

Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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WEEKLY OBSERVER

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ISSUE 1068

Annual Road Runner Regional Rodeo In Phoenix January 14 - 16



PHOENIX - AGRA - Arizona Gay Rodeo Association - is celebrating their 20th anniversary. One of the top rodeos for just about that long - the Roadrunner Regional Rodeo will take place the weekend of January 14-15-16.

The RRR will be held at The Rawhide Wild West Town located at Scottsdale and Pinnacle Peak Roads in Scottsdale (480-502-1880).

Tickets are \$12.00 per day for rodeo admission at the gate. No advance sales and tickets are not refundable. AGRA is planning to provide free shuttle bus service to and from the host hostels, rodeo ground and some bars. Bus schedules will be announced just before events.

For questions about hotels, contact Ron Lindblad at 602-312-1941. There is RV parking at Rawhide Wild West Town with hook-ups and electricity.

Call Ron for more information.

You must be 21-years-old with valid I.D. in your possession to purchase and/or consume alcoholic beverages. No outside beverages permitted. Firearms are not permitted on the grounds.

The schedule of 8:00 a.m. start time with the Grand Entry around noon. Entertainment at 1:30 p.m. Party and dancing until 11:00 p.m.

Entertainment will be provided in the pavilion both Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. For more information call the AGRA HotLine at 602-265-0618 or visit their web site at www.agra-phx.com

Roadrunner Regional Rodeo is an IGRA/Bud Light sanctioned rodeo. Additional prize money is offered by Bud Light, and will be awarded according to IGRA Bylaws.

Montana High Court Rules Equal Benefits

HELENA - The Montana Supreme Court ruled Thursday, December 30, that the state must provide Lesbian and Gay employees of the University of Montana System with the option of purchasing health insurance and other employee benefits for their domestic partners, 365Gay.com reported.

The ACLU began the lawsuit in February 2002 on behalf of two Lesbian couples and PRIDE, Inc., a Montana based Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender advocacy organization whose members include employees and domestic partners of employees of the University of Montana System.

The lawsuit charged that it was unconstitutional to deny same-sex couples access to health insurance, disability coverage and other benefits available to married employees and even to committed opposite-sex couples that signed an affidavit of common law marriage.

"This is an incredible victory for the Lesbian and Gay employees of the University of Montana System who need to protect their families just like their straight colleagues do," said Scott Crichton, Executive Director of the ACLU of Montana which brought the suit.

Carol Snetsinger and Nancy Siegel, two of the plaintiffs, have been in a committed relationship for more than eight years. Snetsinger works in the biology department at the University of Montana, Missoula, and Siegel is a physical therapist.

Due to the small size and limited purchasing power for health care of the place where Siegel works, she has no access to group insurance through her employer and has been forced to purchase private insurance that is inferior to and much more expensive than coverage that the married university employees are able to purchase for their spouses.

"The court has said that same-sex couples who form committed relationships can no longer be denied the same protections and benefits that it affords different-sex couples," said Crichton.

The court, in a four-to-three decision, ruled that the University System's policy of excluding Lesbian and Gay employees from equal employment benefits violates the state constitution's equal protection guarantees.

"[T]he equal protection clause states that 'No person' shall be denied the equal protection of the laws," wrote Judge James C. Nelson in a concurring opinion.

"The language is clear and unambiguous. 'No person' means simply

that - there is no language in this clause excepting out of this guarantee Gay and Lesbians. At least our society has not come to the position that homosexuals are not even to be considered as persons."

Snetsinger broke down in tears when she was told of the ruling.

"It's been a long wait, and now we're thrilled that Gay and Lesbian employees of the University System will be able to insure their families," she said.

Calif. Domestic Partners Law Now In Effect

SACRAMENTO - A California law granting same-sex couples nearly identical legal rights and responsibilities as married spouses went into effect New Year's Day, reported 365Gay.com.

The law expands legislation passed in 1999 that allowed California Gay and Lesbian couples to register as domestic partners. In 2001 the Legislature gave registered partners the right to make medical decisions for incapacitated partners, to sue for a partner's wrongful death and to adopt a partner's child.

Under the new law, most of the other rights and responsibilities of marriage are added. These include: community property, mutual responsibility for debt, parenting rights and obligations such as custody and support, and the ability to claim a partner's body after death.

The law does not allow for joint tax filing and certain other protections under state law, and does not provide access to over 1,000 federal protections that married couples enjoy.

The Domestic Partners Rights and Responsibility Act is considered by most LGBT civil rights advocates as a stopgap measure until the right to marry is granted in California.

The new law survived a lawsuit brought by two of the conservative groups also fighting suits over Gay marriage in the state.

Lawyers for the two groups sought to have the law declared illegal, claiming it violates the spirit and intent of a 2000 ballot initiative approved by voters that holds California will only recognize unions between a man and a woman as valid.

In September Sacramento Superior Court Judge Loren E. McMaster said that there is nothing in the language of Proposition 22 that "restrict[s] the grant of rights and benefits to persons who have registered as domestic partners, even if

Continued on Page Five

UPDATE

Hate Crimes Forum January 27

TUCSON - The Wingspan Anti-Violence Project (WAVP) will hold a community forum to reflect on the outcome of the David Higdon trial and discuss responses to hate crimes in general.

On trial for the murder of Philip Walsted, a 24-year old Gay man murdered in the 4th Avenue area in June, 2002, Higdon has been incarcerated since his arrest. The murder has been labeled a hate crime. The trial process begins with jury selection on January 11, and is expected to last two weeks. "This trial has been a long time in coming," says Lori Girshick, Coordinator of the WAVP. "It has been difficult for Philip's family members as the case has taken many twists and turns. It finally looks like justice is within reach."

Confirmed panel members so far include Teresa Godoy, county prosecutor in the case, Detective Tim Rupel of the Tucson Police Department's Special Investigations Section who works closely on hate crimes in Tucson, Matt Heil, writer and reporter with Echo Magazine, who has extensively covered hate crimes and bias acts, and a survivor of a bias-motivated attack. Panelists will discuss this case in particular and what we can do as a community to respond to hate violence. The community forum will be held on January 27th from 6 - 8 p.m. at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th Street. It is free and open to the public.

The Wingspan Anti-Violence Project is part of a national coalition of LGBT anti-violence programs which pools statistics, information, and strategies to address hate violence. "We encourage LGBT community members to call the WAVP crisis line to report any bias acts and receive support, safety planning, and referrals. Staff is available during week-days from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. for walk-in hours and appointments. Wingspan is committed to advocating for individuals and working on local and state levels to respond to hate violence," continues Girshick.

TOPIT Jan. 15 - 17

TUCSON - TOPIT (Tucson Old Pueblo Invitational Tournament) is sponsored by the International Gay Bowling Organization (IGBO) and is scheduled to take place January 15 - 17 at Santa Cruz Lanes, 3665 S 16th Ave, Tucson (off of Ajo and I-19).

Desert Coyotes (Tucson LGBT Bowling League) is looking for participants who wish to represent Tucson in this Tournament, and for volunteers to help run the event.

For more information, call Dan Diffie, (520) 404-3591. For more information, visit their Web site, <http://topitaz.com/>.

'Ruthless: The Musical' January 13 - 30

CSOON - Arizona Onstage Productions (Falsettoland, Assassins) presents the Off-Broadway musical comedy "Ruthless! The Musical," playing January 13 - 30, at The Zuzi Little Theatre.

With music by Marvin Laird and book and lyrics by Joal Paley, "Ruthless! The Musical" is a high speed musical that The New York Daily News says is "A hilarious show business musical." "Ruthless! The Musical" has been awarded the Outer Circle Critic's Award for Best Off-Broadway musical.

Third grader Tina Denmark wants the lead in her school play more than anything in the whole world. Enter mysterious talent agent Sylvia St. Croix, a woman of unknown background, willing to give Tina tips of the business. What lengths will Tina go to get the lead?

"Ruthless! The Musical" is a warm and crazy satire that pays homage to such classics as The Bad Seed, All about Eve, Valley of the Dolls, and Gypsy. Big, bright, and borderline insane plotlines and songs fill every scene in what The New York Times calls "A spoof that has enough absurd plot twists and multiple identities to fill several movies."

Arizona Onstage Productions Artistic Director Kevin Johnson directs a cast that includes Jayln Wheatley, Stephanie Sikes, David Olsen, Diane Thomas, Liz Cracchiolo-Redman, Sarah Spiegleman and Shayna Vercillo. Music Direction is by Chris Wingert. Choreography is by Stacy Johnson. Costume design is by Chris Allen. Scenic support is by Tom Benson.

The Zuzi Little Theatre is located at 738 North 5th Ave - near the corner of 5th and University in the Historic Y Building. Tickets are \$20 general admission and \$16 for students and 55 or older. Group rates are available.

Performance Schedule: January 13, 14, 15 - the curtain will rise at 8:00 p.m. Sunday, January 16, the curtain will rise at 2:00 p.m. January 21 - Special Late Night Show! - The cost of your ticket includes an after dinner desert and champagne buffet. Champagne and desert start at 8:30. The show starts at 10:00 p.m. Normal ticket prices apply. January 22 - dark. Sunday, January 23, 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Friday, January 28 - 8:00 p.m. Saturday, January 29, 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Sunday, January 30, 2:00 p.m.

To purchase tickets, call (520) 882-6574, or for more information call (520) 270-3332.

Desert Voices Seeks New Voices

TUCSON - Are you busy working on your New Year's resolutions? If any of them include meeting new people, having more fun and working to advance positive social change, especially for the GLBT community, you might want to consider singing with Desert Voices!

Desert Voices, Tucson's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and straight/supportive (GLBTS) others chorus, will be holding open rehearsals on the first three Mondays in the new year, January 10 and 17 at Water of Life MCC, 3269 N. Mountain Ave, just north of Ft. Lowell, beginning at 6:30 p.m. each evening. If you love to sing, if you get a thrill from performing on stage, and if you want to make a difference in the world, come to an open rehearsal and see what Desert Voices is all about.

A voice check will be conducted between 6:30 and 7 p.m. on the evenings mentioned. Their Spring show is titled "Our True Colors" and will be presented on April 16, 2005 at The Muse Community Arts center, 516 N. 5th Avenue in Tucson. The show will focus on the colorful diversity of the GLBTS community.

Please call the Desert Voices office at (520) 791-9662, or email to info@desertvoices.org to sign up for a voice check during these open rehearsals. For more information about the chorus, check out their website at www.desertvoices.org. Rehearsals for the April show start immediately on the January 3, so the earlier you audition, the faster you'll get in the 'sing' of things! Be a voice! Come out and sing!

On-Line Observer Update

TUCSON (ON) - To all those people who responded to the new Web site, the management and staff of The Observer expresses their thanks.

Most of the response has been positive but there has been some negative feedback regarding the "new" look - which was to show the online community what the print edition looks like.

For those who have had complaints about the site, taking a lot of time to download or make the page bigger, etc., the wonderful twosome of Mike and Morgan of Mighty Mouse Consulting, who wanted to take on the challenge of the online Observer, and have succeeded, has given those with this problem a solution - The Observer Archive, which is in pdf form, so one will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view it.

In addition to the current week, Mike and Morgan are in the process of uploading the entire archive of The Observer (1976 to the present) on the Web site. To get to the archive, just go online to: <http://www.tucsonobserver.com> and click on the Archive Link.



♥ 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



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COMMENTARY. . . . by Justice James C. Nelson

New AIDS Inhibitor Found German Scientists Say

'We The People'

[The Montana university system's policy of denying employees' same-sex partners the health insurance available to heterosexual workers' spouses is unconstitutional, the Montana supreme court ruled in a 4-3 decision Thursday, December 30. The policy violates the Montana constitution's guarantee of equal protection under the law, the court said in reversing a 2002 decision by district judge Thomas Honzel of Helena. The following are excerpts of the concurring opinion from Justice James C. Nelson.]

"We the people—Montana's Constitution begins with these three words. These words precede 'the people[s]' statement of shared commitment to improving their quality of life and equality of opportunity and to securing the blessings of liberty for present and future generations. In these three words, there is no mention of race, there is no mention of gender, nor is there any reference to religious affiliation, to ethnic background, to marital status or to sexual orientation. Simply and eloquently, the first words of Montana's Constitution are words of inclusion. ...

"Yet, for many Montanans these words carry no such promise. These Montanans live and work and raise their families knowing that, truly, they are not part of 'the people.' ...

"These Montanans are Gays and Lesbians. And, for that—for being who they are—they are ridiculed, ostracized, despised, demonized and condemned. Their pleas for respect and for equal justice are answered by their government, by their institutions—and by 'We the

people'—with intolerance and bigotry, albeit impeccably adorned in sanctimonious rhetoric, sterile logic and hollow assurances. ...

"Though marginalized by their government and institutions, Gay and Lesbian couples live in 55 of 56 counties in Montana. More than twelve hundred Montana households identified themselves in the 2000 census as being headed by Gay and Lesbian couples. That is roughly 0.6% of the total coupled households in this state, married or unmarried. Smith and Gates estimate that these official data represent an undercount of about 62%. ...

"However, Montana's Constitution provides a stronger bulwark against the majoritarian oppression that Gays and Lesbians suffer daily in this State and for the claims under consideration here. ...

"... While I concur in the Court's Opinion, I also believe that this case calls for a new approach to analyzing cases arising under Article II, Section 4 of the Montana Constitution. I submit that the approach discussed above honors the plain language, the framers' intent and the historical underpinnings of Montana's unique provisions protecting the rights of individual human dignity and of equal protection of the laws and prohibiting discrimination.

"... Using this approach, I would hold that (a) laws and policies that make people's rights dependent on gender or sexual orientation violate the inviolable human dignity clause of Article II, Section 4; (b) classifications of persons on

the basis of gender or sexual orientation are sex-based and are therefore arbitrary and suspect under conventional equal protection analysis; and, in what I believe to be a better view, (c) reading Article II, Sections 4 and 34 together, it is appropriate to establish, as a matter of Montana Constitutional law, that classifications based on gender or sexual orientation are suspect classifications in their own right in addition to those enumerated in the third clause of this State's equal protection provision. I would also hold that laws and policies which are based on gender or sexual orientation are subject to strict scrutiny/compelling state interest analysis and that under that analysis, the Respondents' policy at issue here fails. ...

"... Indeed, in this approach we give real meaning to the plain language and to the spirit of Article II, Section 4 and we realize the Constitutional Convention's charge under Article II, Section 34 that our decisions become a crucial part of the effort to revitalize the state government's approach to civil liberties questions—civil liberties that "We the people" are, without exception, entitled to enjoy. ...

[James C. Nelson is a Justice on the Montana Supreme Court. To read the whole decision, go online to: <http://www.aclu.org/LesbianGayRights/LesbianGayRights.cfm?ID=17247&c=101>.]

HAMBURG - A team of German scientists say they have discovered a new inhibitor to stop the spread of HIV in the body, 365Gay.com reported.

The researchers, at the Heinrich Pette Institute of Experimental Virology and Immunology at Hamburg University, say that unlike other inhibitors, their discovery will block the production of a natural human enzyme, deoxyhypusine synthase or DHS, which is essential to HIV's survival in the body.

The new chemical will neutralize DHS the scientists say in a report to be published this month in the Journal of Clinical Investigation.

Although the substance they found slows the spread of HIV it will not cure it.

Most of the existing HIV inhibitors target the enzymes of the virus itself but are running into growing resistance from the virus. As a result a whole range of mutated strains of the AIDS virus have become impervious to drugs.

An estimated 40 million people worldwide are infected with HIV.



TUCSON'S HOTTEST GAY NIGHT CLUB

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Sunday, January 9

- Noon - 4pm **Troy's Recovery Bar**
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- 8:30pm **Benefit show for Josie P. for Miss NCC**
- 10pm **Return of DJ David Z. (Back and Better)**

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Arizona's Anti-Gay Marriage Amendment Meeting Jan. 25

TUCSON - On Tuesday, January 25, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Wingspan will host a community forum at their main office, 300 East Sixth St., to discuss implications of the anti-Gay marriage efforts nationally and in the Arizona State Legislature.

Topics will include Election 2004 anti-Gay propositions, Arizona Legislature update as well as implications for advocacy of civil rights for LGBT citizens in Arizona.

Panelists will include Cathy Busha, Director of Programs at Wingspan; Ron Bogard attorney and Arizona Human Rights Board member; Laura

Penny, Wingspan Board and Arizona Women's Political Caucus VP; Kristen Felan, who spent two weeks in Oregon working against the recent anti-Gay initiative; and Nancy Polikoff, visiting professor at UA College of Law. The majority of the evening will be dedicated to community dialogue and audience questions and comments.

The forum is free and open to the public. No RSVP required. This is the first of a 2005 Wingspan series of community discussions to explore strategies for advancing LGBT civil rights in Arizona. Call (520) 624-1779 or visit the website <http://www.wingspan.org> for more information.

SF Questions Impartiality In G/L Marriage Case

SAN FRANCISCO - A lawyer for the City of San Francisco has sounded an alarm that a decision by the judge in the suit challenging the state's ban on same-sex marriage could impair its ability to appeal, 365Gay.com reported.

Legal arguments in the case wrapped up last Thursday, December 30, but San Francisco County Superior Court Judge Richard Kramer has asked to see additional written arguments by January 14th. But, Kramer has told the city it cannot include arguments countering the assertions made by conservative groups opposing same-sex marriage that Gays can be cured and that children are better off with opposite-sex parents.

Among the documents submitted by the Alliance Defense Fund are statements by Princeton University psychiatrist Jeffrey Satinover that Gays misled the American Psychiatric Association into removing homosexuality from its list of mental disorders in 1973. Satinover regularly promotes so-called reparative or aversion therapy' for Gays.

Another document submitted by the group was from "ex-Gay" leaders Alan Chambers and Randy Thomas of Exodus International which also promotes "converting" Gays to heterosexuality. Yet another, by University of South Carolina professor George Rekers, claims studies show children do better with heterosexual than with Gay or Lesbian parents.

Kramer told the city that he would not accept counter testimony,

saying that he will base his ruling on legal arguments, not factual disputes.

But, whatever way Kramer rules the case will be appealed. It is eventually expected to wind up before the state Supreme Court.

Deputy City Attorney Kathleen Morris said that if the Alliance court filings are not countered an appeals court could justify the state's definition of marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

"We don't want that hateful stuff to go into the record without being responded to," Morris told the San Francisco Chronicle.

In oral arguments before Kramer last week, Alliance Defense Fund lawyer Glen Lavy said it was in the state's interest to promote families that include both a mother and a father as the ideal environment for raising children.

"If your honor finds the marriage laws must be available for same-sex couples, you will be likely creating a constitutional right to incestuous and group marriage." Lavy told Judge Richard Kramer.

Rena Lindevaldsen the lawyer for the Campaign for California Families, another conservative group told the court that same-sex couples "can't perform the basic functions of marriage, therefore it's not discrimination."

Lindevaldsen urged Kramer to uphold the law.

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LGBT Group Helps Tsunami Relief Efforts

SAN FRANCISCO - As the death toll from Sunday's earthquake and tsunamis rockets past 100,000, dozens of relief organizations are working overtime to provide immediate and long-term relief to survivors, the PlanetOut Network reported.

One of the organizations raising money is the Rainbow World Fund (www.rainbowfund.org), the first LGBT world relief agency.

Jeff Cotter, a San Francisco psychiatric social worker, says he started Rainbow World Fund (RWF) four years ago because none of the traditional relief organizations were developing philanthropy and consciousness in the LGBT community. It is that dual mission — direct relief hand in hand with changing opinions and beliefs — that moves RWF. Cotter calls it a solidarity model, rather than a charity model.

"As with our community's response to HIV, we can't wait for the rest of the world to take leadership," Cotter said. "And as a Gay man, I thought, if I want to change the world, I should start where I'm at, in the community I live in. And the Gay and Lesbian community was a huge untapped market."

In the past year, RWF has teamed up with relief organizations to increase access to safe drinking water in Central America, eradicate land mines in Cambodia, provide food for victims of hurricane Jeanne in Haiti and save the next generation of Africans from HIV/AIDS. The group works closely with larger charity organizations (such as CARE) to give aid immediately, where it's needed.

Cotter balances his time between Rainbow and his "day job": counseling rape victims and gunshot wound survivors for the city of San Francisco. He has spent the past three years building the infrastructure for RWF, and has begun helping victims around the world this year.

Because administrative costs are covered by the board of directors and grants from various organizations (including the Catholic Church), RWF can ensure that 100 percent of every charitable

dollar goes directly to field service work overseas. In the case of Sunday's quake and tsunami survivors, aid will go to food, water, vitamins and medical supplies for many months, and possibly years, to come.

But why doesn't an LGBT relief organization give to LGBT causes? Why enlist Gays and Lesbians to help victims they know nothing about? The question, Cotter says, should really be: why not?

"Suffering is universal, and the LGBT community knows more than a little bit about that," Cotter says. "When we took the aid trip to Guatemala earlier this year, it was clear that we (the LGBT community) had a shared history of oppression with the Mayan population there. There was a systematic genocide there, and the government invalidated their marriage relationships, among other atrocities."

The excursion to Guatemala had another benefit as well. In the primarily Catholic and socially conservative country, Rainbow's outreach was the first contact most citizens had with Gays or Lesbians. Promoting tolerance and understanding of differences among people and cultures, and at the same time providing much-needed assistance to impoverished and developing areas, is a win-win, according to Cotter.

"We're about changing attitudes toward Gays and Lesbians," Cotter said. "Many of the places we visit and help have very little LGBT presence. Everyone we've worked with has been surprised by our commitment, and very open and accepting to our presence."

Conversely, the organization, by encouraging "closet philanthropists" to move into action, is helping LGBT people see themselves in a different light, Cotter said.

"We have tended to define ourselves too narrowly in the LGBT community. The very act of giving helps reinforce the idea that we're not just about sex or partying, or Madonna. We are a community that cares about human suffering anywhere, and does something about it."

Domestic Partner Law

Continued from Page One

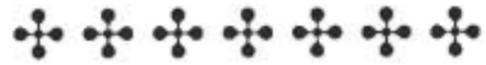
those rights closely parallel the rights enjoyed by married couples."

Meanwhile the marriage issue continues to work its way through the court system. This month San Francisco County Superior Court Judge Richard Kramer heard arguments from both sides. Kramer has asked to see additional written arguments by January 14th and is not expected to issue a ruling until possibly April. Ultimately it will be up to the California Supreme Court to rule on same-sex marriage unless the Legislature acts before then.

Assembly Member Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) will re-introduce legislation in the upcoming session that would allow same-sex couples to marry.

Also in effect, January 1, a law affecting same-sex couples it will be illegal for insurance companies to offer health insurance benefits that do not also cover the domestic partners of Gay and Lesbian employees.

Thanks to all our Customers in 2004, and here's to 2005

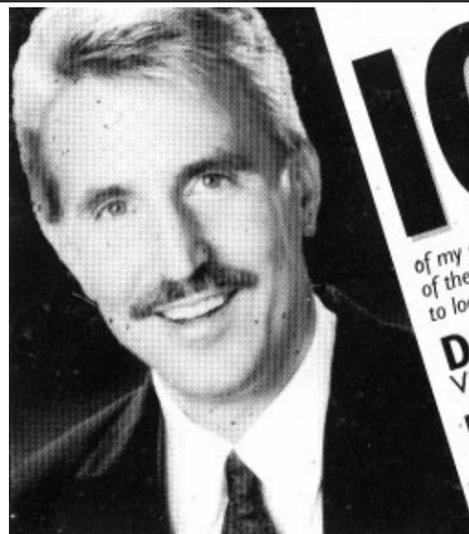


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No Make-Up, No Job, Court Says

SAN FRANCISCO - A woman who was fired from her job for refusing to wear makeup was not treated unfairly a U.S. federal appeals court ruled on Tuesday, December 28, 365Gay.com reported.

In August 2000, Darlene Jespersen was fired from her position as a bartender at Harrah's Casino in Reno, Nevada, after the company enacted a new dress code, called the "Personal Best" program, requiring all women in the beverage department to wear makeup, specified as foundation or powder, blush, lipstick and mascara, applied precisely the same way every day to match a photograph held by the supervisor.

The only requirement for men is that they not wear any makeup of any kind.

Jespersen had worked for Harrah's or 20 years.

Following her dismissal she filed a federal civil rights suit with the help of Lambda Legal.

In 2002 a federal judge ruled against Jespersen, saying Harrah's appearance standards do not discriminate against women.

Lambda appealed arguing that federal civil rights laws protect employees from being subjected to dress codes or other standards that impose unequal burdens on men and women.

In its 2-1 ruling, a three-judge panel of the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the lower court ruling.

"We have previously held that grooming and appearance standards that apply differently to women and men do not constitute discrimination on the basis of sex," Judge Wallace Tashima wrote for the majority, citing a 1974 precedent in which the court ruled that a company can require men to have short hair but allow long hair on women.

In a dissenting opinion, Judge Sidney Thomas agreed with Lambda's

argument. "Harrah's fired Jespersen because of her failure to conform to sex stereotypes, which is discrimination based on sex and is therefore impermissible under Title VII," he wrote.

"We are surprised and deeply disappointed by today's decision, which misapplies key legal precedents that have protected working women for many years," said Lambda Senior Counsel Jennifer C. Pizer/

"Title VII of the federal Civil Rights Act requires the protection of women from burdensome sex stereotypes. But today's decision makes those protections hollow because it says women — including our client Darlene Jespersen — cannot even seek fairness with a day in court to explain how sex-based employment rules impact them in real life."

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Court Nixes Ark. Anti-G/L Foster Care Plan

LITTLE ROCK - Saying that children are not harmed by living with Gay or Lesbian parents, an Arkansas court on Wednesday, December 29, overturned a state law that banned Gay people and anyone living with a Gay adult from becoming foster parents, 365Gay.com reported.

Circuit Court Judge Timothy Fox rejected the state's claims that Gay and Lesbian adults are unsuitable parents.

"This case has presented us all with an excellent opportunity to replace ignorance with knowledge and to make an informed decision based on information as opposed to assumption," Fox wrote in his decision.

Fox further noted that being raised by Gay or Lesbian parents does not increase likelihood of psychological problems, nor does it endanger the health, welfare and safety of a foster child.

The state's 1999 policy was challenged by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of a Lesbian, a Gay couple and a straight man married for 31 years who was disqualified as a foster parent because he has a Gay son who sometimes lives at his home.

"Throughout this case, the state has relied on ugly stereotypes to deny children in the Arkansas foster care system the chance of having the widest possible pool of foster families available to them," said Rita Sklar, executive director of the ACLU of Arkansas. "We're very pleased that the court saw through these arguments and has recognized that Gay and Lesbian people can provide homes just as loving and stable as anyone else's."

Chinese Gays Expected To Enter HeteroMarriages

BEIJING - The Chinese government says that the vast majority of its Gay population is in heterosexual marriages, 365Gay.com reported.

Health officials say that there are 30 million Gays in the country - between two and five percent of the population - a figure most western authorities believe is unrealistically low.

Zhang Beichuan, a government health department official said that 80 percent of Gays will marry or are already wed. He said that the estimate is based on interviews with Gay men and Lesbians and shows the continuing pressure put on Gays by long-standing conservative cultural traditions that stress the importance of traditional families.

Despite a government move at modernizing Chinese society, the country's Gays are still a marginalized group said Cong Zhong, a health professor at Beijing University.

"Chinese people see Gay activities as something disgusting and against the Chinese moral and ethic," said Cong, who blames widespread ignorance of homosexuality.

In 2001 homosexuality was removed from the official list of mental disorders by the government.

Nevertheless, "Chinese authorities usually adopt a silent attitude on many issues such as homosexuality, prostitution and drug users because they see these problems as shameful," said Zhang.

Chile Gay Press Beats Catholic Church

SANTIAGO - The ultra conservative Opus Dei movement in the Catholic Church has lost a lengthy battle with a Gay Chilean newspaper, 365Gay.com reported.

The Chilean branch of Opus Dei had sued the paper, called Opus Gay, claiming that the publication had infringed on it name in a deliberate attempt to embarrass the organization and the Church.

The secretive Opus Dei has strong allies at the Vatican and has been one of the leading opponents of Gay rights around the world. Members of the society have been some of Rome's leading spokespeople in the battle against same-sex marriage.

The Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which is responsible for Church doctrine is reportedly heavily influenced by Opus Dei.

In the culmination of a two year court battle Chile's intellectual property commission ruled in favor of the newspaper.

"It is difficult to see how the public could be exposed to mistakes or confusions" between the two, the commission said.

Chile's largest LGBT rights group, the Movement for Homosexual Integration and Liberation, called the ruling an "unprecedented victory" against the powerful Roman Catholic Church in Chilean society.

New Refugee Agreement Could Harm G/L Asylum Seekers

NEW YORK - A new agreement between Canada and the US which went into effect Wednesday, December 29, could jeopardize Gay and Lesbian asylum seekers according to an LGBT immigration activist group, 365Gay.com reported.

Called the Safe Third Country Agreement the pact will force refugee applicants to make their claims in the country where they first land - a more difficult prospect if it's the U.S.

Refugees find it easier to reach the United States and then travel to Canada because the U.S. receives international flights from more countries.

But, Canada has in the past been more willing to take in refugees than the US.

"We fear that this agreement will deny legitimate asylum seekers the protection asylum laws were intended to provide," said Victoria Neilson, Legal Director of Immigration Equality.

"We are especially concerned that for LGBT and HIV-positive asylum seekers who may not be aware that they are eligible to apply for asylum and therefore miss the one year filing deadline under U.S. law will never have an opportunity to obtain a fair hearing on their claims. For many LGBT asylum seekers, Canada has been the only option after missing the one year filing deadline in the U.S."

Continued on Page Eight

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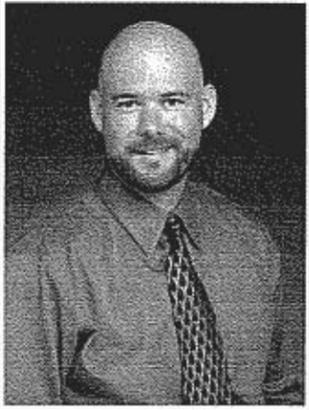
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POLITICS 2005
by Mark R. Kerr

Legislative Primer Of Sorts For 2005

Another year has passed and the Republicans, led by Kenny Mehlman, continue their crusade to move the county back to the fifteenth century and more Salem Witch Trials for which Court TV has the broadcast rights.

On Monday, January 3, the 109th Congress was sworn in and the House Republicans made it harder for members to bring up ethics complaints to make it easier for their Majority Leader, Rep. Tom DeLay, R-TX, who will be facing an indictment in the very near future for violating Texas campaign finance laws - something that is no mean feat since the state has so few but digressing!

Dubya, Satan and their "Master" Karl Rove are still occupying 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue - thanks to voter suppression, dirty tricks, Swift Boat Lies, an opponent who said every vote would be counted, and then conceded the next morning and the voting public drinking the "Kool Aid" and supporting "four more wars" and smearing the queers.

On Capitol Hill, the Federal Marriage Amendment (FMA) will be reintroduced and DeLay, that paragon of virtue and values says a vote will take place but Dubya, er Karl has put this on the back-burner, for the moment since they don't have the votes, two-thirds in both chambers for the FMA to go to the states for consideration to the surprise of a few, since this issue has been successfully used during the 2004 campaign and Karl has four more years because of the smear of the queers.

For the radical-right, er the GOP, this bigoted road-show will now tour the states, possibly a total of 15, for political capital - donations and most important, votes.

Virginia, with one of the most draconian laws pertaining to same-sex relationships on the books (outlawing same-sex marriages, civil unions and domestic partnerships), in 2005 will consider, the first state of a possible fifteen, a proposed amendment to their state constitution to ban same-sex marriages and according to reports, the legislation will allow the state to produce anti-Gay license plates, at taxpayer expense.

In Massachusetts, their legislature will take up the same-sex marriage issue in the upcoming session but there are growing indications that the measure will not survive the second passage required to send it to voters and according to news accounts, Democrats increased their numbers at the State House last November, and even one of the men who wrote the proposed amendment is having second thoughts about it.

Meanwhile in the Grand Canyon State, on Monday, January 10, Arizona's Legislature will start their new session of merriment and mayhem at 1700 West Washington, already with 73 bills filed, as of press time, mostly dealing with one-word corrections but two proposed state holidays - one for Bonzo Reagan and marking the end of the Cold War!

During the upcoming session of Arizona's Legislature, one of the issues of prime importance, according to the warped minds of the radical right legislators, that will be dealt with is same-sex marriage - introducing legislation to put the issue, as a proposed amendment to

the state constitution in November 2006 for political gain and ousting Arizona's Democratic Governor, Janet Napolitano.

On January 10, while the Legislature convenes and Governor Napolitano delivers the State of the State address, a rally will take place in the mall with Phoenicians supportive of government recognition of same-sex relationships.

It just never stops!

Notes From The For Real Side
Continued from Page Nine

likely use a few of them. First and foremost we need to leave small employers alone. Then we need to look at the structure of the rest and figure out what that structure can absorb.

Without any research to guide me, I'd suggest, just to get the discussion started, that Tucson employers with over 100 workers should be forced to pay a minimum wage of ten bucks an hour. Employers with over 500 workers should be forced to pay a minimum wage of fifteen. Out-of-state readers will laugh out loud at these paltry sums. For those of us who've worked in the Old Pueblo, they make our knees knock with excitement.

The big companies would be tempted to recoup their loses by cutting back on such meager benefits that they now offer. The city could prevent this by making a provision in the minimum wage law that says effected employees can't have existing benefits cut.

There are lots of lovely traditions worth keeping in Tucson. Our tradition of slave wages ain't one of them.

[Thorn welcomes comments, suggestion 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]

New Refugee Agreement Could Harm G/L Asylum Seekers

Continued from Page Seven

The Safe-Third Country Agreement has improved from initial regulations by including exemption provisions if the applicant has qualifying family members in the other country. The agreement also includes protections against chain deportations by guaranteeing that no applicant falling within the agreement would be deported to a third country until a final decision has been reached in the person's claim.

Detentions, however, are likely to increase as these claims process through the legal system, Neilson said.

Immigrant detainees are the largest growing incarcerated population in the U.S. and the number of detainees continues to rise.

Safe Sex



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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE
by Lee Thorn

Minimum Wages

Within living memory Tucson actually got a municipal minimum wage proposal on the ballot. The vote against it was overwhelming. Most people thought it was a dumb idea.

What would happen to a community where the federal minimum wage was five bucks and the city passed a minimum wage of six bucks? Bear in mind that the outfits most likely to be paying the minimum wage are the tiny companies that are just starting out and/or just barely getting by. Any little thing that adds to their expenses will likely put them out of business.

Folks who work for little struggling companies are apt to vote against an increased municipal minimum wage because they fear it would put their companies out of business and themselves out of a job. Their reasoning is flawless.

Other people, those who don't see a direct threat to their own jobs, vote against municipal minimum wages because they understand how fragile and how important small businesses are to economic development. For one thing, big businesses start out as small businesses. For another, small businesses pump creativity and zest into the system as big businesses get complacent and begin to ossify.

As for Tucson's sad wage picture, we didn't just suddenly become the low wage capitol of the Western Hemisphere overnight. If you talk to the old-timers, they'll tell you that Tucson has been famous for low wages since at least the 1920s. And if you ask them why Tucson -- university town, military base town, resort town, missile-making town -- should be so famous for low wages, the old-timers will say, "Damned if I know. Just always was."

And what, if anything, is the relationship between Tucson's historic cultural inferiority complex and our historic low wages? Did one cause the other or are they simply boon companions? Deeper intellects than mine will have to answer that.

My own humble thought is that, if we were once disgusted enough with Tucson wages to be able to get the issue on the ballot and if we're nowadays smart enough to actively protect small business, isn't the obvious solution to vote in a municipal minimum wage law that only applies to businesses that are big enough to afford it? Just as surely as Ed and Mary's Adult Bookstore couldn't afford to pay a livable minimum wage, Home Depot, K-Mart, Wal-Mart, Fry's, Walgreens, McDonald's, etc. could afford to pay it.

The massive box stores not only pay low wages, they add insult to injury by staffing themselves almost totally with part-timers so they can avoid paying comprehensive health benefits. A friend of mine worked in a department of a box store where, out of about twenty department employees, only three were full time. From everything I've heard about how the boxes operate in Tucson, this is closer to being the norm than the exception.

Ever since the untimely demise of the American labor movement, the movement that once organized miners against such obstacles as armed thugs and now can't organize a grocery store, giant employers have been merrily getting away with murder. Having two jobs to earn a living and four to support a household in nothing out of the ordinary now.

We probably don't just need one municipal minimum wage; we could
Continued on Page Eight

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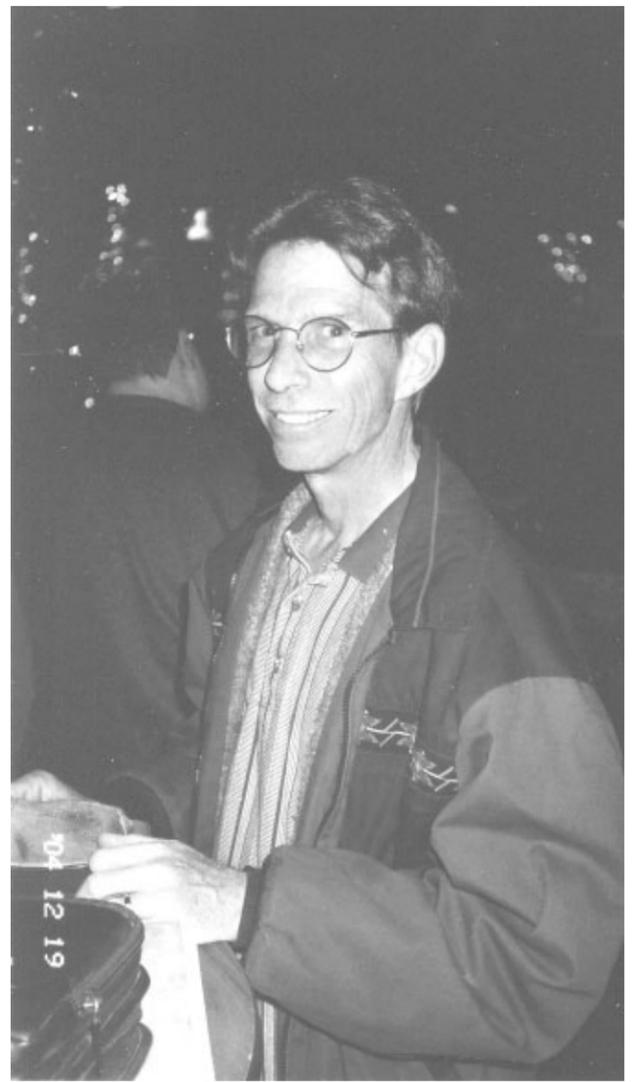
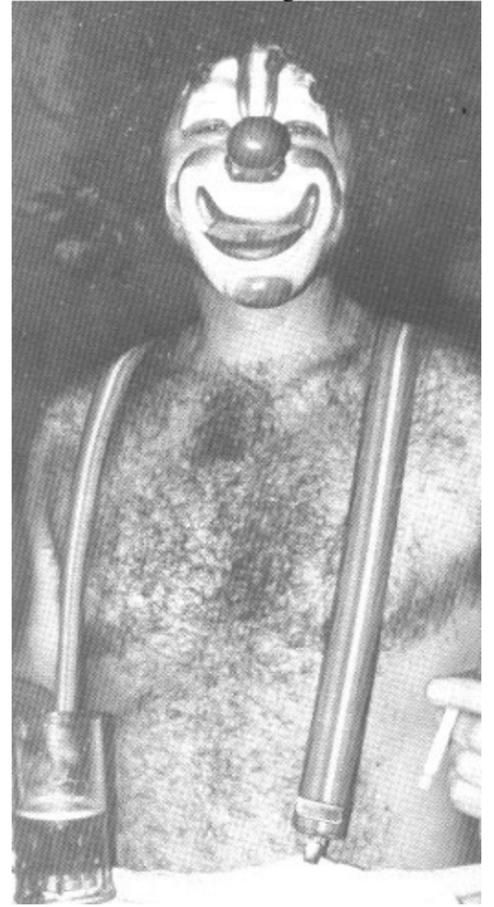
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Delirious Neptune rubadubs jolly Jupiter, but who are we fooling? Only a favored few experience unprecedented creative spurts. We lumpen proletariat should favor caffeine, not scotch, for an inspiring jazz. Keep focused kids and cash in your lucky chits as the new year rolls.

ARIES (MAR. 21 - APR. 20)
If you are suddenly thrust into the social epicenter, claim your fame through hazy Neptune. Everyone wants to include you in their holiday plans. Take your choice. It all seems too good to be true. Compadres want to play but balance off your platonic pastimes with partnership needs. Queer Rambos may be pulled in two different directions. Hey, whatever turns you on....

TAURUS (APR. 21 - MAY 21)
Neptune provides a bushel and a peck of strategic career moves that are inspired and right on. You see what is happening above and below the surface and intuitively make the right decisions at the right time. Add all of this to the lucky Jupiter trine and queer Bulls become a force with whom to be reckoned. Grab the key to the corner office. Demand your rightful due.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
The Jupiter and Neptune trine makes this a perfect time for all pink Twins to escape to wild and wooly faraway destinations. The question is just how wild and wooly do you want to get? You are highly stressed now. How about something dreamily romantic and fabulously luxurious instead? Recharge and pamper both you and your better half. Add cream and whip it up.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
Sex holds you in its spell and you are mesmerized. Is it safe for fresh pink Crabs to drift a few feet off the ground? Only if they can avoid falling into the boiling cauldron and becoming just another quick snack. Neptune trines Jupiter and brings all this zesty activity closer to home. Resolve to make your domestic agenda more fun through the new year. We sure could use that.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)
Neptune trines Jupiter and add a hopelessly romantic rose colored tinge to all relationships. Proud Lions are in love with love. But will mere mortals measure up? Don't rush to topple the applearc of domestic harmony based on a careless offhand remark. Before you find yourself yearning for applesauce, remember to let actions speak louder and prouder than words.

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)
Queer Virgos feel invincible as Neptune trines Jupiter. Will you be tempted to over eat, over drink and generally over indulge? You may not know when enough is enough and you're tempted to go for the gusto at every opportunity. Regulate and modulate cousin. Even take it easy in your exercise regime. Many muscles can also be over-indulged. Most...but not all, of course.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)
Fun has a way of getting dreamy, creamy and totally out of hand when Neptune trines Jupiter. Lucky you. Gay Libras party with a vengeance and become the one to see and be seen. You may find yourself placed in lucky circumstances where you can make even your wildest dreams come true. You add zip to your hard drive. But are you working with the latest operating system?

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)
Secretive queer Scorps won't be able to contain themselves while Jupiter trines Neptune. Suddenly you are an open book with all of your fears, secrets and hidden passions sprawled out there where everyone can see them. A weight has been lifted! Catharsis! Make the most of this freedom, especially around family and close friends. And hurry, cousin - the planets will soon move on.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)
Seemingly small, off the cuff comments cause a nuclear explosion and can forever alter your life course. Good thing. Frankly, your social life needs a bit of jump start. Chalk up the ensuing chain of events to Jupiter trine Neptune which gives Gay Archers a combination of great confidence and prescience. Jump into the social swim, put your best moves into motion and don't get seasick.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)
Money issues combine with burning career needs when Jupiter and Neptune trine. If you feel like your bottom line doesn't measure up, add a little lavender zest to your green salad. This is the time to do your fiscal homework and invest in Gay friendly ventures. As you amass your personal fortune it will be easier to claw your way to the top of the professional heap. Are you on top yet?

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)
Neptune in your own sign trines Jupiter and gives Aqueerians a rather unorthodox and exotic appearance to others. Maybe it's all the flowing scarves, maybe it's your tattooed head. Whatever fashion statement you decide to make, take it on the road. Complete strangers will seem to understand your need to dress in cellophane and chiffon and will bring the scotch tape and stapler.

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MAR. 20)
Guppies are inspired to get involved in community Outreach. You want to make your personal mark for the new year. Now, everyone wants to get into the act when Neptune trines Jupiter. Don't consider it an infringement: The more the merrier! It is amazing what a little creative thinking and a brat pack of volunteers can achieve. Who will be the best and who will be bratwurst?

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Dear Dr. X,

I am sending you this email because of something scary that happened to me yesterday. While I was using the bathroom, I noticed that the water in the bowl was pink. I used some tissue, and there was blood on it. It wasn't a lot, but I'm worried. I went home with this guy a few days ago, and I let him top me, which I almost never do. It didn't hurt then, but I think he must have torn me inside. I can't go see my doctor, because he is also a friend that doesn't know I'm Gay. If I go and see him about this, he'll know I got f**ked. What should I do?

Signed, Worried

Dear Worried,

Stop worrying. First, let me say that if there was not a lot of blood, you are probably OK. If there was no more bleeding after that, it was almost certainly a hemorrhoid that ruptured during your bowel movement. This is actually fairly common. Anyone can get a hemorrhoid, male or female, Gay or straight. And they are seldom caused by the insertion of something into your butt. They can be caused by trying to lift something heavy, pushing too hard during a bowel movement, or sometimes even a cough or a sneeze. (And by the way, there really is know way for a doctor to know that you had anything in your butt just from a

simple rectal exam.) If rectal bleeding becomes a regular or common occurrence, defiantly see a doctor about it, as it may be a symptom of something more serious, such as rectal cancer.

If the guy you took home had indeed torn or ruptured your rectal lining, by now you should be in quite a bit of pain, as bacterial escapes from your colon and creates infections in your body cavity. If there is more bleeding, if you experience any pain "down there", or show any signs of fever or swelling, go to the emergency room and BE HONEST WITH THEM. If there is a puncture in your rectal lining, they need to know how and when it happened.

And as a side note: it's great that you and your doc are friends, but if you can't talk to him about all aspects of your health, you should consider finding another doctor. Find yourself a Gay friendly doctor that you can be totally honest with, without being embarrassed. Your friend should understand your wanting a doc that is not so personally involved. You can contact Wingspan, Tucson's GLBT community center for a list of referrals locally. E-mail me back and let me know how you are doing.

Dear Dr. X,

I smoke quite a bit, and am looking for some vitamins or supplements to help with the impotence I am experiencing from it. What about Viagra? Can you recommend something to help keep me hard?

Signed, Droopy

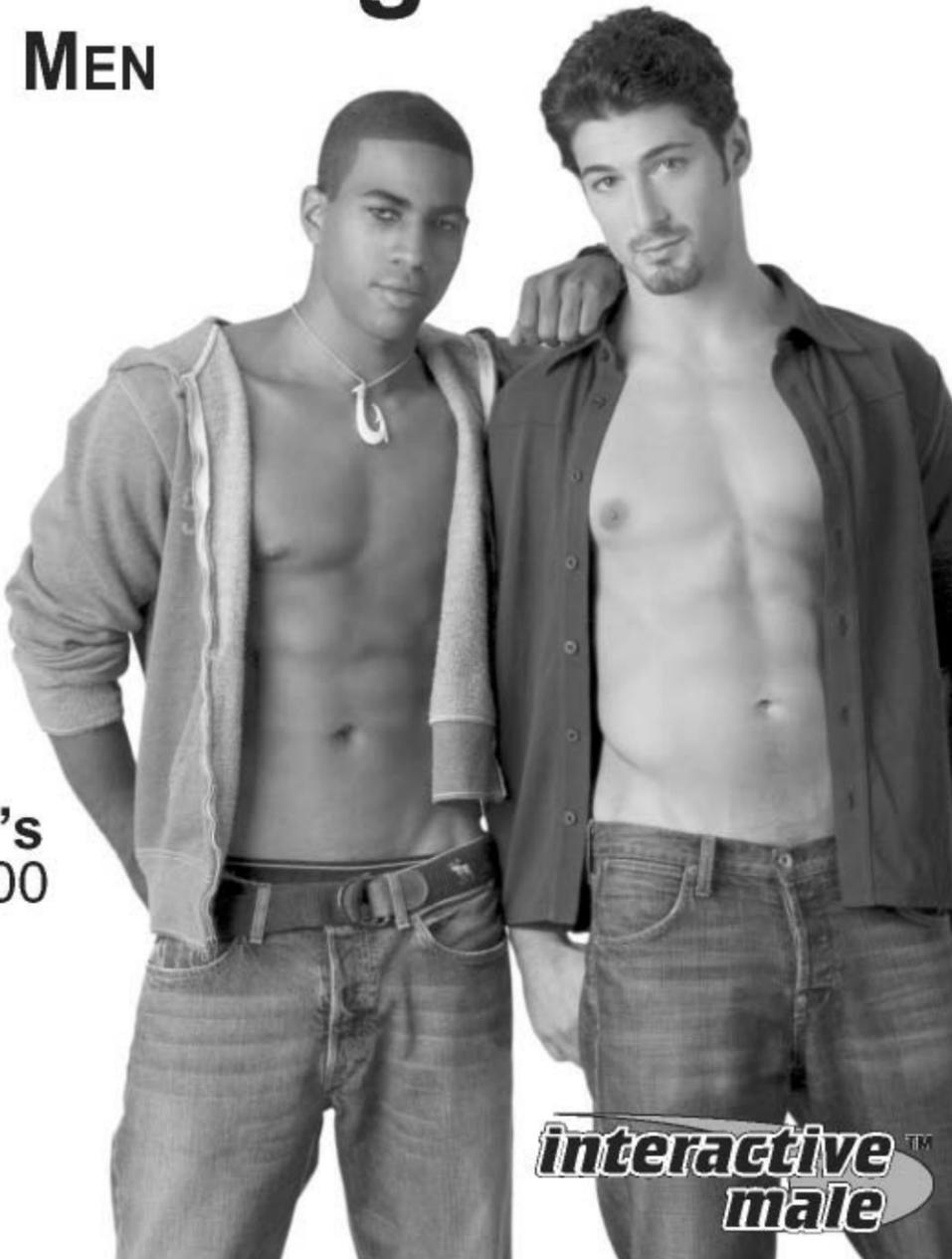
Dear Droopy,

No, I can't. What I can recommend is that you stop smoking if you are worried about what it is doing to you. There are many organizations out there that are dedicated to helping you stop puffing, and so many ways to do it, that in this day and age there is no reason not to stop (if that is what you want to do). There are even some agencies that focus strictly on GLBT folks and their needs around quitting smoking. If you want help quitting, let me know and I'll help with that. Until then, Droopy, have a breath mint.

[To embarrassed to ask your doctor? Rather die than ask a friend? Then ask Dr. X! Send your questions to gmhp@saaf.org or mail them to SAAF/GMHP, 375 S. Euclid, Tucson, AZ 85719. You can also check out Dr. X online at www.gmhp.org.]

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NON-BAR CALENDAR
Groups / Clubs / Organizations /

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8
Tucson Prime Timers Food and Drinks, Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Road 5:00 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 10
Tucson Prime Timers Lunch — 12:30 p.m., The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15
#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, JANUARY 17
Tucson Prime Timers Lunch — 12:30 p.m., The Wildcat House. 1800 N. Stone Ave.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22
Tucson Prime Timers Food & Drinks- 5:00 p.m., Woody's 3710 N. Oracle Rd.

MONDAY, JANUARY 24
Tucson Prime Timers Lunch — 12:30 p.m., The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29
Tucson Prime Timers Food & Drinks, Woody's, 3710 N, Oracle Rd.

MONDAY, JANUARY 31
Tucson Prime Timers Lunch - 12:30 p.m., Wildcat House, 1800 N, Stone Ave.



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.

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.

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

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 special events.

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 Debbie from 8 to midnight.

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

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio open 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Pool Tourney 7pm. \$3 entry. Special prices for players. Steak Nite (4th 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. See bartender.

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

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.

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.

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

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

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

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.

GREATHER PHOENIX GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (GPGLCC) P.O. BOX 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2097. E-mail: webmaster@gpglcc.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

GET NAKED with TNTucson MEN! We're a social and recreational club. Have you ever longed to camp, swim, hike or play with others who enjoy the same, dropping all the masks and pretensions? We're for you! TNTucsonMEN@nethere.com, P.O. Box 12176, Tucson 85792 or call 514-9894

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

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

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.



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DESERT VOICES, Tucson's Gay & Lesbian Chorus. Want to join? E-mail: www.desertvoices.org or call 791-9662.

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

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

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

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

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

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

ANONYMOUS HIV COUNSELING AND TESTING is available through the Pima County Health Department at sites throughout Tucson, Very Gay Friendly. For more information or to make an appointment call 791-7676.

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

SMART (Self Management And Recovery Training) a free non-12-step self-help alternative for people working to overcome addictive and other emotional problems meets in Tucson Monday thru Thursdays at different locations. For more information about SMART, contact Jennifer at 838-3975.

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

OUTLOUD! Tucson's premiere Local Lesbian and Gay Radio Show, broadcast every 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; Desert Girlz MTF Support meets 2nd Mondays at 7pm; Desert 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 or e-mail: AAPSP@aol.com or call Dave (520)745-9059 (Tucson) or Kim (602)534-6219 (Phoenix)

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

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

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

TUCSON GREATER SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION. Interested? Call Kelly Quinn, (520)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 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 Magpie'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/ 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) For those who are kinky or just curious. No fee, contributions are appreciated, but not required.

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