



Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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Come Out And Watch The 10th Annual Wingspan FilmFest



Cowboys & Angels



Girl Play



Straight Jacket



I Shot Andy Warhol

TUCSON - The Wingspan FilmFest is 10 years old! To celebrate, we've planned three evenings of classic films and three full days of the best new documentary, feature, and short films. It's Southern Arizona's premier showcase for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender film.

The FilmFest begins on March 8 at The Screening Room, 127 W. Congress, with a look back at LGBT life in the mid-20th century, through the lens of two documentaries—Before Stonewall and Gay Pioneers.

On March 09, continues with the retrospective with two films at the vanguard of "new queer cinema"—Desert Hearts and Swoon.

On March 10, the Festival moves to The Loft Cinema, 3233 E. Speedway, to wrap up the retrospective with a special guest, producer Christine Vachon. Ms. Vachon's filmography is impressive, ranging from classic films Poison (1991), Swoon (1992), Go Fish (1994), and I Shot Andy Warhol (1996) to more recent projects Hedwig and the Angry Inch (2001), One Hour Photo (2002), Far from Heaven (2002), Party Monster (2003), and A Dirty Shame (2004). She'll share her views on queer cinema new and old, and the future of LGBT indie film.

The new films begin on March 11, with multiple Gay, Lesbian, and documentary features, and shorts. All in all, it's a jam-packed festival—so c'mon out and watch.

Advance tickets will be available for purchase online, www.wingspan.org/filmfest, through March 10. Tickets and passes are non-refundable. No physical ticket will be issued in advance; your name will be placed on will-call list for the screening. Bring your e-mail receipt to the theater. For more information, call (520) 624-1779.

New Information In 'Jeff Gannon' Saga Raises Even More Questions

WASHINGTON, D.C. - This week (ending February 19) brought an avalanche of new information about the fake White House reporter who used the fake name "Jeff Gannon," worked for the fake news organization "Talon News" and may have made his own fake White House press pass, but that information raises more questions than it answers, Media Matters for America reported.

A rundown of recent developments about the man known as "Jeff Gannon" but really named James Guckert:

A simple solution: Media Matters for America President and CEO David Brock wrote to White House press secretary Scott McClellan and the White House Correspondents' Association, suggesting one simple step that would help lessen the likelihood of another Gannon situation arising:

"I understand that Mr. McClellan recently met with WHCA President Ron Hutcheson, and that neither is eager to take on the role of deciding who is and is not a journalist. I can appreciate this hesitancy — though in Mr. Gannon's case, the decision does not seem a difficult one, and though refusing to make a decision is, in effect, a decision in the affirmative. Nevertheless, I can well understand why, in cases that are less clear-cut than that of Mr. Gannon, the White House and the WHCA are reluctant to take responsibility for making these decisions.

"There is a simple, partial solution that is worth considering: limiting the number of times per year a person may use a "daily pass" to attend a press briefing. Mr. Gannon apparently used these 'daily passes' to attend press briefings nearly every day for two years, presumably because he was unable to obtain a 'hard pass.' If use of a 'daily pass' was limited to twelve times per year per person, out-of-town reporters would still be able to attend briefings while in Washington; news organizations that don't have full-time White House correspondents would still be able to send a representative on occasion; and new or 'alternative' media outlets that are unable to obtain a 'hard pass' would still be able to attend occasional briefings. But the 'daily pass' could no longer be used as an 'end-around' to the 'hard pass' procedures, and somebody like Mr. Gannon would not be able to attend every briefing for two years while, to use The New York Times' Richard Stevenson's apt description, 'hijacking' the press room."

But did he know before Colin Powell? AmericaBlog's John Aravosis wrote, "A news producer for a major network just told me that Gannon told the producer the US was going to attack Iraq four hours before President Bush announced it to the nation." While it would

ordinarily be surprising if a fake reporter using a fake name was given advance notice of such a major military action, it isn't completely unbelievable, given the way the Bush administration made the attack known: Prince Bandar bin Sultan of Saudi Arabia was reportedly told of the plans before then-Secretary of State Colin Powell, for example.

Who invited Gannon to White House Christmas parties? According to Editor & Publisher: "When asked if anyone in the White House staff or leadership planted, offered, or suggested questions to ask, Guckert said 'absolutely not.' He said, 'I only met Karl Rove once, at the media Christmas party at the White House in 2003. I was waiting in line for my 'grip and grin' [photo] with the president and he passed by. I introduced myself to him, he said hello, and he moved on.' He said he also attended the 2004 Christmas party.

So how did Jeff Gannon get into these parties? Who invited him? What role did McClellan and his staff play in handing out invitations? McClellan told The New York Times: "The credentialing is all handled at the staff assistant level." Is that true of invitations to White House parties as well?

How, exactly, did Texas Republican activist Bobby Eberle come to hire auto repairman "Jeff Gannon" to work at Talon News? According to E&P, Gannon/Guckert "said he came across Talon News while researching and liked its approach. The Texas Republican activist who runs it also manages the site GOPUSA. 'I had submitted my writings to Talon and saw they were looking for people to write news, and it was something I was interested in. I moved to Washington after Sept. 11, 2001, because I was so affected by [the attacks].' Guckert said he first went to work for Talon News in February 2003 after writing several test stories for them, becoming a stringer at first and later a full-time salaried reporter."

But the blog World O' Crap suggested that explanation may not be true: "Um, no. See, on January 15, 2003 the first Jeff Gannon byline appears at at [sic] GOPUSA. And it's not until April 1, 2003 that Talon News is publishing. So, since Jeff wrote for GOPUSA before there was a Talon News, he would have surely known about the creation of its 'news division,' Talon, without having to 'come across it' while doing research."

Question: If Jeff Gannon got in to White House press briefings, just who were they turning away? Writing for Salon.com, Sidney Blumenthal noted: "Thus a phony journalist planted by a Republican operation, used by the White House press secretary to interrupt questions from the press corps, called on

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New Mexico Lawmakers Table Marriage Ban; Judge Rejects Transgender Marriage

SANTA FE - A New Mexico bill aimed at defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman has been tabled by the house consumer and public affairs committee, the Associated Press reported on Advocate.com.

Tuesday's vote (February 15) effectively killed the legislation, sponsored by Republican representative Gloria Vaughn of Alamogordo. The issue is still alive in the legislature. A measure sponsored by Republican senator Bill Sharer of Farmington has yet to be heard in committee. His bill would define marriage as a union between a man and a

woman.

Vaughn's measure called for imposing fines on clergy who perform same-sex marriage ceremonies. It also specified that same-sex marriages from other states or countries would not be recognized in New Mexico. The legislation also would have nullified marriage licenses granted to same-sex couples last year in Valencia County.

In related news, Lea County probate judge Darrell Powell had to break the news to a Hobbs, N.M., couple who
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UPDATE

Strategic Planning Day For Arizona Coalition For Fairness, March 5

TUCSON - The Arizona Coalition for Fairness (ACF) is an alliance of community members (and organizations interested in protecting and expanding civil rights for LGBT and Allied people in Arizona. Though we are forming in response to the proposed 2006 anti-LGBT ballot measure, our vision also includes working for social justice beyond the 2006 election.

You are invited to join ACF for a Strategic Planning Day on Saturday, March 5, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Wingspan, 300 E 6th St. Dr. Cindi Gilliland, who teaches at the UA Eller College of Business, has generously offered to facilitate the strategic planning day. If you want to help defeat anti-LGBT legislation, protect your relationship and family, and meet other great people, this day is for you! Get involved now so the day after the election -November 7th, 2006-you won't ask yourself, "Was there more I could have done?"

Strategic Planning is when a group of people come together to do some visioning work and goal-setting, and then put some concrete plans to their collective vision and goals. At the end of the Strategic Planning Day, we will have a one-year work plan, and meeting dates and times for all sub-committees of the ACF.

ACF knows that Sundays are a day when many people spend time with their partners and families, sleep in, go to the dog park, do laundry, read the paper, hike, attend church, grocery shop, or have other plans—We recognize that attending a seven hour meeting on the weekend is asking a lot...however, ACF also believes in building a plan that includes as many voices as possible. We promise the day will be engaging, dynamic, meaningful, and fun!

If you are able to attend the free Strategic Planning Day, please RSVP, by E-mailing, cathy@wingspan.org. When you RSVP, please let Cathy know what committee(s) you are interested in serving on (for information on the subcommittees, go online to http://www.wingspan.org/content/news_wingspan_details.php?story_id=180).

Please bring your lunch, or plan to go somewhere on 4th Ave...we may even chip in and order pizza. Ideally, people should attend the entire day; however, if you are only able to attend for part of the day, please let them know what hours you plan on attending.

MCC Yard Sale March 5

TUCSON - The Metropolitan Community Church (Water of Life MCC) is holding a big Yard Sale Saturday, March 5th on the church grounds at 3269 N. Mountain Ave. (just North of Ft. Lowell). The sale will be conducted from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. In the event of rain, the yard sale will be postponed until the following Saturday, March 12 with the same hours. For more information call 292-9151.

AHRF Lobby Day February 28

PHOENIX (ON) - On Monday, February 28, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and straight supportive Arizonans will converge on the State Capital for the Arizona Human Rights Fund (AHRF) Lobby Day.

"Lobby and Advocacy Day is an opportunity to gather with friends and supporters to inform our legislators about important issues impacting the GLBT community," AHRF said in a statement.

In a statement, AHRF stated the schedule will begin with citizen lobbying training, 10 - 11:30 a.m., for which you will learn skills to communicate effectively with your elected officials, understand the legislative process (i.e., how a bill becomes law) and take away talking points and action items.

During the day, February 28, AHRF will set up meetings between you and your elected officials. This meeting gives you a chance to put a real face to our issues. Citizen lobbying training and talking points will be provided prior to meetings. To sign up for a meeting email info@ahrf.org or call (602) 650-0900.

AHRF continued, in the statement, that lunch will be available to Lobby and Advocacy attendees at a cost of \$5, and to RSVP to info@ahrf.org or call (602) 650-0900 to reserve your lunch. Lobby and Advocacy Day attendees will have the opportunity to sit in the House and Senate Galleries and attendees will be officially introduced on the floor.

Domestic Partner Legislation Scheduled For Hearing Feb. 24

By Mark R. Kerr

PHOENIX (ON) - HB 2710, "Domestic Partnerships; Responsibilities and Benefits" is scheduled to be heard by the House Human Services Committee Thursday, February 24.

As proposed, HB 2710 would grant specified responsibilities and benefits to registered domestic partners, in areas such as: community property, right

IN MEMORIAM



Mark Allen Landsfeld
5/3/64 - 2/15/05

Mark was a well known landscaper in Tucson. Among many other civic duties, he served on the Board of Directors at SAAF in 1997-98. His death was a real tragedy. God Bless.

to inherit in the absence of a will, right of one partner to insure the life of the other and right to be guardian or conservator of a disabled partner, and second parent adoption rights.

"The domestic partnerships bill is an important step in the road to equality," said state Representative Kyrsten Sinema, D-Phoenix, the lead sponsor of HB 2710. "It will start a discussion here at the legislature and throughout the state about the reality of Lesbian and Gay couples in Arizona — they do not have the same rights and responsibilities as straight couples do. This is bad for the whole state, not just for the people who are denied these rights and responsibilities."

HB 2710 sets forth specific criteria for forming and dissolving a domestic partnership. Among the requirements: Applicants must be at least 18 years old, not related to each other, of the same gender and otherwise qualified to enter into a legally-binding contract.

'Postcard' Urging Congress To Ban Same-Sex Marriage Passes House

By Mark R. Kerr

PHOENIX (ON) - Arizona's House of Representatives, on Monday, February 21, approved a proposal urging the approval of a federal constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage and send it to the states for consideration under guidelines set down by the U.S. Constitution.

By a vote of 40-19, the House passed a HCM (House Concurrent Memorial) 2005 - sending a legislative "postcard" to the U.S. Congress, that reads as follows:

"Whereas, the union of man and woman in marriage has been recognized as the foundation of society since the beginning of time; and

"Whereas, marriage between one man and one woman substantially and undeniably benefits the individuals involved, any children resulting from the union and society at large; and

"Whereas, the founders of our country decreed marriage between a man and a woman to be "the highest and most blessed of relationships"; and

"Whereas, nearly three-fourths of the states already have enacted laws to define marriage as being only between a man and a woman and the federal government enacted the Defense of Marriage Act in 1996; and

Continued on Page Three

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 State Representative
David Bradley**

Beliefs

[The following were remarks delivered by state Representative David Bradley, D-Tucson, during the Arizona House Committee of the Whole debate on HCM 2005, February 17, a legislative postcard to urge the U.S. Congress to pass a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.]

“Assuming that this bill passes out today and Monday (February 21) I guess there are some folks who will lay their head to rest a little more comfortably in the coming days. They have done all that they can do, in their own minds, to save the institution of marriage.

“The Arizona State House of Representatives will vote to promote the idea that marriage is solely between a man and a woman. Whew! Thank God, whatever you conceive Him or Her to be.

“In your sweet dreams this evening be sure you don’t envision the sorrow of people who will not sleep so well. They share their lives with a person who will likely never be their spouse. They share their dreams with someone who will only reach the status of partner, and probably not legally so. But so it is, I guess some of us will sleep better, we did our part to save marriage, Thank God.

“I personally believe that God has given human beings many gifts, among them intellect and the opportunity to love and be loved along which comes a host of duties and responsibilities to use the gift wisely.

“I was taught that human sexuality is also a gift, from that same God we keep thanking every time we convene. Inconceivable, I guess, to some would be that this gift could take other forms than the one being voted on to protect.

“Sexuality, as most of us discover, is a powerful force that is present

with us all of the time. It is certainly true that some folks have distorted the gift of their sexuality.

“Our miserable record of marriage in this country is but one indicator of how we struggle to use the gift wisely. Read the daily paper for more distortions of it use.

“Eventually most of us learn that sexuality is not an end in itself, but rather a means to live out our human potential and fulfillment. Those who don’t learn this lesson, live lives at least of quiet desperation or in the worst case terrible distortions. Sexuality becomes an end in itself and gets mixed up with power and control instead of love, humility and honor.

“Our cultures have attempted to sanctify love’s manifestation by perpetuating the value of monogamy, faithfulness and fidelity. Values that we all agree hold societies together.

“Perhaps the true distortion lies in the minds of people who box their beliefs in the certitudes of their perception of what is good and true and of love.

“The fact is that we are all God’s children or none of us are. It would appear that while all of us are created equal, we are not created the same. Throughout recorded history, for whatever Divine purpose, others have been given a gift of sexuality not similar to the majority. The values of monogamy, faithfulness and fidelity still apply to them.

“We are all called to love or none of us are.

“In time, I believe, love conquers all obstacles in its path. Our Gay and Lesbian brothers and sisters will have to continue to wait for a more enlightened time to celebrate its victory.”

‘Postcard’ Urging Congress To Ban Same-Sex Marriage Passes House

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“Whereas, seventeen states have adopted amendments to their constitutions to protect the definition of marriage as being only between a man and a woman; and

“Whereas, the people of the State of Arizona view with growing concern attempts to change the definition of marriage through judicial action, including, most recently, rulings by the courts in Canada, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the State of Washington; and

“Whereas, in addition to simply stating that marriage in the United States consists of the union of a male and a female, an amendment to the Constitution of the United States ensures the democratic process by allowing the states to establish their own policy in the area of martial benefits, including privileges associated with marriage.

“Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

“That, pursuant to article V of the Constitution of the United States, the Congress of the United States propose an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, to be ratified by the legislatures or by conventions in three-fourths of the several states, stating that marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman.”

Arizona, along with 37 other states, have defense of marriage laws on their books defining “marriage” as between a man and woman. Adopted and signed into law in 1996, Arizona’s law was upheld in court in 2003 and 04 rulings, but proponents of the “postcard” contended during debate in the House Committee of the Whole, that took place February 17, and Third Reading on HCM 2005, that a federal constitutional amendment would prevent judges from overturning a ban.

“Same-sex marriage should not

be imposed on the country by a handful of activists and judges,” said state Representative Warde Nichols, R-Chandler, the lead sponsor of HCM 2005.

“People are attempting to use the courts to redefine marriage,” commented state Representative Steve Tully, R-Phoenix, the House Majority Leader, adding that, “they want the state to recognize Gay marriage as something that is good and should be promoted.

Opponents call the “postcard” to Congress, divisive, treat Gays, Lesbians and their families differently than heterosexuals and is a distraction from the priorities and problem the state currently is facing.

“This is nothing less than a civil rights issue,” state Representative Phil Lopes, D-Tucson, the House Democratic leader said. “In passing this, we are seeking to deny civil rights to people who pay their taxes, obey the law and want to be responsible.”

State Representative Linda Lopez, D-Tucson, the Assistant Democratic Leader, expressed her concerns about HCM 2005, stating that “children of Gay and Lesbian parents must get equal access as children of straight couples,” something the “postcard” would prohibit.

“What this says is that some people are more important and valuable than others,” said state Representative Kyrsten Sinema, who is Bisexual. “We’re simply people like everyone else who want and deserve respect.”

HCM 2005 goes to the State Senate for consideration, and on Tuesday, February 22, was assigned to the Senate Family Services Committee.

In 2004, the Senate narrowly rejected HCM 2004, a “postcard” expressing the approval of, and requesting the passage of the Federal Marriage Amendment.

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Canadian G/L Marriage Bill May Die

OTTAWA - Legislation to extend same-sex marriage across Canada could be doomed when the minority Liberal government of Prime Minister Paul Martin brings in its budget, the week ending February 27, reported 365Gay.com.

The Liberals hold 133 of the 308 seats in the House of Commons and has been propped up since last year's election by two smaller parties - the New Democrats and the Bloc Quebecois.

But, both parties had expressed dissatisfaction at what they expect to be contained in the budget. If the budget is defeated the government would fall plunging the country into a spring election campaign. The final vote on the budget is scheduled for March 7, long before the marriage bill expected to come up for final reading.

If the government falls the same-sex marriage bill would die on the order paper.

The NDP and the Bloc have been growing increasingly impatient with the government and fears the country may be headed to the polls intensified this week when the Bloc, NDP and opposition Conservatives joined forces to defeat two government bills.

The move came as a surprise and has forced the government to reassess its situation in Parliament. Until now it was assumed by the Liberals that none of the parties wanted to force an election.

Parliamentary spokespersons for both the Bloc and the NDP said their parties were leaning toward opposing the budget and were prepared if a snap election were called.

By tradition the Opposition votes against the budget. If the Block and NDP

join the Conservatives the two small parties could force an election.

If the government falls, the Conservatives will use same-sex marriage as an election issue. The party says its polling shows that Canadians disapprove of the government's bill. However, independent polls show that a majority of Canadians are comfortable with the legislation.

The issue of Gay marriage has divided both the Liberal and Conservative parties, although it appears that there would be enough support in Parliament to pass the legislation if it comes to a vote.

Polls also show that the Liberals are likely to be returned to power - this time with a majority.

The Tories got a blow when the Conservative premier of Newfoundland, where Gay marriage is already legal, said he would not support his federal party's move to defeat the bill.

Premier Danny Williams said he supports same-sex marriage.

"From a personal perspective, I actually support Gay marriages," Williams said in an interview.

"I practiced law for over 30 years and championed social justice and believed in minority rights and believed in the rights and freedoms of individuals under our Charter of Rights."

Federal Conservative Party leader Stephen Harper's speech in Parliament denouncing Gay marriage also is not playing well in minority communities. Harper had been counting on the ethic vote in the next election and the party ran an ad campaign in ethnic

newspapers over the past two weeks attacking the Liberal's same-sex marriage.

Most new Canadians, polls show, oppose Gay marriage. But, Harper's speech in which he said sexuality is not a human rights issue and accused former Liberal governments of racism angered many people.

"Let us not forget it was the Liberal party that said none is too many when it came to Jews fleeing from Hitler," Harper said in the Commons. "It was the Liberal party that interned Japanese Canadians in camps on Canada's West Coast, an act Pierre Trudeau refused to apologize or make restitution for, leaving it to Brian Mulroney to see justice done," Harper said.

A variety of groups attacked Harper saying he went too far.

The National Association of Japanese Canadians, the Chinese Canadian National Council, the Muslim Canadian Congress, the World Sikh Organization, the Canadian Buddhists Civil Liberties Association, the British Columbia Unitarian Church and the Canadian Race Relations Foundation all attacked the speech.

Prevention Leaders Call For Response To Reports Of Multidrug-Resistant HIV

NEW YORK - In response to a reported case of a multiple-drug-resistant strain of HIV recently identified in New York City, members of the Urban Coalition for HIV/AIDS Prevention Services (UCHAPS) are

urging continued community, government, and public health emphasis on primary HIV prevention activities to stop the spread of the virus, Advocate.com reported.

UCHAPS also is calling for the coordinated delivery of health-promotion messages to communities at increased risk of acquiring or transmitting the disease. "It's important that the community continues to embrace HIV prevention," said Steven Walker, the UCHAPS community cochairman, in a press release. "This newly reported case highlights the need for more community-level interventions that seek to address and change community norms regarding HIV risk behaviors. We know that we can't address HIV prevention in a vacuum, separate and apart from the other issues that compose the complexities of life."

The cofactors that can lead to sexual risk-taking are complex and include a broad range of issues, including racism, homophobia, stigma, poverty, and violence, each of which must be addressed in a coordinated effort and integrated into a comprehensive health-promotion program, UCHAPS says. The organization is calling on state and local governments, health agencies, and prevention programs to conduct a clear and targeted public health response, including increased resources for primary prevention, increased public awareness, and continued collaboration with public health and medical providers.

UCHAPS is a coalition of HIV prevention leaders in six cities—New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Philadelphia, and San Francisco—that collectively represent one third of the HIV cases in the United States. For more information about UCHAPS or its response to the discovery of multidrug-resistant HIV, go online to www.uchaps.org.

Miss Gay Western States America Pageant

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Budget Tightening For AIDS Vaccine Research

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. funding for AIDS vaccine research is tightening, the government's top HIV expert warned Monday, even as he said scientists still must overcome a big hurdle in the hunt: how to harness the body's first defenders to repel infection, the Associated Press reported on 365Gay.com.

Today's leading vaccine candidates can't do that, noted Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health. They work on a different pathway, one of cell-based immunity.

Indeed, scientists are approaching a critical crossroads where they must determine if that cellular approach alone will prove protective enough, said Seth Berkley, president of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative.

"If cellular immunity turns out to be quite positive, we've got a series of candidate vaccines," Berkley said at a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. "If it turns out that cellular immunity is not very useful ... it's a much longer time period" to a useful vaccine.

That question looms just as researchers face tough new battles for U.S. funding.

After years of record budget increases in the 1990s, the NIH next year expects its total budget to increase just half a percent.

Fauci, head of NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, didn't say how much of that allocation is expected for research into an AIDS vaccine, although he said it remained a top priority.

Of the \$600 million to \$700 million invested in AIDS vaccine research worldwide last year, the United States provided \$582 million, Fauci said - the vast bulk from the NIH.

The leveling off of government money means that NIH will more closely scrutinize all the research it funds, and that projects almost automatically re-

newed in earlier "years of largesse" now "don't have the inside track," he said.

Included on that list is a controversial study in Thailand that critics have attacked because 16,000 volunteers are receiving two vaccines that failed to work in previous testing. NIH has said that study should continue because no one knows if the two together might work. But Fauci said the project is being monitored closely and "there is no guarantee it is going to go all the way."

"Our belt is being tightened for us," he said, urging researchers around the world to better collaborate to avoid expensive duplicative efforts and speed their work.

The field of AIDS vaccines has been a roller coaster of scientific optimism and despair. About a dozen companies and organizations worldwide are attempting to develop one. The longtime lead candidate was deemed unsuccessful in 2000 after reaching final stage, or Phase III, testing.

Now, one developed by Merck & Co. is considered in the lead, with a Phase II study just beginning. Like many other AIDS vaccines under development, it is designed to spur so-called killer T cells to hunt down and destroy any cells newly infected with HIV.

The body does a pretty good job of that, Berkley noted. That's why most HIV patients don't become sick until years after they were infected - their own killer T cells work frantically to suppress infection.

If a cellular-based vaccine could improve that viral suppression, it would make a huge impact, he said - but no one knows yet. Preliminary data on Merck's candidate is due in 2008.

Fauci said he doubts it will be that simple.

True HIV prevention likely will require generating a different immune-system component, "neutralizing antibodies," to hunt down and eliminate the



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virus before it infiltrates cells, Fauci explained. That's because HIV is notoriously tricky, able to hide in the body so well that a vaccine based on early killing of infected cells may not be enough, he said.

"I doubt very seriously whether we'll have a successful candidate that will prevent infection until we're able to induce neutralizing antibodies along with cellular immune responses," Fauci said.

Many scientists now are hunting neutralizing antibodies against HIV. Five have been identified so far. Berkley said IAVI-funded researchers have just uncovered the structure of the strongest one identified yet, an important step in eventually creating ways to harness them for a vaccine.

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AMA Feels Heat Over Leader's Anti-G/L Remarks

NEW YORK - After being criticized by Gay and Lesbian groups, the president of the American Medical Association said Thursday, February 17, his views were misrepresented in a newspaper article that quotes him defending a Roman Catholic-affiliated medical school's decision to ban a Gay student group, 365Gay.com reported.

The Journal News of White Plains, N.Y., said Dr. John Nelson likened the ban at New York Medical College to Brigham Young University's decision to suspend four former football players accused of rape, and with the Mormon school's refusal to allow caffeinated soft drinks on campus.

Joel Ginsberg, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, said Nelson's comparison criminalized and trivialized homosexuality, and prompted dozens of complaints to his organization.

"His comments were inappropriate and hurtful," Ginsberg said.

Nelson issued a statement Thursday saying his views "were grossly misrepresented" by the Feb. 12 article.

"I apologize to anyone who may have been offended by what they read," but the article "does not represent my views or the policies of the AMA," Nelson said.

CynDee Royle, the newspaper's senior managing editor, said the reporter taped the interview and that neither Nelson nor the AMA had requested a correction.

"We absolutely stand by the story," Royle said.

The AMA says it does not support the Gay student group ban at the Valhalla, N.Y., medical college, which is affiliated with New York's Roman Catholic archdiocese.

As quoted by reporter Keith Eddings, Nelson said Gays should be

treated with dignity and respect, but that Gay students' rights should be balanced against the private school's right to set its own policies.

"For example, if you come to Brigham Young University, where my children happen to go to school, there are certain things you do not do, among which is, you do not drink Coca-Cola on campus because that's against the rules," he was quoted as saying.

He then mentioned BYU's suspension of the former football players. "They said, 'You're off the team,'" Nelson was quoted as saying. "The point is, you have to follow the rules."

Joshua Sahara, 27, an NYMC student and president of the Gay student group, said Nelson's analogies were offensive.

He said the group, which supports health-related issues for Gays, was banned last fall after changing its name to Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender People in Medicine. It had been the Student Support Group.

NYMC spokeswoman Donna Moriarty said under the former name, the group did not stress a homosexual agenda.

She said the college "does not discriminate" but has the right "to preserve its identity ... in the Catholic tradition."

Nelson's "apology" was not not accepted by the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association.

"While we appreciate Dr. Nelson's comments, they are not really a retraction of these hurtful analogies," said GLMA's Executive Director, Joel Ginsberg.

"As Gay and Lesbian people we try to live their lives with integrity and honor and being compared to sexual predators is callous and degrading.

Continued on Page Nine

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HHS Reverses Itself On Using 'LGBT'

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Bush Administration has reversed itself on whether it is permissible for programs sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to use the words "Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender."

The fight was sparked by a SAMHSA official insisting a program originally titled "Suicide Prevention Among Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Individuals" be changed for a Feb. 28 conference in Portland, Oregon, the PlanetOut Network reported.

One of the organizers of the program was told to use the term "sexual orientation," instead.

Mark Weber, a spokesman for SAMHSA, told the Washington Post his agency suggested the term "sexual orientation" because it is more "inclusive." When asked how strong the suggestion was, he told the newspaper, "Well, they do need to consider their funding source."

After a public outcry and intense media coverage, SAMHSA officials tried backing away from the controversial position but did not say whether LGBT references in future SAMHSA-funded activities would be barred.

Openly Gay congressman Barney Frank, D-Mass., spoke to SAMHSA's administrator Charles Curie about the problem.

According to Metro Weekly, a Washington, D.C. LGBT paper, Curie e-mailed Frank stating, "there is no policy on the use of the words 'Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender.'"

According to Metro Weekly, Curie added, "I am still planning to participate in the ... conference and I will highlight in my remarks our commitment at SAMHSA to ensure that we reach out to all populations in our efforts to provide substance abuse prevention, addiction treatment and mental health services."

Frank thanked Curie in a press release published by Metro Weekly.

"I am pleased that Mr. Curie was so cooperative and moved so quickly to repudiate the apparently erroneous earlier statements that SAMHSA policies bar the use of references to any of these terms."

"Given the fact that the frequency of youth suicide in particular is so much higher in the GLBT community, it would have sent terribly mixed signals to convene a panel discussion on suicide within that community and then refuse to even acknowledge the target audience. I appreciate the fact that the head of the agency took the necessary steps to correct the misinformation," Frank added.

John Marble, spokesman for the Stonewall Democrats, said he was not surprised by the events.

"Of course the Bush administration has routinely rejected science in favor of right-wing ideology. As usual, they got spanked in the press and they were embarrassed because they got caught.

"The Bush administration knows that the majority of Americans don't subscribe to the crazy ideology that the West Wing does, and when they're exposed, they back off."

Ron Schlittler, the interim executive national director at the national PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) added, "I think it's great news. It demonstrates that if we shine enough

light on it, they have to deal with reality."

"We've consistently seen reports that researchers better not use words like 'Gay' or 'Lesbian' or they won't get funded," Schlittler added.

"This is just another example of a very disturbing pattern. I hope the Bush administration realizes now that we're not going to remain invisible."

George Michael Says Pop Is Dead

BERLIN - George Michael says he's closing a chapter in his two-decade pop music career with his new autobiographical film, "George Michael: A Different Story," the PlanetOut Network reported.

The reason? "I think my own genre is dead," Michael said Wednesday, February 16, as he presented the movie at the Berlin International Film Festival. "I don't really think that there is anyone in the modern pop business who I feel I want to spar with."

Michael, 41, said he wants to "try to move my career into a different form — I don't know what that's going to be yet."

In the new film, directed by Southan Morris, Michael takes viewers through the highs and lows of his career, from his rise to fame as half of 1980s British pop duo Wham! to his 1998 arrest for lewd conduct at a public restroom in Beverly Hills, Calif. — an episode that forced his homosexuality into the public domain.

"Having been so private and not explained myself for the last 15 years or so, I thought that my fans deserved to know what those songs were about," Michael told reporters. "It's almost as much for me as for them, in terms of trying to make sense of the last 22 years and bringing it to a close in a proper way.

"I'm much less worried about being intensely private," he added. "I'm sure a lot of that is to do with being outed — it changes everything."

Michael acknowledged some embarrassment over the early days of his career.

"I was the perpetrator of many fashion crimes in the '80s," he said.

The singer's last album, "Patience," topped the British charts last year. "I'm still going to be making music," he said.

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Bush Re-Nominates Judges Turned Down By The Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. - President Bush has renominated 12 of his selections for the federal appellate courts, including several jurists considered hostile to the goals of the LGBT rights movement, 365Gay.com.

The move is based on the hope that slightly better GOP numbers in the Senate, combined with a post-election spirit of accommodation, might let a few of these previously rejected nominees squeak through the confirmation process. Seven were the victims of Democrat filibusters in the past, while the other five were stalled by the minority party.

The most objectionable name on the list, argue some LGBT leaders, is William Pryor, the former attorney general of Alabama who profited from a stealth appointment to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit when Congress was on break last year. Pryor must now be confirmed by the same Senate that filibustered his nomination prior to the recess appointment one year ago.

Two of the nation's largest LGBT political groups, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and National Stonewall Democrats, denounced Pryor.

Pryor is a fundamentalist Christian, and one of the youngest individuals nominated to a lifetime position on the

federal bench. Gay activists particularly dislike the friend-of-the-court brief he signed in defense of the Texas sodomy law in 2003, a brief in which he described homosexuality as a sexual perversion on par with bestiality and others. Pryor has "made it clear," as HRC Vice President David Smith said, "that he has a strong bias against LGBT Americans."

Conservatives may argue that Pryor has proved his moderate temperament in the last 12 months, a period when he has not written any dissenting opinions nor strayed from conventional legal analysis. Yet, to the LGBT community, Pryor's presence on the 11th Circuit last year has made a difference.

Recently the 11th Circuit declined to rehear the challenge to the Florida law that pre-empts Gay men and Lesbians from applying to become adoptive parents. The 6-6 tie vote by the full court upheld an earlier ruling in favor of Florida by a three-judge panel. Later, the U.S. Supreme Court refused review, leaving the anti-Gay ruling intact.

In addition to Pryor, Bush is bringing back Janice Brown of the California Supreme Court, Richard Griffin, David McKeague and Henry Saad, all three of Michigan, Priscilla Owen of Texas, and William Myers of Idaho.

Embattled PBS Chief To Step Down

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Pat Mitchell, the Public Broadcasting Service chief under fire for spending public money on a cartoon show that also featured a real-life lesbian couple, will step down when her contract expires in June 2006, the Associated Press reported on the PlanetOut Network.

Mitchell, the nonprofit network's fifth president and chief executive officer, also faced significant fund-raising challenges.

She drew recent criticism from both liberals and conservatives for "Postcards From Buster," in which the title character, an animated bunny named Buster, traveled to Vermont — a state known for recognizing same-sex civil unions. Though the focus was on farm life and maple sugaring, the episode, entitled "Sugartime," featured an actual lesbian couple.

Newly appointed Education Secretary Margaret Spellings contended that the episode did not fulfill the intent Congress had in mind for programming and said many parents would not want children exposed to such lifestyles.

Mitchell, 62, who joined PBS in 2000, told PBS managers at its annual meeting Monday that she would not seek a third three-year term when her contract expired in June 2006. In a statement to the media, Mitchell made no reference to the "Buster" controversy.

The network decided not to distribute the episode to its 349 stations. But the Boston public television station, WGBH-TV, which produced the series, has made it available to other stations.

PBS depends on Congress for funding and also relies on contributions from individuals, local stations, state governments and foundations. The network receives money for the "Postcards from Buster" series through the federal Ready-To-Learn program aimed at helping young children learn through television.

Under Mitchell's leadership, prime-time ratings rose to the highest ever, and PBS stations extended their reach for digital broadcasting to over 89 percent of the country. Mitchell also added diversity to the schedule — including the "American Family," an Emmy-nominated series featuring a Latino family, and "American Mystery!" a special featuring Indians living in the Southwest.

At the meeting with managers, Mitchell outlined an agenda for the remainder of her term, including securing sustainable funding on a national and local level, broadening public television's reach and resources in education and setting new benchmarks for children's programming.

"We have a lot to do in the next 15 months," she said in the statement. "I have a big agenda and am happy to be in the midst of spearheading some of PBS' greatest successes."

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COMMENTARY . . .

by Lori Girschick

'Following A Hate Crime Murder: A Personal Reflection'

I did not know Philip Walsted personally as I moved to Tucson in 2003. However, over the past year I came to know about his life—and his death—through my contact with his family, his partner, co-workers and friends, and, yes, through sitting through evidentiary hearings and the trial of the man convicted now of his murder, David Higdon.

I wish I had known Philip. I feel robbed by his death.

I had come to know Philip's family first through the planning of the memorial vigil the Wingspan Anti-Violence Project held to remember Philip in June, 2004—two years after his death. For me, planning an event to honor someone who was brutally murdered took on a very personal feel because I wanted to do something meaningful, something that allowed our community to express caring and that would bring us together in remembrance. I wondered what role the Anti-Violence Project could have in making a difference on many levels—to the family, to our community, and in the larger societal sense around justice, courts, accountability, and prevention.

Sitting through the trial process was a very painful experience. I was able to attend many of the pretrial hearings where evidence is introduced and the judge rules on what can be heard by the jury. Now, I have taught (as a former full-time Sociology professor) about Neo-Nazis, Skinheads, and racism. But hearing the beliefs David Higdon expressed in his letters written while he was in the Pima County Jail while he was sitting in front of me and the words of some of the potential witnesses who

personally held these beliefs as they testified was totally different than reading a book or watching a video. This was not someone else or somewhere else. These people were here—in my presence—and they lived in Tucson (or Arizona more broadly). The reality of these beliefs and the harm they cause was frightening. The day I heard from David Higdon's letters his plans to take over North America, his exclamation "I am God" and that he had "dipped his hands, his feet, and his laces in blood" I understood in a totally different way than ever before that this man was violent, that he could, would and did (according to the jury verdict) kill for his cause.

The trial itself was an interesting legal process. I did not always understand the legal wrangling of the lawyers. I followed the testimony of police officers and DNA and other experts. I saw the bloody clothes and the baseball bat murder weapon. I heard the arguments that someone else committed the crime. There were emotional and contradictory confessions. I had fears the jury would believe the defense case in spite of it being far-fetched. I worried the jury might be confused by the debate of whether David Higdon was a Skinhead before or after the murder (which was tied to motive) or whether they would understand the difference between "being on the path" and being technically labeled a Skinhead.

I tried to prepare myself for a guilty verdict and for a not guilty verdict. The night before the verdict came I sat down at my computer to draft a statement for the media (in my role as AVP Coordinator). I wrote the headline related to a guilty verdict and other paragraphs flowed. I wrote the headline of a not guilty

verdict and a few sentences followed. I was not prepared for that outcome and decided I would not rehearse it.

When I received the call that the jury reached their verdict I raced to the courtroom. I sat behind the family who had their arms linked, hands clasped to one another's. I was incredibly nervous. In those minutes of waiting the "case" magnified. This was about Philip and it was also about the safety of all LGBT people. As a hate crime murder I realized I needed this verdict for Philip and his family, and for myself, for our community.

David Higdon was convicted of first degree premeditated and felony murder and armed robbery. His sentencing will be March 28 and he faces 25 years to natural life in prison. I wish I could tell the jury how much it meant to me that they saw that hate and violence cannot be tolerated. They did send a message and I am appreciative for that. A question I am still pondering, however, is: How can we send this message without the loss of a precious person's life?

If you are the victim of a hate crime, bias act, harassment or discrimination please call the Anti-Violence Project's 24-hour crisis line at (520) 624-0348 or 800-553-9387. Whether you choose to report to the police or not, we offer crisis counseling, safety planning, emergency shelter, information and referrals, and advocacy. We want to hear from you.

[Girschick is the Coordinator of the Wingspan Anti-Violence Project.]

**Hunter S. Thompson
Dead At 67**

ASPEN - Hunter S. Thompson, the acerbic counter-culture author of books such as "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas," fatally shot himself Sunday night, February 20, at his Aspen-area home, his son said. He was 67, the Associated Press reported on Eschaton.com.

"Hunter prized his privacy and we ask that his friends and admirers respect that privacy as well as that of his family," Juan Thompson said in a statement released to the Aspen Daily News.

Pitkin County Sheriff Bob Braudis, a personal friend of Thompson, confirmed the death to the News. Sheriff's officials did not return calls from reporters seeking comment.

**AMA Feels
Heat**

Continued from Page Six

I'm sure that, like the vast majority of people who go into medicine, Dr. Nelson wants only the best for people. But most of the homophobia in medicine comes not from a desire to discriminate but from this sort of thoughtless disregard of the realities of people's lives.

"Casually homophobic remarks like this are damaging to people's health and are a large part of why GLMA still needs to exist. That's why GLMA will continue to work with the AMA to ensure that when the AMA talks about health disparities, sexual orientation and gender identity are included."

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Gay Love Hits Two Networks

LOS ANGELES - A Lesbian wedding on Fox and a hot Gay kiss on ABC - Sunday was a banner queer night on the tube as both "Desperate Housewives" and "The Simpsons" took up coming out, 365Gay.com reported.

On "The Simpsons" coming out was handled as only eternally irreverent "Simpsons" could. In the long awaited, and highly publicized, coming out episode Sunday night, the Gay Simpson turned out to be Patty, one half of the twins that Homer had dubbed the "gruesome twosome".

Over at ABC, Bree's son Andrew (played by Shawn Pyfrom) has his first Gay kiss.

The Fox toon's town of Springfield decides to legalize Gay marriage to boost tourism. As the mayor says in the episode: "Springfield: a place where everyone can marry — even dudes."

Homer Simpson writes away and becomes a mail order preacher so that he can marry same-sex couples. And like any tourist initiative, there is a catchy song — this time, to the tune of Harry Belafonte's Banana Boat.

The song goes: "Gay-o, it's OK-o/Tie the knot and spend all your dough."

As Homer hypes up his Gay marriage business Patty arrives at the Simpson home to announce her own impending wedding. As sister Marge sits on the couch Patty tells her she's getting married.

"Who's the lucky man," asks Marge.

"Her name is Veronica," replies Patty.

"But Veronica isn't a man's name," insists Marge, and voila, Patty is out.

But, that isn't the end of the tale. It wouldn't be "The Simpsons" if it were.

Marge has trouble accepting Patty is a Lesbian and that she didn't come out to her long ago.

Patty is upset because Marge is upset. But, then, on the wedding day, as Marge tries to go into the bathroom she notices Veronica is in there and as she is about to leave notices the toilet seat is up.

Yup, that only means one thing: Veronica is a dude.

As the nuptials get underway Marge steps in and exposes Veronica, who says she/he only dressed up to play in the LPGA and when she/he and Patty fell in love he was too scared to come out as a guy.

Patty refuses to forgive him. The wedding is off but Patty is still out.

Speculation was rife for weeks about who the Gay character might be. One online betting site says it has received more than 3,000 wagers.

"Desperate Housewives" wove a novel way to get Andrew into a queer smooch. We were introduced to a new character: Justin (played by Ryan Carnes) who wants a job "gardening" for Gabrielle (Eva Longoria).

Justin says that he knows Gabrielle needs to have her "shrub" pruned - a sly reference to her lust for hot young gardeners.

Bu then Susan (Teri Hatcher) finds Justin and Andrew naked and making out in the pool.

"I'm not Gay!" blurts out Andrew.

Justin confesses to Gabrielle that he only put the make on her because he was afraid he might be Gay. She plants a a kiss on him and asks if

he felt anything. He says no and she departs saying "you're Gay".

It was a sweet story line that hopefully will be continued.

Anti-Gay Group Sets Sights On Shrek

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Shrek 2 is the latest animated film title to be "outed" by Christian fundamentalists, the Canadian Press reported on 365Gay.com.

Though they seem to have ignored Sunday's (February 20) Gay kiss on Desperate Housewives, and the coming out of Patty on The Simpsons, fundamentalists are expressing outrage over Shrek 2

On its website the Traditional Values Coalition is warning parents about the cross-dressing and transgender themes contained in the hit DreamWorks feature, now on DVD.

"Shrek 2 is billed as harmless entertainment but contains subtle sexual messages," says the coalition, which describes itself as a grassroots inter-denominational lobby with more than 43,000 member churches.

"Parents who are thinking about taking their children to see Shrek 2 may wish to consider the following."

The article then proceeds to describe one of the characters, an "evil" bartender (voiced by Larry King) who is a male-to-female transgender in transition and who expresses a sexual desire for Prince Charming.

In another identified scene, Shrek and Donkey need rescuing from

a dungeon by Pinocchio and his nose, which is made to extend as an escape bridge by getting the wooden boy to lie about not wearing women's underwear.

The TVC report, A Gender Identity Disorder Goes Mainstream, raps DreamWorks for helping to promote "crossdressing and Transgenderism."

But Charles Keil, a film studies professor at the University of Toronto, says Transgendered groups might also have reason to complain about being parodied.

"You have an image within a comic context that could be read either way," says Keil, who adds quickly that such humor is designed for parents anyway and goes way above the heads of the children in the audience.

"If the kids don't get it, it doesn't really matter."

Keil says the whole idea behind the Shrek movies is a general message of tolerance - that outward appearances don't matter and that it's what's underneath that counts - and such complaints defeat that larger, more important message.

"Targeting minuscule elements within a much larger work and then trying to extract from that some kind of argument that borders on the paranoid is really misconstruing the general aim of this entertainment."

Continued on Page Fourteen



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POLITICS 2005

by Mark R. Kerr

'Where We Really Stand'

On Thursday, February 17, the Arizona House of Representatives, in a hearing of the Committee of the Whole, took up HB 2233, capital cases; aggravating factors, (now: sentencing; aggravating factors). This proposal would expand the list of aggravating factors in sentencing, under ARS 13-7303, those convicted of crimes under Arizona law.

State Representative Linda Lopez, D-Tucson, offered a floor amendment to expand HB 2233 to cover misdemeanor offenses since it would be the right thing to protect law-abiding Arizonans from the actions of those who would harm them.

State Representative Eddie Farnsworth, R-Mesa, the chair of the House Judiciary Committee, leapt up, denouncing Lopez's floor amendment as an attempt to strengthen Arizona hate crimes law - code words for helping the homosexuals.

ARS 13-7303 includes Arizona's hate crimes law, and the statute only covers felonies. As previously reported, two bills, HB 2310 and SB 1486 were introduced (with no Republican cosponsors) during this session (but didn't get a hearing date and are subsequently dead in their present form), to expand the law to cover misdemeanor offenses, not providing special rights or protections for a segment of the population but to cover and protect all citizens of the state.

Lopez's floor amendment was defeated by a vote of 21-26. Twenty-one Democrats, and zero Republicans voted in favor. One Democrat and twenty-five Republicans, including state Representatives Steve Huffman of Tucson, and Michelle Reagan of Phoenix, both of whom had previously cosponsored legislation expanding the law to cover misdemeanors, voted against Lopez's amendment. . . .

During Third Reading of proposed bills in the Arizona House, February 21, House Speaker James Weiers, R-Phoenix, expressed his dis-

dain, chastising individuals in the audience for applauding, threatening to clear the gallery where they were seated, and fellow House members for actually expressing their opinion on how they voted on legislation.

Throughout the February 21 Third Reading, Speaker Weiers let his fellow Republicans blather on, spouting platitudes on many measures on the Third Reading Calendar, including:

HB2133 - county excise taxes; hotels, HB2224 - public service corporations; assessments; limitations, HB2389 - illegal aliens; violent crimes; bail, HB2393 - driver licenses and fraudulent documents, HB2403 - judges; automatic increase eliminated, HB2409 - concealed weapons; reciprocity agreements, HB2418 - AIMS test; learning disabled children, and HB2469 - emergency vehicles; right-of-way, naming several of the long list of proposals voted on.

So what got Weiers' "undies, in a such a bind?" A proposal on the Third Reading Calendar, HCM (House Concurrent Memorial) 2005, the legislative "postcard" that was approved by the Arizona House in its Third Reading by a vote of 40-19, sending a message to the U.S. Congress to pass and send the states a constitutional amendment barring recognition of same-sex marriage.

In their accounts, the mainstream "press" has whitewashed HCM 2005, calling it "symbolic," or "meaningless," but House Democrats knew otherwise and expressed their opinion, to set the record straight in explaining their votes.

Democrats said HCM 2005 would not let Gay and Lesbian families get equal treatment; denying civil rights to tax paying citizens; sending a message that "some people are more important and more valuable," to the applause of those in the gallery - consisting primarily of opponents of HCM 2005, for which Weiers threatened to clear the gallery, attempting to hide the democratic process and quashing the rights of those present in expressing themselves.

Weiers than chastised members with disdain for expressing themselves, which they can under Legislative rules, set down long ago and followed (even earlier during Third Reading on February 21), for both chambers.

After his tirade, Weiers let proponents blather on, spreading such falsehoods that same-sex marriage is being hoisted on the U.S. by a handful of homosexual activists and judges who are creating law - despite the current state statute defining marriage, approved and signed into law in 1996 and the 2003 and 2004 court rulings, upholding Arizona's Defense of Marriage Act, and that homosexuals can enter into a contract, something they wanted and tried to outlaw (Remember SCR 1003?) as well during this session but will end up as part of their petition drive to place before the voters, November 2006, a proposed state constitutional amendment barring same-sex marriages, civil unions, domestic partnerships and such agreements - as they've already done in Ohio, Virginia and Louisiana.

HCM 2005 has been sent over to the State Senate, continuing on its Republican legislative fast-track and was already first read in the Senate and assigned to the Senate Family Services Committee on Tuesday, February 22, showing where we really stand.



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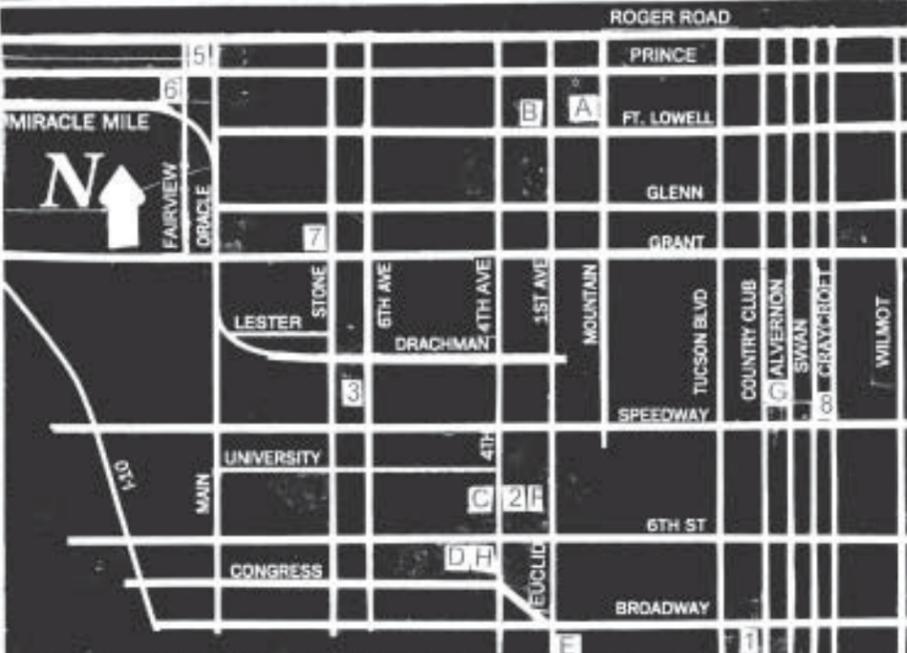


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New Information In 'Jeff Gannon' Saga Raises Even More Questions

Continued from Page One

by the president for a safe question, protected from FBI vetting by the press office, disseminating innuendo and smears about critics and opponents of the administration, some of them Gay-baiting, was unmasked not only as a hireling and fraud but as a Gay prostitute, with enormous potential for blackmail."

Answer: Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd: New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd pointed out that not everyone has found it as easy to get into press briefings as Mr. Gannon did: "I'm still mystified by this story. I was rejected for a White House press pass at the start of the Bush administration, but someone with an alias, a tax evasion problem and Internet pictures where he posed like the 'Barberini Faun' is credentialed to cover a White House that won a second term by mining homophobia and preaching family values?"

Gannon attended White House press briefings before Talon even existed? According to Salon: "Guckert, using his alias 'Jeff Gannon,' once boasted online about asking then-White House press secretary Ari Fleischer a question at the Feb. 28, 2003, briefing. ... what's significant about the February 2003 date is that Talon did not even exist then. The organization was created in late March 2003, and began publishing online in early April 2003. Gannon, a jack of all trades who spent time in the military as well as working at an auto repair shop (not to mention escorting), has already stated publicly that Talon News was his first job in journalism. That means he wasn't working for any other news outlet in February 2003 when he was spotted by C-Span cameras inside the White House briefing room."

On February 18, Editor & Publisher reported: "Former Talon News reporter James Guckert obtained his first White House press credentials as a representative of the pro-Republican Web site, GOPUSA, not as a Talon News reporter, as previously believed, Press Secretary Scott McClellan told E&P today. McClellan said White House Press Office staffers considered the obviously partisan site to be a legitimate news organization when they gave Guckert, a.k.a. Jeff Gannon, the first of numerous day passes in February 2003."

"He faxed a letter in on his [GOPUSA] letterhead, they checked that it was a Web site he worked for," McClellan explained, referring to his staffers who handled such credentialing at the time. "There was a check to make sure it was a news organization and a news Web site. There was a determination made at that point [that it was legitimate]."

Was Talon created to address Fleischer's concerns? Former White House press secretary Ari Fleischer told Editor & Publisher that he "was so concerned about Talon News reporter James Guckert's potential ties to the Republican Party that he stopped calling on him at press briefings for about a week in 2003. 'I found out that he worked for a GOP site, and I didn't think it was my place to call on him because he worked for something that was related to the party,' Fleischer said in a phone interview. 'He had the editor call me and made the case that they were not related to the Republican Party. He said they used the GOP name for marketing purposes only.'"

It isn't clear when Fleischer

raised his concerns about Gannon, but given that Gannon apparently attended White House press briefings before Talon even existed, and given that Fleischer had concerns about calling on someone from "GOPUSA," was Talon created specifically to give cover to Fleischer? Even if Talon wasn't created in response to Fleischer's concerns, it still seems to have been created after Gannon began attending briefings; was it created in anticipation of such concerns?

That might explain why, as Media Matters has noted, Talon is nothing more than a portal to GOPUSA: Articles on TalonNews.com consist of brief introductory paragraphs, followed by a link to "Read more"; clicking on that link takes you to a page that announces, "This story can be found on our #1 client — GOPUSA!" Readers are then redirected to the GOPUSA.com site.

"Gannon" story fits into a growing pattern of White House propaganda. When Media Matters first wrote about Gannon, we noted that Gannon fit into the "growing scandal surrounding conservatives' use of fake 'news' reports, secret government propaganda, and payola to conservative commentators." That pattern is the real significance of the Gannon story, and what more reporters should focus on, rather than the salacious details of Gannon's side businesses.

Fortunately, an increasing number of journalists are doing just that. New York Times columnist Frank Rich noted: "By my count, 'Jeff Gannon' is now at least the sixth 'journalist' (four of whom have been unmasked so far this year) to have been a propagandist on the payroll of either the Bush administration or a barely arms-length ally like Talon News while simultaneously appearing in print or broadcast forums that purport to be real news."

The Christian Science Monitor likewise tied the Gannon matter in with other examples of White House manipulation of the media: "First came video 'news releases' produced by the Bush administration using a TV news format. Then came three conservative columnists who got big paychecks from federal agencies. Now, there's Jeff Gannon (not his real name), a journalist (maybe) who gained surprisingly easy access to the president, only to lob a sympathetically slanted question."

No evidence has surfaced that Mr. Gannon was directed by the White House, but the circumstances ignited a debate over the inner workings of the White House press room.

Since President Bush took office, contracts for public relations work with the federal government have jumped from \$39 million to \$88.2 million last year, according to a report by Democratic staff of the House Government Reform Committee. These contracts cover everything from promoting the newly revised food pyramid to funding major initiatives from schools to Social Security.

The Monitor went on to note an historical parallel to the current White House's treatment of the media: "Deeply frustrated by the coverage of the Watergate scandal, President Nixon directed his staff to ban any representative from the New York Times, the Washington Post, Time Magazine, Newsweek, CBS, and a UPI reporter from the press pool - an order his staff largely ignored. But during the 2004 campaign, a New York Times reporter assigned to cover Vice President Cheney was routinely excluded from the press plane."

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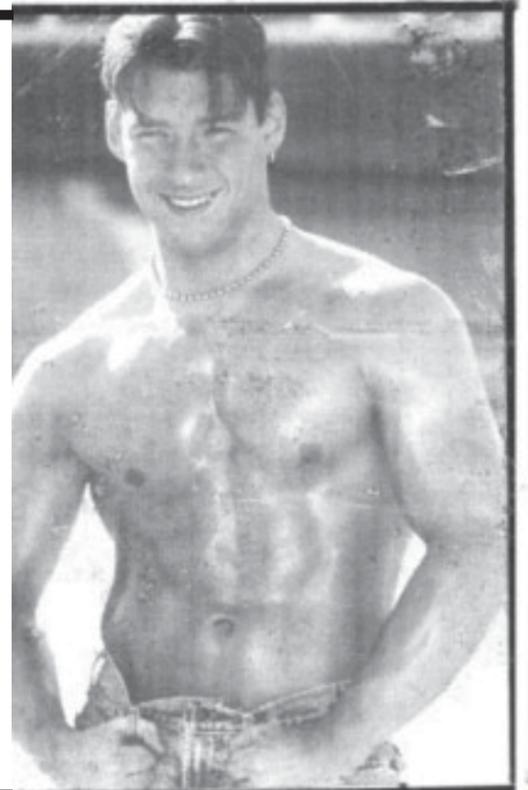
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To All,
History has a terrible habit of repeating itself and in the 1930's-1940's Adolf Hitler kept persecuting one segment of German society after another and controlled the rest of the population by intimidation and fear... This is America we can't let this happen here!

America gets its strength from the diversity of its people. If all of us were the same it would be a boring ass world. I'm proud of who I am, of what I am, and it is this uniqueness in all of us which makes all of us very special. Also, we all need to have the rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness and we should all be able to do what we want, to go where we want, to wear what we want and most importantly, to be with who we want!!!!

We don't need the government force feeding us shallow minded philosophy... We are not a bunch of children, we are not a bunch of crazed drug addicts, we are educated adults American citizens who are intelligent enough to make our own decision and run our own lives!!! We don't need a

government which adds Constitutional Amendments just because certain lifestyles are not their cup of tea.

In the late 1700s our first Americans did not shake the shackles of King George for us to wear the shackles of President George!!! We need to team up and become organized and become one, for it is this strength which will keep us free!!! If we let the government take one right, then another, then another, then another, one day we will wake up in a maximum security society and we don't need that to happen.

My friends, the road ahead is filled with uncertainties and we have no idea what the government is going to pull next, but we must all stay awake; we must all keep active and this will keep our voice heard and to keep all of us strong!!!

I thank you all for reading this article for you are all very strong Americans!!!

Peace my friends!!!!
Jim Lockier, Tucson

NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

by Lee Thorn

Hurray For Christo

With the destruction of the middle class proceeding apace, the bloodbath in Iraq continuing unabated, and no relief on the political horizon yet in sight, profound thanks to Christo for giving us something other than hardship and war to think and write about.

Unlike those of any other artists I know, Christo's works are regularly reported on as news events. They're widely covered in newspapers and on the network nightly news shows, and they've been getting this regal treatment since way back in the '70s.

His latest work consists of 7,500 gates in New York's Central Park, each gate a 16-foot-high frame in which a saffron-colored banner is suspended. The installation, covering 23 miles of foot-paths in the Park, is described by the artist as "a visual golden river."

I've only seen still photos and television images of this latest Christo production, and I know that seeing the thing in person would likely be a vastly different experience, but my general impression from what I have seen is that the project is visually boring. And it's the first Christo project that's seemed so to me.

I remember, sometime in the '70s, when I first became aware of this artist's work. The occasion was his hanging a gigantic curtain across a geological feature in Colorado known as "Rifle Gap." It was hailed as an engineering as well as an artistic accomplishment because the curtain was so massive that it required substantial rigging to get it up and keep it from being blown down from the windy gap.

I also remember that many of the locals in the vicinity of the project hated the whole idea of it and wanted to shoot Christo, or at least give him a good thrashing. This despite the fact that the artist was careful not to cause any permanent environmental damage with his temporary curtain. It was a fine example of art's power to infuriate people even when no one can claim it's erotic, unpatriotic or subversive. And it was visually very interesting, even if you only got to see photos of it.

Then there was the time that Christo ran a big white fence for miles up

and down green hills and ending at the shore of the Pacific. He needed to get lots of private landowners to let him very briefly use their land. Once again the project infuriated people and ended up being interesting to look at.

The only other Christo project that comes to mind was his wrapping some small islands, about three of them I think, in pink plastic. The pictures from the air looked like pink glazed doughnuts with green holes.

For that one the people who got upset were mostly environmentalists who thought the project might hurt birds and fish. Christo recruited several teams of people to protect the wildlife, made everyone happy and finished the work with, once again, visually interesting results.

As you might imagine, a major work of art by a famous artist which will bring tourists to New York from all over the world just to see it is not going to make anyone angry. I haven't heard a single disparaging word about the project and I'm delighted that Christo did it, but that doesn't change the fact that it's boring to look at.

One of the first things you learn in a decent course in art appreciation is that you look at works with an open mind. Put your expectations on hold. Let your experience of the work come before your trying to figure it out.

Having done this and having found the work wanting, I asked myself what might have made this effort less interesting than Christo's others. My first answer was that the others all occurred in places where art isn't supposed to occur.

Who would ever expect a curtain across Rifle Gap, a giant fence running across a bunch of hills to the sea, or pink doughnuts in the ocean? On the other hand, art is Central Park is as inevitable and predictable there as grass.

Another difference is that the earlier projects all had some sort of irregular flow about them. The curtain wasn't square because the gap isn't. The fence ran up and down hills of different shapes and sizes. The doughnuts weren't perfectly round because the islands aren't. The series of frames in the Park has almost a mechanical look. The frames and

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banners are identical. Even the distance between frames seems the same.

Coming back to the artist's comparison of his work to a river, a river's width and depth change, as does the speed of its current. All of these irregularities add interest that Christo's oversized Tinkertoys lack.

Still and all, hurray for Christo!

[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]



This week's column is not based on any one question, but on the many questions that have poured in over the last couple of weeks surrounding the report out of New York of a new HIV "super virus". Many of you have written with concerns, with questions, and with opinions. This week's column will try to address all of those.

On February 11th, the commissioner for the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Thomas R. Frieden, held a press conference and announced that health officials had identified a New York City man as having a possibly new, and very deadly strain of the HIV virus. This discovery has sent ripples of concern throughout scientific, health care, and prevention communities.

One of the causes for such concern: the rapid progression of the disease. The man in question was tested in May of 2003, with a negative result. During treatment for some flu-like symptoms in November of 2004, he tested again. His test came back on December 16th with a positive result. By January of 2005, his situation had progressed to an AIDS diagnosis—something that usually takes several years from the date of infection with the HIV virus. From

interviews with the man in question, health department officials believe the man's infection date to be October of 2004, a mere four months before his AIDS diagnosis.

The second cause for concern: the strain of HIV the man has is already resistant to three of the four classes of drugs that can be used to treat HIV. Health officials are still working to determine if the virus was this highly resistant when passed, or if the change occurred after transmission.

And finally, there is concern as to just how widespread this problem may be. The 46 year-old man acknowledges having "unprotected insertive and receptive anal intercourse with multiple partners". Just how many partners is uncertain, though health officials are working to try and locate as many of these partners as possible. The man also acknowledges using crystal methamphetamine, which may be a factor in the drastic mutation of the virus in this case.

There are many, including a number of prominent Gay activists, that are alarmed at the decision by the health department to announce the "discovery" of this new strain of the virus, with only

one case at hand to cite. Belief that this announcement will cause undue panic and fear has led to open and brutal criticism of the New York Health Department for its decision. There have even been suggestions that this case is being used as a scare tactic by the commissioner to coerce Gay men into being more diligent about their safer-sex practices.

On the other side of the fence, there are those who remember when, in the early 1980's, a strange "cancer" began showing up in just a handful of Gay men in the larger cities, and there were no warnings issued. It didn't seem prudent to raise an alarm for such a small number of cases. Nobody wanted to create a "panic". In hindsight, we know that to have been the wrong decision. That strange cancer turned out to be what we now recognize as HIV/AIDS. An earlier warning of what was occurring might have made an enormous difference in the course of the epidemic.

Interestingly enough, this is not the first report of such a "super-virus". In 2003, a professor of medicine at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver reported two similar cases of a highly drug-resistant strain of the virus that might also have led to a rapid AIDS diagnosis. There is no evidence to date

that these cases have led to any kind of outbreak of new "super-infections". They appear to be very isolated incidents.

So now you have some facts—not all of them, certainly, for that would take up not only this entire column, but this entire paper. I hope I have answered some of your questions. The question you must answer for yourself is: did the New York Health Department act responsibly or prematurely? Are they giving us ample warning of a potential crisis, or scaring us with facts that have been blown grossly out of perspective?

What would you have done, had it been your decision? What are you doing with decisions that are yours?

[Send your questions to Dr. X at 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.]

Sights On Shrek

Continued from Page Ten

So far, the Coalition's Gaydar doesn't seem to have picked up on DreamWorks' Shark Tale, in which a shark mafioso, voiced by Robert DeNiro, must come to terms with the fact he has a vegetarian son who likes to dress up as a dolphin.

But the Shrek accusation follows hot on the heels of other cases of animated characters being accused of infiltrating the minds of America's children with pro-gay messages, much to the detriment of traditional family values.

Recently, PBS was upbraided by the group Focus on the Family, and supported by the U.S. secretary of education no less, for an episode of the cartoon series Postcards From Buster, in which Buster the rabbit encounters a couple of kids with Lesbian parents.

Christian activists have also targeted SpongeBob SquarePants, Barney the dinosaur and Sesame Street's Bert & Ernie as children's characters who are conduits for a soft-on-Gays message.

Just last month, the American Family Association took exception to the makers of a new video being distributed to thousands of U.S. elementary schools and which the organization said used characters like SpongeBob and Barney to indoctrinate children into a homosexual lifestyle.

The video is designed to coincide with National We Are Family Day in March. But what upset the AFA in particular is the We Are Family Foundation's website and a tolerance-for-diversity pledge (including sexual orientation) that children and others are asked to sign there.

It seems all of this began back in 1999 when Rev. Jerry Falwell described that purse-toting Teletubby, Tinky Winky, as a Gay role model.

One wonders how far back critics could go, though, in seeing pro-homosexual context in cartoons. Remember when shotgun-toting hunter Elmer Fudd realized Bugs Bunny was in drag? He was furious, but only because he saw Bugs's cotton tail and learned he was a rabbit in disguise.

"There's all sorts of things going on in those cartoons that are pretty suggestive," concedes Keil. "But (the kids) are laughing at the pratfalls, the funny voices, the very basic humor.

Continued on Page Seventeen

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Retro Saturn "squares" retro Jupiter and provides a sharp rap on the knuckles for any wistful day dream or foolish vagaries. Disappointments block constructive actions. But don't take things too seriously. There's plenty of time to sprout a few stressful gray hairs next week. Let's hope they are not in your nose.

ARIES (MAR. 21 - APR. 20)
You may think that home is sweet home but this week as Saturn squares Jupiter, home is not quite the refuge it usually is. Proud Rams are liable to upset a delicate domestic balance with partners. Things that never bothered you suddenly do - very much. Rather than crash and burn, why not escape with a short vacation? Don't forget to pack the cooking oil and lightly saute.

TAURUS (APR. 21 - MAY 21)
Foot in mouth disease strikes any queer Bull with a job-related gripe. You are tempted to say what's on your mind without regard to the nuclear fallout when Saturn squares Jupiter. Instead of upsetting the employment appletart, why not wait until there is a more opportune time to push for change? Now as you storm the barricades you would only stub your toe.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
Not only do good times cost more than expected this week during the Saturn / Jupiter square but the entire concept of "fun" is, well, not particularly fun. Chalk it up to a temporary lull and use this time to plow ahead on professional projects, pink Twin. There is plenty of time next week to plug into the Gay party hearty circuit. Increase the voltage and watch the sparks!

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
Rainbow Crabs feel at odds with their immediate world this week. Avoid meeting any new or important people or conducting any interviews if possible during the Saturn / Jupiter square. Less than flattering first impressions can have lasting impact. Take a vacation and hideout or hangout with compadres. Those who know you well will forgive your petty foibles.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)
If you wear your heart on your sleeve, it's bound to get scraped. Be the strong silent type when the Saturn Jupiter square goads you into emotional outbursts. Proud Lions pile a lot on their plates. Now put more effort into implementing specific personal goals rather than spreading yourself too thin with time wasters and detours. Can you ever be too thin? Oh yes...but never too rich.

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)
Friends may provide queer Virgins with some disappointing moments. The cause of this platonic strife may involve money or the lack thereof. It may also involve a clash of personal philosophies or an opening of past wounds. Why not chart your own course when Jupiter squares Saturn and avoid any possible misunderstandings. Go and hug a bosom buddy next week.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)
Corporate mandates may chaff at your pinstriped collar. Before you get a rash, leave work early, plan a short get away and step out of the stress. The worst thing you can do is let off some steam at the powers that be when Jupiter squares Saturn. Gay Libras don't make the best revolutionaries; the food is simply too awful and the accommodations are even worse!

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)
Don't let your intuition goad you into inappropriate action. Things are not what they appear to be when Jupiter squares

Saturn. Remain focused, sensible and close to homebase. Taking off on tangents is not advisable now. It won't be particularly relaxing and you won't escape your demons. If you're itching to make a statement, make it a loud, proud fashion statement.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)
Gay Archers are tempted to mix friends with lovers, but hold your horses until after the Saturn / Jupiter square. The intoxicating interflow may ease you out of the action and onto the sidelines. Rather than tempt disappointment, why not arrange your social schedule so you can spend quality time with each group separately. Create a sizzling cocktail mix next week.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)
Partners may not be as supportive of your professional aims as you would like them to be. Blame their lack of enthusiasm on the Saturn / Jupiter square and don't let it get you down. Instead of feeling insecure, don't look to others for approval. Pull back and become your own cheering section. Yell it Out proud and queer, pink Cap. Let 'em hear you out in the bleachers.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)
The day to day job is bound to get you down during the Saturn / Jupiter square. Maybe you think you are on the wrong track or maybe you feel that bosses don't appreciate you. These blues will pass, Aqueerius. In the meantime, stick to your knitting and don't drop a stitch. Also pay attention to any nagging minor ailments now. A check-up can't hurt especially with a body probe.

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MAR. 20)
Lovers find creative ways to pour cold water on your hot time. They are just being protective. Guppies are advised to not take on too many things at once or try to wedge in too many raucous events at the same time. Sensory overload is possible during the Jupiter / Saturn square and you will be spent before you can buy. Fried and dried fish should never be on the party menu.

Ending the violence.
Wingspan launches the Anti-Violence Project - a community initiative to assist lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender victims of discrimination, domestic violence, sexual assault and hate crimes.
Call the Anti-Violence Project 24-Hour Crisis Line at 624-0348, or toll-free 1-800-553-9387.



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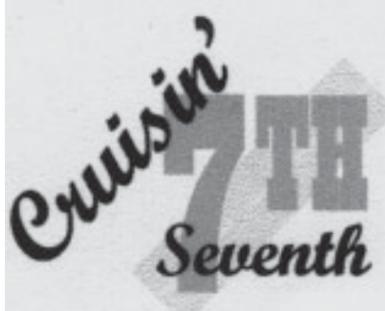


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Sights On Shrek

Continued from Page Fourteen

"Kids at that age don't even have pre-formed notions of sexuality."

In the recent SpongeBob movie, there is a scene in which the oddball undersea character suddenly pops up in his neighbor's shower (and quickly gets the boot). It's also been pointed out that he holds hands with a pink friend and gets boating lessons from a teacher called Mr. Puff. Creator Stephen Hillenburg assured the Wall Street Journal that the sponge-man was not Gay but that the show had become a Gay community favorite because of the tolerant attitude displayed by the show's characters.

"Everybody is different and the show embraces that," Hillenburg said. "I always think of them as being somewhat asexual."

Keil wonders what these religious groups would accomplish if they managed to get a law passed banning any representation of untoward social behavior in children's entertainment.

"It would still be there covertly," he argues. "What would these groups see as the ideal state of affairs?"

New Mexico Lawmakers

Continued from Page One

showed up at his office Valentine's Day with a marriage license, ready to tie the knot. After asking everyone but the couple to leave his office, he told them he couldn't do it. The reason: One of them looked like a woman, considered herself a woman, and had been taking female hormones for years but had not completed a sex-change procedure. Under state law, the 37-year-old was still considered a man.

Without having the procedure along with a doctor's certificate verifying the gender change and a new birth certificate, the couple can't get married in New Mexico. Marriages between same-sex couples were deemed invalid last year after the state attorney general ordered the Sandoval County clerk to stop issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Powell said the attorney general's decision was the deciding factor in his refusing to perform the ceremony. "He was very respectful about it," the woman told the Hobbs News-Sun, which used pseudonyms in referring to the couple in order to protect their privacy. "He sat down with us and tried to find a way we could be married."

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NON-BAR CALENDAR

Groups / Clubs / Organizations /

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join David and Daniel for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call David and Daniel at 579-9763.

#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 David and Daniel at 579-9763.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Les hosts Hearts 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 Les at 690-9565.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Lloyd hosts a fun evening of Scrabble. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Lloyd at 792-8537.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26

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

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. Join Steve and Marv for Hollywood's Annual tribute to the Movies; Oscar Night. Marv and Steve plan an evening of fun and prizes. Fill out your ballot and see how you match up with The Academy. Seating is limited to the first 20 people, so don't delay in reserving your spot. For reservations and directions, call Steve & Marv at 745-0304.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 5

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

MONDAY, MARCH 7

Tucson Prime Timers Bowling - 10:30 a.m. Call: 888-7264. Lunch -12:30 p.m. The Wildcat House. 1800 N. Stone Ave.

SATURDAY, MARCH 12

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

MONDAY, MARCH 14

Tucson Prime Timers Bowling -10:30 a.m. Call: 888-7264. Lunch - 12:30 p.m. The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19

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

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

MONDAY, MARCH 21

Tucson Prime Timers Bowling - 10:30 a.m. Call: 888-7264. Lunch -12:30 p.m., The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

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

MONDAY, MARCH 28

Tucson Prime Timers Bowling - 10:30 a.m. Call: 888-7264. Lunch -12:30 p.m. The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

BAR CALENDAR

Of Upcoming Events

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26

IBT'S - An evening with Ajia Simone at 8:30 p.m. Always a fun time with the 'Black Cat'. Show is followed by DJ Q spinning your favorite dance music until closing.

COLORS - Cabaret show with Tabatha Lovall presenting a benefit for Amanda Nicole with special guest Bunny FuFu

YARD DOG - Tucson Knight Owls (TKO) will be serving one of their famous Lasagne Dinners beginning at 7:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

COLORS - Academy Awards Party 6:00 p.m. Come dressed as your favorite celebrity. Drink & Dinner specials. Prizes.

THURSDAY, MARCH 10

WOODY'S - Mark your calendars for Wody's Sarong Party. (Pronounced 'So Wrong'!!! Details later...

THURSDAY, MARCH 17

VENTURE-N - St. Patty's Steak Nite!

MARCH 18-19-20

VENTURE-N - Hides of March is coming up. Prizes, drink specials and Bucky's Omelettes! Mark your calendars. Always a big event here each year.

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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

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

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 11:00 am. Chuckwagon Breakfast 10:30 am - 1:30 pm, includes Bloody Mary or Mimosa. \$2 Smirnoff Sunday. Free Texas Hold-'Em Poker Tournaments at 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Sign-up begins one hour before playing time. No Cash - Play for Prizes and Points. Great chance to learn the hottest game around

IBT's - Open Noon. \$1.75 Bloodys, Screws or mimosas. til 4pm 4-7:30 Karaoke with Michael D. on the patio 5:30-8 Benefit BBQ for community organizations 7:30-2Am Dance with David Z. 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. 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 - best deal in town! Free Texas Hold-'Em Poker Tournaments at 6:00 pm and 9:00 pm. Sign-up begins one hour before playing time. No Cash - Play for Prizes and Points.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-7pm, Audio Anomaly 9pm-2am with DJ Trinidad, 10pm-2am \$1.50 well vodka drinks, 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 10am. Special Happy Hour 10am-2pm. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. 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 Debbie from 8 - midnight

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-7pm, Tropical Tuesdays \$2.50 Tropical drinks and DJ Q playing Retro Music 70's, 80's and 90's 9pm-close, All drink specials not available during special events.

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm.

WOODY'S - Open 10am. Special Happy Hour 10am-2pm. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Bartender Calls rink 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 Hour Noon-7pm, 9pm "Diva-Licious" show w/ Bunny Fu Fu. HiNrgy dance 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 10am. Special Happy Hour 10am-2pm. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Free Hot Dog Buffet 5-11pm. Underwear- fetish- leather nite w/Gary and Chris 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 Hour Noon-7pm, Tricked Out Thursday with your Bartenders in their undies and DJ Mike Lopez spinning Top 40 & All request \$1.75 Long Islands and \$1.50 Cocksucker shots 10pm-2am, 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 10am. Special Happy Hour 10am-2pm. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. 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. DJ Pat plays your favorite country dance songs 8:30 to midnight then a mix of dance & country 'til close. Kitchen open 10 pm - 2 am for late night munchies.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-7pm, Live Jazz on the Patio with Susan 6pm-9pm, Hot Dance with David Z from 9pm-2am, All drink specials not available during special events.

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

WOODY'S - 10am. Special Happy Hour 10am-2pm. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Martini Party - Well Martini's \$2.00 3-4pm. Call Martinis \$3 from 3-4pm. 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 11:00 am. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. \$3.00 Burger & Fries all day. DJ playing your favorite country songs 8:30 - midnight, then "anything goes" requests until close. Kitchen open 10 pm - 2 am for late night munchies.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-7pm, 8:30pm Show time w/ Ajia Simone or Janee Starr, Circuit Saturday's with DJ Q spinning Hot Club Music. 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 10am. Special Happy Hour 10am-2pm. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Patio Bar opens 5pm. 5-9pm Steak or Mahi Mahi BBQ with all the trimmings \$5, Live Jazz with Arthur Migliazza 6-9pm.

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.sAAF.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 info.

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.

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

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

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

TNTucsonMEN, a nudist Gay men's club. We are a social and recreational group. By the way the TN means Totally Naked! Drop us an e-mail at TNTucsonMEN@nethere.com

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.

LAMBDA CAR CLUB, a social organization of Gays and Lesbians who share interest, information and fellowship involving all cars and trucks. New Southern Arizona Region now in Tucson. Call the Hotline at 888-5541

LESBIAN AND GAY AL-ANON - Affected by someone's drinking? Meeting every Tuesday 8:45 to 9:45 p.m. at Lambda Center, 2940 E. Thomas, Phoenix. Ellie 581-8850 or Ronn 968-2384.

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

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

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

LIGHTNING LIGHTING will provide lighting for AIDS and related benefits at no charge. For more info call Adrienne at 889-7298.

COME EXPLORE YOUR SPIRITUALITY! St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church offers a variety of Gay and Lesbian groups and services for the spiritually minded. Come meet the Family! For more information call Debbie 579-9827 or David 323-7943.

LESBIAN/GAY WRITERS: Workshop at 7:00 p.m. third Wednesday of every month. Read and critique current projects. Network and support. For info call 325-4737.

DESERT VOICES, Tucson's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Straight Chorus, has been singing songs of pride, hope and laughter for 16 seasons. Check out our website at www.desertvoices.org, or call (520)791-9662 for information about upcoming concerts or how to join.

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 Jerry at 690-9565 for information and a newsletter. Check the Non-Bar Calendar in the Observer.

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

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)

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

"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). 7:00 p.m. at Desert Dominion, 3843 E. 37th Street, Tucson, AZ. (Map at www.desertdominion.org) For those who are kinky or just curious. No fee, contributions are appreciated, but not required

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, pretensions? TNTucsonMEN@nethere.com P.O. Box 12176, Tucson 85792 or call 514-9894

DESERT PRIDE - Your store for Gay Pride and more!

611 N. Fourth Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85705 (Across from IBT's, Next to Magpies. Come See Us!) (520)388-9829

WINGSPAN

FilmFest

March 08-13



C'mon out and watch...

Here are just a few of this year's films

All films on March 08-09 will be shown at The Screening Room, 127 E Congress St. Tucson, Arizona. All films on March 10-13 will be shown at The Loft Cinema, 3233 E Speedway Blvd. Tucson, Arizona. For a full list of films, complete descriptions, up-to-date schedules, and prices please see the FilmFest website at www.wingspan.org/FilmFest. Programs are subject to change.

March 10, 7 pm

Classic IV: Go Fish In 1994, *Go Fish* won acclaim because of its irreverence in gazing at the lives of a group of young lesbians. In celebration of the Wingspan FilmFest 10th anniversary, we're bringing this modern classic back to the screen.

March 10, 8:30 pm

Q&A with Christine Vachon Free with ticket to either March 10 screening. Film producer Christine Vachon will be our special guest, to discuss her work, "queer cinema" old and new, and the future of LGBT indie film.

March 10, 10 pm

Classic V: I Shot Andy Warhol You only get one shot at fame but you can see a near-classic film again and again. See this one, directed by Mary Harron and produced by Christine Vachon, as it should be seen – on the big screen.

March 11, 12:30 pm, co-sponsored by Bears of the Old Pueblo and Puertas Abiertas

Men's Feature I: Bear Cub (Cachorro) Parenthood is about to get a little hairier.

March 11, 7 pm, co-sponsored by Rubyfruit

Women's Feature I: Girl Play Based on the lives of the screenwriters Robin Greenspan and Lacie Harmon, this painfully funny and sexy love story raises the complicated question: Is this relationship created for the sake of the 'girl play' or is it, 'true love' requiring major personal choices and life altering changes?

March 12, 2:30 pm

Women's Feature II: April's Shower Come out for the shower of all wedding showers! *April's Shower* is a comedy about love, romance and expectation. Alex, the disgruntled maid-of-honor, carries a secret that affects not just the course of her life, but that of almost everyone at the shower.

March 12, 7:00 pm

Men's Feature II: Straight Jacket In 1950s Hollywood, Guy Stone is at the top of the sex symbol list. He has fame, money, girls... What's his secret?

March 12, 9:15 pm, co-sponsored by KXCI Broad Perspectives and Lesbian Looks

Women's Feature III: DEBS If you wished last year's popular FilmFest short, *DEBS*, was a little longer... wish no more. Don't miss Angela Robinson's full-length feature by the same name. The plaid-skirted schoolgirl spies are back to take down the super-gorgeous, super-villain, Lucy Diamond – done with a little romance thrown in!

March 12, 11:30 pm

Midnight Classic: The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert Come in drag for a special screening of this classic, voted favorite film in our FilmFest online poll.

March 13, 7:15 pm co-sponsored by GLSEN

Men's Feature III: Cowboys & Angels A film about experiencing life, finding love, and discovering your path.

www.wingspan.org/FilmFest

film descriptions / showtimes / ticket information