



Observing Tucson And  
The Greater Arizona Community

# OBSERVER

<http://www.tucsonobserver.com>

WEEKLY OBSERVER

OCTOBER 27, 2004

ISSUE 1058

## Have A Safe & Happy Halloween 2004



## It's Time To Cast A Vote !

Since going to the polls on the respective election day, for this year being Tuesday, November 2, becoming a thing of the past as campaigns try to "bank votes early," through voting by mail or prior to election day, the Observer offers its recommendations for the general election ballot for those voting early, by mail, or for the few who enjoy the novelty of going to the polls on election day.

Readers will notice that not all races are listed and indeed that is the case. The Observer is offering its recommendations in contested races only in which there is a choice, not sacrificial lambs or individuals running to get their names in the newspaper. Remember, these are just recommendations and if you have a different opinion, we appreciate that since that shows you've done your research and will cast your vote by mail, early or on November 2.

PRESIDENT  
John Kerry (D)

U.S. HOUSE - C.D. 7  
Raul Grijalva (D)

ARIZONA CORPORATION  
COMMISSION  
FOUR YEAR TERM  
Mark Manoil (D)  
Nina Trasoff (D)

ARIZONA LEGISLATURE

DISTRICT 25 - SENATE  
Marsha Arzberger (D)

DISTRICT 25 - HOUSE  
Manuel Alvarez (D)

DISTRICT 26 - HOUSE  
Amanda Simpson (D) - Vote Only

DISTRICT 28 - SENATE  
Gabrielle Giffords (D)

DISTRICT 28 - HOUSE  
David Bradley (D)  
Ted Downing (D)

DISTRICT 29 - SENATE  
Victor Soltero (D)

DISTRICT 30 - HOUSE  
Esther Sharif (D) - Vote Only

PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF  
SUPERVISORS  
DISTRICT 3  
Sharon Bronson (D)  
DISTRICT 5  
Richard Elias  
PIMA COUNTY ATTORNEY  
Barbara LaWall (D)  
PIMA COUNTY SHERIFF  
Clarence Dupnik (D)  
PIMA COUNTY ASSESSOR  
Bill Staples (D)

TUSD BOARD  
Armand Salese  
Alex Rodriguez

ARIZONA BALLOT PROPOSITIONS  
Proposition 100, NO  
Proposition 101, NO  
Proposition 102, YES  
Proposition 103, YES  
Proposition 104, NO  
Proposition 105, NO  
Proposition 200, NO  
Proposition 300, NO  
TUSD BALLOT PROPOSITIONS  
Proposition 400, YES  
Proposition 401, YES  
Proposition 402, YES

## TAKE THIS LIST WITH YOU TO THE POLLS

### GLBT Rights Group Spends \$6.5 Million On Campaign 2004

WASHINGTON, D.C. - With less than a week before Americans go to the polls the nation's largest GLBT civil rights group said Friday, October 21, that it is spending an unprecedented \$6.5 million dollars to defeat anti-Gay ballot measures, get-out-the-vote in targeted states and elect "fair-minded officials" to federal offices, reported 365Gay.com.

"To win equality we must aggressively fund it and fight for it," said Human Rights Campaign President Cheryl Jacques.

"Anti-Gay politicians are attempting to pit Americans against each other this election. But on Nov. 2 fairness and equality will win out. We're doing everything we can to bring that victory home."

The Republican National Committee sent a mass mailing to voters in several states claiming Democrats would permit Gay marriage and ban the Bible. (story) Gay bashing by GOP candidates has been reported in numerous states. And voters in 11 states will decide whether to amend their constitutions to bar same-sex marriage.

With polls showing a virtual tie for the presidency, a tossup for control of the Senate, and Republicans destined to hold control of the House, Jacques said that the stakes have never been higher.

HRC is sending close to \$1.6 million directly to state GLBT organizations and ballot campaigns. It is also heavily invested in get-out-the-vote efforts nationwide, spending \$2.3 million to identify, contact and turnout 1 million GLBT and allied voters. HRC's PAC will also give more than \$1.8 million before Nov. 2, 2004, to state parties and candidates for federal offices.

With significant races in several states, many of which also face ballot amendments that would ban marriages of same-sex couples, HRC and HRC's PAC are investing unprecedented amounts in battleground states. This effort includes: \$475,000 in Florida, \$586,000 in Michigan, \$458,000 in Missouri, \$283,000 in New Mexico, \$325,000 in Nevada, \$665,000 in Ohio, \$514,000, in Oregon, \$326,000 in Pennsylvania, \$120,000 in Washington, and \$407,000 in Wisconsin.

An additional \$450,000 is being spent to fund on independent expenditures opposing anti-Gay candidates in several states, which includes HRC's "George W. Bush: 'You're Fired'" campaign.

HRC said it is giving an additional \$450,000 to America Coming Together - the largest and most sophisticated voter mobilization project in American history - for a combination of media and mail efforts. Another quarter of a million dollars

is being spent on advertising.

The organization will also be sending more than 70 HRC staff members and Youth College graduates to targeted states to mobilize HRC members and get out the vote for fairness. Busloads of volunteers will leave from Washington, D.C., on Saturday, Oct. 30, to get out the vote in Cleveland, Ohio. Similar efforts will be underway with volunteers going from Los Angeles to Las Vegas to get out the vote.

"I urge everyone to do what they can to reach out to friends and family before Election Day about where candidates stand on issues of equality," added Jacques. "Every vote counts."

Both President Bush and Sen. John Kerry are stepping up their campaigns in the final days before the election with constant stump speeches in key battleground states.

# Vote

# UPDATE

## Observer Voting Update

TUCSON (ON) - The deadline to vote early is Friday, October 29.

A voter who wants to cast their ballot early, can go and cast their ballots, Monday through Friday (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.), until October 29, at one of the following locations in the Tucson area:

The Main Recorder's Office, 115 N. Church, the Recorder's Eastside Office, 6920 E. Broadway - Suite D, 3550 N. First Avenue - Suite 200, 3912 W. Ina Road - Suite 212 and 2225 E. Ajo Way. In Ajo and Sells, people need to go to the sites in their towns since they will only have ballots of residents of the area.

For more information, call (520) 740-4330, or go online to recorder.pima.gov.earlyreq.html. Cast your ballot, either early, by mail or on Tuesday, November 2 but do vote, so much is riding on it.

## AIDS Project Arizona Closes

PHOENIX - The board of AIDS Project Arizona (APAZ), one of the state's oldest AIDS service organizations has announced that the agency has closed and the planned November 7 AIDS walk to be held as a fund-raiser for APAZ has been canceled, the East Valley Tribune reports on Advocate.com.

The agency had run into financial problems that led to its closing, board officials say. APAZ's programs and files have been turned over to Maricopa County and state officials. Other regional AIDS groups are trying to absorb the 2,500 clients of the organization, who received direct services and support services for themselves and their families.

APAZ officials say the group relied heavily on government funding, which had been cut in recent years. The organization also suffered from leadership changes, staff turnover, and a backlash in the gay community. To cover its final payroll, APAZ used money donated for the planned November AIDS walk to pay the final paychecks for about 20 staff members, all of whom were laid off.

## Reveille Chorus Update

TUCSON - At the 59<sup>th</sup> United Nations Day, Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano was serenaded by the Reveille Gay Men's Chorus (RGMC), with "Hello Governor" to the tune of "Hello Dolly." Napolitano was also treated to several of the choruses signature songs, much to the enjoyment of all present for the commemoration. ...

RGMC, which holds rehearsal on Wednesday evenings, 7:00 p.m., at Water of Life - MCC, located at 3269 N. Mountain Avenue, welcomes new members - through out the year. RGMC wants those interested to come on by, and take part in the rehearsals. For more information, call artistic director, Linus Lerner, (520) 903-1815 or 360-5400. ...

You can hear Reveille perform at their upcoming holiday Concert, "Tidings of Comfort and Joy," December 11-12, at Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Tickets are available from chorus members, at Antigone's and Desert Pride, and by phone at (520) 617-3100.

## Forum On Issues For LGBT Elders Oct. 30

TUCSON - Today's LGBT elders came of age when harassment was a fact of their lives, codified in the law, and perpetrated by law enforcement. They came of age when it was normal for families to reject their Gay relatives, and for employers to fire their Gay staff.

A 70-year-old Lesbian today was 41 years old when the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from its official list of psychiatric disorders in 1973. She was 47 when an anti-Gay activist assassinated San Francisco's Gay-friendly mayor and the first openly Gay city official, Harvey Milk. She was 56 when she could buy a copy of the New York Times and see the word "Gay" in its pages for the first time. She was 62 when President Clinton challenged anti-Gay witch hunts at the nation's largest employer, the U.S. Military, and settled on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." She was 68 when Will & Grace became "Must-See TV."

Every week 10,000 more Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Americans reach retirement age without equal access to the services and economic safety nets their neighbors take for granted. Pervasive discrimination and increased isolation threatens the health and well-being of LGBT seniors, and requires that we all ask profound questions and work together to create honest and meaningful answers.

To provide a forum for these questions and answers, Wingspan will hold a free public forum on Saturday, October 30th at St. Mark's Presbyterian Church, 3809 E. 3rd St., 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The Forum is free and open to everyone. Light snacks will be served. This forum will raise awareness about the concerns of GLBT elders and about the unique barriers they encounter in gaining access to housing, healthcare, social opportunities, long-term care, and other needed services. For more information, call, (520) 624-1779.

**HATE IS  
NOT A  
FAMILY  
VALUE**

## TIHAN Volunteer Training Oct 30

TUCSON - Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network's Volunteer Training will be held Saturday October 30th from 8:30 to 4:00 p.m. at St. Mark's Presbyterian Church located at 3809 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.

These interactive and informative trainings are available to all who want to learn more about HIV/AIDS, gain understanding of and sensitivity to those living with HIV/AIDS and people interested in TIHAN volunteer opportunities. Subjects covered include HIV/AIDS 101, social and psychological dimensions of the disease, living with HIV/AIDS, crafting compassionate responses, TIHAN programs and universal precautions.

TIHAN encourage all ages, including high school age teens, to participate. We ask for a \$15 materials and lunch fee. Scholarships are easily available. Many of our volunteer have no religious affiliation. For more information, call TIHAN, (520) 299-6647.

## Desert Voices Yard Sale November 6

TUCSON - It is time once again for you to do your fall cleaning, sift through your things, and eliminate! Desert Voices, Tucson's GLBT (and S) chorus is seeking donations for their annual Yard Sale Fundraiser. The Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, November 6th, 2004 at 4412 E. Holmes, near Columbus and 5th Street, from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Check out your CD's and give Desert Voices the ones you no longer listen to! Cull through that stack of books, and toss them the ones you won't read a second time. Dive into the back of your closet (but only for a few minutes) and bring out the items that are too tight, too tired or too tacky to stay there any longer. Got furniture you keep stubbing your toes on? Send it their way. Did that latest attempt at an in-home workout, not work out? They'll recycle your exercise cycle. To set up a time to make your donation, drop them an email at info@desertvoices.org, or call Becky Cohen at (520) 319-9830.

Proceeds from the yard sale, and other fundraisers held by Desert Voices, help the chorus to present their songs and share their voices at a variety of community events throughout the year. The chorus recently sang at OUToberFEST this past Saturday, and also marched in the Pride Parade on Sunday. The groups has plans to present two different concerts this season, the first in December, titled 'Naughty...Or Nice?'. For more information about the chorus and their activities, you can go to their website at www.desertvoices.org, or call their office at (520) 791-9662.

♥ Want to do something positive with your leisure time?

♥ Interested in helping people while learning about HIV/AIDS issues?



If so, the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation wants you to consider becoming a volunteer!

Volunteer orientations are open to all those interested and are held once a month at our main office, located at 375 South Euclid Avenue.

Sign up today!

Contact Jess Pabón at 628-7223 or jpabon@saaf.org

**SAAF**



P.O. BOX 50733,  
TUCSON, AZ 85703  
(520) 622-7176 (Voice)

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Office Closed Thursdays

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Informing the Community

**The Observer**

**Vote for John Kerry  
and all Democratic candidates.  
They're on our side.**

Your vote is important for our victory Nov. 2.



Want to help?  
Call Democratic HQ at 326-3716.

Continue our fight for equality.  
Join So. AZ Stonewall Democrats. For info: 323-2293.

# One Week And Four Years' Worth Of A Broken Promise

By Cheryl Jacques

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Never before has America felt more divided: divided between red states and blue states; divided between those who support marriage equality and those who are trying to convince Americans to discriminate; and even divided between Red Sox and Yankees fans. While the last example has been settled at least this year, the rest is too familiar feeling.

For the last several years, we've been a country at odds. Contrary to his promises of uniting the country, President Bush has divided us even more (except for the Red Sox and Yankees rivalry, which of course is part of a healthy American tradition).

Back in 2000, we all had hopes that President Bush's campaign promises would be fulfilled. In a letter before he took office, the Human Rights Campaign wrote to the president-elect, commending him for campaigning on "themes about uniting this country — regardless of people's differences." We indicated a strong desire to work with Bush to accomplish our shared goals of bringing Americans together. We reached out.

But President Bush recoiled from that gesture. Today we know he's broken his campaign promise. His campaign theme this year looks more like "Scare America into Division" than "A Uniter, Not a Divider."

So here we sit, less than a week away from Election Day and a

neck-to-neck race underway. Some might be thinking it's too late to do anything but vote. I'm writing to tell you that's just not true.

In the next week, start every day with a single goal: talk to at least five people about why you think President Bush is guiding this country away from its founding values of fairness and equality, and why you're going to vote for John Kerry next Tuesday, November 2.

If you need some pointers, try these:

On workplace discrimination, the president has never supported the current federal bill that would prohibit discrimination against Gays in the workplace. John Kerry has voted for it; has an office policy prohibiting discrimination against Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender employees; and is an outspoken critic of discrimination in all its forms.

On hate crimes, President Bush opposes full protection under the law. John Kerry voted for and is a co-sponsor of the hate crimes bill in Congress.

On the discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" ban on Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual soldiers serving openly in the military, President Bush is for it. John Kerry opposes it, having publicly noted the "great acts of heroism have been performed by people who are Gay."

On relationship recognition, while he's not yet there on marriage,

John Kerry is for civil unions and supports extending the more than 1,100 federal rights, benefits and obligations under marriage to same-sex couples. He's for protecting our relationships.

President Bush on the other hand supports changing the U.S. Constitution, which, in addition to banning same-sex marriage, could also prohibit civil unions and domestic partner benefits. John Kerry adamantly opposes the amendment and has decried his opponent's strong advocacy for it.

When it comes to equality, it's clear which candidate is on our side. Not only will a Kerry White House open its door to us, but it will wholeheartedly welcome and encourage participation by the GLBT community. A Kerry White House will work for our rights, not against them.

Let's hold President Bush accountable for his broken promises when we go to the polls on Nov. 2. An election can be won or lost in a week. This week, let's do everything we can to secure a win for Senator Kerry — the candidate with fairness on his side.

[Jacques is president of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender advocacy group.]

# Report: 65,000 G/L Americans Serving In Armed Forces

WASHINGTON, D.C. - An estimated 65,000 Gay men and Lesbians are serving in the U.S. armed forces on active duty, in the reserves, or in the National Guard, according to a study released Wednesday, October 20, by the Urban Institute, Advocate.com reported.

The report also found that Gay men serve in the military for the same length of time as their straight colleagues. Lesbians typically serve for longer than their straight counterparts. The institute culled its data from the 2000 Census.

"The positive contributions of 65,000 Gay and Lesbian Americans to our armed services and our national security cannot be ignored," said C. Dixon Osburn, executive director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. "The number of Lesbians and Gays in service today is equal to half the total force strength currently serving in Iraq and is more than twice the 30,000 additional troops the Army chief of staff says he needs to fight the war on terrorism. There is no doubt that America needs her Lesbian and Gay patriots fighting on the front lines."

According to the Urban Institute, conservative estimates suggest that 36,000 Gay men and Lesbians are serving on active duty. When the National Guard and reserves are included, the number grows to 65,000. According to the report, Lesbians make up 5% of all female military personnel, while Gay men account for 2% of all male military members. The total number of Lesbians and Gays serving Continued on Page Four

# Vote

**<< TUCSON'S HOTTEST GAY NIGHTCLUB**



**IBTS this week: WITCHING HOUR EXTRAVAGANZA WEEKEND**

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 30TH**  
 8:30PM "An Evening with the Ghostly Divas"  
 Hosted by Ajia Simone and special guests  
 Janee Starr, Teri Akki, and Veronica Halliwell

11PM **Costume Contest\***  
 2 CATEGORIES:  
 Most Creative or Most Outrageous

**\$100 1ST PRIZE**  
**\$50 2ND PRIZE**

\* All winners will be announced at 12:30am and must be present to win.

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 31ST**  
 11AM Troy's Recovery Bar & Bloody Mary Buffet  
 4:30-7:30PM Karaoke on the Patio with Michael D.  
 5:00PM Community Bar-B-Que  
 7:30PM-2AM: DANCE with DJ Q

11PM **Costume Contest\***

**1ST PLACE: \$250**  
**2ND PLACE: \$100**  
**3RD PLACE: \$50**

CONSOLATION PRIZE FOR EVERY CONTESTANT THAT ENTERS!

\* Must register by 10:30pm. All winners will be announced at 12:30am & must be present to win.

**FRIDAY 6-9PM: LIVE JAZZ** on the Patio with **Susan Artemis** and Friends **FREE APPETIZERS!**  
**9PM-2AM: HOT DANCE** with **DJ Mike Lopez**

616 N 4th Ave • 882.3053 • www.ibts.net

**SUNDAY, October 31**

*Halloween*  
**COSTUME CONTEST - 11:00 P.M.**

**First Prize \$200**  
**Second Prize \$100**  
**Third Prize \$50**



**YARD DOG SALOON**  
2449 N. STONE  
TUCSON, AZ 85705  
624-3858

## AIDSWALK 2004: A Success

By Anne Maley, Exec. Dir. SAAF

TUCSON - What a beautiful day October 17, 2004 was! The weather was perfect. AIDSWALK Tucson could not have had a better day. Over 3500 people gathered at Rillito for this 16th annual walk

Currently, \$232,000 of the \$235,000 goal has come in. With people still turning in sponsorships, we are sure will reach \$235,000. With an event like AIDSWALK, there are so many people to thank because so many people made it a success!

Our corporate donors led by title sponsors Desert Diamond Casino and Safeway Pharmacy demonstrated their commitment to our community through their generous support. Other major sponsors included Community Partnership of Southern Arizona, Long Realty, Intuit, Wells Fargo and many others.

Media corporate donors helped get the word out about AIDSWALK. Their involvement is significant because AIDSWALK is the largest HIV/AIDS community awareness activity in southern Arizona. It is our best chance at reaching hundreds of thousands with the reminder that AIDS is still here and that you can do something about it. Among the major media partners were Clear Channel Radio, Cox Communications, Comcast, Ashland Media, KOLD-TV, Tucson Weekly, Telemundo, and KXCI.

If you were there at AIDSWALK, you may remember the large crowd of walkers that we need to thank as well. Seeing the diversity in age, ethnicity, and lifestyles of the participants reminds us that AIDS touches everyone in our community. Together we must do what we can to assist people living with HIV/AIDS and to reduce the increase of HIV in our community. To each of you who were there, thank you! Your commitment is appreciated.

Among the walkers and teams, there are several we would like to recognize for their fund raising efforts:

1. Small Business Team (50 employees or less): IBT's and Woody's - \$2,009.
2. School Team (K-12): Hermosa Montessori - \$2,753.
3. Corporate Team: Raytheon - \$5,885.
4. Organization/Nonprofit Team: Men's Social Network - \$2,875.
5. College University Team: UA/College of Pharmacy - \$1,380.
6. Friends and Family Team: Do Gooders - \$2,483. (Deserving

honorable mention for their respective categories are TIHAN at \$2,665 and Omega at \$1,265.) The individual who raised the most money was Robert Levaro who brought in \$3565. Thank you for being there again this year.

Special guest Cleve Jones joined Scott Blades and myself in reading names during the Quilt Opening Ceremony. Family members, volunteers, and community leaders unfolded nine quilt panels from the National AIDS QUILT Project. Quilts from the local Tucson AIDS Quilt Project were also displayed at the event.

Among the community leaders present were Congressman Raul Grijalva and Congressman Jim Kolbe, Senator Toni Hellon, Rep. Ted Downing, Rep. Linda Lopez, Supervisor Ray Carroll, Supervisor Richard Elias, Supervisor Ramon Valadez, Mayor Bob Walkup, Council Member Steve Leal, Council member Fred Ronstadt and Council Member Carol West, and Candidate Amanda Simpson.

AIDSWALK is crucial to the services and programs of SAAF. This year alone we have seen a reduction of 8.9% from federal funding and of \$50,000 from local funding. Community support is necessary if we are to meet the growing demand for our services. AIDSWALK 2004 was all about every step making a difference. Your support makes a difference.

## 65,000 G/L Americans

Continued from Page Three  
represents 2.8% of the nation's military forces. The report also finds that Lesbians and Gays have served in all military eras in the latter part of the 20th century.

In 2003, the Urban Institute also reported that approximately 1 million Lesbian and Gay veterans are living in the United States. Wednesday's report shows a concentration of those veterans in specific areas. The three states with the largest population of Gay and Lesbian veterans are California (137,000), Florida (67,000), and Texas (66,000). Among metropolitan areas, Los Angeles (26,599), Washington, D.C. (25,399), San Diego (21,465), Chicago (18,246), and New York (17,057) have the highest populations of Gay and Lesbian veterans.

# Vote

AS I SEE IT..... BY CLARK



**At The YARD DOG**

**T.K.O.'s "Bitches Buffet"**

**Saturday Oct. 30th 7 - 8 PM**

**\$5.00 Per Plate**

BENEFIT FOR TIHAN

**Graveyard Grass**  
**Eyeballs & Worms**  
**Tombstone Bread**

**"Witches & Bitches"**  
**Show 9 pm**

## Flu Shot Concerns Flare For People With HIV

ATLANTA - Some health care advocates have raised concerns that people living with HIV may be getting overlooked in the scramble to immunize people who are most at-risk for influenza during the shortage of flu vaccine in the United States, the PlanetOut Network reported.

People living with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, are at high risk of getting the flu, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention(CDC). Other high-risk groups listed by the CDC include the very young, the elderly and pregnant women.

Images of senior citizens waiting in long lines for the flu vaccine have been common on the television news. The government has responded by making the elderly a high priority for the flu vaccine.

But in a letter written Monday , October 18 to Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson, Terje Anderson, executive director of the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA), expressed concern that HIV-positive people may be getting overlooked.

"You stated that 'we want to make sure first off that our elderly citizens, those age 65 and older, get the vaccine first,'" wrote Anderson. "We strongly support efforts to get the flu vaccination to senior citizens, but we are deeply troubled by your statement that seniors will take precedence over the other vulnerable populations (including people living with HIV/AIDS) for whom the consequences of influenza are equally potentially deadly."

One problem is that there is no strategy plan to administer the existing supply of flu vaccine to HIV-positive individuals, according to Lynn Schulman, director of communications for Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC). "Pharmacies and vendors that give out flu shots apparently have no risk of sanctions if they don't give them to people at high risk," she told the PlanetOut Network.

Many HIV-positive individuals who have asked their health care providers about a flu shot have been told there is no vaccine available. "I would usually be getting a flu shot, but my doctor's office (specializing in treating HIV/AIDS patients) is purportedly out," said Joe, an HIV-positive man in San Francisco.

HIV-positive people need to be proactive about getting a flu shot, according to NAPWA's director of public affairs, Paul Feldman. "If they believe they're candidates for this vaccine, they should vigorously assert their rights to get the vaccine from their health care providers," he said.

Even if they can't get a flu shot, health experts say HIV-positive individuals should at least get a pneumonia shot, called the pneumococcal vaccine. It protects against a deadly germ that's a common complication of the flu, one that can infect the lungs or bloodstream or cause meningitis. Unlike the flu shot, ample supplies of the pneumococcal vaccine are available.

If someone does come down with flu symptoms, GMHC urges them to contact a doctor immediately, because physicians can treat them with anti-viral medicines that can lessen the symptoms.

HIV-positive individuals living with people who do not have compromised immune systems should urge those people to get the flu mist vaccine, according to Schulman. The flu mist will protect those people and thus reduce the risk of transmitting it to their HIV-positive companions, she said. HIV-positive people should not use the flu mist because it contains a live version of the flu virus.

## Robinson Reaches Out; Doesn't Regret His Election

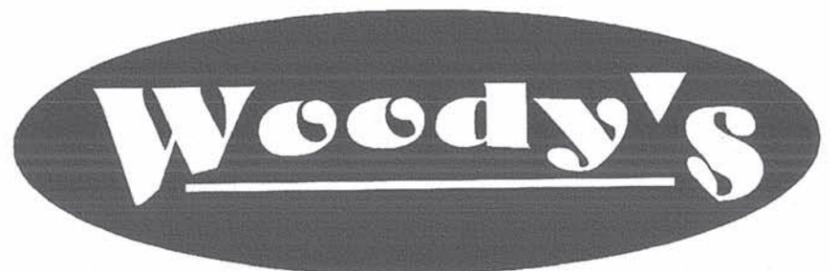
LONDON - The Gay Episcopal bishop at the center of the debate over homosexuality that has riven the global Anglican Communion said Wednesday, October 20 he is sorry conservatives are upset by his consecration but added that he has no regrets about his groundbreaking elevation to the church's leadership, Advocate.com reported.

Bishop V. Gene Robinson, in an Associated Press interview, also said he is committed to working with those who opposed his confirmation to see how they can remain together in the fellowship of churches, despite differences over what the Bible says about Gays. Robinson is the first openly Gay priest to be elected bishop in the Anglican Communion. "We regret how difficult this made things in many parts of the communion," said Robinson, who leads the diocese of New Hampshire. "Certainly, I do not regret that my becoming a bishop has been a real blessing to me and my diocese."

Robinson's comments came two days after an Anglican commission set up to study ways to maintain unity within the communion said the U.S. church should apologize for having elected Robinson without consulting more communion members. The report did not comment on Robinson personally or ask him to resign, and it recommended no punishment for the Episcopal Church, as conservatives had demanded. The Episcopal Church, with 2.4 million members, is the U.S. province of the 77 million-member Anglican Communion, which traces its roots to the Church of England.

The commission did ask Anglican provinces for a moratorium on electing Gay bishops and developing liturgies for same-sex blessing ceremonies. Robinson said he anticipated that Gay clergy would agree to the moratorium on becoming candidates for bishop, but he did not think they should be required to do so. "If they feel called, I think they should put their names forward," he said.

Anglican leaders worldwide will spend months studying the report's recommended solutions for ending the rift. Robinson said he did not expect any reconciliation "in my lifetime" of those with opposing biblical views on homosexuality. Still, he said, he hopes conservatives will be open to exploring how to remain in the same church. Some U.S. conservatives have already broken from the Episcopal Church, while others have formed a network of dioceses and congregations that they call a "church within a church," in opposition to Episcopal leaders. "If the conservatives choose not to remain at the table, I don't know what can be done about that," Robinson said. "What I'm saying is that I'm going to be at the table. The American church is going to be at the table."



3710 N. Oracle Rd. - Tucson AZ

Dave and Franks 1st Annual

MasqueCROTIC

Halloween Ball & Costume Contest

Sunday Oct 31st

Featuring DJ Michael Lopez  
8PM - 1AM

Costume Contest

Hosted By Janee Starr

Sign up 9PM

\$150 Best Erotic Costume

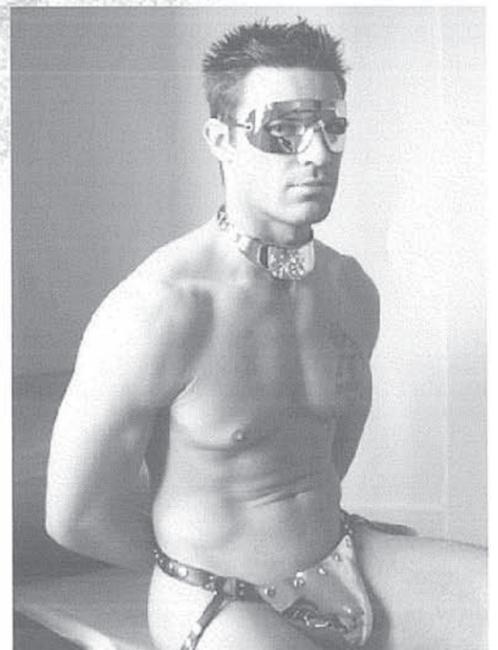
(must meet state liquor laws)

\$150 Best Scariest Costume

\$150 Best Original Costume

Contest Starts at 11PM

minimum 6 contestants per category



Safe Sex

Is Bringing Men Together

## Bloomberg Loses Bid To Toss G/L Benefits

NEW YORK - Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg lost round one Monday, October 18, in his bid to overturn a law that would force companies doing business with the city to provide domestic partner benefits, 365Gay.com reported.

A judge refused to grant Bloomberg a temporary restraining order to prevent the law from going into effect October 26.

The legislation was passed by city council in May. The following month Bloomberg vetoed it saying the law would hurt the city. Two weeks later council overrode the veto by a 41 - 4 vote.

The law would require contractors that do more than \$100,000 of business each year with NYC to offer benefits to the partners of Gay and Lesbian workers equal to those the companies give heterosexually married couples.

The legislation would make health coverage available to tens of thousands of additional people in the New York City region and because many companies which do business with New York are national corporations it could also provide same-sex benefits to hundreds of thousands of people across the country.

Manhattan Supreme Court Justice Faviola Soto ordered both Bloomberg and lawyers for city Council back to court on Nov. 8 for oral arguments.

When he ran for mayor Bloomberg backed the measure but once in office changed his mind, saying that city money

should not be used "to advance social issues." He also cited a decrease in competition for contracts and a resulting increase in the cost of services.

Gay civil rights advocate Matt Foreman resigned from the NY Human Rights Commission Tuesday to protest Bloomberg's legal action against the benefits law.

Foreman was appointed to the Commission by Bloomberg.

Foreman, who is also executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in a letter to Bloomberg and Commission chair Patricia Gatling said that he felt as a matter of conscience obligated to resign.

"Through its lawsuit, the Administration is saying loudly - and inexplicably - that Gay and Lesbian families do not merit being part of this tradition," Foreman's letter said.

Bloomberg spokesman Jordan Barowitz said that Foreman was a "valued member" of the 13-member human rights commission, which addresses discrimination citywide, and will be missed.

But, added the mayor believes the law to be illegal.

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## Georgia High Court Throws Out Hate-Crimes Law

ATLANTA - The Georgia supreme court, in a 7-0 decision, threw out the state's hate-crimes law Monday, October 25, calling it overly broad and "unconstitutionally vague," reported Advocate.com

The law, in place for just four years, had called for stiffer criminal penalties for crimes in which a victim is chosen because of "bias or prejudice." But, unlike similar laws in other states, the law did not specify which groups might be victims. The ruling came in the case of a white man and woman convicted of an assault on two black men in Atlanta's Little Five Points neighborhood.

Angela Pisciotta and Christopher Botts were accused of beating two brothers, Che and Idris Golden, in 2002 while screaming racial epithets. The two later pleaded guilty to aggravated assault. The trial judge sentenced them to six years in prison, plus an additional two years under the hate-crimes law, which allowed up to five years to be added to a sentence because of bias or prejudice. Pisciotta and Botts appealed to the state's highest court in April. Their lawyers argued that the hate-crimes statute should be struck down because almost any crime involving prejudice falls under its scope.

The court wrote Monday that it "by no means" condones the "savage attack...or any conduct motivated by a bigoted or hate-filled point of view" but that the broad language of the law didn't pass constitutional muster. Originally, the proposed legislation defined a hate crime as one motivated specifically by the victim's race, religion, gender,

national origin, or sexual orientation. After fights over the inclusion of sexual orientation, the language was removed by the legislature and replaced with a section defining a hate crime as one in which the victim or his property was targeted because of bias or prejudice. The bill was passed in 2000.

Forty-eight states have hate-crimes laws, but Georgia's was the only one that did not specify which groups qualified for protection. In Monday's ruling the judges wrote that the standard could be applied to every possible prejudice, "no matter how obscure, whimsical, or unrelated to the victim." It cited a rabid sports fan picking on a person wearing a competing team's cap or a campaign worker convicted of trespassing for defacing a political opponent's yard signs. A lawyer for Pisciotta, Brandon Lewis, said he doesn't oppose all hate-crimes laws, just Georgia's. "It was just terribly overbroad," Lewis said. "It's an absolutely needed law; it just needs to be done in a constitutional way."

The law's author, Sen. Vincent Fort, an Atlanta Democrat, said he would start working on a new version of the law for the upcoming legislative session, which convenes in January. "It seemed as if they are giving a road map, a direction to revise the law, and that's what we intend to do," said Fort. Fort said civil rights groups are seeking federal hate-crimes indictments against Pisciotta and Botts. Lewis said it is possible they could now face federal charges, but he thought it unlikely.

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# Smoking By G/L Youth At 'Alarming' Rate

**RANCHO MIRAGE** - The percentage of young Gays and Lesbians who smoke is nearly double the national average among teens, 365Gay.com reported.

The findings were presented Monday, October 18, at the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association's annual conference.

While smoking has been identified as the single most preventable cause of death and disease in the world, surveys have consistently found that LGBT people smoke at rates at least 40 to 60 percent higher than the general population.

The new research included national data specific to adolescents with same-sex attractions or behaviors as well as results from a GLMA survey of LGBT health care providers about smoking and patient counseling practices.

It was prepared by the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health) and analyzed by Alyssa Easton, PhD, MPH of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Randall Sell, ScD of Columbia University.

Add Health surveyed over 12,000 adolescents in grades 7-12 to assess health status, causes, and contexts of health-related behaviors.

The study found that eight percent of participants indicated any same-sex attractions or same-sex relationships. The study found that youth who reported any same-sex attractions or relationships had significantly higher rates of smoking compared to youth who reported only opposite-sex attractions or relationships. Nearly 45% of females (44.7%) and 35% (34.9%) of males who reported any same-sex attractions or relationships reported smoking. For youth with opposite-sex attractions or relationships, that figure is about 29% for both males and females.

"As a pediatrician and as president of GLMA, I am deeply concerned about the Add Health Study findings," said Kenneth Haller, MD.

"The time is now to take action to prevent more LGBT youth from initiating smoking, and to help LGBT youth and adult smokers to quit," Haller said.

In addition, a GLMA Health Care Provider Survey - developed in conjunc-

tion with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Office on Smoking and Health - assessed cessation counseling practices and smoking behaviors among GLMA members and other health care providers, the overwhelming majority of whom were LGB or T.

More than 77% of health care provider respondents spent fewer than three hours in their education/training program learning about smoking cessation counseling, and over half (53.3%) responded that the amount of time spent learning about smoking cessation counseling was "not enough".

A majority of respondents, however, do ask their patients about smoking and do provide at least 5-10 minutes of counseling to patients. Of those who do not regularly counsel, 61.3% said they would be more likely to counsel LGBT patients if there were LGBT-specific smoking cessation materials available.

In addition to recommending development of LGBT-specific cessation materials and approaches, a majority of respondents expressed a need for LGBT-tailored ad campaigns and training for health care providers in cessation counseling in order to more effectively LGBT smoking.

"As research continues to point to high smoking rates among LGBT populations—especially disproportionate among adolescents—it is important to continue these types of surveillance efforts and support programs to help reverse these trends," said Easton.

Smoking kills over 440,000 people each year in the United States, and health care providers have an important role to play in promoting smoking cessation. GLMA is in an ideal position and has the skills to help reduce smoking-related morbidity and mortality among LGBT and all communities."



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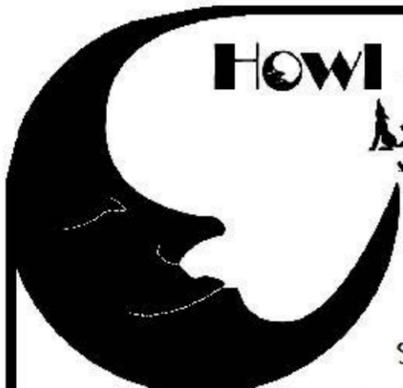


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# UPDATE

## La CadeñaAlianza Hispana GLBT Holds First Annual Dance

TUCSON - The members of the La Cadena invite you to their first annual "Fiesta De La Cadena" at the Inn Suites Hotel, 475 N. Granada on Friday, October 22.

The event begins with a dinner at 6:30 p.m. followed by a theater production presented by Teatro Orgullo/Grupo Sin Fronteras, "Reunion" a play written by Edgar Poma, translated, adapted and directed by Enrique Perez Gomez.

The play begins at 7 p.m. The fiesta then begins at 9 p.m. with music dancing and live entertainment. This event is free.

Teatro Orgullo - Te Invita presenter de la obra teatral/invites you to the presentation, Reunion, Written by Edgar Poma - Directed by Enrique Perez Gomez.

"Durante una reunion familiar, Ricardo, hijo unico de Samuel y Maria Ramirez, llega desde Hermosillo para informarle a su familia que esta enamorado...de un hombre! Esta obra teatral trata de esta tema, en una manera gentil y a veces con humor. Acompañenos a esta reunion familiar para mejor conocer a los Ramirez." During a family reunion, Ricardo the only son of Samuel and Maria Ramirez comes from Hermosillo to inform his family that he is in love...with another man. This play deals with just that, in a gentil and sometimes humorous manner. Come join this family reunion to meet the Ramirez'." (English scenes synopsis available)

Thursday/Jueves 21 de octubre, 7:00 p.m., El Pueblo Neighborhood Center, 101 W. Irvington. Friday/Viernes, 22 de octubre, 7:00 p.m., Inn Suites Hotel, St. Mary's and Granada. Gratis/Free. Sponsored by/ Patrocinado por Grupo Sin Fronteras - League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC, So. Arizona) - La Cadena - Alianza Hispana GLBT.

## Wingspan Community Altar For Dia De Los Muertos

TUCSON - Now through Sunday, November 7, please stop by Wingspan, 300 E. 6th Street to contribute to and view the community altar for Dia de los Muertos. Everyone is welcome to contribute to the altar.

On Sunday November 7th, Wingspan will have an open house before the All Souls' Procession. The purpose of the altar is to honor the memory of someone who touched your life and has passed on. This can be anyone—from a family pet to your grandfather, from Gloria Anzaldua to your first love. Altar items could include: Picture of the one being remembered, items they were fond of, something to snack on, candles (unlit-we will light them for the open house), flowers, gifts, pictures of saints, toy skeletons, skulls or bones, sugar skulls, books, etc.

Because Wingspan cannot guarantee security, please do not bring items for the altar that have sentimental meaning or value. Please, also, do not bring any alcohol or potentially dangerous items. By building an altar, we acknowledge we all go on, and not being physically present

isn't the same as being gone. Dia de los Muertos is a time of joy because we are surrounded by those that we love—both living and dead.

Please join in at Wingspan for an All Souls' Procession Open House on Sunday, November 7, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. The Open House is free and open to everyone.

Wingspan will light candles, eat, view the altar, and watch the Procession down 4th Ave. The All Souls' Procession is an annual community parade organized by a group of local artists, performers and community organizers. They are committed to the creation of public ritual, education and enrichment. Their primary focus is to create a unique forum for community involvement, culminating in an elaborate, one evening ceremonial procession. For more information on the Procession, please visit <http://allsoulsprocession.org>

## NY State Judge Upholds Marriage Ban

ALBANY - A state judge has upheld the state's domestic relations law that prevents the issuance of marriage licenses to same-sex couples, 365Gay.com reported.

Ten Gay and Lesbian couples, including the mayor of Nyack and his partner, went to court after they were refused marriage licenses in the Town of Orangetown, which includes Nyack.

The group became known as the Nyack 10. The suit was filed shortly after the mayor of nearby New Paltz began performing marriages without licenses last February. The suit accused the state of violating the constitution.

In his ruling late Thursday, October 21, acting state Supreme Court Justice Alfred Weiner said the Legislature's use of phrases such as "husband and wife" and "bride and groom" made its intentions clear.

Norman Siegel, the lawyer for the group, said Friday that he will appeal. "The struggle to obtain equal justice under the law for same-sex couples in New York State will continue," he said.

Nyack Mayor John Shields accused judge Weiner, who is running for a Supreme Court seat, of making "a political decision rather than a decision for the civil rights of all people."

A second suit on behalf of Gay and Lesbian couples is also making its way through the state court system. The Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, filed suit in March seeking the right for same-sex couples to become legally wed.

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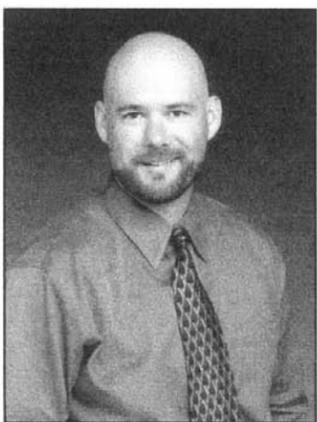
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# Court Told Denying G/L Partner Adoption Endangers Children

RICHMOND - Virginia's refusal to allow birth certificates of children born in the state but adopted by same-sex couples outside of Virginia to show the names of both parents is endangering the children a court was told Monday, October 25, reported 365Gay.com.

A legal brief filed on behalf of three families, two in Washington, DC, and one in New York, who adopted children born in Virginia, says that "Schools, hospitals or others may refuse services or access to records without a birth certificate that specifically names each legal parent."

After the state refused to issue birth certificates that reflect both legal parents, the families filed a lawsuit in the Circuit Court for the City of Richmond.

The Commonwealth of Virginia argues that the form lists a mother and father and officials would not issue birth certificates listing two parents of the same sex for fear that it would confuse the record-keeping system that must be "uniform and consistent."

The Commonwealth also argued that because unmarried couples in Virginia cannot adopt children, the state could not recognize legal adoptions that occur out of state by such couples. A lower court judge agreed, and now the case is on appeal at the Virginia Supreme Court.

"Having an accurate birth certificate that lists both parents is important for both the child and the parents," said Jack Senterfitt, Senior Staff Attorney in Lambda Legal which filed the 'friend of the court' brief.

"Schools, hospitals or others may refuse services or access to records without a birth certificate that specifically names each legal parent."

According to the Lambda Legal brief, when children don't have birth certificates accurately listing both of their legal parents, they are denied valid legal documentation of their identity.

"A birth certificate is a basic and important document for every child to have. Without a valid and accurate birth certificate, children might not be able to register for school and their parents might not be able to make medical decisions for them in emergencies," Senterfitt said.

Lambda Legal's brief is based on the Full Faith and Credit Clause of the U.S. Constitution, which requires that a judg-

ment (such as an adoption decree) from a court in one state be honored in other states. Senterfitt said that treating these children differently than other adopted children also violates the guarantee of Equal Protection in the U.S. Constitution.

Lambda Legal also argues that the primary purpose of the vital records system is to ensure that the information is complete and accurate, and that Virginia law requires the Registrar to develop forms necessary to do that.

Lambda Legal won a similar case last year, when a Mississippi judge ordered the state to issue a birth certificate naming both parents of a boy adopted by two women in Vermont. The judge cited the Constitution's Full Faith and Credit Clause in his decision.

## Sarah Bernhard To Guest-Star On 'The L Word'

LOS ANGELES - Out icon Sandra Bernhard will appear on a multiple-episode arc of Showtime's The L Word during the hit drama's second season. Bernhard will play Charlotte, a well-known straight author who teaches an exclusive writing course for young authors, Advocate.com reported.

Jenny (Mia Kirshner) auditions for and is rejected from the class, but she doggedly persists until Charlotte finally accepts her for the course, leading to much sparring, contentious interaction.

Season 2 of The L Word launches February 20.

## Queer As Folk And Degrassi Honored

LOS ANGELES - The SHINE (Sexual Health in Entertainment) Awards for 2004 were recently, and Gay-inclusive TV series were among the honorees, Advocate.com reported.

Showtime's Queer as Folk won its third consecutive Series Storyline award, this year for a plotline revolving around HIV-positive former teen prostitute Hunter, who contemplated having sex with a girl. The N's Degrassi: The Next Generation took the Youth Episodic prize for "Pride," the episode in which Gay teenager Marco comes out to his friends.

The N also won Youth Informational Documentary for the "Living With HIV/AIDS" episode of A Walk in Your Shoes, which showed an HIV-negative teen being enlightened through his friendship with an HIV-positive teenager.

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## 'Lesbian Shorts' Plays November 5 - 6 - 7

TUCSON - The Bloody Unicorn Theatre Company, in conjunction with Old Pueblo Playwrights, presents "Lesbian Shorts - A Festival Of Original One-Act Plays With A Sapphic Slant". The Festival will present the world premieres of three new one-acts, including plays by local, award-winning authors, along with bellydance performances and other surprises.

All of the works will be presented each night, as a single bill. Performances of the Festival will take place Friday through Sunday, November 5-7, at 7:30 PM on Friday and at both 2:30 PM and 7:30 PM on Saturday and Sunday. The show will be at the Cabaret Theater, upstairs in the Temple of Music and Art, 330 S. Scott Ave. Tickets are \$13 and can be reserved by calling (520) 990-3628 or e-mailing kyraroc@yahoo.com. Group discounts are available for parties of eight or more.

"Lesbian Shorts" includes both comedies and dramas, each with a lesbian relationship as a central feature. 'Toys', by local playwright Adrienne Perry, is a comedy about misunderstanding, sexual frustration, and experimentation in bed. In the drama 'Matchbox Songs and Gypsy Hymns', by Sarah Pariseau, a pair of high-schoolers who share a love of The Rolling Stones edge towards the possibility that they might share something more. 'Vamp', by local author Ry Herman, is a vinyl-clad supernatural romantic comedy containing more than you thought you wanted to know about monsters, meteors, and imaginary friends. Entertainment between the plays will be provided by the dancers of Midriff Crisis, Tucson's leading tribal bellydance troupe.

Adrienne Perry and Ry Herman are both members of Old Pueblo Playwrights, which is co-producing the event along with the Bloody Unicorn Theater. Sarah Pariseau is a Rhode Island teenager whose play was selected by the Festival Board out of a stack of hundreds being considered.

Ry Herman, also the Artistic Director of the Festival, says that "This is really a wonderful opportunity for some great playwrights to have their work showcased. I've been wanting to produce Adrienne's play for years, and when we found Sarah's play - which is really an amazing piece, it's very hard to believe she's still in high school - the idea for the Festival started to come together. If it goes well, we're thinking of making it an annual Festival, maybe with a different theme each year. Right now, there aren't enough venues for new plays, and there's a lot of work out there that deserves to be seen."

The Bloody Unicorn Theater Company was created six years ago, although as a producing organization it has frequently performed under different stage names. It has always, however, been consistent in presenting excellent, original works by local playwrights; every work produced by the company has been a world premiere, and many of the productions have won awards and critical acclaim. Old Pueblo Playwrights is a Southern Arizona organization that offers authors workshops, feedback, and festivals such as the Play-In-A-Day Competition and the acclaimed annual OPP Staged Readings Series.



Teresa Simone as Liz and Rachel Langman as Meagan in the play "Matchbox Songs and Gypsy Hymns". PHOTO: Emma Graham



Teresa Simone as Liz and Rachel Langman as Meagan in the play "Matchbox Songs and Gypsy Hymns". PHOTO: Emma Graham



Allison Rose as Chloe and Dana Cianciotto as Angela in the play "Vamp". PHOTO: Emma Graham



Martie Van der Voort as Janice and Allison Rose as Teddi in the play "Toys".

PHOTO: Emma Graham

## Ryan Douglas Tabbed As New Spokesperson For L'Oréal

NEW YORK - Cosmetics giant L'Oréal announced that Kyan Douglas of Queer Eye for the Straight Guy would be the new spokesperson and consultant for the company and all of its brands, Advocate.com reported.

He will be the first spokesperson to represent the categories of cosmetics, skincare, and hair products for both men and women, and he will also advise and educate customers as well as consult with the company on new product development.

"As his huge following will tell you, Kyan always has the perfect grooming advice, always given with a healthy dose of humor," said Carol J. Hamilton, president and general manager of the L'Oréal Paris division of L'Oréal USA, in a statement. "We are thrilled to welcome Kyan to the L'Oréal family, where he can continue to share his expertise and help make both men and women feel better about themselves."



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# GLBT Sacrifice Work For Kerry Campaign

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Despite the lackluster U.S. economy, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) people from around the country have taken extended leaves of absence or have quit their jobs in recent weeks to help Sen. John Kerry defeat President George W. Bush on Nov. 2, reported the PlanetOut Network.

"In the closing weeks of this election, we're seeing a huge influx of people from the Gay community who want to help move this country in a new direction," Brian Richardson, an openly Gay spokesman for the Democratic National Committee, told the PlanetOut Network. "They are working around the clock to elect John Kerry, and the Democratic Party is proud to have them stand with us."

John Marble, spokesman for the National Stonewall Democrats, says that in the past two months, 350 people signed up on the group's Web site to either volunteer or host out-of-town volunteers. Additionally, Stonewall clubs around the country have organized bus trips through Election Day into battleground states. Stonewall is working with America Votes, an umbrella group that includes the Human Rights Campaign and the 527 progressive group, America Coming Together, to turn out the vote for Kerry, other progressive Democrats and to defeat anti-Gay ballot initiatives.

Andrew Lachman, 34, is the "affirmative-action straight male" on the board of the Stonewall Democratic Club in Los Angeles and founder of Stonewall Young Democrats. A contractual and litigation lawyer with a small firm in Beverly Hills with previous political organizing experience, Lachman came out of political "retirement" to work for the Kerry campaign in the battleground state of Pennsylvania.

"I felt California was a 'safe' state for Kerry," Lachman said by cell phone from Philadelphia, taking a break from watching the sixth game of the Red Sox-Yankees playoffs.

"I asked myself — if Bush won, had I done everything I could to get John Kerry elected? If I stayed in California, the answer would be, 'No,'" he said. "I got back to politics because I believe I had to do all I could to save this country."

Others joined the campaign on their own. Fresh from working as an assistant to Michael Edelstein, executive producer of the ABC hit "Desperate Housewives," Eric Morse, 27, and his writing partner were setting up pitch meetings in Hollywood for a television pilot they'd just finished when Morse's political conscience kicked in.

"Although I had worked very hard on this project, I felt that it was more important to put my work on the back burner to volunteer for the Kerry campaign," Morse told the PlanetOut Network. "I think one of the major problems with this election is that most Americans live in their own worlds and don't feel that they have been directly affected by Bush's policies. I thought it was important for me to join this campaign to help educate people on the issues and make sure they were seeing the big picture."

Based in Washington, D.C., Morse has been involved in LGBT outreach and the get-out-the-vote effort, especially in swing states. On Thursday, October 21, Morse officially joined the Kerry campaign's communications de-

partment.

"Queer as Folk" cast members are also taking time to fly to battleground states to rally the vote for Kerry.

"Bush is playing God with our lives," Michelle Clunie said from the show's set in Toronto during a Kerry campaign-organized conference call. "I don't think I'd be able to sleep at night if I didn't do something."

Actor Robert Gant said he has been going to Ohio to confront the "odd apathy among Gay people" and underscore that the next president will appoint possibly three Supreme Court Justices. "Being hung-over is no excuse not to vote," Gant said, adding that he wished he could say, "If you don't vote, you get your Gay card revoked."

"QAF" cast members, including Peter Paige, Scott Lowell and Randy Harrison, will variously hit Ohio, Maine, Pennsylvania and Florida.

## Lebanon Gays Push For Law Change

BEIRUT - In what is being described as the first publicity offensive of its kind in the Arab world, a Gay rights group in Lebanon is trying to overturn the country's ban on homosexuality, according to Middle East Online on 365Gay.com.

The group, Hurriyyat Khassa or Private Liberties, wants to end Article 534 of Lebanon's penal code, which punishes those guilty of "sexual intercourse against nature" with a one-year jail sentence.

Hurriyyat Khassa started its campaign with a screening at the American University in Beirut of the movie "Victim."

"We chose 'Victim' because this 1961 movie helped change the law in Britain (on homosexuality)," said a member of Hurriyyat Khassa.

"It had the same impact for homosexuals that the film 'In The Heat of the Night' had for the battle against racism in the United States," he explained.

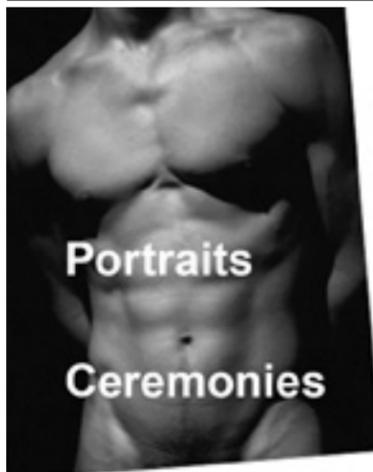
According to the Internet Movie Database, "Victim" tells the story of a married lawyer who is being blackmailed after having an affair with another man. As the attorney tries to fight the blackmailer, he meets other people whose lives were ruined by the threat of having their sexuality exposed. The movie ends with the attorney and his wife coming to terms with his homosexuality, and an indictment on England's sodomy law, which the film portrays as nothing but a device for blackmail.

According to Helem, another group lobbying for LGBT rights in Lebanon, what was true in Britain in the '60s is true in Lebanon today.

"The first thing that a policeman attempts to obtain from a homosexual are confessions of sexual relations with politicians ... and it is always the weak who are caught, as the rich and powerful (Gays) always find ways for protection," the group said.

But Helem noted the problems in Lebanon are minor compared to other countries in the Arab world.

According to Amnesty International, some 44 people in Saudi Arabia were sentenced to jail terms for homosexuality, including four who were sentenced to death. Human rights activists have frequently criticized Egypt for abuses suffered by men suspected of being Gay.



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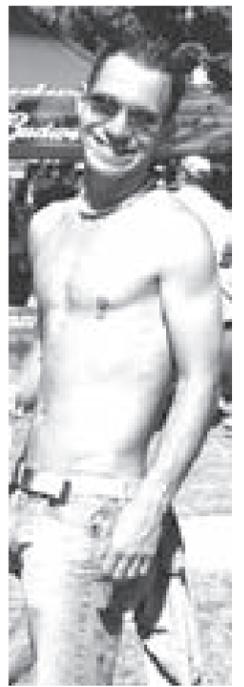


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# MUCH MORE BEAUTY THAN BEAST.....



**POLITICS 2004**

by Mark R. Kerr

**'Republicans Are Wrong, Correct It On November 2!'**

In a last-gasp, desperate attempt to hold onto power, by garnering the support of the few, moderate undecided voters - who have been unaware, oblivious or just plain, clueless and out of touch to the past ten months left, the "Smirking Chimp," "Occu-pier, Liar & Thief," George W. Bush, in a softball interview, has flip-flopped (again and it was reported in this column) on same-sex marriage.

Dubya, with Laura glued to his side said, in an interview October 25, for a morning television show, that he disagreed with the Republican Party platform oppos-ing civil unions and domestic partnerships.

"I don't think we should deny people rights to a civil union, a legal arrangement, if that's what a state chooses to do," Dubya gushed to Charles Gibson's question on same-sex marriage.

Gibson followed, "So the Republi-can platform on that point, as far as you're concerned, is wrong?" "Right," the Smirking Chimp blathered.

So next Tuesday, November 2, eleven states, Utah, Ohio, Oklahoma, Michigan, Arkansas, Georgia, Montana, Mississippi, Oregon, North Dakota and Kentucky are voting, thanks to the Republicans, on initiatives banning recog-nition of same-sex marriage, and/or civil unions and domestic partnerships and that two states, Missouri and Louisiana had passed such measures, are just mistakes?

Mailers and television advertise-ments, sent out by the Republican National Committee in Washington, D.C., September 21 & 24, trying to link Democrats to homosexuality and same-sex marriage, for which the Republicans owned up, confirm-ing their involvement, is wrong too?

So what about then, during his acceptance speech at the Republican convention in New York, September 2, that if reelected, Dubya would continue the fight for the proposed Federal Marriage Amend-ment (FMA), which bars civil unions, domestic partnerships and access to the judicial branch of government, resulting in the Gay and Lesbian Republicans withhold-ing their endorsement of his reelection, just a misunderstanding?

Excuse me but who wrote and approved the Republican Party platform, barring recognition of same-sex mar-riages, civil unions and domestic part-nerships and was ratified at the Republican convention in New York, on August 25?!

Then in a visit with Pope John Paul II in June, when Dubya asked for his help to get the FMA passed in Congress and to join the effort to get it ratified into the U.S. Constitution wasn't right then?

On May 17 of this year, when Dubya reiterated his support, in a written statement, for the FMA. "The need for that amendment is still urgent and I renew that call today," Scott McClellan, the junta's press flack read, really a lie?

As previously reported, the Bush Administration, on February 27, took a swipe at San Francisco's Gay wedding parade, instructing the Social Security Administration to ignore name change requests based on marriage licenses issued after February 12, in the city. The order applies to all such requests emanating from San Francisco County, including those of heterosexual couples, just a misstatement?

On February 24 and 28 of this year, when Dubya called for a Constitu-tional Amendment on the subject and announced his support for FMA, really a simple boo-boo?

Not denying people rights, so for whom is this "Smirking Chimp" trying to fool, since earlier this year, as the latest attempt, Dubya tried to rescind the rights of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) federal employees so that they could be fired for whom they are.

Also, when it comes to HIV/AIDS, over these past four, long, tortuous years, Dubya has cut federal funding for ADAP, HIV/AIDS research while giving handouts to corporate fat-cats. Dubya and his henchmen have invoked religious ideology when it comes to information about HIV/AIDS and condoms.

It's interesting that Dubya actu-ally got something right on the Republican Party when he blathered that they're wrong. Correct the mistake on November 2, by exercising your rights, despite the fact the Republicans don't want you to do so and will have their goon squads out to challenge people at the polls, and vote!

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# UPDATE

**AROUND THE GAY WORLD.....**

## French LGBT TV Network Signs On

PARIS - The first French language LGBT television network signed on the air, October 25, in France, 365Gay.com reported.

This channel is "a giant leap for television, a small step in high heels," presenter Eric Gueho

Called Pink TV, the network's founders believe there's a ready audience for the channel, and not just among France's estimated 3.5 million Gays.

"Gays are speaking to the French. But not all French speak to Gays. But it will come," Gueho said.

The network is available on cable and satellite television and largely financed by France's three main commercial networks.

Pink's sports presenter, Brigitte Boreale, the world's first trans sports-caster.

Boreale, wearing black high heels and a miniskirt to the launch said she plans to cover the often macho world of sports "with an angle of attack that's totally different."

She's also keen on marginal sports like - yes - underwater hockey. "It's totally mad," she said.

Pink founder and president, Pascal Houzelot said about 50 percent of programming will be devoted to subjects "of direct interest to Gay guys and girls."

"Perhaps we'll set ourselves apart in the way we tackle subjects and the subjects that we tackle," said Houzelot. "Clearly, it will address itself in the first instance to Gays but is much larger than that and will, I hope, seduce a diversified public."

As well as sports Pink will feature daily doses of dubbed versions of Wonder Woman and Queer as Folk, and X-rated films four nights a week after midnight.

The network's launch was front page news across France.

The Paris tabloid Le Parisien carried "The Gay Tide" as a banner headline Monday over a photo of a rainbow flag.

A pair of pink stilettos graced the front page of the Liberation newspaper, which endorsed the channel in an editorial titled "Good One."

"Pink is coming at the right moment," Houzelot said. "There's an evident change in mentalities. We've seen society changed. We've seen the law change ... In France, we can clearly say that Gays have gone from the era of tolerance to the era of legality, which simply means equality."

France has in recent years made big strides, legally recognizing Gay couples and electing a Gay mayor for Paris. Homophobic remarks will be punishable with prison and fines under a draft law expected to be debated in parliament before the year's end.

But the group SOS Homophobia recorded a doubling in attacks on Gays last year, with 86 cases against 41 in 2002. In January, a 35-year-old Gay man was severely burned by attackers who doused him with gasoline and ignited it. Sebastien Nouchet told investigators that one of his aggressors said: "You're going to die, faggot."

The government suspended Noel Mamere from his post as a town mayor for a month after he presided over France's first Gay marriage on June 5.

A court in Bordeaux in the southwest later annulled the union of Bertrand Charpentier and Stephane Chapin - a ruling the couple has vowed to appeal to the European Court of Human Rights.

"Marriage is great! I recommend it to everyone," Charpentier said after the July ruling. But President Jacques Chirac and his popular finance minister and would-be successor Nicolas Sarkozy are among those who have spoken against Gay marriage - even though a poll earlier this year showed that a majority supports such unions.

Pridevision, the world's first Gay TV network signed on two years ago in Canada. Q Television is up and running in several US cities including New York, San Francisco, and Boston. Logo, a new Gay channel from Viacom is readying its launch.

Britain already has two channels on the Sky Digital platform - GayDate TV, a teleshopping channel targeting the Gay community, and GayTV, a late-night soft-core porn channel. And Sweden has Gay-friendly programming.

## Ireland Considers Greater Rights For G/L Couples

DUBLIN - Ireland, a mostly Roman Catholic country where divorce was legalized only seven years ago, is contemplating another leap away from its conservative past—and toward greater rights for Gay and Lesbian couples, Advocate.com reported.

An all-party committee of lawmakers plans to meet next week to discuss the need to modernize Ireland's family law, including the possibility of granting Gay couples rights similar to those enjoyed by married heterosexual couples. All parties agree that the Irish constitution, written in 1937, reflects outdated values for the 21st century. "If you look at the provisions for the family in the constitution, they were written when women were seen as being tied to the kitchen sink," said committee chairman Denis O'Donovan, who confirmed that lawmakers would "take an objective look" at the possibility of granting legal status to Gay couples.

While members of the two major parties—O'Donovan's Fianna Fail and Fine Gael—continue to reflect conservative social values, left-leaning members have called for Gays to receive exactly the same familial rights as heterosexuals. Jan O'Sullivan of the opposition Labour Party said Gay couples should have "the same rights that everyone else has, whether you call it marriage or something else."



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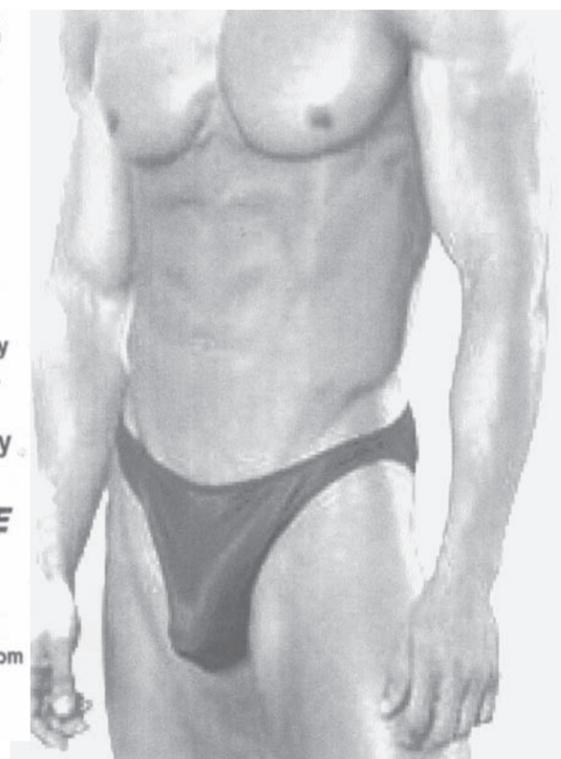
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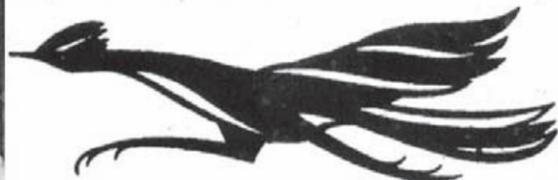
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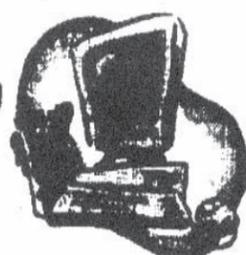
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# HOROSCOPES

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Is the election over yet? Welcome Thanksgiving month and the gaggle of turkeys gobbling the political pork. Celebrate or commiserate with your constituencies. Join a party and party on and Out, comrades!

**ARIES (MAR. 21 - APR. 20)**  
Someone you know knows exactly what you need. Who can that be? Play hide and seek throughout November with a certain special someone, proud Ram. Keep searching every nook and cranny. Before you know it, things heat up. Mars enters passionate Scorpio mid-month and love turns to lust. Will it last through Thanksgiving? Let's hope so! Pass the hot sauce.

**TAURUS (APR. 21 - MAY 21)**  
The stress may ratchet up from various quarters but queer Bulls are as cool as cucumbers throughout November. The secret is to channel anything annoying into your work. You have ample energy combined with great powers of concentration now. Don't waste it. Bury yourself in minutia, if necessary, and slowly dig yourself out. By mid-month you begin to see the sky.

**GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)**  
Forgo convention this November, pink Twin. There is too much happening and too many temptations to keep you on a conservative path. Good! Boundless optimism gets you into all sorts of mischief, if you are lucky. But all play and no work eventually takes a toll. Mid-month you yearn to make a good impression on the job. Make it in your seat cushion as you nurse your hangover.

**CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)**  
There is something to be said for stability. There is also something to be said for shocking change. Gay Crabs, who gravitate to the familiar, find themselves navigating a changing landscape throughout November. Prepare to put out a few raging fires when long dormant issues charge and ignite. Pursue a new domestic policy which includes full partnership benefits.

**LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)**  
How long will you allow others to take advantage of your good nature and generosity? Proud Lions are sick and tired of all those campaign promises and yearn for regime change. So speak up and say what is on your mind. Jupiter insures that nothing you say will rub others the wrong way. With practice, you will rub others just right. Get lots and lots of practice this November.

**VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)**  
Covetous queer Virgins can get all that they need and want this November ... and much more. There is a wilde constituency that campaigns for your affection. But before your greed overtakes your common sense, think about what is really important and valuable to you. Are you willing to compromise yourself for a barrel of pork and block of votes? Hell yes.

**LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)**  
All eyes are upon you and you are something to see. Gay Libras wind sail to the center of attention as November rolls out the red carpet. You have quarts of charm, panache and charisma. But don't pour it out all at once. As the planets move on, you become less the ingenue and more the Wizard of Ooze. Pace yourself throughout the month to avoid an oil slick.

**SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)**  
If you feel an emptiness, fill your cup with good Gay Outreach this November. Who says that proud Scorps are selfish bastards? Well some say that, but prove them wrong! I happen to know that as you selflessly donate your efforts, there is wilde Jupiter lurking in the background, poised to deliver you a huge reward. Yeah, it's true. Some bastards do have all the luck!

**SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)**  
There are those Gay Archers who know how to nimbly balance work and play. Alas, there are also quite a few who dissipate their best efforts on the job and crawl home each night to recharge. November is the month to take a break from the grind and create a members only club for fun, frolic and general mayhem. Exactly which member do you have in mind?

**CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)**  
Prepare for a November filled with high level meetings and a chance to rub assorted elbows until they chaff. Pink Caps have the most moxie early in month so don't be shy around bosses. You need to plant seeds for future success while you are fertile and the time is ripe. By the 23rd your heart begins to waver and your eyes wander. Someone else may then tend your garden.

**AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)**  
Aqueerians are poised for a global campaign this November and are only waiting for enough votes to get them to the gate. Plan your course so that you can learn as much as possible in your travels. You hanker for adventure and excitement and you will find it. However by the 23rd, you may find that intrigue is less intriguing than you expected. Decompress closer to home.

**PISCES (FEB. 20 - MAR. 20)**  
How is it hanging, Chad? This November, Guppies are consumed with passion and find very creative ways of locating, harnessing and releasing it. Of course some prefer to stay harnessed.... You have opportunities galore to meet and greet. By the 23rd you will happily toot your own horn as well as the horns of a few new pals. Those are horns... aren't they?

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**NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE**

by Lee Thorn

**Ombudsman?**

A few months ago Mayor Walkup was on ARIZONA ILLUSTRATED talking up his accessibility with the story of a young kid, perhaps as young as to be in grade school, calling the mayor's office and asking to discuss municipal affairs. The mayor very proudly reported that he took the kid to lunch.

No doubt most mayors, even ours, would be pretty confident about defending his policies to an elementary school student. But if you write His Honor and ask him why a town as big as Tucson is running a sleazy extortion racket, or why we can't raise the educational requirements for police recruits, or how the fish tank that was supposed to be the centerpiece of our urban renewal project got cut and what will replace it, or why our ten-year city plan puts no requirements of any kind on the city or the so-called "developers," you will likely get a stony silence.

And when the mayor isn't regaling young boys with luncheon recitations of his accomplishments, he has the host of ARIZONA ILLUSTRATED to ask him questions that are surely even easier than any an honest boy could come up with. Listening to that program's host lob softballs to the mayor reminds me of the great old radio commercials that Tucson's own Jim Click of car sales fame used to do with his flunky Hank.

Hank would say how he understood that Jim had a real good deal on something or other, and Jim would begin his reply with, "That's just exactly right,

Hank." Click was paying Hank to be his flunky. I have no idea what Bob is doing for Bill.

In a community where vigorous journalism is being practiced, rival news sources follow up on each other's stories. Politicians loathe the practice and refer to it as "pack journalism." The members of the pack take notice when a public official dodges a question and they all start repeating that question. The public official generally is forced to give up the goods. In Tucson, where nothing resembling rival news outlets exist, it's easy and almost automatic for politicians to simply ignore requests for information.

Journalists can use various freedom of information policies to obtain facts and figures, but there's no way for the lone journalist to force office holders to explicitly justify their decisions.

One baby-step beginning of an answer might lie in the creation of a city ombudsman, an official who would try to get answers to questions and complaints posed and made by ordinary citizens. The ombudsman would make a yearly report to the public that included the most important answers he got and all the refusals to answer. That report might be the embryo of official accountability that our journalists have been too shy to create.

Before you scoff and say, "This is Tucson, land of low and no expectations," let me remind everyone that we've long had a city office called the Independent Police Auditor. The mere fact that the office has not lived up to the "independent" part of its name is no reason to believe that it couldn't do so in the future. All you'd need is a director whose capacity for annoyance could occasionally trump her careerism.

One might reasonably wonder if there would be any practical value in having an ombudsman report, a written record of stumblebums muddling through their terms of public office. I say that even if it wouldn't have immediate practical value it would be interesting historically and it might serve as a consciousness-raising tool.

Future Tucsonans might find it interesting to know whether someone actually believed that a big fish tank was going to bring 100,000 tourists a year to downtown Tucson and revitalize it, or whether the whole thing was a WMD-type scam designed to get the construction contracts flowing. And wouldn't it be great to know the name of the person who finally stood up and said, in the highest circles of city government, "We better drop this fish tank nonsense before we drown in it"?

The consciousness raising could work both for citizens generally and for journalists. The citizens would be reading answers to questions about how decisions were made and refusals to answer some of those questions. The journalists would hopefully be getting embarrassed by the public exposure of their irrelevancy.

[Thorn welcomes comments, suggestions for future columns, and tips on local skulduggery that ought to be exposed. Write to Box 85571, Tucson, AZ 85754. e-mail: [Doid3@aol.com](mailto:Doid3@aol.com) ]

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## NON-BAR CALENDAR Groups / Clubs / Organizations /

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27**

#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Richard and T. Jay for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Richard and T. Jay at 881-7919.

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

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28**

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Jim 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 Jim at 790-8735.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29**

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Karol hosts Trivia Night. If you don't know how to play, we'll teach you; it's an easy game to pick up. For more information, please call Karol at 744-9017.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30**

TIHAN Volunteer Training today at St. Mark's Presbyterian Church, 3809 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Community Forum on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Aging Issues. St. Mark's Presbyterian Church, 3809 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street from 1:00 until 4:00 p.m. A introduction to elder issues with a special emphasis on financial and legal considerations of importance for GLBT elders and their families. Free. For more information or to register call Wingspan at 624-1779

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Steve hosts Pinochle 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 Steve at 664-2076.

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

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1**

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

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6**

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

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8**

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

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13**

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

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15**

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

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20**

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

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

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22**

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

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27**

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

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29**

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

## BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30**

HOWL AT THE MOON - They're jumping the Halloween gun here at the Moon. A mystery judge will be awarding prizes throughout the evening, and a Midnight Monster Mash with your favorite oldies playing from Midnight until 2:00 a.m.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31 - HALLOWEEN**

IBT'S - Halloween with all the bells and whistles is planned here but you'll have to check their ad next week for the full details. You won't be disappointed!

VENTURE-N - Halloween Party - Great Prizes. Get your costumes ready!

WOODY'S - Dave & Frank's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Masquerotic Halloween and Costume Contest featuring DJ Michael Lopez 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Costume Contest hosted by Janee Starr (sign-up 9:00 p.m.): \$150 Best Erotic Costume (must meet state liquor laws); \$15 Best scariest costume; \$150 Best Original Costume. NOTE: Minimum six (6) contestants each category. Contest starts at 11:00 p.m.

YARD DOG SALOON - The Tucson Knight Owls present their Halloween Show "Witches and Bitches" plus a special Buffet from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.\$5.00 a plate. Show st arts at 9:00 p.m. - a donation is requested since it is a benefit for TIHAN Christmas dinners.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7**

WOODY'S - 5<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Party. Watch for details.

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10**

WOODY'S - "Boys Gone Wild" party 8:00 p.m. til close.



## DAILY BAR CALENDAR

**SUNDAY**

COLORS - Fabulous Brunch 11am - 2pm with complimentary mimosa. Dinner 5-10pm..

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 10:30 am. Chuckwagon Breakfast 10:30 am - 1:30 pm, includes Bloody Mary or Mimosa. \$2 Smirnoff Sunday. DJ Jake playing country favorites 8:30 pm to close.

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

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 4pm. Free Pool all day. Pool Tournament 5:30pm. \$1.50 Hamburgers / \$1.00 Ten Ounce. Draft. Drink Specials available.

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 BMs, Mims 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-?. \$2.50 sirloin burger w/salad 5-9pm. Karaoke with Michael D. 9pm

YARD DOG - Open Sundays 10am - 1am. Bloody Marys or Screwdrivers \$1.75 from 10am - 3pm.

**MONDAY**

COLORS - Open 11am for lunch; 5pm for dinner. Happy Hour 4-7pm. Domestic beer and well cocktails \$2.25

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. Monday Munchies 3 - 8 pm with reduced prices on appetizers. Pool Tournament 6:30 pm - \$3 entry fee, bar matches pot. Draught Beer Specials for players.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-7pm, All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 1pm. Happy Hour 4-7. Free Pool all day. Drink Specials Available.

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 6pm. Free pool til 4pm. \$2.75 Skyy Martinis 4-8. 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. Beer Bust 3-7pm.

**TUESDAY**

COLORS - Open 11am for lunch, 5pm dinner. Happy Hour 4-7pm. Domestic beers and well cocktails \$2.25. Karaoke 10:30pm to close w/Johnny DJ.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. Tequila Tuesday: \$2.00 well margaritas, 50¢ off call tequilas. Karaoke with Calabaza Cabeza Karaoke 8 - 11:30 pm

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 1pm. Karaoke with Smiling Julie. Drink. Drink Specials available. Happy Hour 4-7.

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic til 7pm. Bartender Calls It drink specials..

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am.50¢ off any Tequila until 7pm Beer Bust 3-7pm.

**WEDNESDAY**

COLORS - Open 11am for lunch; 5pm dinner. Happy Hour 4-7pm Domestic Beers or Well cocktails \$2.25.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. Free Pool all day. Draught Beer Specials all day. Beginning couples dance lessons with Amanda 7:30 - 8:30 pm. Country DJ Jake plays 8:30 - close

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 events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 1pm. Happy Hour 4-7 Karaoke w/Kim 8pm-12am. Drink Specials all night. Kitchen open until midnight for finger foods.

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 Beer Bust 3-7pm.

**THURSDAY**

COLORS - Open 11am for lunch, 5pm dinner. 4-7pm Happy Hour Domestic Beers or Well cocktails \$2.25. Karaoke 10:30 - close with Johnny DJ.

HOWL AT THE MOON -Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. \$2.00 Mexican Beers all day. Karaoke with David Z from 8 to midnight.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hours Noon-7pm, DJ 9-1 All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR/GRILL -Open 1pm. Happy Hour 4-7 Kitchen closes 8:30 p.m. Drink specials available.

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio open 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Pool Tourney 7pm. \$3 entry. Special prices for players. Steak Nite (4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month). Bring your own or get it here \$5.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic beer til 7pm. Free Pool 8 to close. Volleyball Court is Open.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am.50¢ off any Bourbon til 7pm. Beer Bust 3-7pm.

**FRIDAY**

COLORS - Open 11am for lunch. Dinner 5-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm domestic beers or well cocktails \$2.25.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. Line Dance Lessons 7:30 to 8:30 pm. .

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. Fish Fry & Shrimp Fry Noon to 8:30pm only \$5.99. Happy Hour 4-7. Drag Show every Friday with Crystal Abrahms and Bunny FuFu and guests. Disco dancing with DJ Paul after the show.

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio open 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. DJ 9pm to close.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic beer til 7pm. Martini Party - Well Martini's \$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. Beer Bust 3-7pm. Kennel open 9pm.

**SATURDAY**

COLORS - Open 11am for lunch; 5-10pm full dinner.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 10:30 am. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. \$3.00 Cheese Burger & Fries all day. Country DJ with the best in country dance music 8:30 to close

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

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 1pm. Latino Night 1st & 2nd Saturday every month w/DJ Eduardo 8:30-close Drink specials available. Latino Drag Show every 2nd Saturday. 3rd & 4th Saturdays Super Disco Mix with DJ Bing Bing.

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. Beer Bust 3-7pm. Kennel Open 9pm.



## NOTICES

**HALLELUJAH RECOVERY DRUG & ALCOHOL 12-STEP.** Every Thursday 5:30-6:30pm at Cornerstone Fellowship, 2902 N. Geronimo. 622-4626.

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

**P.F.L.A.G. - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays** - is a support group available to anyone who has a son, daughter or friend who is Gay. Call 575-8660 or write P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740-6264. 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 (TPT) activities. Meetings luncheons and dinners are held monthly. For dates, times and information call 529-2269, leave name and phone number. [Tucsonpt@primetimersww.org](mailto:Tucsonpt@primetimersww.org)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:TucsonSources@aol.com)

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**BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO** — a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, Call the Bears Hotline (520)790-5775 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 of visit our website at [www.botop.com](http://www.botop.com) All are welcome to our general meetings/potlucks on the 2nd Friday of every month, 7pm at Sentinel Bldg. On the City of Tucson Resource Campus, 310 N. Commerce Park Loop on Bonita St. between St. Marys and Congress.

**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.

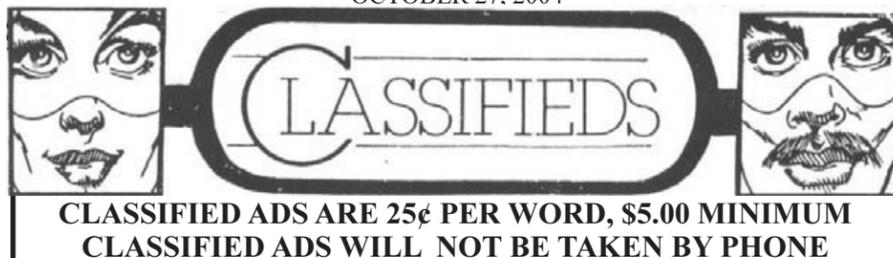
**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE GROUP -** Outreach to Gay and Lesbian people in Arizona. Meets monthly. Write to P.O. Box 893, Phoenix, AZ 85001 or call Eddy Walters, (602)371-1102

**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.



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**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](http://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.

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

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

**FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SPORTS TEAMS** and updates on Gay Games 2002, contract TEAM ARIZONA at their website: [teamarizona.org](http://teamarizona.org)

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

**THE MEN'S MASSAGE GROUP** meets the 3rd Sunday of each month. It is a good way to meet other men of all ages, safely, and with the art of nurturing touch. There is a fee. You must sign up in advance to participate. Call Marc at 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 OUToberFEST. Inquiries about support groups and individual needs should be directed to Wingspan and other local agencies listed here. For more information call 622-3200 or visit the TPI website at [www.tucsonpride.com](http://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 CareTeams 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 838-3975.

**AZdykes** is a new email list for Lesbians living in Arizona. For information mail [tyan@theriver.com](mailto:tyan@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 KXCI.

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

**SOUTHERN ARIZONA GENDER ALLIANCE (SAGA).** The Southwest's largest transgender and gender-variant advocacy organization. Speakers and panelists available. General meetings monthly on the 1st Mondays at 7pm; Dezerz Girlz MTF Support) meets 2nd Mondays at 7pm; Dezerz Boyz (FTM Support) meets 3rd Tuesdays at 7pm. Also serving partners, youth, intersex, service providers and allies. Call (520)867-0083 for more info.

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

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

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

**SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS.** Starting this February, the Tucson Rape crisis Center will be providing free confidential group services for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender survivors of all manner of sexual assault. Interested persons please call Mirto Stone, MSW, at 327-1171 (if unavailable leave message with phone number).

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

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

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

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

**TUCSON GREATER SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION.** Interested? Call Kelly Quinn, (520)906-0669 and or Mona Garcia 256-8728.

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

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

**REVEILLE 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.

**"OUT ON THE TRAILS - EQUESTRIAN FUN!"** Rider Club forming. Looking for women and men to ride together on the trails of Southern Arizona. Must have own horse, truck and trailer. For more info write: "Out On The Trails" P.O. Box 44045, Tucson, AZ 85733-4045

**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 tantric 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.

**LGBT SUPPORT GROUP FOR VICTIM/SURVIVORS OF Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Hate Crimes, Bias Acts, Harassment.** Call Lori at Wingspan, 624-1779, ext. 20. Services are free.

**NEW TUCSON SOBRIETY SUPPORT GROUP.** Secular Organizations for Sobriety - Sundays 8:00 - 9:30 p.m. at 739 N. 4th Avenue. Contacts Rick R. 520-792-2604 or Gary S. 520-323-1969. More information at [www.secularhumanism.org/sos/](http://www.secularhumanism.org/sos/) This group is an alternative to 12-step programs.

**MEN'S KINK DISCUSSION GROUP** (Open to all who identify as male and are 18 or older) meets 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at Desert Dominion, 3843 E. 37th Street, Tucson, AZ. (Map available at [www.desertdominion.org](http://www.desertdominion.org)) For those who are kinky or just curious. No fee, contributions are appreciated, but not required.

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## Talking To Mama T

BOSTON - When Teresa Heinz Kerry invited GLBT delegates at the July Democratic National Convention to "call me Mama T," the crowd burst into chants of "Mama T," "Mama T."

It was the kind of spontaneous love-fest Heinz Kerry has not always received on the campaign trail, where she has been described as more cerebral than emotional and where she has been on the receiving end of right wing attacks, Chris Bull of PlanetOut.com reported.

It is easy to see why she connects with Gays and Lesbians. Even though she does not have Gay children and opposes same-sex marriage, she comes across as the picture of a PFLAG mom, the kind of middle-aged straight woman who gets the warmest reception at Pride parades. If her husband is elected president, she pledges to make Gay tolerance a centerpiece of her first lady duties.

For both the LGBT community and Heinz Kerry, this connection has been a welcome relief from the increasingly nasty tone of the campaign and John Kerry's occasional reluctance to tout his pro-Gay credentials. Despite the fact that she was once married to late Republican Sen. John Heinz, the GOP has tried to turn the billionaire philanthropist into the second coming of Hillary Clinton, demonizing everything from her Portuguese accent to the causes supported by the Heinz family foundations she controls.

Shortly after the last presidential debate, Vice President Cheney and his wife, Lynne, criticized John Kerry for bringing up their Lesbian daughter, Mary, to underscore his belief that homosexuality is not a choice. In an exclusive interview with PlanetOut's Bull's Eye as the debate raged on, Heinz Kerry reflected on the Mary Cheney flap, the twisted motives of anti-Gay activists, same-sex marriage and how her idea of tolerance differs from President Bush's.

Were you caught off guard by the indignation of the Cheney family at your husband's remarks?

I'm surprised John's comments have taken on a negative theme. John was being positive and complimentary of how the Cheneys have handled, openly, the question of their daughter's Lesbianism, just as John Edwards was in his debate. Probably, if John had really thought about it, he'd have mentioned no name. He'd have talked about how people of all kinds of religious persuasions, conservative and liberal, have Gay children, and that it's not a choice.

So it breaks down along political lines?

This is one of the big problems. A lot of people, particularly those of the more fundamentalist view, think of homosexuality as a sex thing rather than a sexuality thing. They are really very different. A person doesn't choose their sexuality. For the other side, there's a tinge of the suggestion of sin, of the choice of misbehavior, quote-unquote, which is not the case at all.

Why not mention Mary Cheney?

If he'd been debating in the primary, he probably would have mentioned Dick's daughter.

You mean [Rep.] Dick Gephardt who has an openly Lesbian daughter, Chrissy?

Right. The Democratic primary. So I don't think John meant anything but, "Look guys, it happens everywhere and to everyone," and some people deal with it well and some people don't.

It seemed to me the more newsworthy part of the debate is that the president of the United States said he didn't know whether homosexuality is a choice, despite the overwhelming evidence that - as you say - it's not.

That's that moral tinge of sex versus sexuality I was talking about. The fact that he doesn't know is part of that problem. The important thing for us is to respect science and Gay people's views. John dealt very sensitively with the issue of people who have been married for a long time and realize finally who they are and what they are and actually end up being supported by the other spouse. He humanized it very well. I really think they are picking on this to divert attention from the other issues at hand.

On the other hand, I'm sure you can understand how painful the scrutiny of a campaign like this can be on a family. None of your three sons are Gay. But what if one were? Wouldn't it make you especially protective of privacy?

No, not at all. As a parent, I love my children, and I hope I first gave them their roots and then their wings to fly. What a parent wants is for them to have the confidence to be who they are. I want to love all my children no matter who they are and to be proud of all of them.

A lot of parents don't feel that way.

It's something I've seen in my campaigning. So many mothers and fathers and their children are separated by a lack of understanding or guilt or embarrassment or religion. I'm reminded of a fundraiser I was doing in California sometime before the primary. A man said, "I wish you were my mother" instead of asking me a question. I knew immediately what he was saying: "My mom couldn't handle it." I felt really badly for him - and a lot of parents who don't know how to deal with the situation. We are going through one of those difficult transitions where we try to allow people to feel the love they have for their Gay children even if they don't fully understand. My message is: It's not for us to judge, it's to love our kids. If you believe in God, he will do the judging afterward.

Both you and your husband have been demonized by the usual right wing suspects, from Rush Limbaugh to Matt Drudge to the Swift Boat Veterans.

I don't listen to those things, you know. Everything they say just reflects poorly on them.

LGBT people long have been subjected to smear campaigns by many of the same kinds of attack dogs, depicted as threats to God, country, family and, today, marriage. The RNC has acknowledged a mailer saying John Kerry wants to allow Gay marriage and ban the Bible. Does that give you a special empathy for their plight?

Because I grew up in a dictatorship, I saw first-hand how people try to control others. They do whatever it takes to control and suppress what they don't like. In many respects, what I might represent is a kind of independence some of these people don't want to see in women. Period. Or in the spouse of a senior official and, God forbid, the president.

They just can't handle that.

It goes along with them calling me opinionated as opposed to obviously well-informed. I look at these people and remember telling my boys, "What you say is what you are. So don't say things you don't mean or that are mean." I look at these people and don't want their negative energy, so I don't let it get to me. I act like a boomerang. I just do my work.

I notice you told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette earlier this year of your critics: "They've got to kill something that's strong. What can I do? Nothing. I know who I am. My friends know who I am." That's an attitude that really resonates with the LGBT community, which has had to face down scurrilous attacks for years.

I used the word "kill?"

Yes.

Wow. What I mean is that if you are not part of their way, they don't want you to be strong. If you are strong, it will weather. And they don't want you to weather.

How does that relate to the right wing's fear and loathing of Gay equality?

This is a human condition. People are afraid of changes, of things they don't understand. Some people can't handle it, so they don't think about it. Others go after it. If you believe in a tolerant America, there's a difference between a moral society and a moralistic society. There's a difference between a tolerant society and a permissive society. There's a difference between peace-making and pacifism. But we're not allowed to have that kind of nuance.

[ED NOTE: Space does not permit the publishing of this entire article. But what we have here give us an inside look at the woman who may become first lady]



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