTICES

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 8:30 - 9:00 pm. Licensed psychologist facilitator. Call 745-6977 in Tucson for more information. Strictly confidential.

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

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 foothills Church, Swan and River Road, Room 42. The 3rd Thursdays of the month, the group will meet at 7:30pm at Rainbow Planet Coffeehouse (806 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 (GPGCC) P.O. BOX 2007, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2007. E-mail: webmaster@gpgcc.org or call (602)225-8444.

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

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

ATTENTION ALL NUDISTS - Tucson Tanners is a nudist group open to all - Nude activities scheduled both indoor and outdoors. Not "Gay Only", but Gays are welcome and invited to join. For further information send SASE to: Tucson Tanners, P.O. Box 94-G, Cortaro, AZ 85652.

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

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 690-8565 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 628-7223.

THE MEN'S MASSAGE GROUP meets the 3rd Sunday of each month. It is a good way to meet other men of all ages, safely, and with the art of nurturing touch. There is a fee. You must sign up in advance to participate. Call Marc at 681-4582 for more information or sign up.

COMMUNITY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (CBA), Tucson's Gay and Lesbian business networking group holds regular meetings the third Thursday of every month. Call 615-6438 for more info.

TUCSON PRIDE, INC. (Formerly Tucson Lesbian and Gay Alliance - TLGA) meets on the second Tuesday at 845 S. Craycroft Road at 7pm. Tucson Pride produces Pride events: Pride Week, Gay West and OuttoberFEST. 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.

SOUTHERN ARIZONA AIDS FOUNDATION (SAAF), 375 S. EUCLID. Office Hours 8:30 to 5pm, Monday through Friday. Direct services and emotional support for persons with and affected by HIV. Anonymous HIV testing and support groups available. Prevention education programs. 628-SAAF (7223). World wide web: http://www.saaaf.org. VOLUNTEERS WELCOME.

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP. Involving discussion, support and activities. Designed to support each other. Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 8pm. Alternate 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 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740-8264. All replies confidential.

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE .25 PER WORD \$5.00 MINIMUM



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CLASSIFIED ADS MUST BE MAILED NO PHONE ADS

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)790-8775 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 or visit our website at www.betop.com All are welcome to our general meetings/potluck on the 2nd Friday of every month, 7pm at Sentinel Bldg. On the City of Tucson Resource Campus, 310 N. Commanche Park Loop on Bonita St. between St. Marys and Congress.

LAMBDA CAR CLUB, a social organization of Gays and Lesbians who share interest, information and fellowship involving all cars and trucks. New Southern Arizona Region now in Tucson. Call the Hotline at 688-5541

LESBIAN AND GAY AL-ANON - Affected by someone's drinking? Meeting every Tuesday 8:45 to 9:45 p.m. at Lambda Center, 2940 E. Thomas, Phoenix. Elie 681-6850 or Ronn 968-2384.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE GROUP - Outreach to Gay and Lesbian people in Arizona. Meets monthly. Write to P.O. Box 693, Phoenix, AZ 85001 or call Eddy Walters, (602)371-1102

CRONIES SOCIAL GROUP. A Social group for Gay men who enjoy the fellowship of their peers. Call Leo at 624-6788.

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 Uaguna). Open to All. Call Liz at 325-9468 or Ray at 749-5247.

LIGHTING LIGHTING will provide lighting for AIDS and related benefits at no charge. For more info call Adrienne at 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 579-6627 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 6:30 to 8:30pm at Amory Park Senior Center, 220 S. 6th Ave. Call 791-9882.

Join the **LESBIAN & GAY PUBLIC AWARENESS PROJECT.** In Tucson write Awareness Project, 3681 N. Campbell Ave. #305, Tucson, AZ 85719.

HALLELUJAH RECOVERY DRUG & ALCOHOL 12-STEP. Every Thursday 6:30-8:30pm at Cornerstone Fellowship, 2902 N. Geronimo. 622-4828.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE CLINIC provided daily by the Pima County Health Department. Gay friendly. Confidential. Treatment and Medication too! Any questions? Call 624-8272

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

YOUNG AND GAY?

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

The **TUCSON Chapter of PRIME TIMERS WORLDWIDE** invites Gay or Bisexual men and their admirers to join and share Prime Timers fellowship. We welcome mature men (and admirers) who wish to become involved with planned and future Prime Timers activities. Meetings luncheons and dinners are held monthly. For dates, times and information call 690-4613, leave name and phone number.

TUCSON GAY INFORMATION AND REFERRAL For information on human service organizations, health and mental health services, financial and government assistance, emergency services such as food and shelter, education, etc. Call information and Referral 681-1794 - 8 am - 5 pm Mon. - Fri.

AAPSP - ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY PROFESSIONALS: a confidential organization committed to providing support and networking for all Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual public safety professionals in Arizona. Membership open to Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters, Probation, Parole and Corrections Officers and civilians working within these agencies. Website: AAPSP.org or e-mail: AAPSP@aol.com or call Dave (520)745-9059 (Tucson) or Kim (602)534-8219 (Phoenix)

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

TUCSON CATHOLIC GAY & LESBIAN FAMILY MINISTRY. Currently meeting the 4th Monday of every month at SS Peter & Paul Church, Madonna Hall 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Fr. 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 293-8624.

SAA (Sex Addicts Anonymous) has 6 meetings a week in Tucson. People who wish to stop their compulsive sexual behavior, please call (520)570-1225 for current information.

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

NOTICES

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 817-3100 for more info.

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

'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

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 Care7 teams to support HIV+ persons, a referral network of HIV-sensitive clergy, and interfaith services of healing and hope. For more information call 299-6847.

ANONYMOUS HIV COUNSELING AND TESTING is available through the Pima County Health Department at sites throughout Tucson. Very Gay Friendly. For more information or to make an appointment call 791-7876.

GRACE GROUP - CATHOLIC GAY/LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP meets every 2nd and 4th Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the Madonna Hall at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, 1436 N. Campbell across from University Hospital. For more info. Call Anabell at 325-0892

SMART (Self Management And Recovery Training) a free non-12-step self-help alternative for people working to overcome addictive and other emotional problems meets in Tucson Monday thru Thursdays at different locations. For more information about SMART, contact Jennifer at 638-3975.

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

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

THEATER / DINNER / ETC! Non-Smoking Lesbian Network meets every 3rd Saturday night of each month. If you'd like to meet women 35+ (flexible) and socialize in a smoke-free environment 6:00-8:00 before 10:00 p.m. The group dines out and attends shows or movies. Now in their 16th year! (2nd in Tucson).

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

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT GROUP FOR ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLES. Not a dating club. Discreet. Meetings every Monday evening. Call for more info. APEX (Arizona Power Exchange) 602-415-1123. 24-hr multi-choice message including information, calendar and location.

SOUTHERN ARIZONA STONEWALL DEMOCRATS meet 3rd Monday of each month 7pm at 4638 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, 806 N. 4th Ave.

ARIZONA AIDS POLICY ALLIANCE (AZAPA) seeks to educate legislators and citizens about sound AIDS policy. For more information write AZAPA, 6523 N. 14th St., #112, Phoenix, AZ 85014 or call 602-279-4605.

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)792-5424 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 Mirlo Stone, MSW, at 327-1171 (if unavailable leave message with phone number).

LUTHERANS CONCERNED - Tucson chapter for Gay/Lesbian Lutherans meets 3rd Sunday, 8:30 p.m. each month at Santa Cruz Lutheran Church, 6809 S. Cardinal Ave. For information visit www.lcbtucson.org write: LC, 7014 E. Golf Links Road, PMB 212, Tucson, AZ 85730.

The **MAN TO MAN** social/erotic education CLUB is the tantric men's group that offers passionate friendships, fun activities and sex education. Marc 881-4582

PERSONALS

WOULD JOE COX PLEASE CONTACT 881-4582 to work out the debt. 974

LOOKING FOR A FRIEND. Join the Man to Man Club. Call 881-4582 for details. 974

GWM MIDDLE-AGE, LOOKING for relationship. 731-8152. 972

CASH FOR YOUR PORN! Buy-Sell-Trade. Private Collector seeks GAY MALE videos (VHS/DVD), Magazines, Books, Art, Toys, Leather Gear, Costumes/Uniforms, Fetish equipment and other items of Gay Interest. Free local pickup. Complete discretion. Evenings and weekends by appointment only. Current to Classic - All conditions. Call John at 327-3135. 971.

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ENJOY A NICE TOUCH. Attractive man offers a sensual, relaxing massage. 10am - 8pm. 745-0231 or 691-7859 968...

TENSE? STRESSED OUT? Relax for an hour with a full body rub by Frank. Private studio, off-street parking. (520)271-3680 days, evenings. 972

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Let me keep your clothes fitting properly and in good repair. Experienced - Economical - Prompt. Marie Hudson, (520)686-7264 in Tucson. 970

COMPUTER GUY. I hold a Bachelors degree in Information Technology, and a Masters of Science in Computer Information Systems, and have taught at Pima Community College. I am available late afternoon and evening weekdays for tutoring, troubleshooting and repair. Scott 546-1210. 972.

ALTERATIONS FOR HE OR SHE. Also repair upholstery. Very reasonable. Call 687-9595 7am to 7pm - 7 days a week. Can arrange for pick-up and delivery. 972.

"If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away."

- Henry David Thoreau

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Feinstein Introduces Anti-Bias Bill In U.S. Senate

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. senator Diane Feinstein has introduced a resolution that would prohibit Senate offices from discriminating against Gay men and Lesbians in hiring. Roll Call reports.

The bill would alter the Senate's Standing Rules to add the classification of sexual orientation to the list of factors that may not be considered during hiring. The California Democrat made a similar proposal last year, but it never made it past the committee level.

"I introduced this resolution because it is the right thing to do," Feinstein said. "These things have been difficult to get approved in the past, and I anticipate it will be difficult this time as well. I think it is important to be on the record opposed to

discrimination based on sexual orientation."

The bill already has 31 cosponsors, with Oregon senator Gordon Smith the only Republican. But Roll Call suggests that the measure has a poor chance of passing since traditionally anti-Gay senator Trent Lott chairs the Rules and Administration Committee, which the bill must pass before reaching the full Senate.

"Democrats understand that employment discrimination is a reality," said Dave Noble, executive director for the National Stonewall Democrats. "By addressing antiGay discrimination within the halls of Congress, this resolution moves the entire Senate closer to passing employment laws that promote equality for all American workers."

History Making Psychiatrist Dies At 65

PHILADELPHIA, PA - Dr. John Fryer, the U.S. psychiatrist credited with helping convince his profession to stop classifying homosexuality as a mental illness, died on Feb. 21 from aspiration pneumonia. He was 65.

Fryer appeared at an American Psychiatric Association (APA) convention in 1972 in a full disguise under the name "Dr. H Anonymous," telling the group — through a voice-distorting microphone — that he had suffered discrimination and that being openly Gay would cost him his job.

The following year, the APA's board of trustees removed homosexuality from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual

of Mental Disorders.

Gay rights activist Barbara Gittings, a friend of Fryer's who helped him prepare for his appearance, said it had a big impact.

"It opened up things a great deal, because it made many psychiatrists realize Gays were not some abstract idea, but were in fact in their profession."

Fryer retired in 2000. He was recognized in 2002 by Vanderbilt University Medical School with a distinguished alumnus award and by the Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists with a distinguished service award.

Study: Teens Lack Access To Confidential HIV, STD Care

WASHINGTON, DC - A new study by researchers at the Children's National Medical Center at Georgetown University shows that many teenagers seeking confidential medical care for pregnancy, HIV, and sexually transmitted diseases may find their primary care doctors are unable or unwilling to keep their information secret, Reuters Health reports.

Even doctors who are willing to maintain confidentiality can be undermined by office staff who incorrectly tell teens such care is not available.

The researchers telephoned primary care, pediatrics, and family practice offices in the Washington, D.C., area and followed up with a written survey sent to doctors. Personnel who answered the phone were asked if adolescents could obtain a pelvic exam, access to contraceptives, and STD testing without parental knowledge of the visit; doctors were asked the same questions in the written survey. Of the 170 doctors who responded to the written survey, only 92 said they offered such services without parental consent. In 63% of the practices that were called, office staff answering the phones contradicted the doctor's written responses to the questions.

"Teenagers may not go to get care for pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases if they think their parents are going to find out, and that's why the professional medical organizations have always had the position that this care should be available on a confidential basis for teenagers," said study author Lara Akinbami. "Information teenagers receive about confidentiality when trying to schedule an appointment may be a deciding factor in whether to seek health care."

The researchers recommend that more doctors develop written policies on confidential medical services for adolescents and that everyone in the office be trained to respond to teenagers' questions.

Gay Couple Divorce

Continued from Page One

was a first for him, and others in the legal profession said they think it is the only such divorce outside Vermont.

Smith, who petitioned for the divorce, said getting the divorce in Texas was expensive and strenuous. But getting the union dissolved in Vermont would have required Smith or Anthony to live in that state for at least a year before a final divorce hearing, the *The [Beaumont] Enterprise* reported. Smith said he had to get a legal divorce for financial reasons. The couple did not file joint income tax returns, but they did have joint auto and life insurance. The two also ran several businesses together, and the division of their assets and properties was done by agreement.

Smith's lawyer, Ronnie Cohee, said that because the Vermont union was legally binding, it needed to be legally dissolved. She said her legal justification relied on the U.S. Constitution's "full faith and credit clause," which requires states to recognize marriages and other contracts from other states. Cohee also said that even though Texas law refers to a husband and wife when talking about marriage, state law refers to "parties" when addressing dissolution.

Richard Carlson, a law professor at South Texas College of Law in Houston,

La Conexión Latina

Salud es Poder

¿Hay alguna relación entre el alcohol y el VIH?

El abuso en el consumo de alcohol y el riesgo de infección de VIH si pueden estar relacionados. De todos es sabido que el abuso en el consumo de bebidas alcohólicas afecta tu forma de pensar y actuar entre otras cosas. El consumo de bebidas alcohólicas es muy popular en la sociedad de hoy. El consumo de bebidas alcohólicas atrae a todo tipo de gente, de todos los niveles sociales y de la mayor parte de las culturas del mundo. El uso de bebidas fermentadas o alcohólicas data de culturas ancestrales y desde entonces ha estado ligado a festejos y ocasiones especiales de ahí que su consumo sea símbolo de convivencia y la alegría. Es difícil establecer la línea entre el abuso y el consumo de bebidas alcohólicas ya que lo que para unas personas es abuso para otras no lo es. Sin embargo, hay patrones claramente establecidos que hay que hacer notar. Por ejemplo, si un policía te detiene, ellos tienen una medida para juzgar si en ese momento estas bajo la influencia del alcohol y lo más probable es que si solo te bebiste una o dos cervezas vayas a tener problemas por conducir bajo la influencia del alcohol. Para contestar esta pregunta, diremos que el abuso de bebidas alcohólicas es evidente cuando estas afectan seriamente tu forma de pensar y actuar. También puede ser abuso del alcohol cuando haces cosas que en un estado sobrio no harías.

Así que generalmente si hay una relación entre el abuso de bebidas alcohólicas y el riesgo de infección de VIH. Esta relación se da cuando al estar bajo la influencia del alcohol y te involucras en

relaciones sexuales aumenta la posibilidad de que tu forma de pensar y/o actuar cambie por completo de lo que consideras sexo seguro. Por ejemplo, es posible que siempre que tienes relaciones sexuales en un estado sobrio, es decir sin haber tomado bebidas alcohólicas, uses un preservativo o condón. En cambio, cuando tienes sexo después de haber tomado varias bebidas, es muy posible que tu mente no reaccione igual y tengas sexo sin protección. El sexo seguro es una responsabilidad mutua. Con esto quiero decir que en una relación de dos personas, ambas tienen la responsabilidad de cuidarse. Imagínate en lo que puede pasar si tu pareja sexual y tu tienen relaciones bajo la influencia del alcohol y ambos no miden las consecuencias de tener sexo sin protección, esto puede traer problemas en tu salud sexual.

Para concluir si puede haber una relación entre el abuso del alcohol y el riesgo de infección del VIH. Lo más importante es que hay ayuda si es que consideras que tienes problemas con el abuso de sustancias incluido el alcohol. En Salud es Poder te podemos asesorar en la búsqueda de esta ayuda, lo único que necesitas es ponerte en contacto con nosotros. Salud es Poder es un programa de prevención del VIH y abuso de sustancias diseñado para trabajar con los hombres latinos que tienen sexo con otros hombres. Nos puedes localizar en Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation en el 375 S. Euclid Ave, teléfono (520) 628-7223 o por correo electrónico a salud@saaf.org

said that because the divorce was sought by agreement, appeals in the case are unlikely. But if an appeal were to be made to a higher court, Carlson said, he would expect that court to simply not recognize the marriage as binding.

'Gay Panic' Defense

Continued from Page Four

was on chat lines with teenagers, who frequented Gay bars, who preferred street males. A man who picked up other men — a life of deceit."

The trial's focus on Dabarran's sexual orientation was homophobic and may have lead the jury to acquit Reed a statewide Gay advocacy group said.

"I think homophobia played a role in the decision that it was okay to kill the guy," said Allen Thornell, executive director of Georgia Equality.

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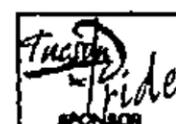
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