

Justices Grill Attorneys In Sodomy Challenge

WASHINGTON, DC - A majority of the Supreme Court appeared ready to overturn the Texas "homosexual conduct" law, seeming to concur with arguments that the statute violates constitutional equal protection guarantees and is an unwarranted government invasion of privacy.

A decision made along equal protection lines would not directly conflict with the court's infamous *Bowers vs. Hardwick* decision which denied Gay people the right to privacy for consensual sex.

The New York Times reports the cultural and constitutional arguments presented before the justices were "mismatched to a degree rarely seen at the court."

Paul Smith, who is representing the two men prosecuted under the Texas law, is a former Supreme Court law clerk and seasoned lawyer familiar with court procedures and practices. He was described by court observers as calm, assured and elegant in his presentation.

Charles Rosenthal Jr., charged with defending the Texas law, on the other hand, made what appeared to be an almost inept appearance before the court. He made what the Times described as "first-timer's mistakes" and was apparently unprepared to field questions more experienced lawyers would have easily anticipated.

The Times said Rosenthal was blind even to the assistance and guidance offered by a sympathetic Justice Antonin Scalia.

Smith took Justice Scalia's antago-

nism towards his arguments in stride and set out early to root his case for repeal in long-established constitutional principles. He noted that while the concept of Gay civil rights was new, a central libertarian ideal grounded its pursuit in the nation's earliest beginnings.

"So you really have a tradition of respect for the privacy of couples in their home, going back to the founding," Smith said. He noted that since 1961, three-quarters of the states had repealed their criminal sodomy laws, "based on a recognition that it's not consistent with our basic American values about the relationship between the individual and the state."

"Well, it depends on what you mean by basic American values," Justice Scalia fired back, asserting that just because the states may at one time have had laws against flagpole sitting, it didn't follow that flagpole sitting should be considered a fundamental right.

Smith anticipated the objection and punched a gaping hole in Scalia's line of argument. "The court's decisions don't look just at history," he said, "they look at the function that a particular claimed freedom plays in the lives of real people."

Asked by Scalia how the court should identify such a claimed freedom, Smith said the court had already answered that question. "The court has said that it's going to use reasoned judgement to identify a realm that involves matters central and core to how a person defines their own lives."

Transgendered Woman Sues Ashcroft, U.S. Government

WASHINGTON, DC - A U.S. Border Patrol specialist who underwent sex-change surgery has sued the government, alleging discrimination.

Tracy Nichole Sturchio, formerly known as Ronald Sturchio, claims in a U.S. district court civil rights lawsuit that she has been harassed and discriminated against because she is a "Transgender citizen." Her lawsuit says she can't wear a dress to work or use the women's bathroom and that she has been subjected to sexual harassment and workplace discrimination. The lawsuit seeks \$500,000 for compensatory and punitive damages, along with an unspecified amount for mental anguish and emotional distress.

Sturchio, who declined comment, has been employed by the Border Patrol

since 1991 and has worked at the Spokane, Wash., office since July 1998. She is still employed as a telecommunications specialist at the Border Patrol office in Spokane. The defendants are Attorney General John Ashcroft; Border Patrol chief Gustavo De LaVina; and Michael J. Garcia, commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Marvin Foust, assistant chief patrol agent at the Spokane office, said officials cannot comment on pending litigation.

Sturchio supervised a crew of four employees assigned to install and maintain the patrol's telecommunications equipment, the lawsuit says. "The plaintiff's appearance is very effeminate due to accidental expo-

CONTINUED ON PAGE THIRTEEN

National Day Of Action For Retention Of GLBT Students In Higher Education

WASHINGTON, DC- The U.S. Student Association (USSA), its members and students from across the country are taking steps to increase access to under represented students on their campuses. On April 9, 2003, students will participate in the Day of Silence Project to call attention to the issues that Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) people face in universities and to demand change on campus that will improve the lives of LGBT students. They will be silent on this day to expose the forced silencing that comes from institutionalized heterosexism, homophobia, and transphobia.

The existence of homophobia and transphobia on our campuses negatively affect the recruitment and retention of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender people in higher education. Students face harassment in the dorms, heterosexism in the classroom, and acts of violence campus. Most universities do not provide institutional support for LGBT people, leaving these students open to discrimination.

College campuses are the third most common place for hate crimes to take place. Everyday LGBT students face verbal and physical harassment and discrimination by their peers, professors,

and administrators yet only about 375 out of the over 3000 colleges and universities in the United States include sexual orientation in their nondiscrimination policies.

"LGBT students around the country are facing barriers to higher education because of the homophobia, transphobia, and heterosexism that exists in our colleges and universities," said Jo'ie Taylor, President of the United States Student Association. "Universities must protect and support queer students from discrimination and harassment on campus in order for these students to continue their education and earn a degree."

On April 9, 2003 students will be demanding this protection and support on their campus. Some of the demands being made include: adding sexual orientation and gender identity to the campus-wide non-discrimination policies, the creation of LGBT resource centers, the formation of committees designated to study the campus climate for queer students, educational training for staff and much more.

The United States Student Association is the nation's oldest and largest national student organization and has been serving as the voice of students in our nation's capitol for over 56 years.

Vatican Says Homosexuality Is 'Without Any Social Value'

VATICAN CITY - A new Vatican dictionary describing homosexuality as a condition "without any social value" was denounced by an Italian Gay rights leader as insulting and cruel.

The Vatican published the 1,000-page Lexicon of words and phrases like reproductive rights, gender, and other terms dealing with sexuality in an effort to clarify what it says are neutral-sounding terms that can mask meanings contradictory to Roman Catholic teachings.

Lexicon reflects Vatican teaching that homosexual acts are "intrinsically disordered," and Pope John Paul II has said such acts are "contrary to natural law." The church, however, says homosexuals should be treated with compassion and dignity. The dictionary counsels against "stigmatizing" as homophobic those who raise questions about homosexuality.

But leading Gay rights activist Franco Grillini said the dictionary makes plain "the pathological homophobic obsession of the Catholic Church.... In my opinion, it's almost racist, and it is at the limit of cruelty." Grillini wrote on his Web site that Lexicon moves "from homophobic invective to insult against homosexuals and homosexuality."

Earlier this year Cardinal Alfonso Lopez Trujillo said the Vatican decided to compile the work after hearing complaints from nongovernmental organizations about "ambiguous" terms used at the United Nations and other international organizations. The Vatican long has been at odds with the United Nations over policies it believes contradict church teaching. For example, the Vatican often opposes U.N. documents concerning sex education and the use of condoms as a way to prevent HIV infection.

UPDATE

Reception For Outright Radio April 17

TUCSON - Join Outright Radio on Thursday, April 17, 7:00 p.m., at 300 East Sixth Street, for an evening of LGBT story-telling as this national radio project based here in Tucson premieres its Series 2003.

These extraordinary radio specials are produced locally and aired on Public Radio International for gay pride month in America. This year, host David Gilmore will present the fascinating stories of Ann & Bonnie Jones in a show called, "Why Am I Still Single/Why Am I Still Married?"; then the touching stories of Tucson's Hannah Blue Heron and Maurice Grossman in a show about our "Elders"; writer Rob Zonfrelli talks about his irrepressible feminine manner in a show called "Butches, Femmes and the Question of Gender"; and David tells his own story about leaving the Bay Area for Arizona in a show called, "Leaving the Gay Ghettos."

Outright Radio was the recent recipient of 2 Siegenthaler awards for excellence in journalism from the National Lesbian & Gay Journalists' Association (NLGJA). All of Outright Radio's shows can be previewed on the web at www.Outright-Radio.org.

Observer Letter Policy

Recently The Observer has received several letters to the editor on a variety of different topics, none of which were on articles, items and events published so a clarification of the policy of this section is warranted.

While the editors and staff of The Observer gladly welcome correspondence from readers on all topics, it is the preference and policy to publish letters, only one per week per individual, that comment directly on material previously published in The Observer, in print and online at tucsonobserver.com.

In addition, starting this week, The Observer will reserve the right to edit letters for clarity and conciseness, and may appear in print or online. Letters may be E-mailed to: letters@tucsonobserver.com.

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Hepatitis C Presentation April 18

TUCSON - The Pima County HIV/AIDS CARE Consortium is hosting an educational presentation on Hepatitis C, Wednesday, April 16, 6 - 7:30 p.m. at the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona, 2250 E. Broadway, Tucson.

The presentation, which is coordinated by the Arizona AIDS Education Training Center, is scheduled to feature guest presenter Diane Schliesly, RN, speaking on the disease and a person living with Hepatitis C who will present their personal experience with the disease. The presentation immediately follows the Quarterly Evening Meeting of the Pima County HIV/AIDS Consortium. This is a regular business meeting of the Consortium and is open to the public.

The mission of the Consortium is to take an active role in addressing the needs of all persons living with and/or affected by HIV in Pima County. People living with HIV/AIDS and their family and friends are encouraged to attend. For directions or more information about the Pima County HIV/AIDS Consortium, Contact Jay Moman or Sam Ritchie, (520) 770-0800.

MCC Announces Holy Week Schedule

TUCSON - The Water of Life Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) is gearing up for a week of renewal & the blessings that go along with the resurrection of Our Savior Jesus Christ. There are many opportunities to pay us a visit. Select one or all of them.

Starting with Palm Sunday at the Sunday Service on April 13, 10:15 a.m. Then there is the Maundy Thursday Service on April 17, 7:00 p.m. The Good Friday Service is on April 18, 7:00 p.m. The traditional Sunrise Easter service begins at 7:00 a.m., April 20, followed by a huge Easter Breakfast at 8:00 a.m. The regular Easter Worship Service begins at 10:15 a.m.. So many events to choose from.

Rev Joyce Cook invites all of Tucson to share in this special week. While you are at it, check out the new sanctuary. After the remodel, the church has never looked or felt better. Water of Life MCC is located at 3269 North Mountain Avenue, between Prince and Ft. Lowell Roads. All are cordially invited to attend services every Sunday at 10:15 a.m. For more information, call (520) 292-9151

Local Military Support Group Forming

TUCSON - Wingspan announces a new support group for Husbands, Wives, Significant Others, loved ones and other politically correct terms for our spouses.

With the War in Iraq and the deployments of LGBT service members. What are we supposed to do? Who do we talk too? Who understands what it means for our loved ones to be across the oceans and thousands of miles away from us? Join other loved ones of deployed service members at Wingspan on Wednesday nights, 7:00 p.m.

Share your support and get support from other people that know exactly what it feels like to be separated from the one that

you love. This group and what is discussed at this group will be strictly confidential. For more information contact wingspan@wingspan.org or call Carl, (520) 624-1779. Wingspan is a hate free zone where we offer comfort and support. Regardless of your views on the current War our Service Members and their families are not to blame. We support our troops and their families.

John Waters 'World Of Trash' April 12

By Mark R. Kerr

TUCSON (ON) - Legendary film director, John Waters is bringing his "World of Trash" to the Old Pueblo, Saturday, April 12, at the Club Congress, 311 E. Congress, 7:30 p.m.

Waters, who has directed such cult and camp film classics, "Pink Flamingoes", "Female Trouble", "Mondo Trasho", "Polyester", "Lust in the Dust", and "Hairspray", starring entertainer extra ordinaire, Divine, "the filthiest woman alive", as well as Edith "I want eggs" Massey and Mink Stole and other favorite films, "Serial Mom", "Cecil B DeMented" and "Pecker", making Patty Hearst a household name for other reasons, will be performing his one man show for one night only at Club Congress, starting at 7:30 p.m.

"The World of Trash," details Waters ground-breaking career in a rapid-fire, stand-up comedy format, the only way this film genius' life could be told.

After which, Waters will also hold a Q&A with the audience after his performance, even maybe to answer those age old questions about what really happened to the "Pink Flamingoes" trailer, the famous Lobster scene from "Mondo Trasho", the mysteries of Odorama from "Polyester", and that burning question, did Lainie Kazan and Divine do their own stunts, especially during the bar fight scene in "Lust in the Dust"?

Waters was recently seen on television as host for the Independent Spirit Awards, and has made numerous appearances on "Politically Incorrect," and is one of the many celebrities who were animated for posterity on "The Simpsons", in one of the classic episodes of the long running series. Currently, the musical version of "Hairspray," starring openly Gay actor Harvey Fierstein, is breaking records on the Broadway stage as is considered a favorite to win many awards at this year's Tony's.

For those individuals who have purchased VIP Gold Circle tickets, \$75, Waters will be present at a special meet and greet, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., General Admission tickets are \$28. For tickets, visit www.ticketweb.com or call (866) 468-3399.

SAGA Forum April 10

TUCSON - Wingspan's Community Forum at 7 p.m., Thursday April 10, will respond to questions to and about transsexuals and others of the Transgender community.

Panelists will discuss the process of transitioning, the effects of hormones, intimacy, sexuality, orientation, kink, before and after, and other topics. Panelists will include a variety of Transgendered people.

You are encouraged to bring your curiosity. Get answers to all of the questions you are usually too polite to ask. Our panelists promise a no-holds-barred, free-wheeling conversation with the audience. This forum is sponsored by Wingspan in conjunction with the Southern Arizona Gender Alliance (SAGA).

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(520) 622-7176 (Voice)
Office Hours: 9a.m.-6p.m.M-F
Office Closed Thursdays

Computer FAX (520)792-8382

Observer on the World Wide Web :
<http://www.tucsonobserver.com>
E-Mail: info@tucsonobserver.com

EDITOR/PUBLISHER: Bob Ellis
ART & GRAPHICS: Gary Clark
COPY EDITOR: Mark Kerr
Special Events Photos: Bill Morrow
Horoscope - Charlene Lichtenstein

Contributing Columnists
MARK R. KERR — LEE THORN
JERRY DIAZ — JONI K. MAUSSE

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Gay Marine Comes Out As Conscientious Objector

CAMP PENDLETON, CA - An openly Gay marine reservist planned to turn himself in to military authorities and file paperwork declaring himself a conscientious objector, just weeks after he was called up to active duty.

"Ultimately, it's my fault for joining in the first place," said 20-year-old Lance Cpl. Stephen Funk, who didn't show up when his unit was deployed to Camp Pendleton. "It wasn't as well thought out as it should've been. It was about me being depressed and wanting direction in life."

Funk enlisted in February 2002, when he was 19 and living on his own. "I saw the valuable things you can learn, like teamwork, leadership—things you can learn in Boy Scouts," he said. "I saw it as a way to learn new things and meet new people. It was a way to get what I thought was missing in my life." He says he caved in to pressure from a recruiter who capitalized on his vulnerability. "They don't really advertise that they kill people," Funk said. "I didn't really realize the full implications of what I was doing and what it really meant to be in the service as a reservist."

Funk said he began doubting his fitness for military service during basic training at Camp Pendleton last spring, when he felt uncomfortable singing cadence calls describing violence and screaming "Kill, kill, kill" during weapons training. "I was unwilling to do that. It just felt very wrong," he said. "I started just to mouth the words so I wouldn't get in trouble."

Funk, whose father served in the

Navy in Vietnam, said he expressed his misgivings to several chaplains, who he said never counseled him about the possibility of a conscientious objector discharge. "I didn't ask for a way out, but I told them about it," he said. "I told them I'm having nightmares about what this is going to do for my conscience."

Funk acknowledges his sexual orientation in his conscientious objector statement:

"My moral development has also been largely effected by the fact that I'm homosexual. I believe that as a Gay man, someone who is misunderstood by much of the general population, I have a great deal of experience with hatred and oppression. When someone is thrust into a situation of hate and oppression because of factors they have no control over, I believe they either react with hatred back, because they've experienced it, or they learn not to be that way towards others. I have adopted the latter reaction and stand with the oppressed people of the world who know that hate and oppression do not solve any problems. I was raised to respect, not hate, others who are different than me. I was appalled by the amount of hatred I found in the military. Of course I couldn't 'come out' in boot camp, but everyone pretty much knew that I was Gay, and many hated me for it. The military cultivates anti Gay sentiment among its enlisted, but I also believe it perpetuates feelings of hatred against all that are different either culturally, ethnically, or otherwise. I think that is the way the military dehumanizes the enemy (whomever that may be) so that its members won't be adverse to

killing them. Coming to that realization about war disgusted me and made me completely opposed to military action."

Those applying for status as a conscientious objector must submit a detailed letter explaining how their feelings have changed since joining the military. Then there are interviews with a military chaplain, a psychiatrist, and an investigating officer. The final decision is made by top military commanders. Because Funk didn't report for active duty when his reserve unit was called up in mid February, he will likely receive nonjudicial punishment, typically 30 days' desk duty, his lawyer, Stephen Collier, said.

Meanwhile, Funk says, he's attended every major San Francisco Bay area antiwar rally since finishing his military training last fall. And while he acknowledged that he was surprised to get called up to active duty so quickly, Funk insists his decision has nothing to do with the current war in Iraq.

"I would be applying for this anyway," he said. "I believe a lot of those people going over there are going to have psychological problems and guilt. I can serve time for being a conscientious objector...or I can go along and do something that I know is wrong and live with that forever."

Sodomy Case Will Have Wide Impact

WASHINGTON, DC - An overzealous pair of Houston policemen, who arrested two adult men engaged in consensual sex in a private residence, have set the stage for the most important court decision on the rights of Gay and Lesbian Americans in a generation.

The U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in Lambda Legal's case challenging the constitutionality of Texas's "Homosexual Conduct" law, which criminalizes oral and anal sex by consenting Gay couples.

Justices will decide whether the Texas sodomy law violates the equal protection and privacy rights of homosexuals, or whether the law is, instead, a legitimate attempt by the state to uphold its view of sexual morality, family values, and traditional marriage.

Backers of the Texas law assert there is no fundamental right in the Constitution to engage in certain sexual activity. To strike down the law, they say, could create such a right and lay the legal groundwork for recognition of same-sex marriages.

Opponents say among the most fundamental of rights guaranteed in the Constitution is the right to be left alone. The government does not enjoy the unfettered power to intrude into the most intimate and private aspects of what happens in American bedrooms, they say.

"This is the most important Gay rights case in a generation," said Ruth Harlow of Lambda. "What we are asking for is to not have the police prosecute you for choosing one particular way to express your love for someone else in private."

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Miss Gay Tucson Pre-Pageant Show
Saturday April 5th at 8PM
starring - Lucinda Holliday, Samantha White, Janee Starr & Lady Ashley

Sunday April 6th
11AM-4PM Troys Recovery Bar w/ Bull Shot Specials
\$1.75 Bloody Mary Buffet - Mimosa or Screwdriver
4:30 Karaoke on the Patio with Michael D
5:30 Benefit BBQ/Beer Bust for PFLAG
10PM Miss Gay Tucson America Pageant Post Party & Hot Dance

The DivaLicious Show
9 PM Wednesday April 9th • hosted by Lucinda Holliday
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COMMENTARY

Don't Let The Right To Assemble Get Painted Over!

As we all have painfully witnessed, the "A" on "A" Mountain became the focus of controversy when it was painted black by a group protesting American actions in Iraq on Sunday, March 23.

It was subsequently repainted white by city officials, the color it has always been, during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and Gulf War I in 1991. A radio station owned by Clear Channel communications on Thursday, in violation of city ordinance, repainted it red, white and blue, marking the latest event in a series of pro-invasion, pro-Bush rallies held across the country.

On Sunday, March 30, Tucson's Mayor and Council, held a special meeting to deal with this "pressing" problem, and ended up split 3-3 on whether to continue having it red, white and blue. So with the vote, the "A" will go back to the way it was, and has been, white but we need to make sure our right to assemble does not get painted over or white-washed either.

Still under consideration is a proposed ordinance that would give the police chief more power to regulate public gatherings and to delay this hearing until next month.

As previously reported, City Manager James Keene, at the March 17 meeting, had urged the council to adopt the regulations quickly so the police could use it to control activity in the streets along North Fourth Avenue in the possible event that the University of Arizona men's basketball team

mades it to the Final Four of the annual tournament. We all know they didn't but this proposal is still alive.

The proposed regulations would have allowed the police chief to deny a parade permit if they think the turnout would be too large for the police to manage with the available personnel, or if it might block emergency vehicles, and take place during rush hours. A permit could not be denied, supposedly, because of the purpose of the event which one leads to wonder if the police chief could use one of the other excuses provided for in the proposal.

Demonstrations or rallies on sidewalks wouldn't require a permit, but police could shut down an event if multiple demonstrators stepped into the street or if the group failed to provide sidewalk access to other users. When Wingspan held their community rally, they would have been in violation of the proposal since more than 100 or so people turned out in front of Wingspan's main annex, located at 300 East Sixth Street.

The Observer is urging everyone to continue calling (520) 791-4700, Tucson's Mayor and Council comment line and tell the Mayor and Council to reject this proposal and to take the time to rework the ordinance. You can also get your message across by E-mailing them at meweb@mail.ci.tucson.az.us. Our Pride Parades, events, marches and rallies, and the right to conduct these are much more important than a can of paint and Tucson's Mayor and Council need to be made aware of this.



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of my gross income generated by members & friends of the Gay & Lesbian Community will be donated to local AIDS service organizations.

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La Conexión Latina
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El bar familiar

Esa noche, me disponía a descubrir el primer bar gay latino de mi ciudad. Hacía ya como cinco años que había llegado a la Ciudad de los Vientos y lo único que conocía era el barrio gay, localizado en el norte de la ciudad. Durante estos cinco años de residencia en Chicago ya había entrado a los bares y pues mas o menos los había disfrutado. Digo mas o menos porque no me satisfacían ya que no me identificaba mucho con la música que ahí tocaban. En una de mis visitas a uno de estos bares al hacer plática con un muchacho que ahí estaba, me entere de la existencia de un bar latino. Me dijo mas o menos donde estaba y el siguiente fin de semana salí de casa a eso de las 11 de la noche de un día veraniego. El calor húmedo ya había disminuido transformándose en un calor agradable. No fue difícil encontrar el bar ya que la cuadra donde se encontraba estaba muy desolada, es decir no había muchas casas, solo bodegas y lotes baldíos pero eso sí, la calle estaba llena de carros. Aparte fue fácil identificar algunos clientes que bajaban de sus carros hacia las puertas del bar ya que entre nosotros mismos como que hay un sexto sentido que nos permite saber o darnos una idea cuando somos de la misma camada.

del disco que saco en vivo en 1992. El ambiente ahí era como para sentirse en casa y eso lo comprobé después de varias idas en las que siempre veía las mismas caras. Para mí, ese bar era un bar familiar en donde se la pasaba uno como en familia. Después de algunos años lo cerraron por violaciones al reglamento de la ciudad, sin embargo, seguramente el "Mario's" se quedó en el recuerdo de muchas personas que ahí conocieron a sus parejas, hicieron amigos o simplemente disfrutaron de un buen rato.

El bar "Mario's" es solo un ejemplo de la importancia que tienen nuestros espacios para la comunidad latina gay. Creo que la mayoría de nosotros no tenemos problemas en ir a un bar frecuentado en su mayoría por heterosexuales, o un bar gay lleno de anglosajones, sin embargo, nuestras raíces nos llaman y muchos de nosotros preferimos bares que nos ofrezcan lo nuestro. Es decir, un ambiente donde podamos bailar unos con otros y donde lo que bailemos sea nuestra música, llámese cumbia, norteña, pop, salsa o merengue.

Aquí en Tucson, Salud es Poder y Proyecto Conexión te ofrecen en sus servicios un ambiente familiar en donde te sentirás como en casa. Los sábados por la noche patrocinamos la noche latina gay en el Restaurante Bar Novembers en el noroeste de la ciudad, Romero Rd esquina con Roger. Te invitamos a pasar por el Novembers y a participar en nuestros programas de prevención del VIH. Para más información llámanos a Ernie Pérez, Rafael Vega o José Muñoz al teléfono (520) 628-7223.

Entré al "Mario's" medio asustado ya que era mi primera vez ahí. Sin embargo, pronto me sentí como en casa y hasta me gusto la música que ahí tocaban. Había una sinfonía a la que solo había que ponerle dinero y escoger las canciones que querías escuchar. Unos meses antes habían matado a Selena y en ese entonces era muy popular. Recuerdo que ponían mucho una canción que traía un potpourri como de tres canciones

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Around The USA

Judge Awards Legal Fees In Helmsley Case

NEW YORK, NY - A judge has awarded more than \$638,000 in legal fees and expenses to lawyers for a Gay former hotel manager who successfully sued Leona Helmsley with the claim that she abused and fired him because of his sexual orientation.

The amount was calculated by state supreme court justice Walter B. Tolub, to be paid to Geri Krauss and Elizabeth Holtzman, lawyers for Charles Bell. The sum is about one third of the \$1.69 million that they had requested. The fees are also more than the \$554,000 Tolub awarded Bell, 48, after reducing the \$11.17 million a Manhattan jury awarded the former Park Lane Hotel manager on February 4 after finding that Helmsley, 82, had wrongfully terminated him. The judge noted that Bell and his lawyers have a "contingency" fee agreement, by which they get one third of whatever the jury awards him. That means Bell's lawyers would get another \$185,000 in addition to the \$638,000, for a total of \$823,000.

Helmsley's lawyer, Steven G. Eckhaus, said he was "gratified" that the judge gave Bell's attorneys only about one third of what they requested, "but I don't believe they'll get any of it." Only the side that wins in a lawsuit gets legal fees, Eckhaus noted, and he said Helmsley intends to appeal. "At the end of the day, when the appeals are finished, they won't see a penny," he said.

Krauss said she and Holtzman were glad Tolub awarded them what he deemed to be the top fee for experienced

lawyers in an important civil rights case. "Unfortunately," Krauss complained, "the judge did not give enough weight to the amount of time we were forced to spend dealing with defendants' repeated refusal to follow [pretrial] rules and...capricious and repeated changes of counsel."

Krauss said Helmsley used five different law firms during the Bell case. "We're going to appeal this along with our appeal of the judge's severe reduction of the jury's damages award," Krauss said. "We're very eager to have our \$11 million verdict reinstated."

Exactly a month after the jury awarded Bell \$1.17 million in compensatory damages and \$10 million in punitive damages, Tolub issued a decision calling the award excessive, despite his estimate of Helmsley's financial worth at close to \$4 billion. The judge said the amount awarded Bell probably resulted from Helmsley's "belligerence" on the witness stand and "accompanying sneer," which annoyed the jury and succeeded "in keeping the specter of the 'queen of mean' alive in the courtroom."

Openly Gay Cadet Starts Scholarship

COLLEGE STATION, TX - Senior Texas A&M University Corps of Cadets member Noel Freeman has announced plans to raise funds to permanently endow scholarships for Gay and Lesbian cadets.

In December 2000 Freeman, the only openly Gay cadet serving in the Corps of Cadets, became the first person in Texas A&M history to be discharged from the Air Force ROTC under the military's "don't ask,

don't tell" policy, which bars out-of-the-closet Gays and Lesbians from serving in the military. "I felt the immediate financial impact of losing a scholarship solely because of my orientation," Freeman said. "I could stay in the corps, but I wasn't allowed to participate in ROTC programs or receive any ROTC money."

In addition to replacing scholarships revoked by ROTC programs, Freeman said his initiative is intended to coincide with the spirit of efforts by Texas A&M University president Robert M. Gates to expand the diversity of the student population through the "Vision 2020" program. "When people talk about diversity, Gays and Lesbians don't always come to mind, but I want people to know that there are efforts to establish programs for them here at A&M," Freeman said. "There have always been Gay people in the Corps of Cadets, and my goal is to give those Gay and Lesbian cadets who will follow in my footsteps a greater opportunity to be successful."

Freeman also went on to say that cadets who apply for or receive scholarship funds will not be required to acknowledge their sexual orientation. "I want to be able to work with the university to preserve confidentiality for this scholarship, but I have not yet ruled out the possibility of it being privately administered to protect the students," he said. The scholarship will be \$500 per semester for two to four years, similar to other corps scholarships, and may be offered as early as fall 2003.

New Trial Ordered In 'Gay Divorce'

BEAUMONT, TX - A judge has vacated an order that allowed a Gay couple to divorce as a means of dissolving a civil union they'd had performed in Vermont last year.

State district judge Tom Mulvaney ordered a new trial two days after Texas attorney general Greg Abbott determined that the divorce was illegal. Abbott said that John Anthony, 34, and Russell Smith, 26, both of Beaumont, could not be divorced because under Texas law they couldn't be legally married. "Texas law does not provide for a dissolution of a civil union, and a divorce cannot be granted where a marriage never existed," Abbott said.

Under Vermont law a civil union is legal between two members of the same sex, although a marriage must be between a woman and a man. Texas does not recognize same-sex unions. 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 one year before a final dissolution hearing could be conducted.

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. His attorney, Ronnie Cohec, said that although Texas law refers to a husband and wife when talking about marriage, state law refers to "parties" when addressing dissolution.

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POLITICS 2003

by Mark P. Kerr

An Open Letter To Janet

Dear Governor Napolitano:

You've been in office so far going on three months, as of the writing of this, you've done a bang up job so far, revitalizing the state's flagging spirits, coming up with new and innovative ideas for the running of Arizona's government to make it more efficient with the great team you've assembled, and have offered a terrific proposal to deal with the looming budgetary crisis, so keep up the good work.

Governor, one area though of state government that hasn't been looked at is the source of the origin of the problems that the state now faces.

What inefficient part of Arizona government has caused some of these "economic stormy seas" we now face, since for the past dozen years, through past action and present indifference, Arizona is ranked near or, at the bottom of most state surveys, on a variety of issues, subjects and topics and have made the state a laughing stock on several occasions?

Indeed Governor, Arizona as well as the other fifty states, the District of Columbia and territories are facing tough economic times and are not getting any help from the federal government, who are fixated on their "ongoing military video game," both in attention and most importantly, financially so the states must go it alone and come up with some creative solutions to get through these budgetary crisis but getting back to the matter at hand.

During another economically turbulent time, the Great Depression, one state, Nebraska, came up with a creative solution to deal with state government and it is one that could be applied in Arizona's case more than 60 years later with the same result.

What was their solution? Eliminate their state House of Representatives.

At that time, and according to several Web sites, Nebraska's House was known for its questionable backroom deals, inane spending measures, ludicrous proposals, abrogating the legislative process, costing ever more of the few tax dollars they had, especially during those troubled times.

In 1934, Nebraska's U.S. Senator, George Norris, launched a citizen's initiative, gathering the signatures and placed on the general election ballot a proposal to eliminate the state's House of Representatives, and to create a Unicameral (one body) legislative chamber for Nebraska's government.

Senator Norris' campaigning paid off with the overwhelming approval by voters and in 1937, the first session of Nebraska's Unicameral Legislature met and has been conducting state business, in a smooth, efficient streamlined manner ever since.

Flashing forward to the present Governor, our state is facing turbulent economic times, not on the scale of the Great Depression but new and creative solutions must be used for Arizona to get through, especially with a potential billion-dollar deficit on the horizon but unlike the Great Depression, a lot of our economic troubles have resulted from our state House of Representatives.

For the past dozen years or so,

Arizonans have endured, especially in the pocket book, from the state House:

Inane tax cuts favoring wealthy businesses and corporations over the common worker thanks to the plethora of lobbyists swarming all over 1700 West Washington like a plague of locusts;

ridiculous legislation passed, and approved by the two previous administrations, resulting in multimillion dollar lawsuits;

criminal cases, such as AZSCAM; and,

to top it all off of naming just several of the many state House screw-ups of the past dozen years or so, the alternate fuels debacle which has cost Arizona more than \$600-million alone.

Alternate fuels was then state House Speaker Jeff Groskost's idea, for which he ram-rodged it through, making the Grand Canyon State, the land of gas-passers, still footing the bill for this mess.

Governor, our present times warrant change, something you've started with your brilliant budgetary proposal but more steps need to be taken and perhaps one of those, is for Arizona to follow Nebraska's lead and become the second state was a Unicameral state legislature.

In the short term, the savings right of the bat, according to the 2003 Joint Legislative Budgetary Committee budget, would be a little more than \$11-million by eliminating the lower chamber of state government although, in the long run, Arizona's government and the taxpayers could benefit tremendously with this, getting rid of an inefficient part of a governmental entity that has caused nothing by trouble. This was done on the federal level, for example, with the Immigration and Naturalization Service so why not do something on the state level?

This is no April Fool's joke letter Governor, despite the fact it was written of April 1. Arizona has had to endure being "the April Fool" for at least the past twelve years, from January through May or June of each year and 2003 being no exception since the state House's solution to currently everything Arizona faces is more guns, more "Social Darwinism", and more "Big Brother."

Governor, it's now time for all of us to deliver the punch line so that we can all laugh again, instead of cry during this time of the year.

Again, you're doing a great job, keep it up and thank you for your consideration of this.

Yours faithfully,
 Mark Kerr
 Political Reporter
 The Observer
 Tucson, AZ



WHAT MAKE OUR TOWN TICK

'Freedom Of The Press'

Hello readers! Well, it only took two weeks for me to get upset enough to write about our current situation with Iraq. I have had the opportunity to talk to folks around town and find that the opinion I have is shared with many. I am not writing this to attempt to persuade you, or make you think differently. In the past two weeks I have been worried about friends and family, and the outcome of all that will transpire. So here, in a nutshell, are a couple of points that have given me the most to think about regarding our nation's war.

To those of you who voted back in 2000 for George Bush, its ok to not like what is going on. Please stop trying to act as if he is going to solve everything in time for the next election. I am sure we can start a support group of people who won't admit to feeling duped by choosing our latest leader. An election decision is made at the time when most of us think that the person we are electing is going to meet the needs of the many and follow through on what they promise. I know we live in a primarily Republican state. I knew that when I moved here almost 14 years ago. I do not blame the voters for what is going on. They were simply flexing their democratic muscle in the way they know best. You do have the right as a voter to complain weather you voted for the person in charge or not. If the voters banded together in true earnest, the populace of candidates would lose a lot of sleep.

The ones who are brave enough to protest in any civil manner are not the ones damaging our country or cause. There has been an awful image of those who would voice their opinion being loyal to the destruction of our nation. I think that is the biggest lie being fabricated in this recent fiasco. We protest because we know there is a better way of handling the situation. We chant and march because we want those who are not sure of where to stand to see that there is a fair amount of resistance. There have been protests in our nation's history as far back as pre-America. Wasn't it a protest that finally gave England the news that we were not going to be taxed by them? The Constitution is a very involved document that gives freedoms and liberties in ways no other country can brag. Protest is nothing more than the gathering of opinions for a like cause. It is not the sentiment of most protesters to see any of our service members hurt or killed. That is just wrong.

Once again, the top persons in our elected offices have taken it upon themselves to tell us what is best. You can find an opinion poll in everything from politics to baseball games. You would think with the ability to receive results in record times, that our leaders would heed what the people are saying. I know that there are extremes in both directions that we as a country should not venture. There are however many effective viewpoints that are being overlooked in this war issue. Understandably, there is the factor that the direction is not clear due to America not truly being forced into a war. That is only due to the continuing rhetoric of those in Washington who feel that the American public is not smart enough to understand what is truly going on. I would love to watch C-Span sometime and see someone in the house or senate says what he or she feels is the ultimate goal with war on Iraq.

Like I mentioned earlier, I gave this recent conflict time to gain a foundation before I went on my usual rant. In the last two weeks there has been an ebb and flow

to events that would give most a headache. There is blame placed on resistance that was not seen before. There is finger pointing at tactics that don't follow the imaginary rules of war. There is even bickering amongst the so-called experts who have a different angle on every event and yet none seem to be getting it right. No one appears to remember why the troops were sent in to begin with. There appears to be a void between right and wrong, and both sides are using every tool they can muster to make the other appear wrong. If we focus on all the things we agree on as a nation, we will find that what we do not agree on is truly secondary. We all want peace (at least most of us do) so why don't we start from there and move on instead of creating a rift like the one we are witnesses to.

The one thing that got me to finally write about the conflict (I can't call it a war, Webster's definition totally dispels that) was the removal of Peter Arnett from his correspondent position with NBC. Arnett was invited to an interview on Iraqi television. He has a long-standing reputation with the Iraqi government, not to mention a Pulitzer for his work in Viet Nam. He was asked for his opinion and he gave an honest answer. He did not give any military information away. He did not ridicule our present administration. He said something that has been heard for days on every other channel by other people posing as journalists. Once again a freedom given to us by that Constitution made so long ago, was taken by using a fallacy of security and national interests.

I would agree that there is too much media coverage of the conflict. When there are stories resembling VH1's "Behind the War", then you know that it is too much. The government has opened its own Pandora's box with allowing the media so close to the action. This is one topic that will definitely get attention for a long time, regardless of the outcome. Like many of the other issues that we are facing, the one of the press being closely involved has sides and opinions that can not be numbered. I don't think there is a wrong or right to it, just a thought by all of us who can either be obsessed by the coverage, or give us a sense of ill that keeps us from turning our televisions on. In the end, we will look at it just like everything else regarding the conflict, with total hindsight.

You can catch me at the Yard Dog this Sunday for the beer bust and memorial service. I will report on that next week unless there is a major event that would take the place. Just like the networks do. As always, feel free to email, at calabazamusic@yahoo.com or see me around town. Have a great week!

Sodomy Case

Continued from Page Five

Conservatives fear that overturning the statute will lead to broad changes in family status -- changes that may undermine the favored treatment of male-female marriage by state lawmakers

"[This case] could have broad implications not just for the 13 states that have sodomy laws, but for the marriage laws in every state," a professor from Catholic University Law School told the Christian Science Monitor.

In addition to Texas, three other states - Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma - make it a crime for Gay people to engage in sodomy. Alabama, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Utah, and Virginia make those same acts illegal for both Gays and heterosexuals.

The justices can take one of three actions to resolve the case. They can uphold the Texas law, throwing the decision back to state lawmakers. They can declare the law violates equal-protection guarantees by treating Gays differently, invalidating Gay-only sodomy laws.

Or the court can issue a much broader ruling, declaring American bedrooms to be protected by fundamental concepts of liberty and privacy and off limits to state scrutiny. Such a decision would invalidate all 13 sodomy laws nationwide, and would overturn a 1986 court precedent upholding Georgia's sodomy law.

In bringing the Texas case, Lambda Legal asked the justices to reconsider that decision, which Harlow said has done "tremendous harm" to Gay Americans for years.

"Since 1986, the nation has steadily moved away from these laws," Harlow said. "Society's knowledge about Gay people, Gay families and Gay lives has increased exponentially since 1986, and we believe a more informed view of constitutional protections for Gay people can now prevail." A decision in the case is expected in June.



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Let's welcome April this week! Try not to act foolish when a couple of heavenly orbs change course. Jupiter redirects on the 4th while Mercury retrogrades on the 26th. All in all though, count on happy endings when Mars sparks some big changes and Venus highlights our good points around the 22nd. Hey, you only need one good point!

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23
Gay Libras strive for balance and harmony and most of April gives you just that. But as the Sun ambles into Taurus on the 21st and Mercury retrogrades on the 26th, diplomacy takes a back seat. You want what you want NOW! Mars and Jupiter turn up the volume and beam your plaintive, albeit incorrect message to the immediate universe. Who loves ya baby? You'll soon see....

ARIES
MARCH 21 - APRIL 20
Do pals and playtime mix this April? Ask rowdy Mars and direct jolly Jupiter to shake (or stir) your cocktail as the waves of the social swirl lap at your thighs. Gay Rams are popularity plus this month! But April fools and their money are soon parted when Mercury retrogrades on the 26th. Are you buying a pig in a poke? My advice; avoid the former, strive for the latter.

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22
Just when you thought you would be relegated to the corporate dungheap, Jupiter redirects on the 4th and plucks you from the pile. Bask in the glory while you can queer. Scorpio; April will deliver quite a few professional points. But, as Mercury retrogrades on the 26th, you may find that partners are bored with the endless tales of your prowess. Quit bragging and start shagging.

TAURUS
APRIL 21 - MAY 21
You have the pink Bull by the horns (or are you the pink Bull by the horns) this April when the Sun shimmies into your sign on the 21st and increases your already ample charisma. But will you put a hoof in your mouth when Mercury retrogrades on the 26th? Thank the stars that Venus shines a flattering pink light on you and Mars makes you a mover and shaker. Move and shake this pal!

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22
Take a walk on the wilde side this April proud Archer. There is adventure around every corner when Jupiter redirects and tickles your travelling feet. Explore a few nooks and crannies. But save your best efforts for the end of the month when Mars and Venus give you a megaphone for your mania. Party on party hound; you charm the entire pack. What a change of pace!

GEMINI
MAY 22 - JUNE 21
Life is one big Gay adventure when Jupiter redirects and amplifies your whispers to a shout after the 4th. As the month progresses, your missives take on even greater range, thanks to loud, proud Mars. Queer Twins can charm the masses but save your sweetest bon mots for a select few. Venus suggests that you can open more flies with honey after the 23rd....

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20
Try to be limber and flexible this April when a redirecting Jupiter offers you ample opportunity to demonstrate your acrobatic skills. Lovers come by the dozens and that ain't bad! But beware retrograde Mercury around the 26th which has pink Caps spewing hot garlic breath on any fine romance. Hey, they say actions speak louder and prouder than words anyway.

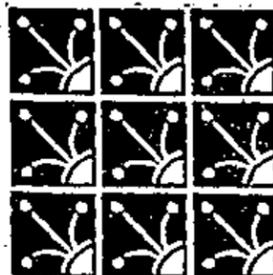
CANCER
JUNE 22 - JULY 23
Expect some miscommunication among friends when Mercury redirects on the 26th. Mean while, most of April can be used to expand your professional opportunities and set plans in motion. Venus insures that they reach their intended mark after the 23rd. Pink Crabs may find that the thrill of sex is a bit more costly with Jupiter and Mars. Are you getting your money's worth?

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19
Aqueerians ache to make their mark this April, as Mars and Venus pull you out of the chorus and onto center stage. You have an appreciative audience thanks to direct Jupiter. But refrain from gunning your motor mouth in front of assorted relations during the Mercury retrograde. There is no reason to give them a piece of your mind when they relegate it to the closet.

LEO
JULY 24 - AUGUST 23
Proud Lions can regain their confidence and social dominance when Jupiter redirects on the 4th but as April advances, you may find that your surging popularity is at odds with relationship needs. Share and share alike, lover or Mars tips your loveboat on the 22nd. Generous Gay Lions get to dance around the maypole next month. Stingy Gay Lions have to ask "may I?"

PISCES
FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20
While it may not sound very exciting, April offers you better working conditions and extra oomph for your in and out box. Guppies get things done thanks to direct Jupiter, can increase their earnings thanks to Venus and conquer their hidden enemies thanks to Mars. But don't spill the beans, pal; retro Mercury puts a large foot in your kisser after the 26th. Such a sight!

VIRGO
AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23
April starts off with a bang. Don't let it end with a whimper, queer Virgin. The Sun stimulates your travel bug and takes you on fabulous journeys after the 21st. But retro Mercury may steer you off course after the 26th so check and recheck your itinerary. While you plan to land in Palm Springs, your r bags may wind up in Scranton. Ah but do you need underwear anyway?



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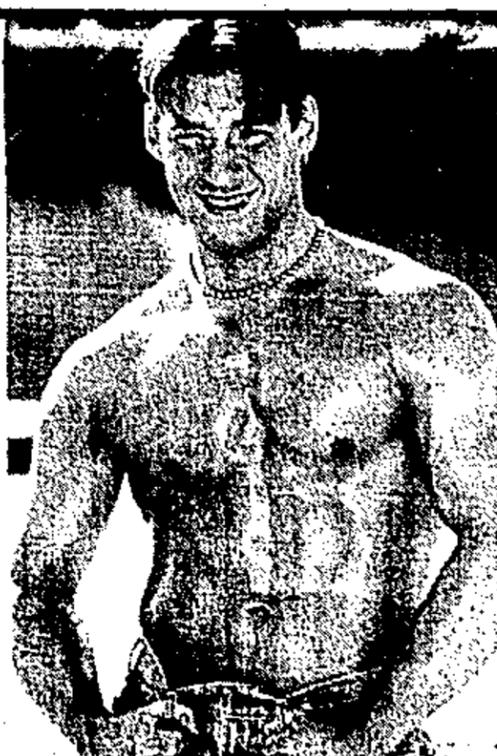
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GENDER WORLD BY JON K. ROSE

Have you bought your ticket to the Miss Gay Tucson America Pageant? It's this Sunday night at 7 p.m., at the Holiday Inn, 4550 South Palo Verde Road. That's between Ajo and Irvington, near the swap meet and Tucson Electric Park. You save \$3 if you buy your ticket in advance: \$12 instead of \$15 at the door. The proceeds go toward the Miss Gay Arizona Pageant in July.

The contestants this year will be Samantha White, Veronica Halliwell, and Venecia. They'll be judged on the basis of their male interview, their creative costumes, their evening gowns, their answers to their on-stage questions, and their overall talent. You get to watch all but the male interview, which takes place beforehand. In addition to the crowning of the new Miss Gay Tucson 2004, there will be these awards: Miss Congeniality, Best Talent, and First Alternate.

So come out and cheer for your favorite cutie, or for all three. It's going to be a fun evening. Call David at (520) 631-4502, or write Bunny at HUH-FUFU@aol.com.

At 9 p.m. Saturday, the night before the Pageant, there will be a pre-pageant drag show at IBT's starring Janee Starr, the reigning Miss Gay Tucson 2003, along with previous title holders Lucinda Holliday (1995), Bunny FuFu (2001), Tori Steele (2000), and De Ora LeBlanc (2002).

Monday, the night after the Pageant, the Southern Arizona Gender Alliance is sponsoring a talk by U. A. Emeritus Professor of Speech Dr. Daniel Boone on how to raise or lower the pitch of your voice. This should be valuable for transies and drag artists alike. It's at 7 p.m. at Wingspan, 300 East Sixth Street. And on Thursday the tenth a panel of SAGA transsexuals will be at the same location, same time, for "Ask a transie anything" night. Here's your chance to ask those usually-forbidden questions.

At last Saturday's Peace Rally I spoke with a multi-gendered group dressed in fuchsia: Code Pink. I think it's a national trend, and a great idea. I haven't too often been to the Women in Black Vigils (5 p.m. Fridays at Speedway and Euclid), partly because I can't find many black clothes in my closet. But wearing PINK to protest the war, that's more my style! Let's join in, shall we? This country needs a lot less war-mongering and a lot more in the way of feminine virtues like empathy and compassion.

There was a sprinkling of gender-bending at the rally. And in the afternoon, as people were starting to leave, butch-dyke songwriter-activist Faith Nolan took the stage and worked the crowd as she sang. Talk about keeping the faith!

So much for the "liberal" northwest: in Portland, of all places, a Transgendered antiwar activist was arrested, insulted, and brutalized in what sounds like a police-instigated hate crime. Like Tucson, Portland has legal protection for Transgendered people, and I hope there's a whopping lawsuit over this one.

Here's a ray of sunshine from New Mexico. Governor Richardson has said he'll sign two bills passed by the legislature offering legal protection against discrimination and hate crimes, for transpeople as well as Gays. I'll be meeting with some of the Albuquerque gender activists there next week to congratulate them.

Last Sunday I meditated with the Gay Buddhists; they have a lot of good energy. What this group needs most now is an infusion of estrogen. Lesbian Buddhists, please come out! If you can bring books, bells, and statuary, the group could use those too. They meet at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday at the Wingspan Annex, 739 North Fourth Avenue.

As always, you can reach me at desertwordsmith@yahoo.com. See you at the Pageant, Sweetie!

THE BOOK REPORT

[Sissyphobia: Gay Men and Effeminate Behavior By Tim Bergling, Harrington Park Press 2001.]

This book offers a brief, but thor-

ough look at "sissyphobia" a phenomenon otherwise known as fear and loathing of effeminate men. The unique aspect of this book is that it focuses on the degree to which it exists in the Gay male community, which to anyone, who has ever read a personal ad, is obvious, "No Fats or Fems need respond, masculine men only."

A wide variety of viewpoints are presented, and I liked that Mr. Bergling let the subjects speak for themselves, not judging them or their comments or putting words in their mouths. This is not a book about political correctness, but about men telling frankly how they feel about feminine behavior in themselves or other men. Opinions on why men would feminize their behaviors are plenty, and run the gamut from biological to behavioral in origin to everything in between.

Toward the end of this book the author reflects upon what he has observed and comes up with this eye-opener: "Quite a few of those 'poor femme boys' turned out okay, at least in their attitudes about one another and their genuine joy for life. I don't know if I can say the same for those who so desperately want to pass for straight. It makes me wonder who the real victims of sissyphobia are."

I think that this is an important book for Gay men to read, since all of us,

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John 3:16

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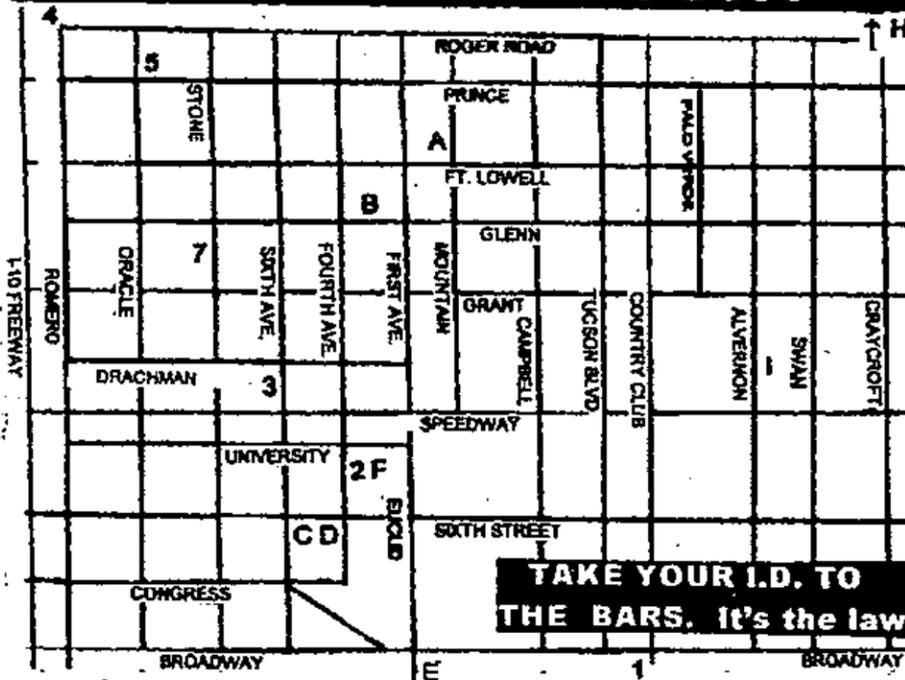
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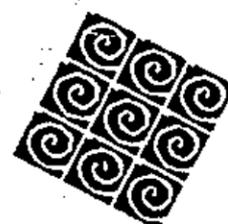


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- 2. IBT'S: 616 N. 4th Ave. 882-3053
- 3. VENTURE-N: 1239 N. 6th Ave. 882-8224
- 4. NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL: 4001 N. Romero Road - 407-9622
- 5. WOODY'S - 3710 N. Oracle Road, 292-6702
- 7. YARD DOG - 2449 N. Stone, 624-3858

masculine, feminine or somewhere in-between, are generally seen as sissies by the larger society whether we picture ourselves that way or not.

[Review by Richard DiRusso, Tucson-Pima Public Library.]



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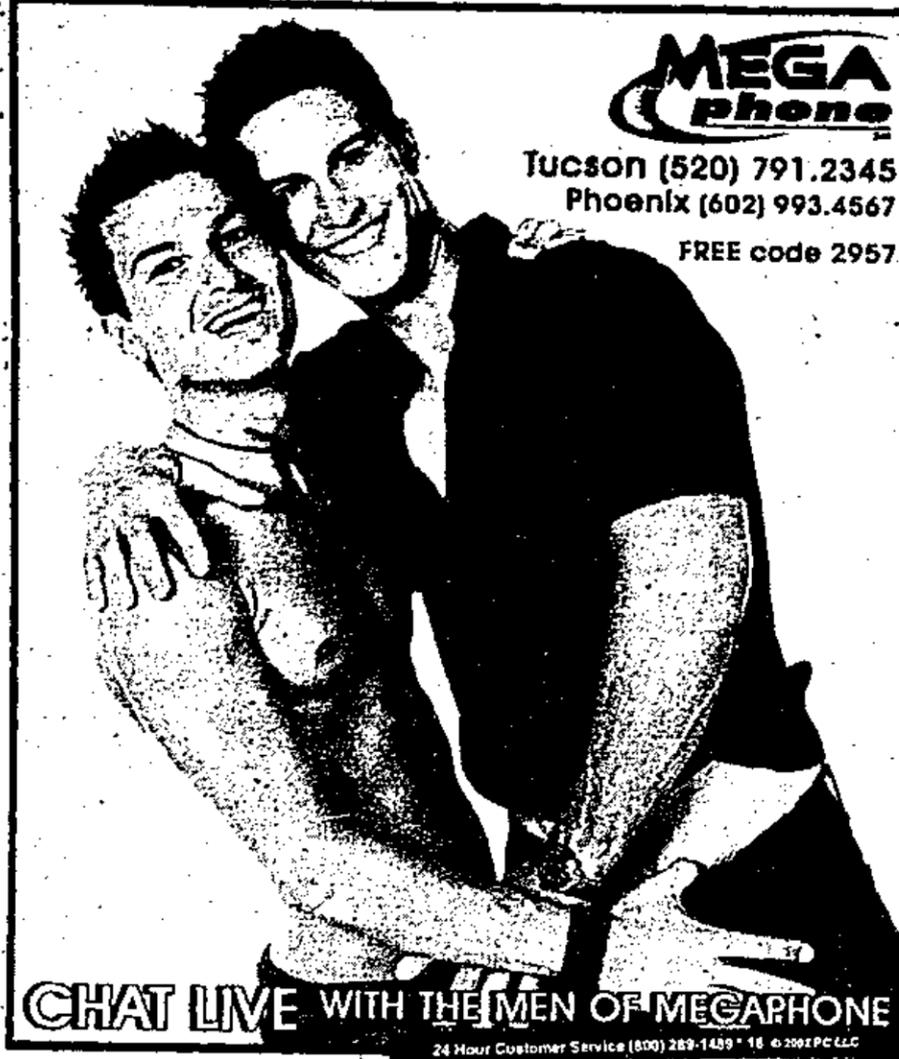
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"YOU HAVE QUESTIONS?"
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"DR. X HAS ANSWERS."

Dear Dr. X,
 I enjoy having sex in public places, parks, bathrooms and libraries; I even messed around at work. My question is besides the risks and elements of danger, what are the legal aspects of what I'm doing?

Public Pete

Dear Public Pete,
 If you get caught in a public place engaged in an act you can/will be slapped with the charge called "lewd and lascivious act," and sometimes you can also be charged with "public sexual indecency." The lewd and lascivious act is a class one misdemeanor. This is punishable by up to one year in jail and a hefty fine. It can also be changed to a felony, which carries a much higher fine and a minimum of one year in jail. If by chance a child 15-years-old or younger witnesses your public displays of affection, you can also be charged with "reckless endangerment." If your sexual adventures take place on the campus of the U of A, you will be charged with "public indecency" and "disorderly conduct." Also, if you are not a student you can also be charged with "criminal trespassing." These charges are not to be taken lightly, as U of A cops are not rent-a-cops but actually city police, and fines and jail terms can also be expected.

Dear Dr. X,
 Last week I picked up a guy outside of a well-known bar on 4th Ave. Today when I was in the shower I noticed these

little red sores around my penis. What are they? What should I do? Where should I go?

Do I have something?

Dear Do I have something?,
 Well, with the info you've given me I would suspect you have gotten some type of sexually transmitted disease. Unfortunately, I can't diagnosis you through this column (thanks for the picture, though)! Any little sores on your body, especially your genitals, should be cause for alarm and you need to get to a doctor. When you see your doctor, they will probably take a sample of the sore. If you do not have an outbreak when you see the doctor they can't be of much help. It sounds like you could have gotten herpes. If you do have herpes your doctor may prescribe acyclovir, which has been effective in reducing the frequency and duration of outbreaks. If you are uncomfortable going to your regular doctor, you can contact my friends at the Theresa Lee Clinic and get it checked out.

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

Transgender Sues

Continued from Page One
 sure to the female hormone estrogen and other unknown chemicals," the suit reads without elaboration.

The alleged harassment began in February 2000, when two Border Patrol employees suggested that a union steward conduct a survey "regarding Sturchio's physical condition and feminine appearance," the lawsuit alleges.

SPORTS

DESERT COYOTES BOWLING LEAGUE STANDINGS

	Won	Lost
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Sofa King Sleazy	19.0	16.0
Itchy Balls	16.0	19.0
Aces Over Queens	16.0	19.0
2 Dicks No Peter	15.0	20.0
3-4 Buddocks Luv	13.0	22.0
The Nutz	12.0	23.0
One Is Two Ain't	9.0	26.0

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- High Average - Erick J., 207; JoAnn S., 169; ToledoDeJaneiro, 573.
- 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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NON-BAR CALENDAR
GROUPS / CLUBS / ORGANIZATIONS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Marv for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Marv at 745-0304.

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

#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. Join us for our monthly Potluck and Social Gathering where we invite you to have dinner and get to know the nice guys of MSN. It's a nice, safe setting in which to meet new men and greet old friends. For directions, please call Jerry at 690-9565.

Tucson Prime Timers Dinner -- 8:00 p.m. Mongelli's Good Food Place, 2829 East Speedway Blvd. (Between: Tucson Blvd & Country Club. Reservations: Don: 622-1835

Tucson Prime Timers Food and Drinks at 5 p.m. Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd.

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

Miss Gay Tucson America 2004 Pageant takes place tonight at Holiday Inn Palo Verde (4550 S. Palo Verde Rd.) 7:00 p.m. There will be no pre-judging. Tickets are \$12 for general seating; \$20 VIP seating in advance sale (\$15 and \$25 at the door). For tickets or more information call David Dawson 631-4502 or e-mail: HRHFUFU@aol.com.

MONDAY, APRIL 7

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, APRIL 8

#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 Perry for Bridge Night. If you don't know how to play, the guys are willing to teach you. For directions and reservations, please call Perry at 321-4387.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 1:00 p.m. Join the guys of MSN for Hearts Night-a fun card game (and we teach if you don't know how to play). For directions and reservations, please call Les at 690-9565.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

Treasures for TIHAN - Live and Silent Auction plus... Radiason Tucson City Center Grand Ballroom, 181 West Broadway. \$30 in advance / \$35 at the door. Silent Auction from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Live auction to follow featuring fine art from locally and nationally recognized artists: jewelry, rugs, unique gift items and more. Raffle tickets available for special items. Enjoy a buffet, no host bar and entertainment. For more information call 299-6647. TIHAN's big fund raiser of the year.

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 and Drinks -- 5 p.m. Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd.

MONDAY, APRIL 14

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.

Bar Calendar
OF SPECIAL EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

IBTS - 9:00 p.m. the "Divalicious Show" hosted by Lucinda Holiday and starring Samantha White, Lady Ashley and Janee Starr..

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

IBTS - 8:00 p.m., Miss Gay Tucson-America Pre-Pageant Show starring Lucinda Holiday, Samantha White, Janee Starr and Lady Ashley.

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

IBTS - Party line-up includes Troy's Recovery Bar from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. \$1.75 Bloody Marys, Screwdrivers or Mimosas. 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 weeks proceeds go to PFLAG. 10:00 p.m. Miss Gay Tucson-America Post Pageant Party and Hot Dance!

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - November Girls at 8:30 starring Diana Flek, Mama Rlena, Jasman Bouvier and special guest Miss Gay Teen Tucson Teri Aki.

YARD DOG SALOON - Tucson Knight Owl's Beer bust from Noon until 4:00 p.m. At 2:00 p.m. a Celebration of Life for Little Jimmy Dawson with a Pot Luck.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

IBTS - 9:00 p.m. the "Divalicious Show" hosted by Lucinda Holiday and starring Janee Starr, Faith Michaels and Teri Aki.

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

IBTS - Annual Easter Egg Hunt and party here. Watch for more details.

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 15

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, APRIL 16

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

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join John and Carlos as they t Pizza Night. For only \$5, you get pizza, salad, drinks and desserts. For reservations and directions, please call John or Carlos at 327-3135.

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

#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. Karol 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 Karol at 744-9017.

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

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 1:00 p.m. Jerry & Les invite you to join them for a potluck Easter Dinner. For directions and reservations, please call Les or Jerry at 690-9565.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 3:00 p.m. After our Easter Dinner, we'll show the classic film "The Day the Earth Stood Still". What happens when an alien comes to Earth with a message of peace? For reservations, please call Les at 690-9565.

MONDAY, APRIL 21

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

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 22

#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 Perry for Bridge Night. If you don't know how to play, the guys are willing to teach you. For directions and reservations, please call Perry at 321-4387.

Daily Bar Calendar

specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 11am-1am Happy Hour 3-5. Shrimp Fry Dinner 5-6pm \$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.

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

IBTS - 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, \$8.99. Techno 9pm-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

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

IBTS - Open 11am. Happy Hours 11am-8pm, \$2 domestic beer and well. Live Jazz on the patio with the Susan 6-9pm. 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 5-9pm. 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 Martin's \$2.00 all day. Call Martin's \$3 from 4pm to close. Volleyball Court is Open. Patio Bar Open 7pm - midnight.

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

Saturday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Open at 2pm. Pool Tournament 6:30pm \$3 entry. Bar matches pot. \$2 pitchers for pool players. DJ Hill 9pm-close. Drink & Shot Specials all night.

IBTS - 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 5pm. 5-9pm Flet 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

Monday

AIN'T 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 6pm to close.

IBTS - Open 11am. Happy Hours 11am-8pm, \$2 domestic beer and well. 9pm "Divalicious" show w/Lucinda Holiday and guests. HINRG Dancing with DJ-Q. All drink

NOTICES

AIDS HOTLINE - 328-AIDS. Hours M-F, 9:00 am to 10:00 pm. Information, counseling, HIV-related services, Tucson.

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

WINGSPAN - Tucson's Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Community Center, 300 E. 6th St., offers support groups / info line / social events / library / meeting space. Volunteer Opportunities. Board meetings every 2nd Thursday (open to all), 8:00 p.m. Information 824-1779.

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 (608 North 4th Ave.) as a social outing. For more information call the church at 299-9083 and ask for a contact person.

HIKE & BIKE DYKES. Meets 2nd Monday at 7pm. Call 327-7238 for info.

GREATER PHOENIX GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (GPGLCC) P.O. BOX 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2097. E-mail: webmaster@gpplcc.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 NUDDISTS - Tucson Tanners is a nudist group open to all - Nude activities scheduled both indoor and outdoors. Not "Gay Only", but Gays are welcome and invited to join. For further information send SASE to: Tucson Tanners, P.O. Box 84-G, Cortaro, AZ 85652.

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

AA Meeting with HIV/AIDS focus, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., MCC Church, 3289 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/politick gatherings the first Saturday of each month and almost weekly social activities. Call Jerry at 890-9565 for information and a newsletter. Check the Non-Bar Calendar in the Observer.

CARE TEAMS ARE AVAILABLE to offer support to people living with HIV/AIDS. The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network offers trained, compassionate and committed volunteers to provide services including friendly visits, light housekeeping, assistance with meals, shopping, errands, transportation and companionship for medical appointments, and respite care for primary care givers. No judgement or proselytizing - we are here to be of service. For information call Scott at 299-8647.

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 828-7223.

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 881-4582 for more information or sign up.

COMMUNITY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (CBA), Tucson's Gay and Lesbian business networking group holds regular meetings the third Thursday of every month. Call 615-8438 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 OutOverFEST. Inquiries about support groups and individual needs should be directed to Wingspan and other local agencies listed here. For more information call 822-3200 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 9am 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 875-8860 or write P.O. Box 30264, Tucson, AZ 85740-0264. All replies confidential.

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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.bolop.com All are welcome to our general meetings/potlucks on the 2nd Friday of every month, 7pm at Sentinel Bldg. On the City of Tucson Resource Campus, 310 N. Commerce Park Loop on Bonita St. between St. Marys and Congress.

LAMBDA CAR CLUB, a social organization of Gays and Lesbians who share interest. Information and fellowship involving all cars and trucks. New Southern Arizona Region now in Tucson. Call the Hotline at 888-8541

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. Elke 561-8850 or Ronn 968-2384.

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

CRONIES SOCIAL GROUP. A Social group for Gay men who enjoy the fellowship of their peers. Call Leo at 824-8788.

T-SQUARES Lesbian and Gay square dance club meets every Tuesday from 8:30-9:00 p.m. at Cornerstone Fellowship Social Hall, 2902 N. Geronimo (near 1st Ave. and Laguna). Open to All. Call Liz at 325-9466 or Ray at 748-5247.

LIGHTNING LIGHTING will provide lighting for AIDS and related benefits at no charge. For more info call Adrienne at 899-7298.

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 579-8827 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 Armory Park Senior Center, 220 S. 8th Ave. Call 791-9692.

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

HALLELUJAH RECOVERY DRUG & ALCOHOL 12-STEP. Every Thursday 5:30-8:30pm at Cornerstone Fellowship, 2902 N. Geronimo 822-4826.

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

TUCSON GLBT AL-ANON GROUP meets Wednesdays at 7:00 pm at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th Street. Call 824-1779 for more information.

YOUNG AND GAY?

GLBT Youth 23 and under, meet every Saturday in Tucson for sharing, support and information. Meetings are held at 300 E. 6th Street from 3 to 4:30 pm. You are not alone. For more info call Wingspan, 824-1779.

The TUCSON Chapter of PRIME TIMERS WORLDWIDE invites Gay or Bisexual men and their admirers to join and share Prime Timers fellowship. We welcome mature men (and admirers) who wish to become involved with planned and future Prime Timers activities. Meetings luncheons and dinners are held monthly. For dates, times and information call 890-4813, leave name and phone number.

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

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 55 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 5 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.lgsaonline.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 824-0348 (24-hour line)

REVELLE GAY MEN'S CHORUS rehearses Tuesdays 7-10pm at MCC Church, 3289 N. Mountain. Have any history/experience singing? Join us! Call 617-3100 for more info.

TGNAriz: The central source for news and information for, by and about the TS, TG, and Gender-variant communities of Arizona. Website URL: http://www.tgnarizona.org - e-mail address: sigpodrum@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 CareTeams to support HIV+ persons, a referral network of HIV-sensitive clergy, and interfaith services of healing and hope. For more information call 299-8647.

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 791-7676.

GRACE GROUP - CATHOLIC GAY/LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP meets every 2nd and 4th Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the Madonna Hall at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, 1438 N. Campbell across from University Hospital. For more info. Call Anabell at 325-8992

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 838-3875.

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

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

THEATER / DINNER / ETC! Non-Smoking Lesbian Network meets every 3rd Saturday night of each month. If you'd like to meet women 35+ (flexible) and socialize in a smoke-free environment 888-8010 before 10:00 p.m. The group dines out and attends shows or movies. Now in their 16th year (2nd in Tucson).

SOUTHERN ARIZONA GENDER ALLIANCE (SAGA). Meetings on the 1st Monday, 7pm. 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 824-1779 for more info. SAGA E-mail: aol.com http://members.aol.com/sagae-mail

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT GROUP FOR ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLES. Not a dating club. Discreet. Meetings every Monday evening. Call for more info. APEX (Arizona Power Exchange) 802-415-1123. 24-hr multi-choice message including information, calendar and location.

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

GUYS BOOK CLUB meets 4th Tuesday of each month at 7pm, Rainbow Planet Coffee House, 606 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 602-278-4805.

DESERT DOMINION TUCSON'S 100% CONSENSUAL, Pan-Fetish, Pan-Sexual, Informational, Educational, Safe Space for the B&D, S&M, D&S and TV community. For more info call (520)792-8424 or http://www.desertdominion.org

SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS. Starting this February, the Tucson Rape Crisis Center will be providing free confidential group services for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender survivors of all manner of sexual assault. Interested persons please call Mirko 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.lctucson.org write: LC, 7014 E. Golf Links Road, PWB 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 681-4582

PERSONALS

FREE GAY KITTENS FOR ADOPTION SOON. See Info/photos at http://groups.msn.com/tucsonkittys 878

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ADORABLE TEMPORARY HOUSE AVAILABLE APRIL 15 - JUNE 15. Walking distance to 4th Avenue and University. Must like cats (1 cat). \$250 monthly. Utilities included. "Pink Triangle Neighborhood". References and deposit required. Call 870-8743 Leave message. 878

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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

By Lee Thorn

The Emperor In Springtime

In early April the University of Arizona's Museum of Art will be taking down Olivier's Mosset's "Recent Work 2003." If this is the first that you're hearing about it, you didn't miss much. But even as it's on its way out, the show is worth writing about as a perfect example of the disinclination of critics to address the fact that the emperor has no clothes.

All the monochromatic works are untitled acrylic on canvas. The seven are each about ten feet square, three of orange, two red, one green and one lavender. These squares of solid color have exactly as much to do with art as do the one-inch squares of solid color that they show you at the paint department of your local hardware store.

"But wait," as they say on the kitchen gadget commercials, "there's more!" There are three paintings of diagonal black stripes on yellow backgrounds. These works are also very large. In fact they look like giant versions of the yellow and black hazard tape that you put on stationary objects to keep careless motorists from backing into them.

Of course the hazard tape paintings are much more interesting than the color samples. Because of the limits imposed by the sizes of their canvases, the hazard tapes become a variety of simple geometric shapes, whereas the square color samples remain boringly square.

Through no intention of anyone, the show is not as banal as it was meant to be. The museum doesn't have a lighting system that would light the 10x10 canvases evenly. It had to light them with many smallish spotlights. The spotlights give the surfaces of the paintings light and dark areas, areas that can be seen as shapes, and thus the monochromes acquire a very slight degree of interest, but only for viewers of a quite subtle cast of mind.

Of these works the artist is quoted as saying, "I like abstract painting. What I'm interested in is how you put paint on canvas. I'm interested in its flatness, its surface and its limits." But this isn't abstract painting: it's house painting minus the house. And any good house painter is interested in how you put paint on and where you put it and when you're likely to run out of it.

Why, you may ask, doesn't someone tell the museum and the artist that the show is pretty silly, not even grand enough to be called ridiculous — merely silly? Rest assured that someone will.

A visit to the UA Museum of Art is seldom a total waste of time. Along with the nonsense of the main show described above, they had a large collection of central European prints from the 1500s through the 1600s, a highly varied bunch of French paintings and graphics from the late 19th and 20th centuries, and, best of all, some fairly recent acquisitions from their permanent collection.

The recent stuff included two paintings of acrylic and oil by Daniel Fischer called "Paintings in Nature Cibachrome." The pair is interesting in that they share a concept, similar media, similarities in execution; yet one is mildly engaging while its partner is completely successful. Both paintings devote half their area to summer colors and shapes and half to those of winter. The one that works is completely abstract. The one that's so-so includes photo-like images of buildings. A serious

student of art could profit by standing before these works and asking himself why one comes together to deliver a powerful and satisfying experience while the other doesn't quite get there.

Another of the museum's recent scores is "Velarde II" by James P. Cook, an expressionist impasto painting of a mountain town that does wonderful things with light and color. It must have a dozen shades of green and a dozen of brown, but the best feature of the scene is the way it draws you into itself. You want to walk around in it and lose yourself and maybe never come back out.

Next up for the museum's main space, opening in mid-April, will be the annual masters thesis show, almost always the most interesting and controversial show of the year — youthful vitality and naughtiness and all that.

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

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