



## HIV Doctors Protest Drug Price Increase

NEW YORK - A planned price increase of a widely prescribed HIV drug has outraged the medical community, igniting an angry backlash from doctors and health care organizations against pharmaceutical giant Abbott Laboratories, reported [gfn.com](http://gfn.com).

Abbott announced in December it would raise the price of its HIV drug, ritonavir, a protease inhibitor marketed under the name Norvir. Ritonavir will jump from an average wholesale price of \$2.14 per 100 milligram pill to \$10.71 per pill, a 400 percent increase that will bring the annual cost of a typical prescription to more than \$7,000.

In a Jan. 20 letter to the company, more than 150 doctors and health care groups who specialize in HIV care said the price increase will have "potential devastating consequences ... for the future of HIV care in the United States." In protest, the letter said they will resign from Abbott advisory panels, refuse to participate in Abbott drug trials or attend Abbott-sponsored lectures.

The letter also said they will ban Abbott representatives from their offices and consider alternatives to Abbott drugs when possible for their patients, if the company does not reconsider its decision.

"It's wrong to raise the price of a drug more than 400 percent when you've done nothing to make that drug more valuable," Dr. Robert Schwartz, a Ft. Myers, Fla., physician told the South Florida paper, the News Press. "They have not been improving it, they just raised their price in order to improve their position strategically, and it's going to hurt a lot of people."

Abbott executives defended the price increase, arguing the drug, while considered key to many HIV treatment regimens, is now commonly used in small booster dosages that make it difficult for the company to recoup its research and development costs. In addition, they say, the company needs the revenue to further its research into new HIV drugs.

Abbott spokeswoman Ann Fahey-Widman said, "This pricing action supports our ability to continue research and development."

Patients with insurance probably won't feel the inflated price, and lower-income people who get their drugs through state-run programs that impose price controls are protected for the time being. However, AIDS activists say because the increase is far beyond what the company needs to remain profitable, it opens the door for other companies to do the same.

"Abbott's act reflects a trend, not

an exception," said Cesar Portillo, chief of public affairs at the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, the nation's largest private provider of care to people with HIV and AIDS.

"Last year, Roche introduced its new AIDS treatment Fuzeon at \$20,000 per patient per year," Portillo said at a Washington press conference.

"To give you a reference point, AIDS Healthcare Foundation currently pays an average of \$13,000 per patient per year for medications. Abbott's act continues the trend of outrageous pricing that bears no relation to the cost of manufacture and assumes taxpayers and the private sector will pay whatever big pharma demands."

The fervor among health care providers is based, in part, on the importance of Norvir in nearly all HIV drug regimens.

The drug was approved by the Food and Drug Administration in 1996 as a protease inhibitor, a relatively new class of antiretroviral drugs at the time, vital for HIV-positive people who found their strain of the virus resistant to other drug treatments.

As it turned out, Norvir was poorly tolerated in its original dose, often causing diarrhea, vomiting and other side effects. However, doctors discovered the drug, used in smaller doses, boosted the effectiveness of other protease inhibitors.

Today, of the seven protease inhibitors on the market, six need Norvir to be effective.

"Using [smaller doses of] Norvir to boost the levels of other drugs has provided us the most superior potency," New York City HIV specialist Dr. Howard Grossman told the Sacramento Bee. "Abbott has a virtual monopoly on the quality and quantity of life for many of our patients."

"While the number of patients increased, the sales revenue declined significantly," said Abbott's Fahey-Widman. "On the other side, the value of it has increased significantly."

Last week, the price increase prompted a Washington-based consumer group to file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission, claiming Abbott intentionally raised the price of Norvir to drive market share to a lesser-used drug the company also makes, Kaletra.

The price hike, claims nonprofit company Essential Inventions Inc., a group headed by drug pricing activists, will likely steer prescriptions toward Kaletra because

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## Sen. Frist Questions Validity Of G/L Families

WASHINGTON - Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist came under fire from Gay activists Thursday, January 29, following a comment he made to a conservative political gathering that implied Gay families are not legitimate, reported [Gay.com/PlanetOut.com](http://Gay.com/PlanetOut.com).

"We will do whatever it takes to protect, preserve and strengthen the institution of marriage against activist judges," Sen. Frist, R-Tenn., told members of the Conservative Political Action Conference. "If that means we must amend the Constitution, we will do it."

Those judges, he added, are also "intent on destroying the traditional definition of family."

Frist's reference to "activist judges" was a swipe at the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, which ruled Nov. 18 that the state Legislature must rewrite state law to recognize same-sex marriage.

GLBT rights advocates on both sides of the political aisle criticized Frist's comments.

"Millions of American families are legally threatened because lawmakers like Sen. Frist simply pretend that they don't exist," said Dave Noble, executive director of the National Stonewall Democrats.

Frist's remarks "make it hard to be a Republican," according to Mark Mead, director of public affairs for the Log Cabin Republicans. It's worse, he noted, coming on the heels of President Bush's State of the

Union speech in which he repeated his opposition to same-sex marriage.

Mead told the [Gay.com/PlanetOut.com](http://Gay.com/PlanetOut.com) Network that progress on Gay issues is slow within the Republican Party, however he believes things are slowly turning around.

"Many don't agree on equality issues," said Mead, "but many embrace Gay Republicans, and we didn't have that 10 years ago."

Frist's comments were seen as one of the latest smacks in the face to members of the Gay community, arriving just before a major courtroom defeat on Gay adoption. On Wednesday, January 28, the 11th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals affirmed Florida's ban on Gay and Lesbian adoption.

That decision, issued by a three-judge panel in Atlanta, was derided as "appalling and unconscionable" by Aimee Gelnaw, executive director of the Family Pride Coalition.

"They ruled against thousands and thousands of Florida children who need stable and loving homes," said Gelnaw in a prepared statement.

"We are living in dangerous times," said Rosie O'Donnell, who, along with her partner, Kelli, are adoptive parents. "It is my hope this case will be heard by the Supreme Court, where this absurd discriminatory decision will be reversed. What a sad day for all Americans."

## Bush: No New AIDS Money

WASHINGTON - President Bush's proposed a \$2.4 trillion election-year budget stalls on HIV/AIDS initiatives the nation's largest LGBT civil rights group charged Monday, February 2, 365Gay.com reported.

While the budget would boost defense spending, it would freeze spending for most AIDS programs.

The budget gives \$696 million to programs at the National Center for HIV/STD and TB Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, \$4 million less than in 2003, and funding for treatment programs within the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act would not be increased, despite a continuing rise in the number of new cases of HIV.

With approximately 40,000 new infections each year in our nation, we cannot go backward in our commitment to preventing new HIV/AIDS infections," said Human Rights Campaign President Cheryl Acques.

Even though is less than the amount budgeted in 2003, the \$696 million for prevention programs at the CDC for HIV/AIDS, is actually up \$1 million from the current budget.

Funding for the Ryan White CARE Act was increased from \$2.02 billion this year to \$2.055 billion next year, including a \$35 million increase being recommended for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP). It means funding for the other critical programs within the CARE Act will remain flat.

While the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) program also received no increase, research at the National Institutes of Health saw a \$100 million increase.

The president has also proposed doubling the amount of money available in his budget for scientifically unproven abstinence-only-until-marriage education programs to \$273 million.

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# UPDATE

## Key Civil Rights Leader Supports G/L Marriage

WASHINGTON - Julian Bond, chairman of the NAACP's board of directors, said Monday, February 2, that he personally supports marriage equality for Gays and Lesbians, according to a release by the National Black Justice Coalition. "I see this as a civil rights issue," said Bond. "That means I support Gay civil marriage."

The coalition had been in discussions with Bond and other civil rights leaders for several months. "We hope Julian Bond's statement will help to encourage other African-American leaders to come out against marriage discrimination," said Maurice Franklin, a member of the coalition's board of directors.

Bond was one of the founders of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee in 1960 and later served in the Georgia general assembly. Bond is Distinguished Professor in Residence at American University in Washington and a professor of history at the University of Virginia and has narrated numerous documentaries, including the Academy Award-winning *A Time for Justice* and the acclaimed series *Eyes on the Prize*.

"We are very pleased that Julian Bond has spoken out affirmatively on this issue," said Keith Boykin, president of the board of the National Black Justice Coalition. "His statement helps to clarify two important points. First, marriage is a basic human right, and second, outlawing discrimination in civil marriage does not change the rules for religious marriage."

Bond is the second major African-American public figure to announce his support for marriage equality during the past three weeks. Last month, Harvard University professor Henry Louis

Gates told the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times, "I don't understand why the movement to legitimize Gay marriage would bother people so much.... We have to fight to educate people and transform that visceral response... (because) one of the strengths of the black civil rights movement is that it's served as a model for so many other movements. We who have suffered so much should also be the most compassionate."

The National Black Justice Coalition is an ad hoc coalition of black Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered leaders who have come together to fight against discrimination in their communities. The goal of the organization in 2004 is to build black support for marriage equality and to educate African-Americans on the dangers of the proposal to amend the U.S. Constitution to bar same-sex couples from marriage.

## New AVP Director Hired

TUCSON - Wingspan is pleased to announce that beginning February 16th, Lori B. Girshick, Ph.D will be the new Coordinator for the Wingspan Anti-Violence Project.

Lori is replacing Cathy Busha, who will begin her new role at Wingspan on February 16 as Director of Programs.

Girshick comes to the Wingspan AVP with over a decade of experience in domestic and sexual violence. A sociologist and community activist, Lori has worked in most aspects of domestic violence--on the crisis line, as shelter staff, community educator, volunteer coordinator, media outreach, teen dating violence, and support group facilitator. Currently Lori is writing a book on gender identity, based on interviews with 150 Transgender folks. She comes to Wingspan from The Brewster Center, where she has been the Outreach Coordinator.

## Marsha Stevens At MCC February 22

TUCSON - Born again Lesbian Evangelist, Marsha Stevens, will perform her original music during a concert on Sunday, February 22, 2004 at 6:00 p.m. at Water of Life MOO, located at 3269 North Mountain Avenue, Tucson.

There is no admission fee for the concert. A free will love offering will be collected to support her ministry. Ms. Stevens will also perform during the 10:15 a.m. worship service.

Marsha Stevens is the famed composer of "For Those Tears I Died (Come to the Water)" a standard of Christian hymnals since 1972. Since coming out as a Lesbian and experiencing the rejection and scorn of a homophobic society - - most fiercely expressed by the church she so devoutly served - - she has focused her talents on evangelizing the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered community through her gospel music.

Highly respected Throughout the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC), she is the first lay recipient of the prestigious Purple Grass Award for excellence as an evangelist. She has recorded eleven solo albums and a concert video on her independent BALM (Born Again Lesbian Music) label and she performs over 120 concerts a year.

The Gay Music Guide rates two of her releases as among the top 20 albums of 1995 and 1996. In 2002 the Encyclopedia of Contemporary Christian Music was published and covers Ms. Stevens ministry work in depth. In 2003 her song "Jesus Wept" was the Stonewall Society genre award recipient. Considered shocking by some, and comforting to others, she performs "The Body of Christ Has AIDS" and "Love Is The Only Law", as well as many other selections that express her distinct Christian views.

## MODA Provocateur February 15

TUCSON - Several Tucson salons and boutiques will provide a fantastic evening of style and culture as a fundraising event for the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) on February 15th.

Held at the TCC's Leo Rich Theater, the event full of fashion, hair and culture will welcome hundreds to an evening that truly is to "moda provocateur" (provoke style). Among the participating salons and boutiques are:

Avalon for Hair, Skin & Nails, DaDa Art & Hair Studio, Hush Salon, Mark Spoers Hair Design, Brfo Salon, Hydra Leather & More, pour moi Boutique, Gottahavit and Zoe Boutique

Tickets are \$25.00 in advance and are available from any of the above listed businesses or by calling Gail at SAAF, (520) 628-7223, extension 252. At the door, tickets are \$30.00. The show begins with a no-host cocktail hour from 5:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m. with the fashion show beginning at 6:00 p.m. An after-event party will be held at the Hotel Congress immediately following the show and all show attendees are welcome.

He who has a thing to sell and goes and whispers in a well, is not so apt to get the dollars as he who climbs a tree and hollers.



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# Freedom To Marry Rally & Picnic Feb. 14

TUCSON - On Saturday, February 14, Valentine's Day, Tucson will join more than 20 cities and towns across the country to host a Freedom To Marry Rally and Community Picnic beginning at 11:00 a.m. at Sunset Park, 255 W. Alameda (between Church and Main) in front of City Hall. Street parking is available.

Everyone—from straight allies, single people, LGBT families and couples, to politicians, people of faith, students, and people who believe in preserving the integrity of the Constitution of the United States—are encouraged to attend the rally. Rally organizers anticipate a large crowd of supporters.

The goals of the Southern Arizona Freedom to Marry Rally and Picnic are to increase support for marriage equality for same-sex couples, and to stop proposed anti-LGBT amendments to the US Constitution and the Arizona Constitution. If passed, these constitutional amendments would not only prohibit marriages by same sex couples, but according to some legal scholars, could also wipe out all existing civil rights protections for same-sex couples (such as Tucson's Domestic Partner Registry and employers' domestic partner benefits).

"The freedom to marry is a basic human right that should not be denied on the basis of sex or sexual orientation. I want my marriage to be legally recognized not only for my own sake and for my partner's sake but, more importantly, for our daughter's sake," stated Amelia Craig-Cramer, one of the organizers for the Freedom to Marry rally. Cramer served as

Executive Director of Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (www.glad.org) where she helped establish Freedom to Marry Task Forces and Coalitions in the six New England States, and helped file the same-sex marriage case in Vermont. Cramer appeared on Fox News and on the Oprah Winfrey show where she debated representatives of the Traditional Values Coalition and the Family Research Council on the subject of civil marriage.

"The Wingspan Anti-Violence Project strongly believes that discriminatory policies, such as these proposed amendments, lay the foundation for hate crimes to occur and give tacit permission for people to discriminate, harass, and use violence against LGBT people," shared Cathy Busha, Director of the Wingspan AVP. "Conservative leaders cannot compare our desire to protect and consecrate our love and relationships with bestiality and not be held accountable for acts of violence against the LGBT community. As history has shown, when political leaders dehumanize a group of people by comparing them to animals, and create a second-class citizenry through discriminatory laws and policy, they make it acceptable to target marginalized people with violence," continued Busha. "LGBT people, like all other US Americans, deserve full inclusion in our country's mandate of 'Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.'"

"The Arizona Human Rights Fund believes that in order to secure civil marriage for same-sex couples, to protect LGBT relationships, and to defend LGBT people from these divisive constitutional amendments, we need a large and visible

turn-out of LGBT people and our allies at the rally on February 14th. We also need LGBT people and our allies engaged in the political process and at the polls during these upcoming elections," stated Kristen Felan, Southern Arizona Outreach Coordinator for AHRF.

Organizers of the rally note that civil and religious marriage are two separate institutions—civil marriage binds a couple in a legal contract to which the state is also a party; this contract imposes obligations on the couple and awards concomitant benefits. Although clergy in some Christian and Jewish denominations and other religions celebrate wedding or

holy union ceremonies for same-sex couples, these religious marriages do not receive any legal recognition in the United States. Legalizing same-sex civil marriage will not have any effect upon religious institutions; it will not require any clergy person or religious denomination to perform or recognize same-sex marriages. What it will do is have the government of the people recognize all the people's freedom and equality in connection with the civil rights and responsibilities of civil marriage.



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9 PM  
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Karaoke

6 PM  
Dinner  
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## Canadian Marriage Law May Be Delayed

OTTAWA - The new Canadian Justice Minister has thrown a wrench into the timetable for legalizing same-sex marriage by adding a fourth question to the three others that have been placed before the Canadian Supreme Court, reported the [Gay.com/PlanetOut.com](http://Gay.com/PlanetOut.com) network.

The high court was planning to hear arguments on the marriage questions April 16, and briefs from 18 interested parties were due at the beginning of March. Wednesday's (January 28) announcement by Minister Irwin Cotler means that the court will likely delay this schedule for weeks or months.

Last year, the administration of Jean Chretien decided to legalize same-sex marriage throughout Canada. Prior to placing a bill before Parliament, his government asked the high court to weigh in on a trio of issues: Does Parliament have ultimate authority over federal marriage law? Is same-sex marriage legislation constitutional? Does the Charter of Rights and Freedoms - Canada's version of the Bill of Rights - protect the right of religious groups to decline to perform same-sex marriages?

Now, the new administration of Paul Martin has added a controversial fourth question, asking the court to decide "whether the opposite-sex requirement for marriage for civil purposes is consistent" with the charter. In effect, the high court will be obliged to go over the same ground that has been covered by the top courts of Ontario and British Columbia, both of

which legalized same-sex marriage in their provinces last year.

In September of 2002, a lower court in Quebec also ruled that limits on marriage violated the charter, in a decision that was argued on appeal Monday before Quebec's high court.

Bob Gallagher, national coordinator for Canadians for Equal Marriage, said he is "very confident" that the Canadian Supreme Court will agree with its provincial counterparts. Nonetheless, the delay in the road to Canada-wide marriage rights is unfortunate, and the question "opens the door for the government to backtrack on introducing [marriage] legislation."

Although Minister Cotler stressed that the government's commitment to legalizing same-sex marriage remained "unwavering," activists worry that he and Prime Minister Martin will not demonstrate the same forthright leadership that characterized Chretien and his cabinet.

Both Chretien and Martin represent the majority Liberal Party, which is divided over the pros and cons of legalizing Gay marriage. Chretien, who had pledged to resign after last year, handed over the reins of government to Martin in mid-December. Martin is expected to call elections this spring, and the Canadian press speculates that he may be trying to put the question of same-sex marriage on a back burner until after the national vote.

## Court Upholds Florida G/L Adoption Ban

ATLANTA - The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit ruled late Wednesday, January 28, that Florida has the constitutional right to exclude both single and partnered Gay men and women from its pool of potential adoptive parents, reported [Gay.com/PlanetOut.com](http://Gay.com/PlanetOut.com).

The high-profile challenge to Florida's unique adoption ban was argued before the Atlanta-based court last March. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), representing three Gay fathers, has not yet decided whether to appeal either to the full bench of the 11th Circuit, or possibly to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Writing for the unanimous three-judge panel, Judge Stanley Birch noted that adoption is an institution under strict state control, where the best interests of the child is paramount, and where no one has an inherent "right" to become an adoptive parent. Foster families, like those of most of the appellants, have no expectation of permanence, he continued, and cannot expect the kind of constitutional protections that shield adoptive or biological parents.

As for the Supreme Court's historic ruling in *Lawrence v. Texas*, which generated an extra round of legal briefing in this case last summer, Judge Birch wrote that *Lawrence* did not articulate a "fundamental" right to personal and sexual autonomy for same-sex couples, and that nothing in the landmark opinion required his court to subject appellants' claims to heightened judicial scrutiny.

(Laws that threaten so-called "fundamental" rights must survive the toughest judicial tests in order to remain on

the books.)

Finally, in addressing the question of whether the men's right to Equal Protection was breached, Judge Birch took the easiest standard of judicial review, and made it even easier. Quoting a controversial military case, Birch said a state law must be given the benefit of the doubt "if there is any reasonably conceivable state of facts that could provide a rational basis" for discriminating between "classes" of people. Further, he went on, a state "has no obligation to produce evidence to sustain the rationality of a statutory classification."

Florida had no trouble jumping this low bar, mainly by explaining that a mother and father provide the most stable home for child rearing. Florida allows single heterosexuals to adopt children and permits Gay men and Lesbians to act as foster parents -- policy conflicts that the court swept aside.

The defeat cheered conservatives. "In this age of judicial activism," said Matthew Staver of the right-wing Liberty Counsel in an Associated Press report, "it is refreshing to see a court assume its proper role and allow the people to set family policy."

Matt Coles, head of the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project, called the decision "deeply disappointing."

"If Gay people can be foster parents and legal guardians," said Howard Simon of the ACLU's Florida chapter, "and if there are thousands of children languishing in foster care, there can be no justification for Florida's ban on Gay adoptions, other than impermissible prejudice and hostility towards Gay people."

# New Group Aids GLBT Military Personnel

ARLINGTON - Deprived of some support systems from the U.S. armed services, GLBT military personnel and their families can now seek help from a new national organization, reported Gay.com/PlanetOut.com.

The Military Community Services Network (MCSN) was launched on Wednesday (January 28) in Arlington, Va., with a mission "to create the first-ever social support structure for Gay troops and their families."

"Many of our GLBT service members and their families are making major sacrifices for their country with the current operations in Iraq and Afghanistan," stated Tony Smith, MCSN's executive director and founder. "Unfortunately, while they sacrifice for our country, their partners and families don't receive the same care and support provided to the heterosexual service members' families. The very least we owe them as a nation is to take care of their loved ones while they serve to protect our freedom."

Smith, who served in the U.S. Air Force as a signals intelligence analyst from April 1990 until December 1995, said that MCSN was not founded to duplicate the work of other nonprofit groups that advocate for Gay and Lesbian soldiers, such as the Washington, D.C.-based Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN).

"The Gay community has many

wonderful resources and groups for supporting our GLBT military family," Smith said. "MSCN will work to strengthen those resources already in existence, jointly create support programs when service gaps are identified and to encourage those without military family support programs to consider ways that they can quickly address this important need."

SLDN Executive Director C. Dixon Osburn welcomed MCSN as a new resource for Gay and Lesbian military personnel.

"MCSN provides essential support to GLBT troops, veterans and their families," Osburn said. "The MCSN network of health clinics, community centers, legal advocacy groups and other community organizations provides the perfect complement to SLDN's efforts on behalf of our men and women in uniform."

"There is a great unmet need within the Gay military community," said Aaron Belkin, director of the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military at UC Santa Barbara. "Our collective best efforts have been directed toward individual situations as they arose. But MCSN will allow the Gay community to provide critical resources on a much greater scale. Individual community organizations at the state and local level are the best prepared to provide immediate support to GLBT veterans, and it is these programs that MCSN will work with to support GLBT military families."

# Democrats Launch GLBT Voter Drive

WASHINGTON - The Democratic National Committee (DNC) announced on Monday, January 26, a program to recruit GLBT voters during Gay Pride events across the country this year.

The effort, called "Pride at the Polls," is being organized by the DNC, the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Caucus of the College Democrats of America (CDA-GLBT) and GLBT youth community leaders to help elect a Democratic president and Democrats at all levels.

According to the DNC's Web site, volunteers from all across the country will sign up to be "DNC Table Captains" who will distribute campaign literature about "why the GLBT community cannot survive another four years of George W. Bush."

Exit polls determined during the 2000 election that about 4 percent of voters identified themselves as Gay or Lesbian. Seventy-five percent of those respondents

voted for former Vice President Al Gore over President George W. Bush.

"It makes all the sense in the world," explained DNC Press Secretary Tony Welch. "It's during the time when you get a lot of events surrounding this group of people. It's not necessarily a downer when people are having fun to talk to them about voting and the issues. If it works for college football, it should work for Pride events."

Part of the effort will focus on mobilizing voters aged 18-35, the group organizers consider most supportive of GLBT issues. "It is critical that we focus on organizing in the GLBT youth community, especially given the fact that people in our community are becoming politically active at an earlier age," said CDA-GLBT officer Victor Flores-Guiterrez in a prepared statement.

The Republican National Committee (RNC) does not have a similar plan to go after GLBT voters.

"We don't target our voter outreach on sexual orientation," RNC Press Secretary Christine Iverson explained.

But Mark Mead, spokesman for the Log Cabin Republicans, applauded the DNC effort: "The more Gays and Lesbians voting is good, no matter what they're political affiliation. It's clearly a good thing."

While the DNC states on its Web site that volunteers will "educate and register thousands of GLBT receptive voters," it also promises that volunteers will "have a great time, make new friends and get a nice tan!"

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**NOTE FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE**

By Lee Thorn

**Coming For Art**

Tucson is fine-tuning the process by which it acquires public art.

If I correctly understand what I've been told by the Tucson-Pima Arts Council, We're going to add some more committees composed of people who don't know anything about art to the art selection process. The details apparently have not yet been set in cement, but the direction seems to be pretty firmly in favor of more ignoramuses.

visitor was coming to Tucson from New York, Paris, London or Rome

I've already written about the two pieces we have in the world-class category, the sculptural suite at Congress and the freeway and the photo-based tile mural at the other end of Congress, so I won't repeat their virtues here. How many more pieces of public art of this quality could we buy for ten million? Or would we rather have a fish tank?

No one wants to publicly admit it, but the quest for greater ignorance was probably brought on by the public's rejection of the pair of sculptures at Mountain and Fort Lowell and at Mountain and Glenn. On a personal note, if the same public-spirited folks who brought these new works down would rid us of the giant gee-gaw pagoda-looking thing in front of the Main Library, I would give them ten bucks of my own money and my undying admiration.

While the City's arts establishment is in this frightening flux, astonishing visual delights keep popping up in Tucson, a hopeful sign for us incurable optimists.

About two blocks east of Stone on Glenn, the Keeling Desert Park has just been created in the small space of about two city lots. It features brightly painted metal fences, red cement walks, red gravel, and yellow and orange ramada-like structures. The range of colors is so wide and so bright that the overall effect is a stark "mesalene clarity," to steal a phrase from C. P. Snow. For anyone who wants some visual spice, this place is a little gem.

Back to the new process: After the would-be public artist goes through committees made up of neighbors, political appointees and politicians, he still will need the approval of the City Manager, who is undoubtedly an eminent art critic in his spare time.

It has two tables with benches and many low walls that could also serve as seating, all brightly painted. The whole area is so small and so carefully planned that it feels more like a walk-in sculpture than a park. The decorations include a giant tortoise and a cement cylinder that's painted with masks and musical instruments. The Arts Council tells me that one more major sculpture will soon be added.

There are two bits of good news in all this if we squint hard enough. First, the process is still in flux. That means it might drastically change. Second, there is a group of people who cares enough about what assaults its eyeballs that it actually, for the first time that anyone knows about in Tucson's history, got something done about it.

The cylindrical piece, whose paint job is mediocre in every respect, can be entered from the non-street side. It could easily provide concealment for stand-up sex or for a mugger awaiting a victim, but I guess that just shows how my dark imagination works.

What if this group is just the tip of an iceberg? What if lots of people care about what our town looks like but they just haven't been mobilized? What if the City is running so scared that it might be receptive to new ideas?

The landscaping features young desert plants whose shapes and colors will, in a fairly short time, soften the very sharp visual edge that the park is starting off with.

As long as I'm hallucinating, how about the idea of making Tucson an arts destination? We already have two world-class examples of public art. What if we added another eight or so and then started a tourism campaign saying, "Come to Tucson for the Art"?

So, art goes on. I once wrote a piece arguing that City judges, instead of getting their jobs through political connections, should have to pass a test to show that they knew some law. Here's an equally quixotic idea: How about having the members of these ever burgeoning arts committees pass a test to show that they know a Matisse from a Modigliani?

Before anyone starts laughing, let me remind you that the City was recently prepared to spend ten million bucks on a fish tank that they claimed to believe would attract 100,000 visitors a year to downtown.

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

Let me explain that when I say "world-class art" I don't intend the phrase as an empty honorific. I mean a work that you'd be proud to show any visitor who was knowledgeable about the artistic traditions of Western Civilization, whether that

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# POLITICS 2004

by Mark R. Kerr

## FMA Follies

On Friday, January 30, a gathering of repressed ancient blue-haired women and men, whose prostates are bigger than their IQ's, took place in what used to be the nation's capital, the home of democracy, Washington D.C., since under Dubya and John Ashcroft, the country's basically under martial law but digressing, for a meeting of the Republican National Committee and the collective thought was on same-sex marriage and the FMA (Family Marriage Amendment) to the U.S. Constitution.

If approved, the FMA would state that marriage consists of a union of a man and a woman and would bar the federal government and states from giving benefits and rights associated with marriage to "unmarried" couples.

At the gathering Republican honchos, as well as those elected officials present said Dubya's bid to actually be elected should put even more emphasis on his opposition to same-sex marriage, his support for the FMA, because as one elephant put it, "it's clearly important to our base."

So Dubya's pandering to prejudice during his Misstatement of Dis-Union didn't count?

Those elephants, commenting to the fascist, corporate-whoring media outlets, said it would invigorate Dubya's ever decreasing voter base, as one of the

biggest homophobes and now Governor of Mississippi, Haley Barbour spewed, "campaigns about issues are good for Republicans and big turnouts help Republicans."

Another elephant from "Dixie" blathered that same-sex marriage is "the kind of gut-check issue everybody gets," adding "As the president said, it's supposed to be dad and mom, not dad and dad."

What about those wonderful Lesbian parents, don't they count too?

Meanwhile, as this gathering of prejudice was taking place, at 1700 West Washington, Arizona's brand of brown-shirts were adding their collective two-cents on this issue too, when the state Senate Family Services Committee met Thursday, January 29.

On the agenda for the Committee was SCM 1004, which would have Arizona's Legislature going on record calling on Congress to pass FMA.

Despite testimony likening this proposal to racial hatred seen during the civil rights movement, as well as an intrusion by government intrusion, SCM 1004 was approved by a 4-3 vote, with the Committee's four Republicans voting in favor and the three Democrats voting against but are we not surprised?

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## COMMENTARY

### GAY MARRIAGE

By Bob Days

Excuse me, another point of view. As a Gay man, very open and partnered for the past 23 years, I'd like to offer an issue to ponder carefully.

It seems a lot of people in our Gay community insist on Gay marriage, first, may I define Gay as the men and women who consider themselves as homosexual, Bisexual, Transgendered, transsexual, queer, drag queen, curious, closeted, butch, fem, top, bottom, versatile and the like regardless of age. I also welcome my heterosexual friends who are straight...but not narrow. I am becoming tired of the LGBT, GLBT, GLBYQC or the rest of the alphabet, why not get back to a unifying term before the alphabet soup. If anyone ever watched Stonewall, or has been to Amsterdam to view the Homomonument, you'd recognize that we need to reunify under one term.

Well, enough for that now to Gay Marriage (notice we're not yet defining it as GLBT, etc. marriage)- we all clearly know what Gay marriage means. But do we really? My partner and I have a Domestic Partnership registration in California and that's all the rights we really want or need.

My Mom who has since passed away, and her live in boyfriend of over 20 years, would have also benefited from the Domestic Partnership offered in California. Any senior 62 or older is included in California's Domestic Partnership Law as they are in Vermont. Together they bought many things, but could never marry because one of them would lose their Social Security and when her boyfriend passed away his son charged in and took it all.

My partner and I although in a slightly different situation for sure benefit from the Domestic Partnership law because we both get Social Security. Once marriage comes into the picture, one of us if we were to marry, would lose our social security.... yet in a domestic partnership we would not. So where is the benefit of marriage.

I know it's almost impossible to convince Gays in their 20's that they will ever have to worry about Social Security, but should you live a normal life, it's going to happen. Do you really want Gay marriage so only one partner can collect Social Security even though you have both worked most of your adult lives? Think about it before joining into the demand for Gay marriage.... you might just get it and regret it!

To me Domestic Partnership such as California and Vermont have, makes a lot more sense. Gay marriage? No Thanks!



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Have YOU Howled at the Moon lately?

February knocks at our door this week and delivers more than just a date with a groundhog. The trick this month is to plan a cavalcade of valentine diversions especially when a pride parade of planets traipse through Aquarius and posit in dreamy creamy Pisces. Romance, creativity and intuition are there for the taking. Pick a winner!

**ARIES****MARCH 21 - APRIL 20**

Proud Rams are juiced with a lemony zing as a cluster of planets in Pisces delivers surprises and karmic payback. The fates will find a way to plaster your achievements (or lack thereof) on the front page. Have you been generous or stingy, comrade? If your deeds fall short, don't panic; it is never too late to make good on all well intended half promises. That is if they are well intended.

**TAURUS****APRIL 21 - MAY 21**

What is it about friendships this February that makes your heart flutter? It must be those dizzy planets in Pisces and too many nights contemplating "what ifs". Gay Bulls become so overly sentimental that it can change certain dynamics. Thank goodness Mars delivers a burst of reality that knocks you off your cloud and into some new substantial things. Anyone we know?

**HOROSCOPES**

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**GEMINI****MAY 22 - JUNE 21**

Pink Twins work overtime in their career this February to pursue the pot of corporate gold at the end of the rainbow. But try to mix pleasure with your business so burning the midnight oil won't seem so burdensome. The Piscean energy rewards those who go with their intuition to divine the underlying political rules. Change the rules when you rule, you ruler you.

**CANCER****JUNE 22 - JULY 23**

Four planets converge in Pisces this February and give you room to roam and experience life at its fullest. Gay Crabs travel more than usual and should leave themselves open for adventure and possible romance. It could be a trip to the moon on gossamer wings with Uranus applying the rocket surge. If so, chalk it up to just one of those delicious, short burst type of things.

**LEO****JULY 24 - AUGUST 23**

Plan for a tropical thaw this February when planets in Pisces turn up the sexual heat. Proud Lions should make the most of this

zesty energy while the valentines season is in full swing. How much can you handle, lover? Mars adds a bit of oomph to your corporate ascent after the 4th for those royal beasts who ache for both a merger and an acquisition. I see your stock is rising...

**VIRGO****AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23**

No self respecting queer Virgin should be sitting home alone this February. Four planets in Pisces give you clear sailing to seek your shipshape shipmate or to navigate current relationships into deeper waters. It's a romantic time of year baby so shower your intended with attention, affection and valentine goodies. A set of keys to the weekend house couldn't hurt either.

**LIBRA****SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23**

Prepare for the unexpected this February when these planets in Pisces stir up your most romantic instincts. Love may be discovered at work or, even better, at the gym (it is easier to examine the merchandise before you buy...) Pridelibras should consider hanging around the water cooler to pick up that stray piece of idle gossip... or is it a piece of an idle gossip?

**WEEKLY OBSERVER****SCORPIO****OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22**

Four planets in Pisces conspire to push proud Scorps out into party hearty central this February so gather your forces and become a social force with whom to be reckoned. Sparky Uranus in Pisces can provide boundless artistic inspiration but can also lead you down the path to reckless dissipation and excess. Which path will you choose? Oh let's guess...

**SAGITTARIUS****NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22**

February is the perfect month to invite a few friendly folks over and entertain at home. Four planets in Pisces entice Gay Archers to seek stronger connections. And speaking of connections, this may not be a bad time to reconnect with family. Who knows what can happen when the cards are laid on the table? You may find quite a few pieces of trump after you lay down your hand.

**CAPRICORN****DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20**

Eloquence is your middle name this February as a plethora of planets in Pisces pours on your charm. Proud Caps have a nifty way with words now. What a change! So why waste this sweet diplomatic riff on sour complaints and carping? Remember that you can catch more valentines with honey than with vinegar. Did I say honey? I meant champagne, roses and chocolates!

**AQUARIUS****JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19**

Aquarians may have a few fiscal surprises up their sleeves this February. Generosity is key this month so check the bottom line, loosen your purse strings a little and enjoy the valentine's rush. After the 4th, Mars empowers you to say what needs to be said. Good thing too; now is the time to push our agenda the next big step forward. So if you can't talk love, talk politics.

**PISCES****FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20**

There is no stopping you this February when all these planets hover in your own sign. Guppies are busy bees whose presence seems to be demanded at every major social event. Create a buzz. See and be seen to make that first fabulous impression. Mystical Piscean planets may also devise a new "look" for you. The question is, what goes with pink spandex and suspenders?

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1. Be as brief as possible; make sure that your message is in reasonably clean language. (Observer reserves the right to edit (s)language that is deemed offensive. Make sure handwriting is clear. Print if necessary.
2. No more than four (4) messages per person, please.
3. Messages may be dropped off at any of Tucson's Gay bars; or at Antigone Books, Rainbow Planet Coffee House, Wingspan, Desert Pride, or SAAF.
4. (a) Snail mail to Observer, P.O. Box 50733, Tucson, AZ 85703.  
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# Study: Aging G/L Couples Face Fiscal Burden

WASHINGTON - Same-sex couples face colossal fiscal burdens as they age - including the potential loss of tens of thousands of dollars in taxes and an average of \$5,000 in yearly Social Security survivor benefits - due to the denial of their right to marry, according to new research by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), reported [Gay.com/PlanetOut.com](http://Gay.com/PlanetOut.com).

A report to be released on Monday, February 2, by HRC and the Urban Institute reveals that "widows" and "widowers" are heavily taxed on any retirement plan like 401(k)s or IRAs inherited from their partners, while heterosexual spouses can inherit the plans tax-free. Homosexuals are also charged an estate tax on the inheritance of a residence even if it was jointly owned - a burden inapplicable for straight couples.

Don Brescia and John Spinelli, both over age 65, realized the injustice early on and were able to plan for the future. "We took care of this a long time ago because we foresaw what was in the cards," Brescia said. "We each have our own health insurance [and] long-term care - but we're paying double - whereas a married couple would not."

Brescia and Spinelli, who have been together for 46 years, are angry with the way the laws stand. "We've always worked, and we've always been contributors to our community," Brescia maintains.

They both have Medicare and have secured their jointly owned property through living wills, titles and deeds, but acknowledge that many same-sex couples are not so lucky. Brescia estimates that 50 percent of Gay couples they know did not have the prescience to plan ahead.

Military veterans Frank Benedetti and Gary Trowbridge, who have been a couple for over 40 years, echo Brescia's sentiment. "We've honored our country's commitments and we feel like we're being ignored," Benedetti said. "It makes me angry, and I feel betrayed because we're good citizens. We vote regularly, we give to charities, we're regular church goers - we do everything right."

Benedetti and Trowbridge have joint rights of survivorship and have made all major purchases together. To play it safe, they always carry medical powers of attorney paperwork with them when they travel and routinely make doctor's appointments together. Both receive retirement pensions and neither would have access to the other's assets should one die.

Benedetti likened the inequality to the Jim Crow laws of the 1960s, which forbade blacks and whites to intermarry and required business owners to keep their black and white clientele separate.

"Most heterosexual people don't even think about this because they're used to it being there for them," Benedetti said. "This really isn't fair or just, and we discuss this subject with everybody we meet."

The report, based on Census 2000 data and federal laws affecting same-sex couples, also showed that more than 1 in 10 same-sex couples include someone over 65 years old, and nearly a fourth include a partner over 55 years old.

"Same-sex couples pay the same taxes as heterosexual couples throughout their working lives," HRC President Cheryl

Jacques said in a press release. "Yet they are denied the same protections when they most need it - in old age and when faced with the death of a family member. That's taxation without compensation."

The report concludes that equality in access to marriage would also bring equity to the taxation of and benefits for all seniors regardless of sexual orientation. Its authors suggest a series of independent steps needed to bring equity to Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual seniors. Among them are rewriting Social Security, federal tax, Medicaid and property laws.

Additionally, the report reveals the five counties with the greatest number of same-sex couples that include at least one senior: Los Angeles County; Cook County, Ill.; Kings County (Brooklyn), N.Y.; Broward County, Fla.; and Miami-Dade County, Fla.

## LGBT Cops Paid To March In Pride Parade

MELBOURNE - Thousands of people lined St Kilda streets on the weekend for Melbourne's annual Gay Pride parade but it wasn't the muscle boys, the leather daddies, or the drag queens that drew the biggest cheers. It was 32 uniformed LGBT Victoria Police officers marching in full uniform. They were joined by about a dozen other officers in civvies. And, for the first time, they were paid to march, reported [365Gay.com](http://365Gay.com).

Chief Commissioner Christine Nixon, who in 2002 became the first Australian police chief to march in a Gay event had promised to pay all participating officers for time spent at the parade.

The announcement generated criticism from some quarter in Melbourne, but Acting Commander Sandra Langlands said the taxpayer-funded police contingent had created an enormous amount of goodwill.

Commander Langlands said the crowd reaction was unbelievable. "It's the first time I've marched and I couldn't believe the deafening cheers that we got - it's magnificent," she said.

It is believed the Victoria Police are the only force to pay its Gay officers to take part in a pride parade.

The big parade was led off by the local contingent of "Dykes on Bikes" and featured representatives from dozens of LGBT political social groups.

It was Melbourne's ninth pride march, and like its big sister in Sydney, draws people from around the world.

Tony Kelly a visitor from England said he was impressed by the color and spectacle. "It was very good, very good indeed," he said.

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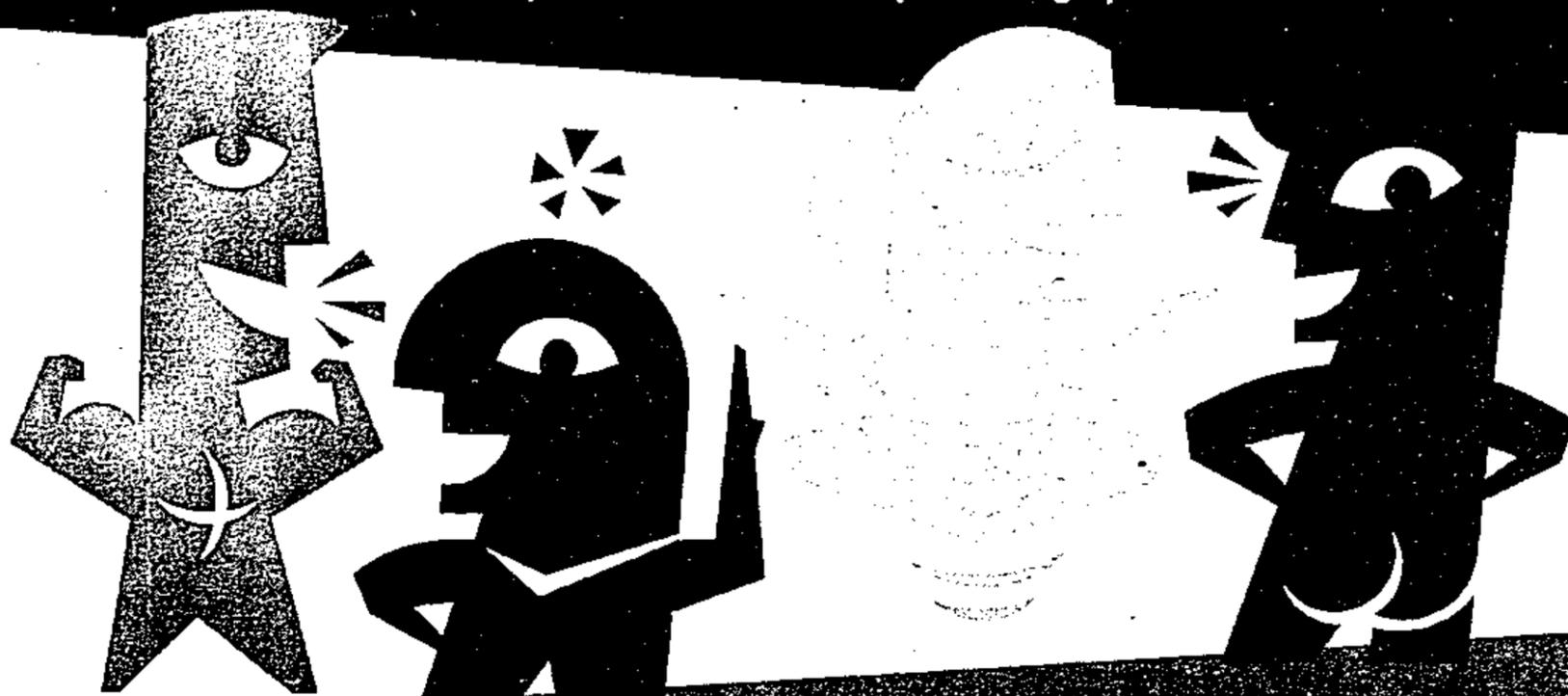


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# Presidential Candidates Detail AIDS Planks

WASHINGTON - A coalition of AIDS advocacy organizations released the results of a survey last week that details the major presidential candidates' views on the fight against HIV/AIDS, reported [Gay.com/PlanetOut.com](http://Gay.com/PlanetOut.com) network.

AIDSVote.org, which was founded in 2003 to promote policy recommendations and educate both candidates and the general public, has posted the results from all the major candidates who responded to the survey. Republican President Bush and the Rev. Al Sharpton, a Democrat, were both sent the survey but did not respond to the organization's invitation to participate.

"The candidates' responses illustrate their understanding of the critical leadership role the White House must play in the fight against AIDS," said Michael Kink of Housing Works in New York. "We hope this information will help the electorate understand that critical role as well."

The Democrats who responded to the survey were fairly uniform in their answers, agreeing to everything from increased government funding of the Ryan White CARE Act to a change in the federal government's current ban on needle exchange program funding. The respondents also said they opposed federal financial incentives to bolster "abstinence-only" programs and would drop the "Mexico City policy," which stops federal money from going to many family

planning programs in the developing world.

The only disagreement among the survey respondents was to the question: "Will your administration support the investigation of approved, peer-reviewed research projects conducted through the National Institutes of Health (NIH)?" Sens. John Edwards, John Kerry, Joe Lieberman and Rep. Dennis Kucinich all said "yes," while retired Gen. Wesley Clark and former Gov. Howard Dean both answered "no."

The question refers to a controversial federal probe last year into research projects that were considered politically sensitive. Many of the projects were related to HIV studies and sex research.

The survey was based on a model presidential platform that was endorsed by AIDS service organizations. AIDS Vote supporters and organizers were in New Hampshire on the eve of the Tuesday primary to draw attention to the AIDS crisis in the United States and abroad.

"The AIDSVote message is gaining strength, one community endorsement at a time," said Ernesto Munar of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago. "As people affected by AIDS, we have a responsibility to tell candidates our concerns and educate everyone about the challenges ahead in battling this devastating pandemic."

# U.S. Agency Cites Cirque For HIV Bias

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) released a decision Friday, January 30, that found the Montreal-based performance troupe Cirque du Soleil engaged in illegal discrimination when it fired an HIV-positive gymnast, reported [Gay.com/PlanetOut.com](http://Gay.com/PlanetOut.com).

Matthew Cusick, who was fired last spring from Cirque du Soleil's Las Vegas-based show "Mystere" after he voluntarily told company doctors he was HIV positive, filed a complaint with the EEOC in July 2003 with the help of Gay rights group Lambda Legal. In the complaint Lambda Legal argued that since Cusick was given a clean bill of health and presented no risk of infection to other performers or the audience, he was fired illegally.

Cusick's firing led to protests at Cirque shows in San Francisco, Los Angeles and Orange County, Calif., and an additional investigation by the San Francisco Human Rights Commission. In a December 2003 letter to the San Francisco commission, Cirque du Soleil said due to Cusick's HIV status, he couldn't be a dishwasher or an usher, a move that outraged HIV/AIDS activists around the country.

"The federal government has looked very carefully at Cirque du Soleil's actions, and its investigation confirmed there is evidence that Cirque engaged in unlawful discrimination," said Hayley Gorenberg, director of Lambda Legal's AIDS Project. "This is the most serious determination the government can reach at this level. It's a very serious finding based on months of investigation."

According to Lambda Legal, the

EEOC determination said in its decision the "investigation reveals reasonable cause to believe that [Cirque du Soleil] discriminated against [Cusick] when it discharged him because of his disability, record of disability, and being regarded as disabled." The finding says the Americans with Disabilities Act forbids such discrimination. The decision is likely to pave the way for some sort of resolution before Cusick's complaint reaches court.

A number of organizations joined Lambda Legal's protest, including the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA).

"Obviously there is a limit to what the EEOC can do, but clearly this is a ringing endorsement," said NAPWA Executive Director Terje Anderson. "We hope it sends a message to all employers, including Cirque du Soleil, about the importance of protecting all their employees who are living with HIV."

In a press release issued Thursday, January 29, by Cirque du Soleil, the company said, "Cirque du Soleil will offer to re-integrate Matthew Cusick as a performer" during the EEOC-mediated discussions.

A Lambda Legal spokesman said the organization was "cautiously optimistic," taking a wait-and-see approach until it saw an official job offer from Cirque du Soleil.

"While this is nothing new from Cirque, we're looking forward to serious discussions now that the federal government has called Cirque to the table," Gorenberg said. "Those conversations will include a focus on Cirque companywide policies and practices."

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**Gay World In Brief.**

**Germany To Appeal Cannibal Sentence**

KASSEL - German Prosecutors Monday, February 2, launched an appeal of the eight-and-a-half year sentence handed to a Gay man convicted of cannibalism.

Armin Meiwes had been charged with murder which would have carried a life sentence in prison but the court found him guilty of manslaughter. With good behavior Meiwes could be out in five years.

Meanwhile, the defense is considering its own appeal. Lawyer Harald Ernel had sought a six-month prison term, arguing that Meiwes should have been convicted of illegal euthanasia.

Meiwes never challenged that he had killed and ate Bernd Juergen Brandes three years ago, after placing an ad on the Internet for "victims" but said that Brandes was a willing partner. A note left by Brandes in his home bore that out.

During the trial psychiatrists testified Meiwes was sane but had a psychosis and was likely to kill again if released.

While appeals and cross-appeals are lodged, Meiwes has begun writing his memoirs and negotiating a movie deal.

Germany has no law preventing prisoners from making money from their crimes, although Meiwes could have to pay back the cost of the trial, estimated at up to \$140,000.

Ernel said Monday that a bidding war had broken out among several movie companies anxious to secure exclusive rights to Meiwes' story.

Ernel would not name any of the companies involved but said "we're getting more offers all the time."

Film industry experts say a film deal could net Meiwes more than \$1 million.

"It's very Hannibal Lecter," said Randy Sanchez, the marketing director of Exhibitor Relations, a Los Angeles-based company that analyses audience tastes for Hollywood studios.

**Gay Massacre Trial Opens**

CAPE TOWN - A trial began Monday, February 2, in Cape Town South Africa for two men accused of the largest Gay massacre in history since the Holocaust. 365Gay.com reported.

Nine men were gunned down last January at Gay massage parlor in what police called a robbery gone bad. The dead were all employees of the club, called Sizzlers.

Adam Woest, a former waiter, and taxi driver Trevor Theys were arrested several months later.

In his opening arguments prosecutor Anthony Stephen described the killings as "extraordinary, bizarre and weird".

Stephen called for the two accused to be sent for a 30-day psychiatric exam and the defense agreed. Stephen said the

massacre was so bizarre that it was necessary to establish whether the two men had a mental disorder. It was also necessary to determine whether they were capable of understanding the proceedings, he said.

But, in a bizarre twist in the case, one of the defense lawyers withdrew from the case Monday. Theys' attorney, Christopher Ryke, told the court he could no longer represent him because Theys had changed his story so often it was impossible for Ryke to defend him.

Neither Woest nor Theys entered pleas. They are charged with nine counts of murder, one of attempted murder, one of robbery with aggravating circumstances, one of theft, and two counts of unlawful possession of firearms and ammunition.

In agreeing to the psychiatric exam, Judge Nathan Erasmus warned both accused to co-operate with their psychiatric panels, and urged both psychiatric teams to prioritize the assessments so the trial is not delayed.

The case is scheduled to resume March 2.

**Teen Gang Forces Lesbian Couple From Home**

DUBLIN - The leader of an Irish teen gang has been handed a slap on the wrist after beating a woman over the head with a bottle and forcing her and her partner to move from their home, reported 365Gay.com.

The court was told that the couple had endured a long campaign of torment from the gang of teenage girls. It reached a climax on November 23, 2002 the court was told this week.

The teens began a disturbance outside the women's home, and when one of the women went outside to plead with them to go away, the ringleader, a 16 year old girl, smashed a bottle over the woman's head. She needed multiple stitches to close the wound.

When police arrived on the scene the gang members began to attack the officers.

The harassment forced the women to flee their home. They have not been back since.

In court, the lawyer for the girl, who cannot be named, said his client has since straightened out her life. John Quinn said the girl had no previous attends school full-time and has a part-time job. "She was drunk and less mature at the time of the attack," he said.

Judge Cormac Dunne agreed. The girl was handed a fine amounting to about \$750 dollars and gave her four months to pay. If she met the fine, Dunne said he would consider putting her in probation but expunging the conviction, leaving her with no criminal record.

One of the woman later said she felt the sentence was too light.



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### Navratilova Loses Australian Open Final

SYDNEY - After tennis legend Martina Navratilova lost in the final mixed doubles match of the Australian Open on Sunday, February 1, she announced that 2004 will be her last year playing in Grand Slam tournaments.

Navratilova, 47, and partner Leander Paes, 30, were unable to repeat their victory from last year, unseated by challengers Nenad Zimonjic and Elena Bovina, 6-1, 7-6.

The pair has been a comeback sensation for fans, as Navratilova came out of retirement a few years ago and Paes recently recovered from a near-fatal brain ailment that sidelined him after the team's triumph at Wimbledon last summer.

"I just wanted to go out on a winning note," the Lesbian tennis star said after the match. "Losing in the final stinks. I'm not saying goodbye to Australia, just to tennis here."

She said she plans to work as a tennis commentator on television after this year.

Navratilova, an outspoken advocate for GLBT rights, won her first Grand Slam championship in 1973, the year Paes was born. She is one of the most accomplished female athletes in history, with 58 Grand Slam titles.

Following the Australian Open, the remaining Grand Slam events, in order, are: the French Open, Wimbledon and U.S. Open.



"The Supreme Court wanted to give the Kansas court an opportunity to correct the case in light of Lawrence," he told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network. "How many Supreme Court cases are there going to have to be before courts get the message that Gay and Lesbian people are to be treated equally?"

Kansas Judge Henry W. Green Jr. justified his ruling by saying legislators could claim homosexual acts entail health risks. Green also wrote that heterosexual offenses are less objectionable because they could lead to babies being born, and "same-sex relationships do not generally lead to unwanted pregnancies."

"It's insane! It's insane!" reacted Chris Hampton, a spokeswoman for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Lesbian and Gay Rights Projects. "The state is basically encouraging teen pregnancy."

The ACLU is representing Limon and told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network it plans to appeal Limon's case to the Kansas Supreme Court.

Human Rights Campaign (HRC) President Cheryl Jacques said she hoped the ACLU would succeed.

"All people should be equal in the eyes of the law, yet this decision upholds penalties that are designed to target Gay and Lesbian people simply to show disapproval," she said in a prepared statement.

"As the Supreme Court beautifully articulated in Lawrence v. Texas, mere disapproval is never sufficient reason to treat people differently simply for being Gay," she added. "We are hopeful that this case will be correctly decided by the higher courts."

### Teens 17-Year Sentence For Gay Sex Upheld

TOPEKA - Advocates for GLBT civil rights reacted with anger after the Kansas Court of Appeals ruled Friday, January 30, that the state can punish homosexual acts between minors much more severely than heterosexual ones, reported Gay.com/PlanetOut.com.

The 2-1 ruling affects Matthew R. Limon, who was sentenced in 2001 to more than 17 years in prison for having consensual oral sex after he had just turned 18 with a boy nearly a month away from his 15th birthday in a home for the developmentally disabled.

According to state law, sexual activity with anyone under 16 is illegal. But if Limon had been having a heterosexual encounter, he would have only faced a sentence of 15 months under the state's "Romeo and Juliet" law, which limits penalties for underage sex between heterosexual teenagers.

This is the second time the Kansas Court of Appeals has heard Limon's case. In February of 2002, the Kansas Appellate court rejected his equal protection claim. But the U.S. Supreme Court remanded Limon's case last year after its historic Lawrence v. Texas ruling, when it ruled laws cannot treat the sexual conduct of Gays and Lesbians differently than that of heterosexuals.

Mitchell Katine, a Texas-based lawyer who participated in the Lawrence v. Texas case, was disappointed with Friday's ruling.

### Baylor Revokes Gay Student's Scholarship

WACO - Advocates for GLBT rights in Texas are promising to fight after a seminary student claimed he lost his scholarship because he's Gay, reported Gay.com/PlanetOut.com.

Matt Bass, 24, said he was halfway through his instruction at Baylor University's George W. Truett Theological Seminary in Waco, Texas, when two assistant deans summoned him to their office in November and asked him if he was Gay.

"I said it was none of your business," Bass told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network.

Bass remembered how his decision to come out to his friends in May 2003 led to him losing his scholarship: "One of my friends told his girlfriend who happened to tell her sorority, and it spread like wildfire and got around to a pastor of a church. He asked me if I was Gay and I told him."

"It's generally assumed that if you talk to a minister that conversation is private," Bass said.

But according to Bass, the pastor would reveal his sexuality to officials at the university, which is affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas. In December, Bass said he received a letter explaining he was losing his scholarship from Baylor because he was Gay, which he found unfair.

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# Blue Cross To Give Coverage To G/L Couples

DETROIT - Responding to what it said was customer demand, Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Michigan is offering coverage to the partners of Gays and Lesbians who work for small businesses.

But the move by Michigan's largest health insurer has rankled conservative critics who deem it another attack on traditional marriage. Critics also contend that offering coverage to Gay partners will serve to only raise costs for other Blue Cross subscribers.

"We're talking about a group that engages in high-risk behavior, that are stricken with serious, life-threatening diseases that are very expensive to treat," Gary Glenn, president of the Midland-based American Family Association of Michigan, said Monday, February 2. "You add them to the insurance pool, and it's going to have the inevitable consequence of driving up insurance costs for everyone they do business with."

The domestic-partner coverage extended to the insurer's small business customers mirrors that offered to married couples. Gay and Lesbian couples must prove they are in a committed relationship to qualify. "For us, it isn't about politics. It's about meeting purchaser needs," said Kathy Elston, Blue Cross-Blue Shield vice president for marketing and sales, who guided the benefit expansion.

Still excluded from coverage are unmarried straight couples, with the reasoning being that they have the option to marry and qualify for benefits at that point. Officials at Blue Cross-Blue Shield say they studied four years' worth of records of large employers that offer domestic-partner benefits and determined that those benefits cost the same as they did for opposite-sex couples. Other insurers preceded Blue Cross-Blue Shield in offering coverage to same-sex couples. The Health Alliance Plan and M-Care already offered the coverage to their small business customers.

On the national level, the trend is growing. More than 2,000 private employers offer health and other benefits to domestic partners, and more than 50 cities and counties and seven states provide such coverage, according to the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, a Gay rights organization. But advocates say the Blue Cross-Blue Shield decision is particularly heartening since it is the largest provider and because the move represents a major step forward by insurers. The change will affect about 50,000 Blue Cross businesses in Michigan that have fewer than 90 employees.

# Drug Price Increase

Continued from Page One

it is cheaper than combining Norvir with other companies' protease inhibitors.

"That's simply not the case," Abbott spokeswoman Fahey-Widman said in response last week.

The group's petition seeks to invoke a provision in federal law which, if granted, would open the way for generic production of Norvir.

# Bush: No New AIDS Money

Continued from Page One

"A CDC report released last summer showed that the rate of HIV diagnoses for Gay and Bisexual men is rising steeply. And the CDC also reports that members of the Gay and Bisexual community - particularly within communities of color - are at significant risk without adequate prevention programs in place," said Jacques.

"This is no time to cut short our commitment to serious, science-based prevention programs while at the same time funding abstinence-only programs."

According to a CDC report released in July 2003, HIV infections among Gay and Bisexual men rose 7.1 percent from 2001 to 2002. HIV diagnoses for Gay and Bisexual men have increased by 17.7 percent since the lowest point in 1999.

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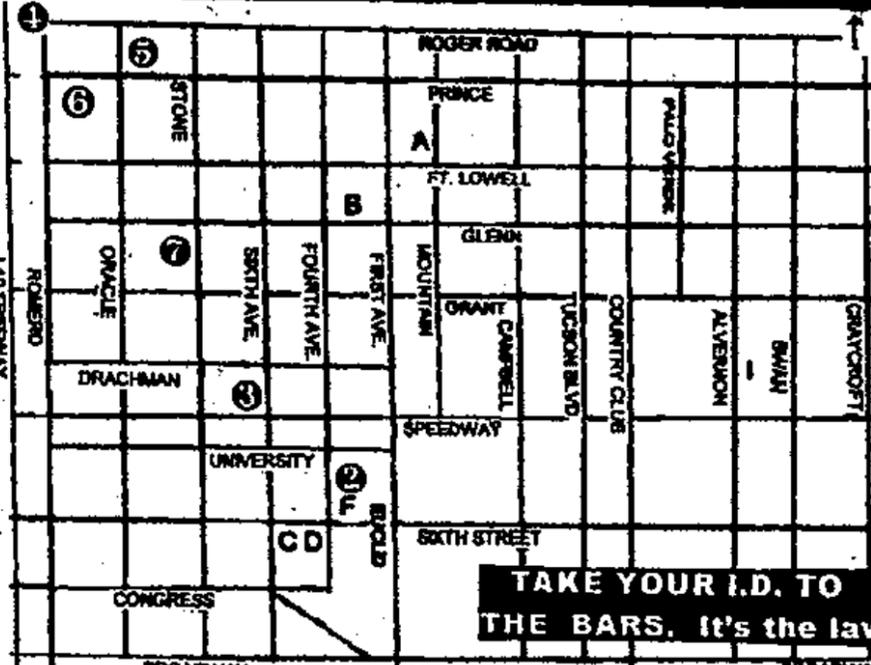
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**YOU HAVE QUESTIONS?**  
**Ask Dr. X**  
**DR. X HAS ANSWERS.**



Dear Dr. X,

I really don't want to get into all the details, but could you please recommend some places that treat drug users. I've had enough and am ready to take a stab at quitting! My friends are either in the dark about my problem or part of the problem. Please help.

Signed Tired

Dear Tired,

I'm sorry to hear you have a problem with substances but I'm very happy that you admit to having a problem and want help. That's the most important step for you right now. There are quite a few places for you to get help in Tucson, but unfortunately I can't give specific names of agencies, as that would show some type of favoritism. Several options are open to you such as Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Narcotics Anonymous (NA) or you can call Wingspan at (520) 624-1779 and they can recommend where you can go for help. They have a vast amount of information for all types of issues relevant to GLBT people and will have phone numbers and meetings for Gay AA and NA meetings. I also want to say that the friends that don't know about your problem are probably the friends who will support you and be there for you when you're in need of help. Good luck and keep me posted.

Dear Dr. X,

Most of my friends are cutting edge and into getting tattooed, pierced and branded. It all looks real cool now while we are young but what if any are the long-term effects? Could you also give me some basics on what to look for? My friends have been giving me conflicting information.

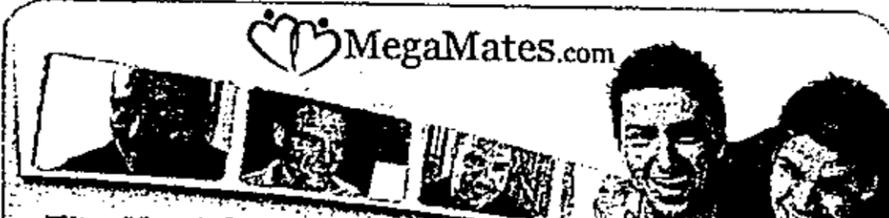
Signed, Body Art

Dear Body Art,

I read an article the other day that had a cartoon in which a 90 yr. old grandmother was dressed like Britney Spears talking to her great grandchildren. I had to laugh because it's true. What are we thinking about when we get tattooed pierced or branded? I guess times change and when we get older it will probably be normal for a grandfather to have a 2-gauge earring and a pierced septum, or a 90 r. old woman with a navel ring and a butterfly tattoo on her ankle. Even Dr. X thought long and hard before getting his tats and piercing because tats, like herpes last forever. If you do decide to go for it, go to a reputable shop. Decide beforehand what you want. Listen to what the piercer/tattooist is saying to you. Make sure the needles are new and sterile and never, never get pierced by a gun. You can contract Hepatitis C from used ink and un-sterile/used equipment. Most if not all quality shops will explain their safety procedures to you. If you feel uncomfortable don't do it. Most importantly follow the cleaning and care instructions to the "T." If you do develop an infection, don't remove the jewelry! Once the piercing closes it will seal the infection inside your body and make it harder to treat. Go back to the shop and follow their advice. I know that there are now ways to remove tattoos. These procedures cost quite a bit of money and are painful and very time consuming. It can also lead to scarring and discolored skin. Know the facts and be safe.

[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 gmhp.org.]

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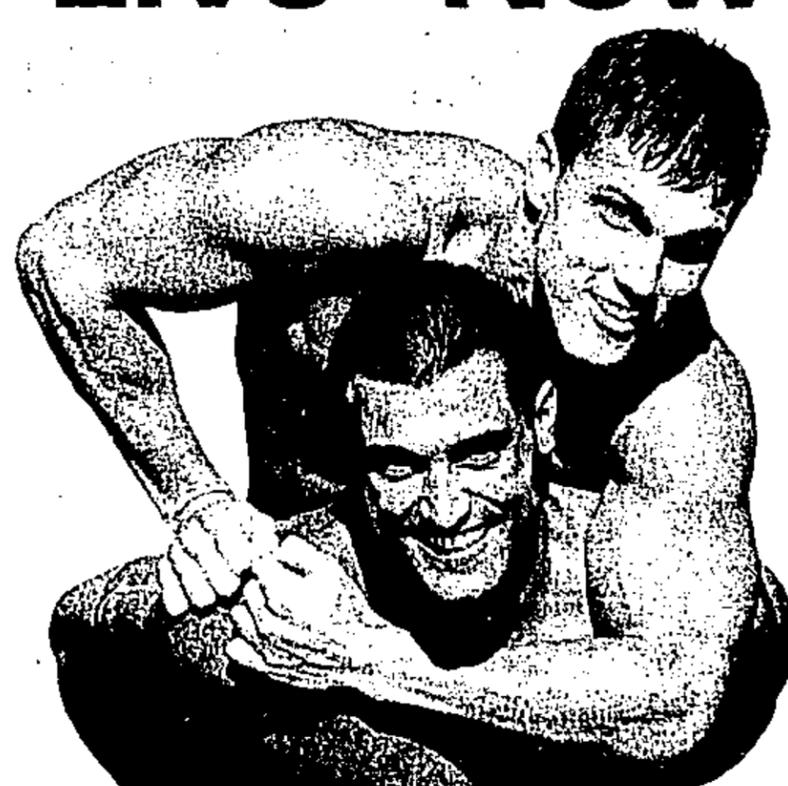
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## Special Bar Events

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5

HOWL AT THE MOON - UA Men's Basketball Game 8:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

HOWL AT THE MOON - UA Men's Basketball Game 1:00 p.m.

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

BT's - Party line-up includes Troy's Recovery Bar from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. \$1.75 Bloody Marys, Screwdrivers or Mimosas. Karaoke Party with Michael D. on the patio from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., Benefit Bar-B-Que / Beer Bust from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. This weeks proceeds go to PFLAG. 8:30 p.m. 'Puffin' on the Lips' Lipsync Contest. Hosted by Janea Starr. First Prize \$50.

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

BT'S - 9:00 p.m. The Divalicious Show hosted by Lucinda Holliday and starring Mr. Kenneth Blake and Phaeda.

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

VENTURE-N - Return of the Age of Aquarius 60s/70s Retro Party. 10:00 p.m. to closing. Features live entertainment by Richard Villa and Friends. Get ready!

### FRIDAY-SAT-SUN - FEBRUARY 13-14-15

YARD DOG SALOON - Big 3rd anniversary weekend here with special events all three nights. Food, music, auction, contest and more. Stop on by.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

BT'S - Valentine's Day "FuFu Revue"

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

BT'S - Guest Disk Jockey Kevin Brown from Phoenix plays for dancing tonight.

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 29

BT'S - Big Academy Awards Party. Get there early!

## Non-Bar Calendar

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. The Circle of Men 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.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Marty for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Marty at 722-8531.

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

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join us for Game Night—a chance to play a wide variety of board games and card games. Bring your favorite to each others. For reservations and directions, please call Les or Jerry at 690-9555.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Jay Men's Health Project (GMHP) brings you the second annual Men 4 Men Health Expo from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. The Expo is held at the Muse, 516 N. 5th Avenue (at 6th Street across from Wingspan). Check their ad in this issue of Observer for all the happenings. Then come back at 7:00 p.m. and rise up and set your spirit free "Anthem" featuring Masterbeat DJ Brett Henrichson. This runs from 7:00 p.m. until 4:00 a.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Tickets are available at IBT's, Woody's, SAAF and Antigone Books. 10:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. it's for twenty-one and over. Then from 1:00 a.m. until 4:00 a.m. it's 18 and over!

Tucson Prime Timers Food & Drinks - 5:00 p.m. Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd.

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 8:30 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): 6:30 p.m. Join us for our monthly Potluck and our Annual Auction. We invite you to have dinner and get to know the nice guys of MSN and stick around for the auction, where you can find some great buys. It's a nice, safe setting in which to meet new men and greet old friends. For directions, please call Jerry at 690-9555.

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Tucson Prime Timers Brunch — 11:00 a.m., Casa Molina, 3001 N. Campbell Ave.

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9

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

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join the men of MSN for an evening out at Rainbow Planet. This is a chance to have a cup of coffee and chat with the men of MSN.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Peter hosts Bridge Night. If you don't know how to play, they'll teach you—and it's a very relaxed atmosphere. For reservations and directions, please call Peter at 615-8974.

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. The Circle of Men 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.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Marty for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Marty at 722-8531.

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

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 11:30 a.m. Join Karol for a morning of miniature golf at Funlasticks. For reservations and directions, please call Karol at 744-9017.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 1:00 p.m. Karol hosts a Lunch Out at TGI Friday's. For reservations and directions, please call Karol at 744-9017.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Karol for Hearts Night. This viciously fun game is easy to learn if you've never played before. For reservations and directions, please call Karol at 744-9017

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Tucson Prime Timers Food & Drinks - 5:00 p.m. Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd.

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10

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

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

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

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

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

Tucson Prime Timers Food & Drinks - 5:00 p.m., Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd.

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

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

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

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

## Arts & Entertainment

### NOW PLAYING THRU FEBRUARY 8

Live Theatre Workshop presents one of the most romantic comedies of the century "Same Time, Next Year" by Bernard Slade. This timeless comedy follows and affair between two people who meet in 1951 at a California seaside inn. After one evening of passion, these otherwise happily married individuals are compelled to meet once every year. Over a twenty five year span, their liaisons reflect the changing manners, morals and attitudes of our society. However, their transitions are never in sync, making for hilarious contrasts and conflicts. Shows playing at Live Theatre Workshop, 5317 E. Speedway every Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Sundays at 3:00 p.m. only. Tickets are \$14 general admission and \$12 discount. Call 327-4242 for more information.

### NOW PLAYING THRU FEBRUARY 14

Live Theatre Workshop's Late Night Series presents "Danny and the Deep Blue Sea - An Apache Dance" by John Patrick Shanley. Danny and Roberta meet at a bar in the Bronx. They are both rubbed raw from difficult lives, and harbor a dangerous secret. In a desperate attempt to find salvation and make some sense of an incoherently cruel world, they take a chance by opening up to each other. Through the course of one tumultuous night, these two savages find that in the other lies the secret to salvation. This show runs on Friday and Saturday nights at 10:30 p.m. Call 327-4242 for ticket reservations. Tickets \$8 and \$10.

### NOW SHOWING THRU FEBRUARY 14

Tucson hosts the internationally renowned Fossil, Gem and Mineral show each year. Thousand and thousand of people come to this extravaganza that takes part all over the globe. The sheer size of the show is amazing. Minerals, gemstones, fossils, jewelry, Gems, beads, you name it, it's at the show. Don't miss the browsing.

### FEBRUARY 11 - 15

Arizona Theatre Company - The State Theatre - presents The Guthrie Theatre On Tour with five performances of "Othello" Powers collide in Shakespeare's tragedy Othello. Join the acclaimed Guthrie Theatre of Minneapolis for the riveting story of passion, manipulation and betrayal. Temple of Music and Art, 330 S. Scott. 520-622-2823.

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Hall and Oates Live at Centennial Hall starting at 7:00 p.m. Benefit for UA's Hillel Foundation. 621-3341.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

The Temptations are coming to Desert Diamond Casino's Diamond Center. Call 393-2799 for ticket information.

UAPresents Jesus Christ Superstar with lyrics by Tim Rice and music by Andrew Lloyd Weber. UA Centennial Hall. 621-3341.

## Daily Bar Calendar

### Sunday

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 10:30 am. Smirnoff Sunday - \$2 Smirnoff drinks (Bloody Mary, Screwdriver, Greyhound, Sea Breeze, etc.) Watch the NFL on 15 screens. Music from the 50's, 60's, 70's, & 80's from 8-close.

IBT's - Open Noon \$1.75 Bloody's, 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 - Open Noon.  
VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio open 3pm. \$1.75 Bloody Marys or Screws til 3pm Patio Beer Bust 3-7 Burger BBQ 5-7. Selection of burger meats to choose from. \$2 proceeds go to Pet Watch (helping HIV/AIDS clients with their veterinary bills).

WOODY'S - Open 11am. Sunday Brunch 11:30-2:30. Eggs and meat du jour plus B&M, Mms or Screws \$5. \$1.50 Bloody Marys, screwdrivers, Mimosas, Happy Hour 11am-8pm \$2 well or domestic beer Patio Bar open 5-close. Pick-up Beach Volleyball games 5-7. \$2.50 sirloin burger w/salad 5-8pm. Karaoke with Michael D. 8pm

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

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3pm. Happy Hour 3-7, \$2 well, domestic pints & longnecks. Special drink prices on draft beer all night. Monday Night Football - \$2 grilled jumbo dog w/ chips, \$1.50 chili.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-7pm. 'Theme Dance Nite' with Johnny DJ. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open Noon.  
VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 6pm. Free pool til 4pm. Draft Special 12-4pm. \$2.75 Skyy Martinis 4-8. Monday Nite Football. Free Hot Dogs. WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic beer til 7pm. Karaoke w/Michael D. 9-1

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

### Tuesday

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3pm. Happy Hour 3-7, \$2 well, domestic pints & longnecks. \$2 margarita on rocks all night. Pucker Shot special during UA games. Music from the 50's thru the 80's.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-7pm, Bare Chest Nite- Bare it and get happy hour prices from 9 to close. Progressive/Retro '80s dance with DJ Q. 9 to close

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open Noon.  
VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Draft Special 12-4.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic til 7pm. Bartender Calls II drink specials.

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

### Wednesday

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3pm. Happy Hour 3-7, \$2 well, domestic pints & longnecks. \$2 Smirnoff Ice, hard lemonades, other bottled mall beverages all night. Free pool all night.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hours Noon-7pm, 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  
VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Draft Special 12-4pm. \$2.75 Cuervo Margaritas 4-8pm

WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic beer til 7pm. Free Hot Dog Buffet 5-11pm. Underwear-fetish-leather nite w/Gary and Chris along with GMHP. \$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

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3pm. Happy Hour 3-7, \$2 well, domestic pints & longnecks. \$2 Mexican beers all night. Music 80's, 90's, 2k+.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hours Noon-7pm, HI NRG video dancing with Johnny DJ 9-1 All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open noon.  
VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio open 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Draft Special 12-4pm. Pool Tourny 7pm. \$3 entry (Pot Matched) Special prices for players.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic beer til 7pm. 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

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3pm. Happy Hour 3-7, \$2 well, domestic pints & longnecks. Beginner country dance lessons 7:30-8:30. Country/Pop/Rock mix 8:30 to close.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hours Noon-7pm. Live Jazz on the patio with the Susan 6-9pm. Patio Bar 5-1pm. GoGo Boys and Dance Party with DJ T.C. Wildman. 9 to 1. All drink specials not available during

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open Noon.  
VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio open 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Draft Special 1-4pm. DJ 9pm to close.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic beer til 7pm. Martini Party - Well Martinis \$2.00 4-8pm. Call Martinis \$3 from 4-8pm. Complimentary Shrimp Cocktail 4-8pm. Patio Bar Open 7pm - midnight.

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

### Saturday

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 10:30 am. Pool Tournament 3pm (sign-up begins at 2). \$3 entry fee (pot matched). Current & Classic Country from 8:30 to close.

IBT's - 10am-5pm \$4 Martinis and Daquiris. Happy Hours Noon-7pm. Dance Party 9-1 w/DJ-Q. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open noon.  
VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio Bar open 3pm. Patio Beer Bust 3-7pm. DJ 9-1.

WOODY'S - Open 11am \$2 well or domestic beer. Til 7pm. Patio Bar opens 5pm. 5-9pm Steak or Mahi Mahi 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

**FREE VALENTINES IN THE FEBRUARY 11<sup>TH</sup> ISSUE OF THE OBSERVER.**

**NOTICES**

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 TEAM ARIZONA at their website: teamarizona.org

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

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

COMMUNITY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (CBA), Tucson's Gay and Lesbian business networking group holds regular meetings the third Thursday of every month. Call 615-6436 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 OutFest. Inquiries about support groups and individual needs should be directed to Wingspan and other local agencies listed here. For more information call 622-3200 or visit the TPI website at www.tucsonpride.com

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

TUCSON 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, 1436 N. Campbell across from University Hospital. For more info Call Anabeli at 325-0892

SMART (Self Management And Recovery Training) a free non-12-step self-help alternative for people working to overcome addictive and other emotional problems meets in Tucson Monday thru Thursdays at different locations. For more information about SMART, contact Jennifer at 838-1975.

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

OUTLOUD! Tucson's premiere Local Lesbian and Gay Radio Show, broadcast every Sunday from 7-8 pm on 91.3 FM, Community Radio KXCJ

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

"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 85733-0445

LIKE TO READ? The Guys Book Club (TGBC) invites new members to join them. The group meets once a month, on the 3rd Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at Maggie's Pizza on 4th Avenue to discuss the Gay-themed book read by members the previous month.

THE MAN TO MAN Social/erotic education club is the taratic men's group that offers passionate friendships, fun activities and sex education. Marc 881-4582

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.

HALLELUJAH RECOVERY DRUG & ALCOHOL 12-STEP. Every Thursday 5:30-6:30pm 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 Donian Easty, 882-7723 Facilitator.

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE .25 PER WORD \$5.00 MINIMUM

**CLASSIFIEDS**

CLASSIFIED ADS MUST BE MAILED, NO PHONE ADS

**NOTICES**

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 881-1794 - 8 am - 5 pm Mon. - Fri.

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

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

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

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

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

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

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO - a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, Call the Bears Hotline (520)790-5775 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 or visit our website at www.btopn.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. Comanche 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. Ellie 581-8850 or Ronn 968-2384.

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

CRONIES SOCIAL GROUP. A Social group for Gay men who enjoy the fellowship of their peers. Call Leo at 624-6768.

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 889-7298.

COME EXPLORE YOUR SPIRITUALITY! St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church offers a variety of Gay and Lesbian groups and services for the spiritually minded. Come meet the Family! For more information call Debbie 579-9827 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.

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

**NOTICES**

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

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

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

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT GROUP FOR ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLES. Not a dating club. Discreet. Meetings every Monday evening. Call for more info. APEX (Arizona Power Exchange) 602-435-1123. 24-hr multi-choice message including information, calendar and location.

ARIZONA AIDS POLICY ALLIANCE (AZAPA) seeks to educate legislators and citizens about sound AIDS policy. For more information write AZAPA, 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 website 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 Miro 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 pm 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) 743-0775 for current information

TUCSON GREATER SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION. Interested? Call Kelly Quinn, (520)742-7895 or go to our web site http://www.tgssoftball.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 write: LC, 7014 E. Golf Links Road, PMB 212, Tucson, AZ 85730.

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

**PERSONALS**

GLBT SDS (Secular Organization for Sobriety) will begin meeting Sundays, 8 p.m. at the Wingspan Annex, 730 N. 4th Ave. This group appeals to persons who may be uncomfortable "Higher Power" concepts of more traditional, religious groups. 1020

GWM LOOKING FOR FRIENDSHIP. Long walks and quiet evenings by the fireplace. 731-6152 1023

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**FREE VALENTINE IN THE FEBRUARY 11TH ISSUE OF THE OBSERVER.**

Leave your Valentine messages at any of Tucson's Gay Bars, or at Antigone Books, Rainbow Planet, Wingspan, Desert Pride or S.A.A.F., or send directly to the Observer at any of the addresses on page two. **LIMIT FOUR (4) MESSAGES PER**

# Baseball Pitcher Admits To Gay Porn Role

CLEVELAND - Claiming he's not Gay, Cleveland Indians minor leaguer Kazuhito Tadano apologized Tuesday, January 27, for appearing in a Gay porn film after his sophomore year in college, Gay.com/PlanetOut.com reported.

"I did participate in a video and I regret it very much," the 23-year old told reporters in the team's clubhouse. "It was a one-time incident that showed bad judgment and will never be repeated. I was young, playing baseball, and going to college and my teammates and I needed money."

According to the Associated Press, Tadano took part in the video three years ago while he attended Rikkyo University in his native country of Japan.

In 2002 a Japanese tabloid published pictures from that video a month before the top-ranked college pitcher was expected to be drafted by a professional team. Even though Tadano was expected to be a first-round pick, no team would choose him.

Unable to play professionally in Japan, Tadano signed with the Cleveland Indians last March.

Tadano has been unable to leave the scandal back home. Last season he confessed to his participation in the video two times. The Indians set up Tuesday's press conference to address the issue before spring training starts next month.

Tim Rusch, a regional media

manager for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), described these developments as positive.

"I applaud the efforts of the Indian franchise for taking a leadership role in this issue," Rusch said. "They clearly recognize Tadano for his talents and not his participation in this video."

But Cyd Zeigler, president of Outsports.com, doesn't believe this moment is necessarily a positive development for Gay players in sports.

"Tadano was quick to say, I did this porn but I'm not Gay," Zeigler said. "On one hand that's OK, but on the other hand it still shows there's the pressure to immediately distance yourself from it."

Terry Mahaffey, president of Falcon Studios, said the practice of straight men performing in Gay porn is common.

"I can only speak for the percentage of Falcon," he said, putting it between 10 to 15 percent of the performers. "But they're not totally straight if they're in Gay porn. But Gay for pay has been around for many years. And it will be around as long as there is money."

"Doing adult films just for the money is doing it for the wrong reason, and will invariably create situations like this," explained Gill Sperlein, general counsel for Titan Media, another company that specializes in Gay adult videos.

"I don't see how it would have

anything to do with his abilities to throw a ball," Sperlein told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network. "But by the same token, people who consider doing adult movies should consider why they're doing it. And with the Internet and the widespread distribution of media, you've got to appreciate that you're literally exposing yourself to the world, so you got to be prepared for it."

Tadano told reporters he's already anticipating abuse at professional venues and he's ready for it. "I don't understand English," he joked. "So it doesn't really matter."

## Baylor Revokes Gay Student's Scholarship

Continued from Page Fourteen

Scholarship are having a good moral Christian life and high grades. I didn't break any rules," he said.

Paul Powell, the seminary's dean, declined to discuss Bass' case with the Associated Press, but said he believes the Bible forbids homosexuality.

"If a person, according to Scripture, which is our standard, is not a part of the kingdom of God, how can they be in training for a minister?"

Darrin Adams, the founder of an unofficial Gay student organization on the Baylor campus, told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network he and other supporters of Bass are fighting to have Baylor change its policies. According to Adams, alumni have already started a letter-writing campaign on Bass' behalf.

The Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of

Texas (LGRL) is also involved. Randall Ellis, the executive director, is helping plan a rally with students and community leaders in March.

"It's not a rally for a rally's sake," he said. "We're not just going to wave rainbow flags. We want to educate people and want something positive to come out of something negative."

Joshua Lamont, a spokesman for Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), said he was disappointed by the incident.

"Baylor had an opportunity to demonstrate to other universities and students at all levels that all students, including GLBT students, have equal access to education."

Bass said because he lost his scholarship he had to drop out of school. He now plans on attending Emory University in Atlanta. But he promised his feelings toward his old university are not bitter.

"I'm not against Baylor, I just want them to move forward," he said.

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

-Henry David Thoreau

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