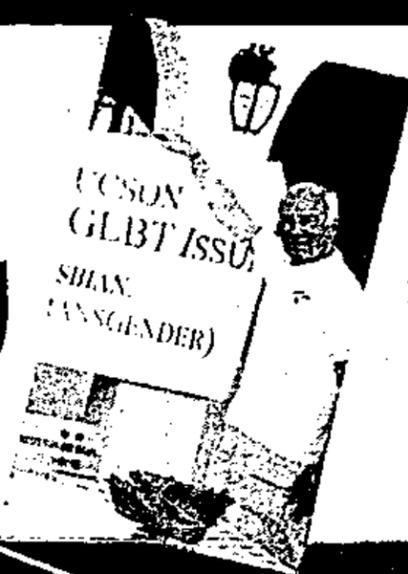


An Event-Filled Week In Photographs



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Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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WEEKLY OBSERVER

JULY 2, 2003

ISSUE 989

Supreme Court Strikes Down Sodomy Laws

WASHINGTON, DC - The U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday, June 26, delivered the most powerful Gay rights opinion in history, overturning a Texas law that led to the arrest of two men for having consensual sex at home, reported the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

Written by Justice Anthony Kennedy, the 6-3 decision in *Lawrence v. Texas* strikes down sodomy laws throughout the country and overturns the infamous 1986 opinion in *Bowers v. Hardwick*. In *Bowers*, a 5-4 majority upheld Georgia's sodomy law on the basis of traditional morality.

"*Bowers* was not correct when it was decided," wrote Kennedy, "and it is not correct today. It ought not to remain binding precedent. *Bowers v. Hardwick* should be, and is now, overruled."

Prior to the release of the *Lawrence* decision, GLBT community analysts were torn between two hopes. Some wished the court would rule against the Texas sodomy statute on privacy grounds, establishing a right to noncommercial private consensual sex for all couples, including Gays and Lesbians. Others would have preferred the court rule on the grounds of equal protection, stating clearly that no state may pass a law that discriminates on the basis of sexual orientation based on moral sentiments alone (as does the Texas "Homosexual Conduct Law" at the center of this case).

In his strongly worded opinion, Kennedy took both sides into account. The decision is based on the privacy rights embedded in the 14th Amendment's order that no state "shall deprive any person of

life, liberty or property without due process of law." But Kennedy makes clear that the determination to rule on privacy rather than equal protection was an effort to make the opinion wider rather than narrower.

"Were we to hold the (Texas) statute invalid under the Equal Protection Clause," he explained, "some might question whether a prohibition would be valid if drawn differently, say, to prohibit the conduct both between same-sex and different-sex participants."

Further, the opinion accomplishes both objectives by articulating in no uncertain terms the basic equality and humanity owed to Gay men and Lesbians under the Constitution.

"The petitioners," wrote Kennedy, "are entitled to respect for their private lives. The state cannot demean their existence or control their destiny by making their private sexual conduct a crime." The drafters of the Constitution, he concluded, "knew times can blind us to certain truths and later generations can see that laws once thought necessary and proper in fact serve only to oppress. As the Constitution endures, persons in every generation can invoke its principles in their own search for greater freedom."

Ruth Harlow, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund's lead attorney in the case, called the opinion "magnificent."

The potential influence of the ruling is outlined in Justice Antonin Scalia's sarcastic dissent, which was joined by Justice Thomas and Chief Justice Rehnquist. Scalia, who read his lengthy

comment from the bench, said the main opinion "dismantles the structure of constitutional law that has permitted a distinction to be made between heterosexual and homosexual unions."

"If moral disapprobation of homosexual conduct is 'no legitimate state interest,'" he continued, "and if, as the court coos ... (intimate conduct) can be but one element in a personal bond that is more enduring, what justification could there possibly be for denying the benefits of marriage to homosexual couples?"

Interestingly, Scalia cavalierly dismissed the single argument that conservatives have raised in defense of discriminatory marriage laws, continuing: "Surely not the encouragement of procreation, since the sterile and the elderly are allowed to marry."

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor took her own route, concurring with the five justices in the majority, but writing a separate opinion based on equal protection analysis. O'Connor, who voted in the *Bowers* majority, declined to join the majority in overruling the 1986 privacy rights opinion. Instead, O'Connor repeated the essential theme of 1996's *Romer v. Evans* (which struck a Colorado constitutional amendment prohibiting Gay rights laws), ruling that the Texas law singles out a class of people for disparate treatment based on animosity alone, and thus fails the most minimal tests used to judge the constitutionality of a law under the Equal Protection Clause.

In a one-page comment, Justice
CONTINUED ON PAGE FIFTEEN

Domestic Partner Registry Approved By Tucson Mayor & Council

TUCSON - The City Council unanimously approved creation of a domestic partners registry Monday, June 30, making Tucson the first city in the state to do so.

City Manager James Keene said the exact wording and other details should be ready for a final vote by fall, with sign-ups shortly thereafter. Details on how to register will follow the final vote, the *Arizona Daily Star* reported.

"It's breaking ground ... a way to get started," said Tracy McAdams, one of about 60 supporters of the proposal who stood and cheered the council's vote.

"It's something that should have happened a long time ago," added Myron Morris, another supporter.

Joanne Contreras said she plans to marry her partner in March. They've been a couple for about 15 months, she said.

Being able to sign the registry is another way to "signify our togetherness" in a state that doesn't recognize same-sex unions, she said.

She hopes the registry will help her qualify as a dependent on her partner's health insurance.

Thomas Paredes said he was particularly pleased that there was no debate or opposition to Monday's vote.

"I think it's great. It was quick and painless," he said.

The only council comment prior to the vote was Republican Fred Ronstadt's saying it should be clear to everyone in the audience that the council was approving
CONTINUED ON PAGE FOURTEEN

UPDATE

Scam Targets Local LGBT Community Again

TUCSON - Wingspan is reporting that once again, someone has been calling GLBT people in Tucson to con them out of money. The person usually claims to be someone from our community, often someone well known, and to be in some sort of dire personal need. The calls often happen in the middle of the night when people may be less alert than they ordinarily would be.

Last year, several thousand dollars were scammed out of our community in an identical scam. The perpetrator has not yet been caught. Anyone receiving one of these phone calls is advised not to respond to any requests for money from anyone that you do not know personally. You should also report the details of the phone call to the police immediately.

The scam artist appears to be using the names of people known in the LGBT community, possibly those whose names have appeared in local LGBT publications. The targets in a similar scam last November had been members of the Men's Social Network (MSN) and Prime Timers, although there have also been a number of calls that seem to be random, or targeting local LGBT business owners. On several occasions last November, the caller also exploited Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) by falsely using their name, and those of TIHAN employees.

One person recently received a call from a man who falsely claimed to be Wingspan's Executive Director, Kent Burbank, and that he was stranded in another city, had just been beaten up, and then asked to be wired money. Mr. Burbank is, in fact, safe and healthy and incensed that someone is using his name in this manner.

The last thing we want to do is let a con artist interfere with our community resources. Community members are asked to help spread the word about this scam, and NOT to give ANY money unless you personally know the person asking, and have absolute proof that it is them.

Britain Considers G/L Marriage Plans

LONDON, UK - The British government unveiled on Monday, June 24, proposals for "civil partnerships," which would allow same-sex couples to have the same rights as married couples, reported Gay.com UK.

The proposals, outlined in what's known as a white paper, include extending benefits to same-sex couples such as pension and property rights, provided that couples register their commitment in a civil ceremony.

Other moves allow next-of-kin rights in hospitals, and exemption from inheritance tax on a partner's home.

The reforms, if enacted by Parliament, would bring England in line with nine other European countries that grant legal recognition to same-sex partnerships: The Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Belgium, Portugal, France, Germany and Spain.

According to the Guardian newspaper, The Department of Trade and Industry said there is no timetable for Parliament to act on the white paper's proposals. The public has until Sept. 30 to make their views known.

Tucsonans Celebrate Court Ruling

TUCSON (ON) - More than 100 Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender (GLBT) and straight supportive Tucsonans gathered Thursday night, June 26, to celebrate the Supreme Court's decision on the Texas sodomy law case, that was released earlier in the day.

By a 6-3 vote, the Supreme Court had ruled the Texas sodomy law, as well as similar statutes in 14 other states and Puerto Rico as unconstitutional, articulating in no uncertain terms the basic equality and humanity owed to Gay men and Lesbians under the Constitution.

This decision reversed the 1986 Supreme Court ruling in Bowers v. Hardwick, a Georgia case that had said sodomy laws were constitutional.

Tucson's rally, sponsored by Wingspan, the Arizona Human Rights Fund - Tucson Chapter and the City of Tucson Commission on GLBT issues, was one held in conjunction with similar events being held nationwide to mark the decision, and it turned out to be a celebration.

"We are here to celebrate a wonderful decision," Kent Burbank, the executive director of Wingspan said to the crowd. "Finally, justice is done!"

"This is really a great day," commented Ron Bogard of the Arizona Human Rights Fund. "The government has no business being in the bedroom," Bogard told the audience.

Amelia Craig Cramer of the City of Tucson Commission on GLBT Issues, in her speech, said that the Supreme Court, in their decision, "was talking about the liberty of all of us."

Tucson Councilmember Fred Ronstadt said it has been a tremendous pride week since the Governor had signed the executive order prohibiting employment discrimination and this decision by the Supreme Court.

Reveille's New Season Is On The Way

By Renata Tebaldi

TUCSON - How would you like to sing "Joy to the World" at full throttle in Reveille's annual holiday concert? Perform in an exciting Diversity Festival in Mexico next May? Cut a commercial CD with a group of very sweet guys who also love to sing together? And travel to Montreal to perform with thousands of other singers in an international GLBT choral festival?

Well, you can! Join Reveille Gay Men's Chorus and all the rest follows. You do not have to be a trained singer. You have only to enjoy singing, be able to carry a tune, and be Gay supportive. Oh yes, and you have to be male gendered (I think that's politically correct, but in my country, Italy, we're not quite there yet). That 's it!

As the resident Diva of Reveille Gay Men's Chorus, I want the world to know that these gentlemen make beautiful music and have a good time doing it. Reveille is nearing the start of its next season, and when Linus Lerner, Reveille's most accomplished artistic director, returns from his summer in Europe, he would love to have new singers ready to go.

The season begins with Camp Reveille, a kick-off retreat, the weekend of August 9-10. Rehearsals will begin the following week on Wednesday evenings from 7-10 p.m.. New singers may join the chorus after these dates, but the sooner the better, don't you think?

For more information and to leave your contact information, just call the Reveille message line at (520) 617-3100.

'Ties That Bind' Author In Tucson July 5-6

TUCSON - Guy Baldwin, M.S., a psychotherapist and the only individual to hold simultaneously the titles of Mr. National Leather Association and International Mr. Leather will be in town July 5 and 6.

Best known for his second book, "The Ties That Bind ...", Baldwin is being presented by Desert Domain, 2:00 p.m. on July 5 and 1:30 p.m., the next day at 3843 E. 37th Street.

Tickets are \$15 each day or \$25 for both and will be available at the door.

IN MEMORIAM

PHOENIX - The Arizona Human Rights Fund (AHRF) is saddened to report the death last Saturday, June 28 of Dr. Ben Field. Ben and his life partner of 21 years, Keith Susman, moved to Phoenix from Chicago in 1993.

Ben was a Professor and Associate Dean for Clinical Education at Midwestern University, Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine in Glendale. Ben & Keith have been stalwart supporters of the Arizona Human Rights Fund both financially and as volunteers. Keith is a member of the AHRF Board of Directors, serving as its Chair of the Community Action Network.

A memorial and Celebration of Ben's life will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 2, in Ocotillo Hall on the campus of Midwestern University, 19555 North 59th Avenue (just off SR 101) in Glendale. Contributions in lieu of flowers may be made to (1) the Arizona Human Rights Foundation, PO Box 25044, Phoenix AZ 85002-5044 or (2) the Benjamin A. Field, D.O., Scholarship Fund for Gay and Lesbian Students. You may send donations to the Office of University Relations, Midwestern University, 19555 North 59th Avenue, Glendale, AZ 85308.

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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
ARTS & GRAPHICS: Gary Clark
COPY EDITOR: Mark Kerr
Special Events Photos: Bill Morrow
Amanda Irvine
Horoscope - Charlene Lichtenstein

Contributing Columnists
MARK R. KERR — LEE THORN
JERRY DIAZ

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Observing Tucson and Greater Arizona Since 1976
Informing the Community
The Observer

Bush Administration's Orwellian Logic

Anti-Gay Discrimination is "Civil Rights and Religious Liberty"

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force condemned the Bush Administration's position paper on the Faith-Based Initiative recently sent to Capitol Hill. The position paper argues that faith-based service providers receiving public money should be able to discriminate in hiring for jobs funded by federal and state funds. It explicitly says that these providers should be able to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, and portrays state and local Gay rights laws as a hindrance to serving the needs of African American and Latino urban poor.

Statement by National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Executive Director Matt Foreman:

As people around the country celebrate Gay Pride, and on the eve of the Supreme Court's historic ruling on the Texas law criminalizing homosexuality, the Bush Administration is telling America that it's perfectly fine to discriminate against Gay people. Equally offensive, the Administration is portraying anti-Gay discrimination as 'civil rights and religious liberty,' and portrays laws prohibiting anti-Gay discrimination as a threat to meeting the needs of poor people of color.

We consider this a declaration of war on the civil rights protections our community has won through hard-fought battles in many states and hundreds of municipalities across the nation over the last thirty years.

This Orwellian language is

outrageous, it's un-American, and it's unconstitutional. The Bush Administration is misrepresenting Title VII of the Civil Rights Act - which allows religious groups to discriminate in hiring, but not with public money. Two Lesbians and a straight Jewish man have already been discriminated against by faith-based providers using state funds in Kentucky and Georgia. If this goes through, Gay people and others who are unpopular with some faiths could be denied jobs in certain professions in entire states or regions of the country. We cannot allow this to happen in our country.

What religious groups do with their own money is their business. But when they use our tax dollars and then say they won't hire us for jobs that we help fund, that is unacceptable. Fair-minded people understand this basic distinction.

We call on Congress to stand up for American values and reject this policy of discrimination. How can we claim to promote human rights around the world when we are attacking basic rights at home?

The Bush Administration's memo argues that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act allows religious entities to discriminate in hiring. While such discrimination is allowed with private funds, whether or not it's legal for faith-based groups to discriminate in employment funded by state or federal dollars has not been established.

Civil rights and civil liberties groups ranging from the NAACP to Americans United for Separation of Church and State, the American Civil Liberties Union, and People for the American Way believe that the Title VII exemption cannot

constitutionally apply to jobs that are funded by the federal government.

According to these groups, the Title VII exemption is constitutionally limited to privately funded positions. Indeed, although the Supreme Court has not definitively ruled on this issue, at least one federal court has held that it would be unconstitutional for a religious institution to invoke the Title VII exemption for a federally-funded job. See *Dodge v. Salvation Army*, 1989 WL 53857 (S.D. Miss. Jan. 9, 1989).

The Bush Administration memo also portrays Gay rights laws as a hindrance to meeting the service needs of low-income people: "This hodgepodge of conflicting approaches has led to confusion... and a consequent reluctance by many faith-based groups to seek support from Federally funded programs... The real losers are the homeless, the addicted, and others who are denied access to a range of effective social service providers, including faith-based providers."

Rev. Eugene Rivers of Boston makes a similar claim: "Faith-based organizations must be protected from the kind of discrimination that would prevent us from hiring the people who are best equipped to fulfill our mission and do the work... This discrimination is a violation of the civil rights of religious groups and would effectively prevent the delivery of services to this country's black and brown urban poor."

Faith-based service providers have long played a critical role in providing services, particularly to African Americans

and immigrants, who were often not able to access other service providers due to discrimination. But until charitable choice and the faith-based initiative, religious providers had to set up separate, secular 501(c)3 organizations to administer public funds, and could not discriminate in hiring or the delivery of services funded by public monies.

President Bush is seeking to transfer up to \$8 billion a year in federal funds to religious service providers. Allowing religious groups to discriminate in hiring for jobs funded by federal monies could open the door to widespread discrimination on the basis of race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, marital status, and other characteristics. Regulatory oversight and professional training standards are also greatly diminished.

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The Miss Gay Arizona Pre Pageant Show on Friday July 11th



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Gender Advocates Challenge Governor's Order

TUCSON - The leaders of the Southern Arizona Gender Alliance (SAGA) have questioned the motives of Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano when she purposefully struck "gender identity" from the final version of Executive Order 2003-22, "Confirming Equal Employment Opportunities."

anti-discrimination bills in the spring, also using the inclusive language.

In a letter to Napolitano, Woodward urged the Governor to reconsider the move. He wrote: "...Make no mistake: your order falls far short of accomplishing its goals."

The order, issued amid great fanfare at the Arizona Human Rights Fund Annual Dinner on June 21, promises protection from discrimination based on sexual orientation for state employees, but not for Transgender or gender-variant people.

No matter what her reasons were, Woodward is concerned that the Governor is leaving every Arizona citizen vulnerable—regardless of their sexual orientation. Woodward explained that it is the expression of one's gender—not the person with whom one shares his or her bed—that is the more prevalent root of bias and discrimination. Even heterosexual people are frequent victims of gender stereotyping.

"I'm not sure why the governor has taken this position," stated SAGA Executive Director C. Michael Woodward. "The trend in similar initiatives across the country has been to include both sexual orientation and gender identity as separate categories to make the intent clear and as all-encompassing as possible." The Governor of the State of Kentucky issued an executive order very similar to Napolitano's just a few weeks ago, and that order did include both terms. The State of New Mexico passed hate-crime and

"None of these court cases had anything to do with who they were sleeping with; it was all about how well they fit into someone else's idea of what a 'real man' or a 'real woman' is supposed to be," Woodward said. "While I most certainly am delighted the Governor is interested in taking a stand, I'm afraid she's leaving too many of her constituents behind."

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Gay West: A Review

By Jerry D.

TUCSON - Old Tucson hosted the seventh annual Gay West on Saturday, June 28. More than 3000 were in attendance, including visitors from as far away as San Francisco. Even without all the Tucson Studio shops open for business, there was still plenty to do.

were in the mood to cut a rug, DJ Brian provided music in the Grand Palace and there was country line dancing at Jake's.

Various booths were stocked with a myriad of information for the GLBT community. Free confidential AIDS/HIV were offered in a PCH mobile unit. These organizations received many visitors before the show schedule was known. The schedule of events had to be slightly adjusted to accommodate Joan Jett's last-minute tour changes. But all the entertainers quickly pulled together to fit the remaining shows into a tighter time frame.

The festivities were kicked off by Reba McEntyre (Diana Flair) singing "Why Haven't I Heard From You." And Miss Terry Aki really got the crowd going with Tina Turner's "Proud Mary." Not only were her dance steps flawless, she left the stage early on to complete the number on the uneven ground of the Mission set.

After sundown, Joan Jett and the Blackhearts performed to a near-full house. As the temperature cooled, the dancing heated up. A variety of food and beverage stands were on hand to keep hungers fed and thirsts quenched.

Hydra Leather and More provided a fashion show while the set was changed for The Motels' concert later that evening. To see the complete selection up close, visit Hydra at 145 East Congress.

Entertainment included concerts by Joan Jett and the Blackhearts as well as The Motels. Shows included "Diana Flair & Lucinda Holliday's "Ladies with Flair & Lipstick & Lashes" and Salud es Poder's "Fuerza Latina Travesti." For those who

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As I See It

by Clark

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AROUND THE GAY WORLD

Senate GOP Backs Constitutional Ban

WASHINGTON, DC - Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee said on Sunday, June 29, he supports the adoption of a constitutional amendment banning Gay marriage in the United States.

An amendment to the U.S. Constitution banning the recognition of Gay marriage would render the subject of marriage equality mute from the perspective of American courts.

The court on Thursday, June 26, ruled that the Texas sodomy law, and other laws like it in other states, violate the defendants' privacy rights under the Constitution. Frist says the court's expansive embrace of privacy threatens to make the American home a haven for criminality.

"I have this fear that this zone of privacy that we all want protected in our own homes is gradually - or I'm concerned about the potential for it gradually being encroached upon, where criminal activity within the home would in some way be condoned," Frist told ABC's "This Week."

"And I'm thinking of - whether it's prostitution or illegal commercial drug activity in the home . . . to have the courts come in, in this zone of privacy, and begin to define it gives me some concern

Asked whether he backed an amendment to the federal constitution that would ban any marriage in the United States except a union of a man and a woman, Frist said: "I absolutely do, of course I do.

"I very much feel that marriage is

a sacrament, and that sacrament should extend and can extend to that legal entity of a union between - what is traditionally in our Western values has been defined - as between a man and a woman. So I would support the amendment."

Republican Rep. Marilyn Musgrave of Colorado was the main sponsor of the proposal offered May 21 to amend the Constitution. The amendment would define marriage as strictly between a man and a woman.

The proposal would require approval by two-thirds of the House and the Senate and ratification by three-fourths of the states to become part of the Constitution. As drafted, the proposal says:

"Marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this Constitution nor the constitution of any state under state or federal law shall be construed to require that marital status or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon unmarried couples or groups."

Frist said Sunday he respects the Supreme Court decision but feels the justices overstepped their bounds. "Generally, I think matters such as sodomy should be addressed by the state legislatures . . . That's where those decisions - with the focal norms, the local mores - are being able to have their input in reflected.

"And that's where it should be decided, and not in the courts."

Puerto Rico Sodomy Law Now Invalid, Lawmakers Say

SAN JUAN, P.R. - A Puerto Rico law banning Gay sex or "unnatural sex" between heterosexuals must be taken off the books to comply with a U.S. Supreme Court ruling Thursday, June 26, top legislators said.

The Supreme Court ruling struck down a ban on Gay sex in Texas and could affect the U.S. Caribbean territory's sodomy law, which affects both heterosexuals and homosexuals. Puerto Rico legislators have been debating whether the law should be removed from the books. "This ruling makes it unnecessary for the house to debate the issue," said Sen. Eudaldo Baez Galib, president of the senate judicial committee. Puerto Rico's senate on Sunday approved a revision that would decriminalize sodomy. The leader of the house judicial commission, Charlie Hernandez, said

sodomy would no longer be up for discussion in upcoming public hearings on the penal code.

Justice secretary Anabelle Rodriguez had argued that a U.S. Supreme Court decision would not necessarily apply to Puerto Rico since Texas's law - unlike Puerto Rico's - applied only to homosexuals. But other lawyers say the ruling invalidates all sodomy laws. Puerto Rico's Article 103, which dates to 1902, calls for a six- to 12-year prison sentence for "any person who has sexual relations with a person of the same sex or commits a crime against nature." No one has been prosecuted in recent decades under the Puerto Rico law. Still, the island's Network of Evangelical Churches has demanded a referendum because it wants the law enforced.

Sao Paulo Pride Swells To 800,000

SAO PAULO, Brazil - With the passion and flair Brazilians are known the world over for, a crowd estimated at 800,000 jammed into the Avenida Paulista, one of Sao Paulo's main avenues, to mark one of the world's largest celebrations of Gay and Lesbian Pride.

With music and bass rhythms from sound trucks echoing off glass walled canyons, celebrants waving rainbow flags danced and cheered the three mile route for a show and rally at the Praça da Republica, a downtown square home to many Gay bars and clubs.

Sao Paulo is the cultural heart of South America's emerging and ever more confident Gay and Lesbian community. The city is home to the continent's most vibrant Gay and Lesbian nightlife, with about 85 bars, restaurants and clubs, most in the area

around the Rua da Consolacao.

Parade organizers and founders of Brazil's Gay civil rights movement said the event's goal is to improve society's understanding and tolerance of an often cruelly persecuted minority.

"The main goal of the parade is to encourage visibility for sexual diversity and let people understand there are many ways to love others," said James Green, president of the Brazilian Studies Association and one of the founders of Brazil's Gay civil rights movement.

The Brazilian community has been pressing for domestic partnership recognition for most of the last seven years. Congressional commissions also are debating whether to include anti-bias legislation in Brazil's legal code.

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Gay sex ban struck down

Supreme Court majority says such laws violate privacy



Community Jubilant Over High Court Ruling

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - Gay and Lesbian Americans, their friends, supporters and allies across the country celebrated Thursday's (June 26) Supreme Court decision declaring sodomy laws unconstitutional with a mix of gratitude, relief and joy.

From Fairbanks Alaska to New York City, thousands of revelers gathered together in cheer the efforts of legal rights activists as the impact of yesterday's decision washed over the country. Many speakers stood before beaming crowds to declare that the community's fight for full equality would continue.

More than 40 cities nationwide hosted rallies and celebrations. Rights activists, many in tears, hailed the ruling the most significant legal victory in the history of the American Gay civil rights movement.

Activists and scholars said that by essentially acknowledging Gay relationships as legitimate, the Supreme Court justices gave the Gay rights movement a new credibility in debates about marriage, partner benefits, adoption and parental rights.

"The court has put Gay people in the mainstream of society for the first time," Paula Eitelbrick of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission told the New York Times.

"The court understands Gay sexuality is not just about sex, it is about intimacy and relationships. Now there is a real respect for our relationships, as us almost as families, that is not seedy or marginal but very much a part of society."

Rights advocates likened the sodomy decision to the seminal civil rights case, *Brown v. the Board of Education* which ushered in an era of broad civil rights reforms. Remarking on the political and legal implications of the court's decision,

Ruling Boosts Civil Rights Goal

WASHINGTON, DC - The Supreme Court's remarkable and historic decision striking down sodomy laws across the country is the greatest legal triumph for Gay Americans in U.S. history and strengthens the constitutional underpinnings for future Gay rights challenges.

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy's majority opinion voiding anti-sodomy statutes as unconstitutional violations of individual liberty does far more than allow Gay men and Lesbians to celebrate the reversal of the court's 1986 decision in *Bowers vs. Hardwick* -- it affirms the court's belief that personal liberty is a constitutional right.

The impact of that principle affirms the Court's commitment to protecting women's legal access to abortion; advances arguments that a terminally ill person should have the right to a dignified death; and strengthens constitutional guarantees that may one day give Gay people the right to marry the partner of their choice.

The Constitution's framers "knew times can blind us to certain truths and later generations can see that laws once thought necessary and proper in fact serve only to oppress," Kennedy wrote in the majority opinion.

Two Gay men arrested in Texas after police walked in on them having sex "are entitled to respect for their private

one observer noted, "A conservative United States Supreme Court has now identified the Gay rights cause as a basic civil rights issue."

In Washington, Dupont Circle was flooded with revelers shouting "We won! We won!" as cars rolled past, honking in support. Celebrants gathered at Sheridan Square in New York, within sight of Stonewall, to applaud speeches and offer their thanks and congratulations to lawyers from Lambda Legal, who successfully argued the case before the court.

U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, an openly Gay Democrat, told reporters in Washington, "This is a great day for liberty. I think this is a clear evidence ... America isn't really homophobic. It just used to think it was supposed to be."

In a symbolic gesture of respect and thanks to the U.S. Supreme Court for striking down the Texas statute, San Francisco Gay activists lowered the huge rainbow flag that permanently flies on the corner of Market and Castro streets and hoisted the Stars and Stripes.

The moment was "genuinely joyous," said "Tales of the City" author Armistead Maupin, who was present, along with 300 other celebrants who gathered at the corner of Market and Castro streets to cheer the decision.

"I feel like I have been walking six inches off the ground," said Kate Kendell of the National Center for Lesbian Rights. "The arsenal used against us, with sodomy laws being the foremost weapon, has been neutralized."

That the ruling was handed down during national Gay Pride month, and just days before New York and San Francisco's Pride celebrations seemed almost an act of providence. "Let's just say it's not going to be difficult to celebrate Gay pride this year," Maupin said.

lives," Kennedy wrote. "The state cannot demean their existence or control their destiny by making their private sexual conduct a crime."

Many had expected Kennedy to ground his decision in the 1996 Colorado case, *Romer vs. Evans*, which invalidated Colorado's Amendment 2 based on the Constitution's equal protection clause. Kennedy instead based his decision in *Lawrence* to the due process clause protection of individual liberty.

The articulation of that liberty guarantee is found in *Planned Parenthood vs. Casey*, written by the majority in 1992, when the court resoundingly reaffirmed the court's commitment to *Roe vs. Wade*.

Lawrence vs. Texas also undeniably opens wide the door for a constitutional argument that Gay Americans can no longer be denied the fundamental right to marry. Kennedy is careful to note that *Lawrence* "does not involve whether the government must give formal recognition to any relationship that homosexual persons seek to enter."

But more significant is an earlier observation made by Kennedy when he notes how anti-sodomy statutes "seek to control a personal relationship that, whether or not entitled to formal recognition in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE FIFTEEN



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EDITOR:

Tucson Pride wishes to thank everyone who helped with Pride Week and Gay West. Very special thanks to Dave and Frank of IBT's/Woody's for all their assistance, advice, support and sponsorship. Very special thanks to the Observer staff for all the great publicity.

We wish to thank all of our Pride Week seminar speakers: Bonnie Brinkman, Carol Lohman, Karen Karl, Terry Mills, Lois Yankowski, Kathi Mayer, Nancy Robinett, Lisa Bibbens, Amelia Craig-Cramer, Eric Cuestas-Thompson, Dr. Todd Case, Larry Maestas. Thanks to the organizations and agencies which helped with Pride Week and Gay West: Pima County Health Department, Wingspan, SAAF, TIHAN, Gay Men's Health Project and HIP/AZ. Special thanks to Nobody's Biz for a Pride Week fund raiser which raised \$821 for Tucson Pride.

Special thanks to Old Tucson Studios and everyone there who worked on Gay West. Our hearty thanks to Larry Moore, Jason Latimore, Salud Es Poder and all the drag performers for the fantastic drag shows at Gay West.

Thanks to our sponsors: IBT's/Woody's, Old Tucson Studios, 93.7 KRQ, Budweiser, Centra Realty, Community Business Association, Creative Communications, Desert Pride gift shop, Elbow Grease, GayTucson.com, Instinct magazine, Pronto Printing, Rainbow Planet Coffee House, Speedway Veterinary Hospital, Wingspan and Zia Records.

And lastly, we thank the community for supporting and attending the events of Pride Week.

See you at OUToberFEST! Peace though Pride!

Tucson Pride: Wendy Bailey, Tony Ray Baker, Bob Bowers, Janette Bunge, Joanne Contreras, Brian Fox, Ben Healy, Jennifer Lopez, Arnette Miller, Nancy Robinett and Tamer Shelby

EDITOR:

I bought my ticket to see "Falsettoland" mainly because opening night was a benefit for T.I.H.A.N. I don't usually like musicals. This show changed my mind and moved my heart.

"Falsettoland" is a sung-through musical, no dialogue, all singing, and it wonderfully tells the story of a man, Marvin (played by David Johnston) who leaves his wife Trina (played by Stephanie Sikes) for a young man named Whizzer (Sean Zimmerman). All this, and the fact that the father's son (Played by Ryan Deluca) is trying to celebrate his bat mitzvah. The music is wonderful. Keith Koster is the music director, and there is a three piece band that sounds like a small orchestra. Carol Calkins directs this incredibly beautiful, moving, and often hilarious show. Kevin Johnson associate directs, as well as produces this show.

The actors all have great voices and characters, especially Sean Zimmerman and Stephanie Sikes, who broke my heart with her solo "Holding To The Ground". Two secondary characters brought the house down as the "Lesbians from next door". Sexy Marlene Montes and power house performer Marsha Bagwell did amazing work.

I have never been in an audience that so enjoyed a musical. There was a huge

and thunderous standing ovation at the end. Shows like this don't often get produced in Tucson. Hats off to Arizona Onstage Productions for this first class show, and for taking the financial risk to do something daring - I hope that it pays off for them financially - I know that it has artistically.

You owe it to yourself to see this show - and bring friends and family. Gay and straight. The message of this show is universal - love is love - and should be respected. The show plays till July 12 - It was packed the night I was there, and my best friend saw it the next night - he barely got in, so make reservations for what I consider a major highlight of the theatrical year! The box office number is (520) 270-3332 or go online at www.members.cox.net/azonstage

Roger Smith

EDITOR:

Kenny Brau's letter describing the Pope as a hopeless bigot and trashing Catholics as intolerant sums up a real problem in the Lesbian, Gay and Trans community.

Due to all the hurt caused by religious groups, Gays, Lesbians and Trans people usually dismiss the whole thing as evil and pathetic. End of discussion. This does a lot of harm to us.

If we're not prepared to understand how churches functions politically, what good and evil religious groups do, and what do to about it in a peaceful way, then we're being just as bigoted as some of the worst religious zealots.

Churches have a political environment and it's determined by those who attend church, (or temple or whatever.) These environments have influence on community politics outside of the church.

For example, the United States currently suffers from a bad reputation in the world as an empire bent on violence and oppression. Some fundamentalist Muslims, Jews and Christians leaders in other countries view homosexuality as a cause of this country's corruption, as they would also women's rights. (I'm not saying it's correct, but that this opinion exists.)

But can we call all Christian's or Muslims bigots because of it? That's what a lot of us do. Instead wouldn't it be better politics to go to temples and churches and state your mind about this political action against us at the United Nations? I expect a large and loud moan from everyone, and then "You expect me to go to church!?" Yes, honey I do.

Those fundamentalists continue to hold political power in churches and temples because we refuse to go in ourselves to speak our truth.

No one has to go to church to worship priests, (unless you're into that.) You don't have to believe in a dogma or recite prayers that mean nothing to you. However, unless we want this reign of fundamentalist terror to continue, we do need to go and be seen and heard in these religious places. We can't just ignore them as a bunch of stupid people with nothing better to do than oppress us. Stupid they are not! They now have the power.

If you go to community events offered by churches and temples you can make a difference. If you get involved in

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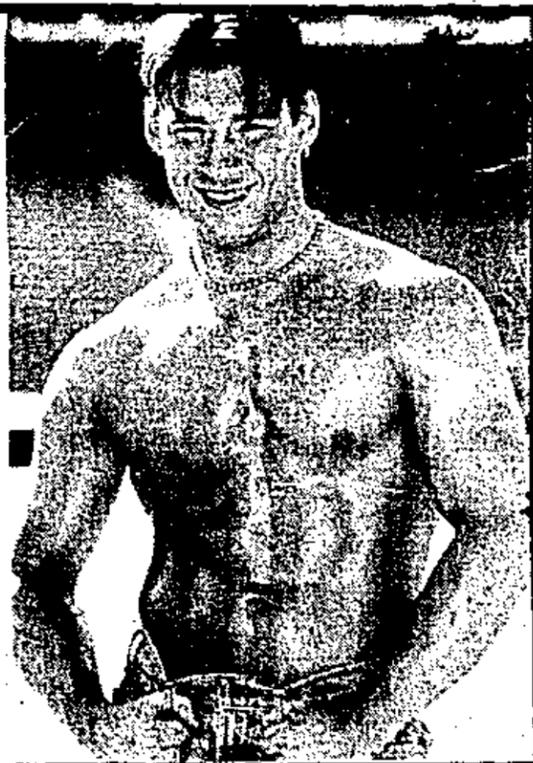
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POLITICS 2003

by Mark R. Kerr

'Dear Gracie'

Dear Gracie:

U.S. Senator Charles Schumer, D-NY, did sum it up so well during the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Pride Parade in Manhattan on Sunday, June 28, when he said, through a bull-horn, "Let's hear for Gay Pride! Let's hear it for the Supreme Court and who would have thought we would be saying that!"

Indeed, with their decision, released on Thursday, June 26, in the Texas sodomy law case, striking it down, as well as laws on the books, seldom enforced but used to discriminate against Gays and Lesbians that were also on the books in 13 other states as well as Puerto Rico. Written by Justice Anthony Kennedy, it articulated, in no uncertain terms, the basic equality and humanity owed to Gay men and Lesbians under the Constitution.

This ruling reversed the Court's 1986 decision in *Bowers v. Hardwick*, that had upheld the constitutionality of sodomy laws. Kennedy, in his ruling, said that the *Bowers* decision was wrong then and wrong now. So wouldn't it be nice now if they reviewed *Bush v. Gore*, which put *Dubya* at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue and really do something for personal liberty?

As usual, Justice Antonin Scalia showed his true asinine colors by reading his sarcastic-laden dissent from the bench, breaking precedent, for which he said the Court has now signed on "to the homosexual agenda," but adding that he has nothing against homosexuals, and we would

have nothing against him, if Scalia would do the country a favor and step down from the nation's highest court.

Reaction was swift from all fronts, especially from U.S. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-TN, who compared Gays and Lesbians, to criminals, prostitutes and diseases, in an appearance on a Sunday morning political chat show and stated his support for a proposed constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriages, so we now have our theme for the Republicans in the 2004 election campaign, and the nation will have to endure Gay and Lesbian bashing for contributions and most importantly, votes.

Most openly Gay and Lesbian Members of Congress, Tammy Baldwin and Barney Frank, both Democrats, expressed their pleasure over the ruling but the question has arisen Gracie on the position of the only openly Gay Republican Member of Congress, Jim Kolbe, regarding the ruling.

So far it has been silence.

A rally, sponsored by Wingspan, the Arizona Human Rights Fund-Tucson Chapter and the City of Tucson Commission on GLBT Issues Gracie, was held in Tucson, the night of the decision. More than 100 were in attendance but not Kolbe, or for that matter a representative from his office as many other elected officials, who couldn't attend the rally due to scheduling conflicts, especially in lieu of the uncertainty of the release date of the

ruling, had sent to speak or read letters and you wonder why Kolbe isn't really liked, since he once again, showed his lack of support for GLBT Tucsonans, especially those who reside in his district.

Lastly Gracie, the former homophobic, racist Republican Senator from South Carolina, Strom Thurmond, a.k.a. "Tang Head" or "Senator Mush-

mouth," finally has taken the big dirt nap, on the same day of the Court decision being released. Canada okaying same-sex marriage, this ruling, the above-mentioned and the City of Tucson on Monday, June 30, by a unanimous vote, authorized a domestic partner registry. It's been a heck of Pride Week.

Until next time and as always, faithfully yours.

What Makes Our Town Tick?

Calabazamusic@yahoo.com

By Jerry D

A Woman's Woman

Hello readers! In the film "The Philadelphia Story" there is a line recited that has been a mantra of mine for a very long time. The line reads; "The time to make up your mind about people is never". It is a simple line that can spark debate within any social circle. Katherine Hepburn says the line, and it could not be a better review of how she herself lived.

Hepburn passed away this week in her Connecticut home. The actress is the model of not only success, but of a talent that can never be measured. Her career spanned over 60 years and with every role, she cemented a legacy as big as the screen itself. Her Academy Award total (4), and nominations (12), are a standing record that has stood through time.

The roles, as well as the personal life that Hepburn lived, can be made into a film itself. The young debutante, who came to the film industry from the life on the stage, she never swam with the current. In a time of subservience and discrimination, she curved the rod keeping many people in line.

The secret to the success of Hepburn's life and career might be her greatest

of roles. She was able to do all she did in her life without causing any major waves in the society she called home. Hepburn herself wrote about it in her autobiography titled simply "Me". She wears her long life in the business like a badge of honor not due to its success, but rather for all she got away with. When the dress code called for all females to be donned in skirts, Hepburn wore slacks in her roles. She was able to use the costumes of her characters as living advertisements, thus making it easier to appear without any objection. She was probably one of the first to let designers work around her instead of the other way around.

When she fell for her screen co-star Spencer Tracy, most thought for sure that her life in Tinsel Town was over. He was a married man and conducted his affair with Hepburn in near plain sight. She not only kept her private life truly private; she included the ones she loved under her umbrella from the media. Hepburn was the first of the Teflon movie stars, even before the substance was used for the phrase.

If we truly heed the words of the
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About the Author:
Eric Cuestas-Thompson is a bilingual therapist in private practice in Tucson, specializing in the treatment of trauma, sexual compulsivity, anger management and relationship issues.

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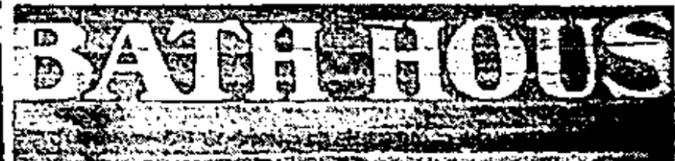
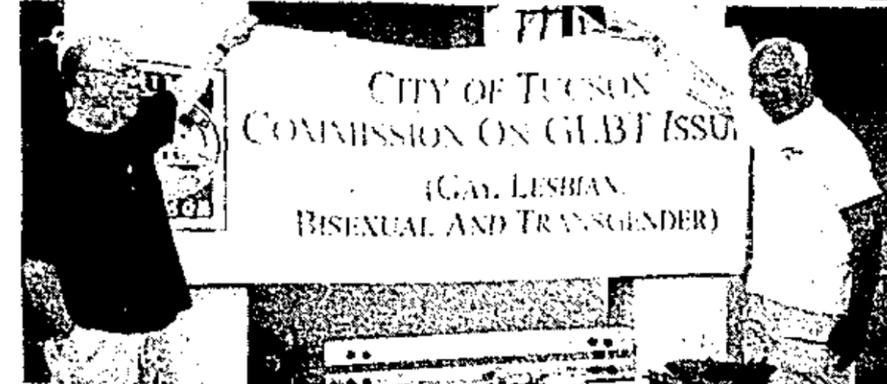
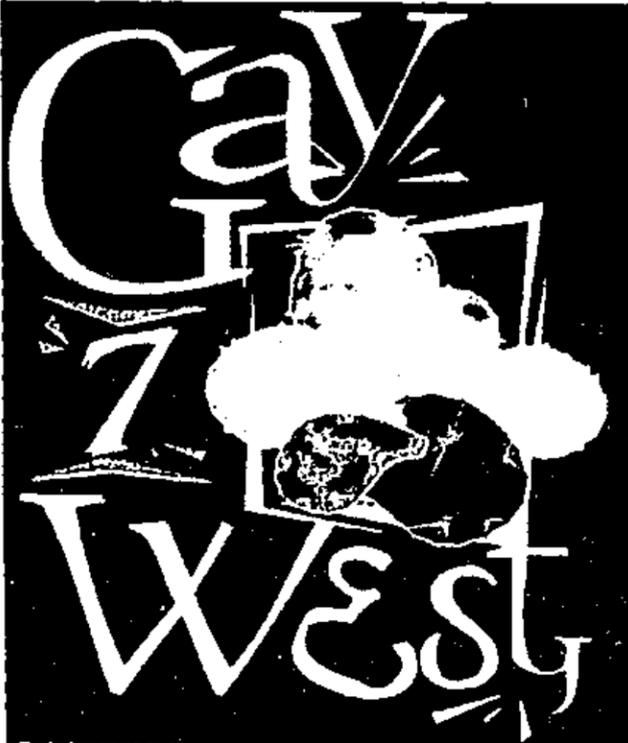
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HOROSCOPES

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Expect a spark of pride and inspiration this week as surprising Uranus bumps feisty Mars and tickles serious Saturn. Great ideas or feats cannot be reined in (unless, of course, that's your thing...). Choose your best laid plans wisely, cousin; You don't want to be left standing at the bottom of the launch pad while everyone else is soaring up and Out.

ARIES

MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

Rainbow Rams feel invincible when Uranus conjuncts Mars and trines Saturn and why not? Uranus and Mars unearth hidden enemies and release personal demons so taskmaster Saturn can crush them like ants. Clean out your closet debris, cousin. It is never too late for spring cleaning. You really enjoy your surroundings when you scratch that itch in your own skin.

TAURUS

APRIL 21 - MAY 21

What becomes a legend most? Perhaps it is Mars and Uranus trine Saturn. Queer Bulls don't know what hit them as they move from the back of the line to the front of the pride parade and receive red carpet treatment everywhere they go. Why ask why, comrade? Enjoy the fuss while you can; by next week you'll be back to competing for attention with the rest of the B-list.

GEMINI

MAY 22 - JUNE 21

Cheerful pink Twins are not always focused on the bottom line but, when powerful Mars and shocking Uranus trine practical Saturn, you are able to move, shake... and bake. Expect the unexpected in your career this week; the office is packed with both chutes and ladders. Take the right step and you glide into the glitter. Take the wrong step and you slide into the litter.

CANCER

JUNE 22 - JULY 23

Pink Crabs get itchy claws when manic Mars and shocking Uranus trine Saturn this week. Travel may be in the stars if you can carefully plan your itinerary and gird for the unexpected. Your Outreach expands exponentially and suddenly you are finger food for the paparazzi. Will we see you in the Style section or in the National Enquirer? I guess we will just have to see....

LEO

JULY 24 - AUGUST 23

Proud Lions cannot be caged in when sexy Mars and unstoppable Uranus tickles Saturn. You possess that elusive je ne sais quois that is guaranteed to hit your target and bag your quarry. Of course it will help tremendously if you wear something wilde, wooly and crotchless. How magnetic is your personality, comrade? Depends if you are scoping the north or south pole.

VIRGO

AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23

Partnerships are energized or radicalized when Mars and Uranus trine serious Saturn. Queer Virgins recharge a moribund or deadend relationship thanks to Uranus which puts a little zip in your dooda. Of course, if you are eager to break free of a restrictive or unsatisfying situation, Saturn brings friends near and dear to your door. It's entirely your decision, you fickle thing.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23

Get ready to do whatever needs to be done when powerful Mars and energetic Uranus trine Saturn. Gay Libras will work very hard and should expect results. Whether this

means taking on a big job assignment, ratcheting up the levels on your exercise machine or pushing the envelop on a pet professional project, it's all up to you. Just as long as you keep pushing, pal.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22

Single pink Scorps find themselves surrounded by festive company when randy Mars and shocking Uranus nudge serious Saturn. The chance of finding the perfect partner (or even a modestly passable one) is very good if you keep your attention focused and breath fresh. Married? Paint the world pink with your significant other. Things will soon turn hot pink....

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22

Tedious jobs around the house became play (or something resembling it) when feisty Mars and Uranus trine Saturn. Even the most onerous tasks don't seem so horrible. Accomplish the impossible now, gay Archer. Show the skeptics how you can be a home entertainer extraordinaire; invite a special someone over for a great gay evening and wear only a cocktail napkin. Ahem.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20

Pink Caps move mountains with mere words this week as pushy Mars and explosive Uranus trine eloquent Saturn. Your communications unleash a wave of opportunistic good times so choose your words wisely and party hearty. But as you dance all night at some cheap cafe, Saturn whispers that there is more to life than being a gay gadfly. Unzip your charm for the right zipper.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19

Brusk Mars and sparky Uranus rub pernicious Saturn and teaches Aquerians the value and power of a dollar. The urge is to apply it liberally as a balm on any sorely needed spot. Rubabdub bud! But you will soon find that the secret to contentment is to decide what you truly value beyond dollars and cents and incorporate it into your life. OK, gold plated shoelaces are good too.

PISCES

FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20

You display a supernova talent with when zesty Mars and zappy Uranus trine perfectionist Saturn. Catapult yourself into the center of the universe and spread your influence now, now now! The temptation is to rest on your laurels and expect home delivery for all of your diva desires but resist the temptation, cousin. Guppies should vie for American Idol and not American idle!

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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

by Lee Thorn

Dreaming Of Peace

If you don't happen to be an expert on the Middle East, it's hard not to notice that the experts on the region have been batting zero for the last couple decades. It's not that what they say is false; it's that all the expert knowledge on the subject that seems so endlessly available doesn't help to move the Middle East problem any closer to a solution.

know about the economics, demographics, climate, topography or anything else about the place except the history of the conflict.

"All you have to know about the conflict is that the parties want it solved and can't solve it themselves. Think of yourselves as arbitrators, binding arbitrators, and come up with two viable states that are as fair to everybody there as possible."

The last big thing that most of the experts agreed upon was that if President Bush got involved and came up with a plan, a "road map" as some called it, that would do the trick. As a non-expert I was deeply doubtful for two reasons.

Of course the next step would be to have the UN occupy both new states and impose whatever solution the commission came up with, replacing both existing security forces and providing security for both nations for about the next 50 years while the last of the was mongers would be dying off of old age.

One: The US is unlikely EVER to broker a peace in the region for the simple reason that the US is not trusted by both sides. Indulge a non-expert and consider a real estate analogy. You want to buy a house, but the seller says he'll only sell if you use his title company. For some reason, any reason at all, you distrust that particular title company. No deal.

Yes, I know it sounds goofy, but is it any goofier than what we've got, any goofier than what we've had for decades?

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

Two: Not one of the experts has explained what carrots and sticks President Bush has that President Clinton lacked. If Clinton, who is conceded to be a political genius even by his detractors, was unable to use all the wealth and might of the country to get the parties to make a deal, what new element can President Bush bring to the table?

Domestic Partner Registry

Continued from Page One

creation of the registry as quickly as possible.

Another expert view that seems dubious to the simpleminded non-expert is that the solution to the problem is inevitable, a matter of when instead of what. The expert reasoning is that the majority of the people on both sides want a two-state solution. Everybody gives up something and we end up with two independent countries living peacefully side by side.

Keene, who had recommended implementing the registry in January 2004, said he needs until September to finalize the legal language, identify all the places in the City Code that have to be changed, and figure out the registration fee. The city's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Commission has recommended it be \$50.

The benefits under the Tucson Domestic Partner Registry - other than having an official record of a domestic partnership - are giving partners additional hospital visitation rights as family members and recognizing partners as a family for purposes of qualifying for city services.

My problem is that I don't see why a majority of people wanting something is going to magically make it happen. The minority of people who do not want a two-state solution has been very successful for a very long time in preventing that accomplishment. Give me one logical reason for believing that they can't go on doing so forever.

The registry would not be limited to same-sex partners. Opposite-sex couples would be able to register and qualify for the benefits, as could those living outside the city.

To be eligible, partners will have to: be over 18, not be blood relatives, and sign a statement that they are in an exclusive relationship.

What Makes Our Town Tick

CONTINUED FROM PAGE NINE

If the US can't broker a solution and the parties can't impose the will of their majorities, doesn't it stand to reason that a solution, if there's ever to be one, will have to be imposed from the outside? I'm deliberately being simpleminded in these arguments in the face of the fact that decades of subtlety and erudition and trying harder and thinking deeper have all come to naught.

above mentioned phrase, we can live our lives like Hepburn did. She did not judge, and in living that way was kept from being judged in a harsher light than she could have. She did, as she wanted, with very little resistance from the heads of both her life and business. Hepburn's upbringing taught her to look down at others, and she chose not to.

I've read about cases where experts is esoteric specialties of science who kept getting experimental results that they couldn't believe called in scientists from very different specialties or even different branches of science to go over their thinking and procedures to see if they could find the problem. When scientists do this sort of thing they're implicitly acknowledging that their expertise itself may be the problem. Could expertise - too much specialized knowledge - by the culprit in the Holy Land?

We lost not only a great talent this week; we also lost a great innovator. Hepburn gave many a starting point to not only be a better actress, but also a better woman. She truly is a woman's woman in every sense of the word. Have a great week and remember to register to vote!

Perhaps the Middle East mess will someday be solved by a United Nations commission made up of diplomats from Uganda, Norway and Mongolia who know as little as possible about the history, culture and religions of the region. The Secretary General could sit his commission down and say, "We'll tell you anything you want to



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A View From The Rock
by Joy L. Childers

Judgement Is God's Job

I know that all of us in our community are thrilled with the Supreme Court decision that GLBT people have the right to love each other as consenting adults. This is a monumental decision, and all of us should thank God for this recognition that we have rights, also.

Those of you who are older realize the tremendous impact this will have on our nation. Growing up in the 40's and the 50's, I was taught that homosexuality was a sin, and that I was condemned to hell. So, a decision like this will go a long way to help me heal some wounds that are still pretty fresh, even though the experience I am about to tell happened in 1959.

I was a senior at a Baptist College in St. Paul, MN. I had a female lover, and I stayed with her at her apartment several times a week. She was a librarian assistant at the college, plus she was, also, taking classes. Her name was Elizabeth. I loved her and would have wanted to stay with her for the rest of my life, but something happened that changed the course of her life and mine. I was an English major at this college, and I had a Shakespeare class. The professor of this class was married and was a Christian. He chose to "come on to me", and I refused his advances. After all, he was married, and I was in a Lesbian relationship. Somehow he found out about my relationship with Elizabeth and turned us both in to the dean. Both of us were called in to the dean's office, where several men and one woman were sitting. We were told not to matriculate for the second semester and to leave the college, and Elizabeth was fired from her job in the library.

That night I went over to Elizabeth's apartment, and we cried together and talked about what to do next. Then we retired for the night. I woke up in the middle of the night, aware that Elizabeth was not next to me. I called out to her and didn't get any answer. The door to the bathroom was cracked open, and I saw that the light was on. I called her again, and again there was no answer. I got up, pushed open the

bathroom door, and what I saw was Elizabeth leaning over the bath tub, blood all over the room. I knew she was dead. She had slashed her wrists. I understood why. She had abandoned me, but I understood. And I wanted to follow her in death. I went back to the house where I was boarding, and before I could follow her by killing myself, one of my friends intervened and prayed for me and with me. I couldn't tell her what happened, I just let her pray for me, and that helped to give me balance. I turned bitter for a long time after that.

Yes, I was a Christian, but I was bitter. I hated God at that time in my life. It was a Christian who started the downward spiral of Elizabeth's life. And my bitterness was leveled at all Christians. I went away from God for a long time. I wanted to get even so badly. God has since forgiven me for my bitterness, and I have been resting in His love for a number of years, now. I am leaving the judging up to God. I no longer judge those Christians at that college. They really didn't know what they were doing. They were cruel in their treatment of both Elizabeth and me, but they did it out of ignorance, and God will judge their hearts to see if there was malice there or not. I have forgiven all that were involved, but the memory is still there; it is still fresh. I am still working through parts of it that are still painful. I beg any of you who are reading this that if you have been hurt like this by Christians, lean on Jesus Christ only, not on the whims of religion. Look to Jesus for your healing and care. And then forgive the ones who wronged you so badly.

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, And the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace. --Helen Lemmel--

Forgive them, forgive them, For they know not what they do. They stand and hurl abuse at us, As they hurled it at You, too. They condemn us just for who we are, Just like they condemned You. Forgive them, forgive them, For they know not what they do. --Lon Berry, Marsha Stevens--

Supreme Court Strikes Down Sodomy Laws
Continued from Page One

Thomas agreed with Scalia's analysis, but called the Texas sodomy law "uncommonly silly." "If I were a member of the Texas Legislature," he wrote, "I would vote to repeal it."

The Lawrence v. Texas case stemmed from the 1998 arrest of two Houston men who were having sex in their own bedroom when the police entered their home on a false emergency call. The two men, John Lawrence and Tyron Garner, were arrested and jailed for a night.

Ruling Boosts Civil Rights Goal
Continued from Page Seven

law, is within the liberty of persons to choose without being punished as criminals."

Legal scholar David Garrow suggests that the term "whether or not" signals that the justices siding with Kennedy appreciate that such a constitutional claim is likely to be inevitable, especially given Canada's decision this month to legalize Gay marriage.

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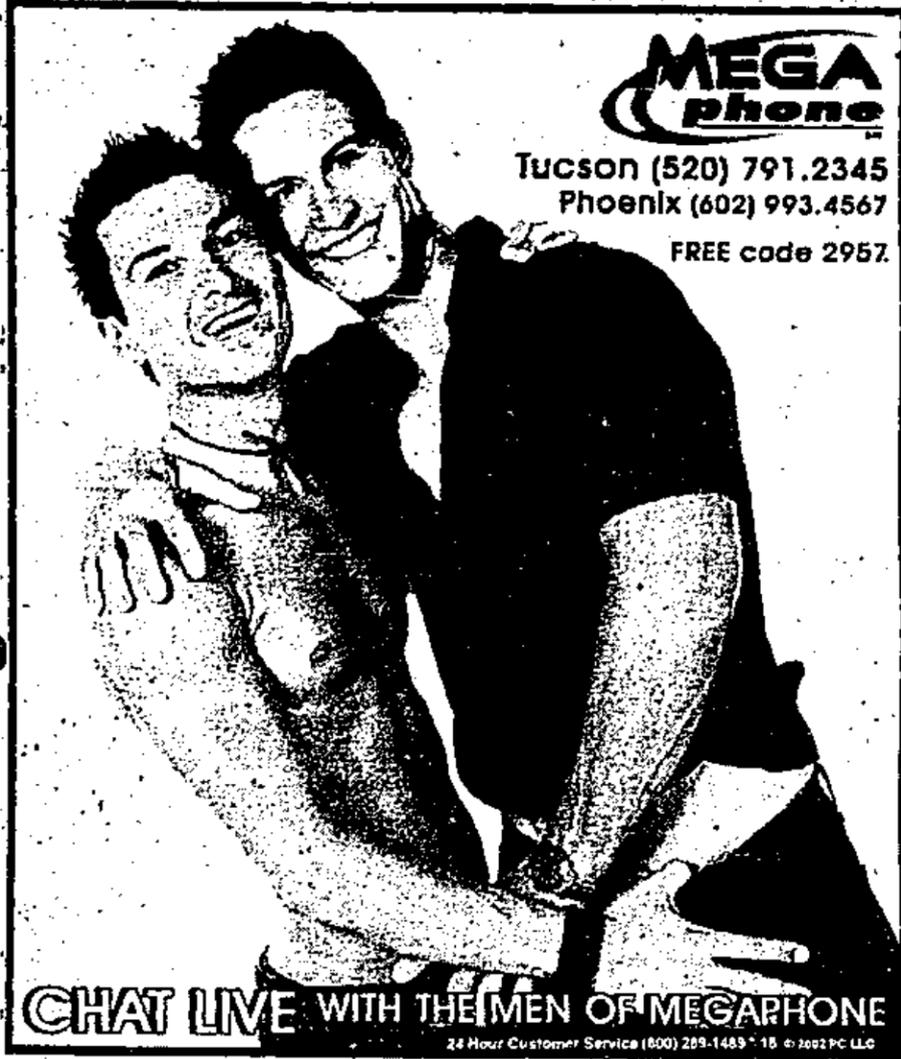
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"YOU HAVE QUESTIONS?"
Ask Dr. X
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Dear Dr. X,
 While in Europe I saw posters that said, "Don't bareback!" What do you think? Would this help slow the spread of HIV if everyone did this, whether with a steady partner or a one-night stand? Why are people still bare backing? I ask since I've been with guys who were supposedly in monogamous relationships, with men and women.

Signed, Confused About Bare Backing

Dear Confused
 I know it's hard to believe but there are still people in this world that are under the impression that they are invincible to HIV and AIDS. A lot of people still remember "the good old days" when a condom was just for birth control. A few years ago a bar in San Francisco created quite a stir with an ad featuring a naked man and the words "Bareback Thursdays" The ad was referring to going shirtless in the bar for drink specials, but it was viewed as a slap in the face to a community that is at a high risk for the disease.

It's true that if everyone stopped barebacking and stayed in monogamous relationships there would be no new infections transmitted sexually. On the other hand even you, in your letter state you're sleeping with men who are in monogamous relationships. Must be that sleeping around kind of monogamy. In a perfect world everyone would be using

condoms and/or be in monogamous relationships. Unfortunately we live in a world where it's pretty much your needs first. Play smart and keep yourself safe and healthy.

Dear Dr. X
 I moved to Tucson very happily married. However, since moving here I have gotten rid of the ex. I am wondering how to find a partner without the bars here in Tucson? Any ideas?

Signed Husband Hunting
 Dear Husband Hunting,
 There are many different non-bar activities and clubs here in Tucson such as bowling leagues, discussion groups and hiking clubs.

My advice is to check out the non-bar calendar in the back of the Observer and take part in some of the activities being offered. I would also check out the info wall at Wingspan, Rainbow Planet or SAAF and see what up coming events pique your interests. Also you can check out our website www.gmhp.org and check out our local links and events schedule. Good luck to you and for all my readers out there, Dr X is single and also looking for a husband. See a little self-promotion never hurt anybody.

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

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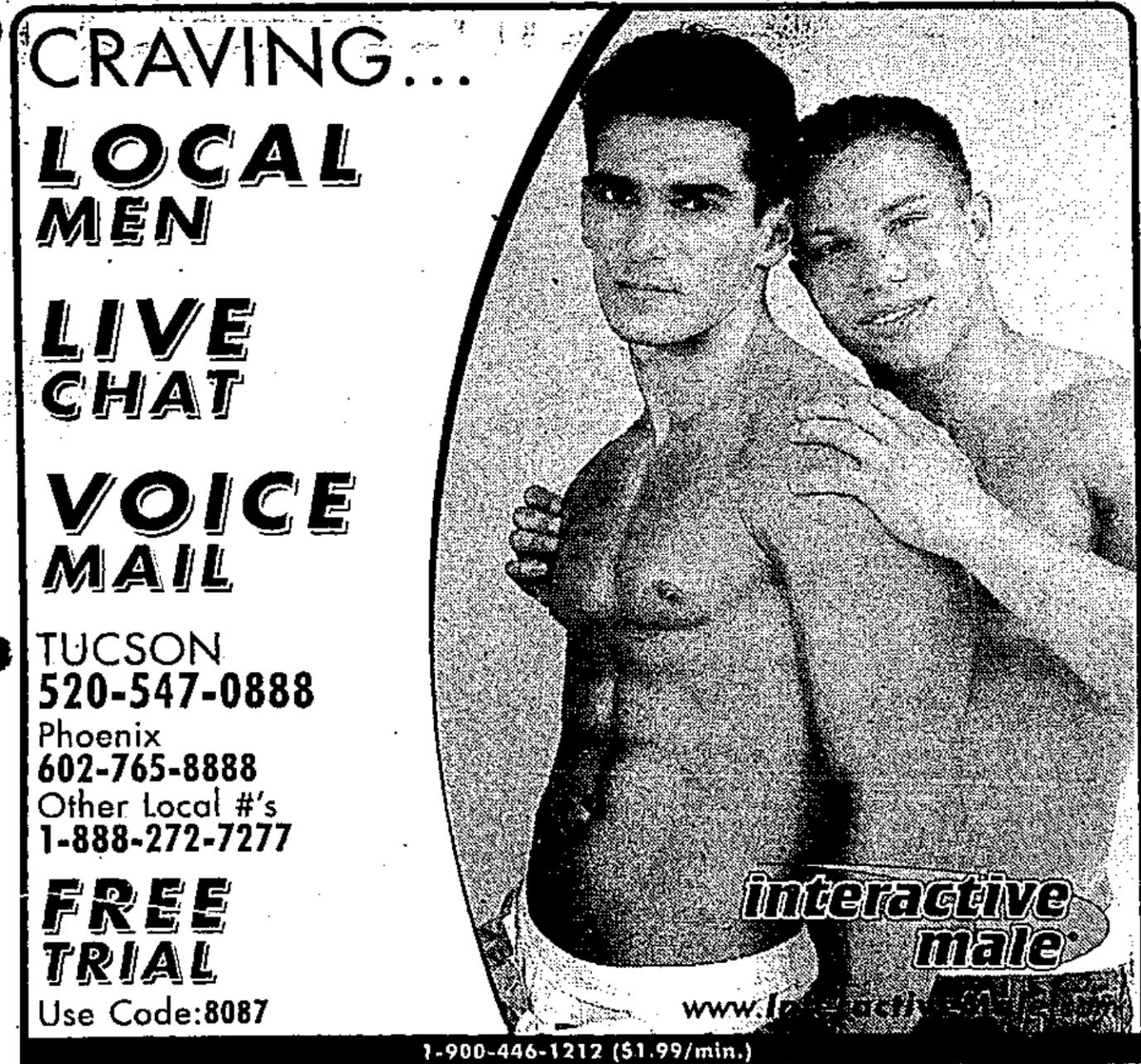
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AGRA Update

The Arizona Gay Rodeo Association (A.G.R.A) is proud to be the hosts to the 19th annual International Gay Rodeo Association Convention July 31 through August 3. IGRA consists of 24 Rodeo Associations, 2 of which will be seated at this convention, through out the United State and Canada.

All though A.G.R.A has hosted a record 5 I.G.R.A Finals Rodeo, this will be the first I.G.R.A Convention the group has hosted. A.G.R.A's Convention Committee Chairperson John King has done an incredible job with organizing what will definitely be one of the most memorable conventions in the past 19 years.

John King has secured for the host hotel and convention site the historic, classic Arizona Biltmore Resort and Spa. Known throughout the world as the "Jewel of the Desert", this Frank Lloyd Wright - influenced architecture has been a favorite of celebrities and U.S. presidents throughout it's colorful history. John has put together a five day agenda, beginning with a party hosted by himself for early arrivals on Wednesday July 30. For more information visit A.G.R.A.'s web sight at www.agra-phx.com ...

The I.G.R.A. annual International Country and Western Dance Competition will be held August 2, 2003. This Competition is always held at the annual I.G.R.A. convention. To obtain a registration form, A.G.R.A. membership application or more information you can call Dan Ridge at Charlie's (602) 265-0224 or email John King at charlies94@cox.net.

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NON-BAR CALENDAR

GROUPS / CLUBS / ORGANIZATIONS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. The Canasta Club meets to play this fun card game. If you don't know how to play, we'll teach you. For directions and reservations, please call Marty at 722-8531.

FRIDAY, JULY 4

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 5:00 p.m. A 4th of July party will be held at a location to be announced. For more information, please call Jerry at 690-9565.

SATURDAY, JULY 5

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:30 a.m. Join Jack for a morning of Volleyball. This is played for fun, and you'll get to know some nice guys as you play. For details and directions, please call Jack at 881-5733.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join us for our monthly Polluck 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.

SUNDAY, JULY 6

Desert Dominion presents Guy Baldwin author of "Ties That Bind" who will be giving his presentation "Psychological Land Mines in a D's Scene" 1:30 p.m. at 3843 E. 37th Street. \$15.00. Tickets available at the door or at Antigone Books, 411 N. 4th Ave.

MONDAY, JULY 7

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. The Triangle Tribe is a support group that helps you deal with yourself and your relationships with others. For directions and reservations, please call Tom at 591-2828.

TUESDAY, JULY 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 Peter for Bridge Night. If you don't know how to play, the guys are willing to teach you. For directions and reservations, please call Peter at 615-8974.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 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.

THURSDAY, JULY 10

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 10:00 a.m. Join Karol for a morning of miniature golf. For reservations and directions, please call Karol at 744-9017.

FRIDAY, JULY 11

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 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 Karol at 744-9017.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Michael for an Opera Lecture on the castrati. For directions and reservations, please call Michael at 797-5623.

SATURDAY, JULY 12

3-D Productions presents Miss Gay Arizona-America at the Holiday Inn Palo Verde, 4550 S. Palo Verde. General Admission tickets are \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door. VIP Admission is \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. Call 631-4502 to purchase advance tickets. Or come to IBT's on Wednesdays between 8:30 - 11:00 p.m. Pre-Judging starts at 5:30 p.m. with the pageant beginning at 7:00 p.m. For more information see their ad in this issue of Observer.

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. We are showing of 3 episodes of "Queer As Folk". For reservations and directions, please call Jerry or Les at 690-9565.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Marv will host Pinochle Night. If you don't know how to play, but would like to learn, this is the place. For more information, please call Marv at 745-0304.

SUNDAY, JULY 13

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 3:00 p.m. Art & Jeff invite you to join them for Dinner & A Movie. They provide the main dish, and they ask you to bring a side dish to share. The film is the Danish classic: "You Are Not Alone". For reservations and directions, please call Jeff or Art at 762-9135.

MONDAY, JULY 14

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. The Triangle Tribe is a support group that helps you deal with yourself and your relationships with others. For directions and reservations, please call Tom at 591-2828.

TUESDAY, JULY 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, JULY 2

IBT'S - 9:00 p.m., The 'DivaLicious' Show hosted by Lucinda Holliday and starring Deora Le Blanc, Faith Michaels and Sade Michaels.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - New here on Wednesdays is Karaoke Nite beginning at 8:00 p.m.

WOODY'S - A new event here every Wednesday. 9:00 - Close, Underwear Wednesdays with Gay Mens Health Project and your host Chris. \$1.00 off any drink or bottled beer for all in their underwear or leather. (Excludes draught beer & Schnapps). 10:00 p.m. Wet Shorts Contest with \$50 first prize.

FRIDAY, JULY 4

IBT'S - "Freedom Weekend" here. Today it's a Patio Party hosted by Johnny DJ spinning your favorite sounds from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Then at 10:00 p.m. is a Post-Fireworks Party with DJ T.C. Wildman plus hot Go-Go boys until close.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - After the fireworks Party with free hot dogs and chips on the patio from 9:00 to 11:00 p.m. Country music with Pat and Libby starts at 8:30.

VENTURE-N - 4th of July Kick-Off Party tonight with a BBQ served from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

WOODY'S - Special 4th of July Bar-B-Que. Buy a Burger and get a Beer from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

YARD DOG SALOON - Fire Cracker drinks during the day for \$3.75 and dancing on the patio starting at 9:00 p.m. with DJ music.

SATURDAY, JULY 5

IBT'S - 10:00 a.m. Sean's Flavored Martinis or Daiquiri Bar. 9:00 p.m. at 9:00 p.m. it's a special 'Light up your Life' party with door prizes (while quantities last), plus DJ Q until closing.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - July 4th Party continues with Latino Night here that features a great show starring Galilea.

VENTURE-N - Morning After Eye-Openers from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. \$1.75 Bloodys and Screws. Beer Bust 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

WOODY'S - 4th of July Weekend continues with Steak or Fish Bar-B-Que from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

YARD DOG SALOON - Breakfast is being served beginning at 10:00 a.m. Then from 2:00 to 6:00 pm. Tucson Knight Owls (TKO) is celebrating their 24th Anniversary with a Beer Bust then dance the night away on the patio starting at 9:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 6

IBT'S - Party line-up includes Troy's Recovery Bar from 10:00 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 MCC (Metropolitan Community Church). 8:00 p.m. 'Sissy Bingo' hosted by Aija Simone and Lucinda Holliday. 9:00 p.m. Special fund raising show for Samantha White, candidate for Miss Gay Arizona-America. Joining Samantha will be Janee Starr, Teri Akki and Veronica Halliwell.

VENTURE-N - Eye-Openers revisited from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Beer Bust 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. Boss Burgers from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9

IBT'S - 9:00 p.m., The 'DivaLicious' Show hosted by Lucinda Holliday and starring Mr. Kenneth Blake, Bunny FuFu and Samantha White.

FRIDAY, JULY 11

IBT'S - The Miss Gay Arizona-America Pre-Pageant Show. Watch for details.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 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.

FRIDAY, JULY 18

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Jerry & Les as they host Pizza Night at their home. For only \$5, you get pizza, salad, drinks and desserts. For reservations and directions, please call Jerry or Les at 690-9565.

SATURDAY, JULY 19

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:30 a.m. Join Jack for a morning of Volleyball. This is played for fun, and you'll get to know some nice guys as you play. For details and directions, please call Jack at 881-5733.

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

MONDAY, JULY 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 591-2828.

TUESDAY, JULY 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.

Daily Calendar

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

IBT'S - 10am-8pm \$1.75 Bloodys, Screws or Mimosas. Sangria Party \$2.50 from 4-1 Benefit B-B-Q and Beer Bust for community organizations 5:30-8pm. Karaoke with Michael D. on the patio 4:30-7:30. 8:30 shows or special events or Hi energy dancing w/DJ 'T.C. Wildman'. 9-close. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Bar opens at noon. 10 oz Miller High Life draft 75¢ all day. From 12-6 Bloody Marys \$1.50 From 6-10 \$1 kamikazes and \$1.50 Jellos & Mimosas.

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

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

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

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

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

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open Noon. Happy Hour 4-7pm. \$1.75 Domestic Beer or \$1.50 Bloody Marys. Free Pool 8pm to close. \$1.50 Jellos & Mimosas 8pm to close.

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio 5pm. Daily specials til 7pm. 4-8 \$2.25 Martinis

WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic beer til 8pm. Karaoke w/Michael D. 9-11pm. YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Scotch until 7pm. Kennel open 5pm.

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

IBT'S - Open 11am. Happy Hours 11am-8pm. \$2 domestic beer and well. 4-8pm. Tee's & Tattoo Nite. wear an IBT's T-shirt or IBT tattoo get happy hour prices 9 to close, or buy an IBT's T-shirt for \$5 and get a complimentary drink. House Hi-Nergy Dance 9pm to close W/DJ-Q

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Bar Opens noon. Happy Hour 4-7pm. \$1.75 domestic beers & \$2 all wells. Ladies Night 9-close \$1 Kamakazi, Jellos. 70s/80s music

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio 5pm. Daily specials til 7pm. Spaghetti Nite 6-8

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

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

Wednesday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Open 2pm. Happy Hour 2-4-1 domestic beer and well from 2-7pm. 80s retro music 9pm - close. \$1.25 pitchers of Bud/Bud Light or \$1 Tequila shots 8-11.

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

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open noon-1am Happy Hour 4-7pm. plus drink specials. Shrimp Fry Dinner 5-8pm \$5.99. Karaoke 8pm-close.

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Pato 5pm. Specials til 7pm.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic beer til 8pm. Volleyball games start 7pm. Underwear-leather nite w/Gary and Chris along with CMHP. \$1 off any drink or bottled beer. (Excludes draft & schnapps) for all in leather or underwear.

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

Thursday

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

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

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open noon. Grill open noon-8pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm. 10oz Sirloin Steak w/potato & salad 5:30-8pm. \$5.99.

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Pato 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 BUSINESS - Open 2pm. Happy Hour 2-7pm with 2-4-1 domestic beer and well. Music with DJ Hill 9pm - close. Shot and drink specials all night. No cover.

IBT'S - Open 11am. Happy Hours 11am-8pm. \$2 domestic beer and well Live Jazz on the patio with the Susan 6-9pm. Pato Bar 5-1pm. Dance Party with DJ T.C. Wildman 9 to 1. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 10:30am-1am. Happy Hour 4-7pm. Fish or Shrimp Dinner \$5.99 11am-8pm. Country Western Dance with Libby 8pm-closing.

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

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

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

Saturday

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

IBT'S - 10am-5pm \$4 Martinis and Daquiris. 10am-8pm \$2 domestic beer and well. Dance Party 9-11 w/DJ-Q. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open noon-1am. Grill open 1-7pm. Margaritas \$3 6pm-close. Latino Nite. Drag Show 11:30 Sat. 10:30. Free SAAF HIV testing

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Pato 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. Pato Bar opens 5pm. 5-8pm Filet Mignon or Swordfish BBQ with all the trimmings \$5.

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

NOTICES

TUCSON INTERFAITH HIV/AIDS NETWORK (TIHAN), a coalition of faith communities committed to a compassionate response to HIV/AIDS, provides HIV education in congregational settings, volunteer Care Teams to support HIV+ persons, a referral network of HIV-sensitive clergy, and interfaith services of healing and hope. For more information call 299-6647.

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 Anabeli 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 638-3975.

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

OUTLOUD! Tucson's premiere Local Lesbian and Gay Radio Show, broadcast every Sunday from 7-9 pm on 91.3 FM, Community Radio KXCI.

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. Dezent Girlz (MTF) Meets 2nd Monday at 7pm. Dezent Boyz meets 3rd Tuesday at 7pm. of every month. All meetings take place at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. Call 624-1779 for more info. SAGAE mail@aol.com http://members.aol.com/sagae

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

AA Meeting with HIV/AIDS focus, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., Wingspan Annex, 739 N. 4th Ave. All alcoholics welcome.

MEN'S SOCIAL NETWORK: Social organization for men of all ages. Building an extended Gay family in Tucson. Monthly social polluck gatherings the first Saturday of each month and almost weekly social activities. Call Jerry at 690-9565 for information and a newsletter. Check the Non-Bar Calendar in the Observer.

CARE TEAMS ARE AVAILABLE to offer support to people living with HIV/AIDS. The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network offers trained, compassionate and committed volunteers to provide services including friendly visits, light housekeeping, assistance with meals, shopping, errands, transportation and companionship for medical appointments, and respite care for primary care givers. No judgement or proselytizing - we are here to be of service. For information call Scott at 299-6647.

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

ARE YOU GAY OR BISEXUAL AND UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE? The Gay Young Men's Project is now looking for volunteers for the project. We need people who want to help create a positive social change for young Gay men as well as reduce the risk for HIV infection. For more information please call 628-7223.

THE MEN'S MASSAGE GROUP meets the 3rd Sunday of each month. It is a good way to meet other men of all ages, safely, and with the art of nurturing touch. There is a fee. You must sign up in advance to participate. Call Marc at 891-4582 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 815-6436 for more info.

TUCSON PRIDE, INC. (Formerly Tucson Lesbian and Gay Alliance - TLGA) meets on the second Tuesday at 845 S. Craycroft Road at 6pm. Tucson Pride events: Pride Week, Gay West and OUToberFEST. Inquiries about support groups and individual needs should be directed to Wingspan and other local agencies listed here. For more information call 622-3200 or visit the TPI website at www.tucsonpride.com

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

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

GAY OR BI-SEXUAL MEN in relationships with women. Need friends you can talk to? Weekly support group meets Wednesdays 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Licensed psychologist facilitator. Call 745-6977 in Tucson for more information. Strictly confidential.

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

GUYS BOOK CLUB meets 4th Tuesday of each month at 7pm, Rainbow Planet Coffee House, 606 N. 4th Ave.

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE .25 PER WORD \$5.00 MINIMUM



CLASSIFIEDS



CLASSIFIED ADS MUST BE MAILED NO PHONE ADS

NOTICES

ARIZONA AIDS POLICY ALLIANCE (AZAPA) seeks to educate legislators and citizens about sound AIDS policy. For more information write AZAPA, 6523 N. 14th St., #112, Phoenix, AZ 85014 or call 602-279-4805.

DESERT DOMINION, whose focus is providing information and education for people interested in the BDSM lifestyle, meets monthly for group discussion and social events. Visit our web site http://www.desertdominion.org or call (520)792-6424

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

AAPSP - ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY PROFESSIONALS: a confidential organization committed to providing support and networking for all Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual public safety professionals in Arizona. Membership open to Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters, Probation, Parole and Corrections Officers and civilians working within these agencies. Website: AAPSP.org or e-mail: AAPSP@aol.com or call Dave (520)745-9059 (Tucson) or Kim (602)534-6219 (Phoenix)

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

TUCSON CATHOLIC GAY & LESBIAN FAMILY MINISTRY. Currently meeting the 4th Monday of every month at SS Peter & Paul Church, Madonna Hall 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Fr. Fiedler in attendance every meeting and willing to speak one on one. Reaching out to Parents and Families. For more info call Doc or Barbara 293-6624.

SAA (Sex Addicts Anonymous) has 5 meetings a week in Tucson. People who wish to stop their compulsive sexual behavior, please call (520) 745-0775 for current information.

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

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

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 (606 North 4th Ave.) as a social outing. For more information call the church at 299-9063 and ask for a contact person.

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

GREATER PHOENIX GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (GPGLCC) P.O. BOX 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2097. E-mail: webmaster@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. Admitters welcome too. Send stamp for information: Mavericks, Box 9543, Santa Fe, NM 87504.

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOTICES

HALLELUJAH RECOVERY DRUG & ALCOHOL 12-STEP. Every Thursday 5:30-8:30pm at Cornerstone Fellowship, 2902 N. Geronimo. 622-4626.

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

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

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP. Involving discussion, support and activities. Designed to support each other. Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 8pm. Alternate Saturdays the group meets for social activities. For info call Doran Easty. 882-7723 Facilitator.

P.F.L.A.G. - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays - is a support group available to anyone who has a son, daughter or friend who is Gay. Call 575-8660 or write P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740-6264. All replies confidential.

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

YOUNG AND GAY?

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

The Tucson Chapter of **PRIME TIMERS WORLDWIDE** invites Gay or Bisexual men and their admirers to join and share Prime Timers fellowship. We welcome mature men (and admirers) who wish to become involved with planned and future Prime Timers activities. Meetings luncheons and dinners are held monthly. For dates, times and information call 615-3491, 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 691-1794 - 8 am - 5 pm Mon - Fri.

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO - a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, call the Bears Hotline (520)790-5775 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 of visit our website at www.btop.com All are welcome to our general meetings/pollucks 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 888-5541

LESBIAN AND GAY AL-ANON - Affected by someone's drinking? Meeting every Tuesday 8:45 to 9:45 p.m. at Lambda Center, 2940 E. Thomas, Phoenix. Elise 561-8850 or Ronn 968-2364.

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

CRONIES SOCIAL GROUP. A Social group for Gay men who enjoy the fellowship of their peers. Call Leo at 624-8768.

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

LIGHTNING LIGHTING will provide lighting for AIDS and related benefits at no charge. For more info call Adrienne at 859-7298.

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 579-9827 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. Want to join? E-mail: www.desertvoices.org or call 791-9662.

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

GLBT Buddhist meditation group meets Sundays from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. at the Wingspan annex space, 739 N. 4th Ave. Please be willing to sit for two twenty minute sessions in silence. All are welcome.

THE MAN TO MAN SOCIAL/EROTIC EDUCATION CLUB is the tantic men's group that offers passionate friendships, fun activities, and sex education. Marc - 861-4582

HOUSING FOR RENT

MIDTOWN - SMALL COMPLEX. 2 bedroom duplex. Large pool, Small back yard. Available about July 10. No lease. \$525 plus Gas and Elec. Call 326-1934. 990

HOUSE FOR RENT, City & Mountain views. 2 bedroom and computer room. Security system, W/D, close to downtown, St. Mary's and UA. \$600/mo. First-Last-Dep. 624-1369. 990

HISTORIC, CHARMING, 2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, 900 sq. ft., end unit townhouse. Stone fireplace, flagstone floors, washer-dryer, private large walled yard. Includes an additional 570 square foot studio and office with separate entrance. Perfect for artist or home business. Broadway/Wilcox area. \$900/mo. 218-9925. 988.

1 BEDROOM-3/4 BATH, KITCHEN, LIVING ROOM. Furn or Unfurn. Nice. On bus line. \$400/mo. Includes utilities. \$100 cleaning deposit. No lease. Call: 520-293-9198 or 520-247-8268 988.

ROOMMATES

LOOKING FOR GAY ROOMMATE. Room available Aug. 1st. On the far Eastside. \$300 + 1/3 utilities. Family room w/vaulted ceilings, open kitchen and large backyard. YOU MUST BE A NS & Drug free. Car required. For an Appt. call 248-1756 or email @ mranaliette@cox.net 990

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Claim Faults Clinic In Activist's Suicide

TUCSON - The suicide of a noted activist would have been prevented if the treatment center at which he'd sought help had taken better precautions with his care, according to a complaint filed in Pima County Superior Court, the Arizona Daily Star reported.

The complaint, filed Thursday, June 26, accuses La Frontera Psychiatric Health Facility employees of failing to check Alexander John Goodrum at the intervals ordered by a doctor, then falsifying records to say they had. It also claims the center was understaffed and employees were poorly trained in how to care for suicidal patients.

The state cited La Frontera Center

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religious charity works you can make a difference. If you go to religious study groups, you can make a difference. Sometimes just being there on a regular basis as an openly Gay, Lesbian or trans person can make a huge difference.

The worst that can happen is they will ask you to leave. The best is that you might learn something about philosophy and religion that may surprise you. Jesus had John. Buddha had Ananda. Ruth had Naomi. Jonathan had David. There are books out there about Muslim prophets and their lovers. And what's so bad about the message to love one another? Besides you'd be surprised how many Gays, Lesbians and trans people are already there. Hey. It's a great place to find a date! No need to buy drinks and choke on smoke. What's more, believe it or not, most people at religious places of worship aren't out to hate anyone. You might make a few unexpected friends and allies.

Silence equals death now more than ever. Fascists and religious fundamentalist have control of our government and the governments of many other powerful countries. Sadly, this oppression cancels our rights and sometimes imprisons and kills us. We should know better than anyone, calling them names won't make it go away. However, being involved where the religious bigots get their power will at the very least offer some resistance, and might even change the course of history.

Jim Ru

EDITOR:

Re: Supreme Court Decision Decriminalizing Homosexual Sex

The 6-3 Supreme Court decision in Lawrence v. Texas makes clear that Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Americans have the same fundamental right to privacy and consensual intimacy as heterosexual Americans.

The Apostle Paul said that there was no difference between homosexual behavior and heterosexual behavior, and that it is wrong to judge otherwise (see Romans, Chapter 2). Jesus never said a negative word about homosexuals and advocated universal love. The fake, Taliban-like Christians can no longer hide their hate and spiritual bigotry behind a travesty of false religious beliefs.

Sincerely,
Francis A. Podrebarac, M.D.
Retired Psychiatrist,
True Christian

Inc., which runs the facility, for several violations after Goodrum's death last September, including training issues, and fined it \$1,500.

The center implemented several practices to resolve the violations and made changes on its own after the death, which Chief Executive Officer Dan Ranieri called a "tragedy" that his employees tried to avoid. He said he couldn't comment on the claim, but said none of the state's violations could have contributed to the death.

Goodrum battled depression all his life and hanged himself with a towel from a doorknob days before his 42nd birthday.

He'd lived in Tucson since 1996, and created TGN Arizona, a Transgender resource and advocacy group, and was its director. He published numerous papers to explain what life is like as a person who takes on characteristics of the other sex, including the widely recognized "Gender Identity 101: A Transgender Primer."

Goodrum also had worked with the city's GLBT Commission; the Southern Arizona Gender Alliance; and Wingspan, a

community resource center, among other organizations.

After his death, La Frontera replaced doorknobs with inset latching devices at the facility at 1601 E. Apache Park Place, near East Benson Highway and South Kino Parkway.

Officials also started using a new risk assessment and retrained staff members on observation of suicidal patients and other training issues.

The claim was filed on behalf of Patsy Brown, Goodrum's mother, by attorneys Sarah Showard and Bonnie Dombrowski. It seeks unspecified damages for her pain and loss.

The complaint takes issue with why training wasn't done properly the first time. They would not comment, asking that the claim stand on its own.

Despite a doctor's order and a La Frontera policy to check patients every 15 minutes, the claim says Goodrum was placed in a private room that was not monitored with a camera and he was allowed to stay inside alone with the door

closed.

A book of patient checks indicates checks occurred every 15 minutes through 7:30 a.m., despite police reports that indicate Goodrum was discovered dead at 7:05, the claim states. Also, the claim states the employee charged with checking on him said she last did so at 5 a.m., despite her entries in the log book.

The claim also states employees did homework, read stories and played on the computer instead of making rounds and a staff nurse told police while discussing the death, "We're gonna get screwed on this one."

"La Frontera knowingly and intentionally understaffed its psychiatric care facility in blatant disregard to the safety and well-being of its patients in order to cut its costs and benefit financially," the claim states.

Ranieri said La Frontera treats 9,000 to 10,000 people yearly. He could not provide any numbers for how many patients have committed suicide, but said it is infrequent.

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