



Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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WEEKLY OBSERVER

JUNE 1, 2005

ISSUE 1089

Gay Soldier Wounded In Iraq Discharged From Army

AKRON - An Army sergeant from Ohio wounded in Iraq who wanted to remain in the military as an openly Gay soldier was officially discharged Tuesday, May 31, according to a group that promotes studies of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered people in the armed forces, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

The discharge same one day after the nation celebrated Memorial Day, May 30.

Aaron Belkin, director of the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military at the University of California-Santa Barbara, said he has maintained contact with Sgt. Robert Stout since Stout expressed his desire to stay in the military as an openly Gay soldier.

Belkin said Stout told him he was due back in the United States on Tuesday, the day of his discharge.

Stout, 23, of Utica, in Licking County in central Ohio, was awarded the Purple Heart after a grenade sent pieces of shrapnel into his arm, face and legs while he was operating a machine gun on an armored Humvee in May 2004. He told The Associated Press in April that he wanted to remain in the military as an openly Gay soldier, but that would conflict with the Pentagon's "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

"I know a ton of Gay men that

would be more than willing to stay in the Army if they could just be open," he said in April.

Stout had said he was openly Gay among most of his 26-member platoon, part of the 9th Engineer Battalion based in Schweinfurt, Germany, and had not encountered trouble from his fellow soldiers.

Army officials at the Pentagon could not immediately confirm the discharge. The Army declined to comment earlier on the Stout case other than to say that soldiers discharged under "don't ask, don't tell" typically receive honorable discharges with the timing left to the individual's commanding officer.

Stout had said in April that he expected to be discharged before his scheduled release date of May 31.

The Pentagon explicitly barred Gays from military service before the "don't ask, don't tell" policy was enacted in 1993 under the Clinton administration.

A study done earlier this year by the Government Accountability Office shows that more than 10,000 service members have been discharged over the last 10 years under "don't ask, don't tell".

The GAO also reported that it has cost taxpayers more than \$200 million to recruit replacements for LGBT enlisted service members who were discharged.

Memorial Day Renews Questions Of Gays & Lesbians In The Military

WASHINGTON, D.C. - As the nation observes the sacrifices of those in the military this Memorial Day, Gays and Lesbians are expressing anger and frustration they are not allowed to serve openly, reported 365Gay.com.

A study done earlier this year by the Government Accountability Office shows that more than 10,000 service members have been discharged over the last 10 years under "don't ask, don't tell".

The GAO also reported that it has cost taxpayers more than \$200 million to recruit replacements for LGBT enlisted service members who were discharged.

Those Gays and Lesbians who serve without coming out, live and work under a veil of secrecy, fearful of disclosing anything of their private lives for fear their secret will come out.

Gary Gates, a statistician with the University of California-Los Angeles estimates that at least 25 Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual service members have been killed in Iraq.

"Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual

service members have shed blood and sacrificed their lives for our country since the American Revolution," said SLDN Executive Director C. Dixon Osburn. "They have never been accorded the equal dignity due all Americans."

Yet, while the Pentagon refuses to consider lifting the ban on out Gays serving, it acknowledges that it is unable meet to its recruitment goals

In March the military acknowledged it is suffering a severe troop shortage. As well as military personnel the Pentagon has fired 50 linguists who are openly Gay. They are being replaced by foreign translators, and legislation is before Congress to grant them "special immigrant status."

Meanwhile, the Pentagon and the Bush Administration are fighting a bill introduced in Congress to repeal the Gay ban.

The legislation was filed by Rep. Marty Meehan (D-MA) in the House of Representatives. The measure has more than 50 Congressional co-sponsors. Rep.

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Reveille Show Old Pueblo Pride In Brazil

Special to The Observer By Joel Meister

SAO PAULO (ON) - [Editor's Note: Tucson's Reveille Gay Men's Chorus is in Sao Paulo, Brazil, performing at several locations and events on their tour, spreading the Old Pueblo good will and high notes. What follows is from Reveille Chorus member, Joel Meister, on his thoughts and impressions of the tour so far. Enjoy!]

Between two and three million Brazilians marched for Gay Pride in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on Sunday, May 29 - Gay, straight, drag queens, dykes on bikes, all were there. And 37 members of Reveille Gay Men's Chorus were there, too, marching, singing, shouting and dancing the samba down three miles of Sao Paulo's grand Avenida Paulista as thousands more cheered from the sidewalks.

The mayor of Sao Paulo welcomed the marchers at a pre-parade demonstration and party. The senator from Sao Paulo state rode the lead float and sang Bob Dylan's "Blowin' in the Wind" - in English yet. Wherever we looked there were huge rainbow banners proclaiming equal rights and civil unions for all LGBT people. The parade and the party at each end of the parade route lasted from 11 a.m. until after midnight, and some of us stayed up much later than that, sipping caipirinhas and dancing in the streets. (It's Brazil, after all!)

Brazil is truly "Gay" but it does not yet have a Gay chorus, and so Reveille had a special role to play. The Friday

before the parade, Reveille sang to a sell-out, standing room only house at our HIV/AIDS benefit concert. Audience enthusiasm and support topped anything the chorus has experienced in Tucson, Mexico, or Montreal. And why? First, we were good, really "on" and wired. But more important, we had come nearly 6,000 miles to show our solidarity with our Brazilian sisters and brothers, and no one in the world, including Brazil, sees much support coming from the United States these days.

American fundamentalists are sending down anti-Gay missionaries and money to fuel homophobia here, too. The U.S. government is making it more and more difficult for other countries to promote effective HIV/AIDS prevention programs. Yet Brazil has one of the world's most effective prevention programs, despite US interference. It's about condom education and availability, clean needles, and acceptance of sexuality as fundamental and pleasurable regardless of who's doing what with whom.

Brazil has much to show and teach us - a relaxed and natural sensuality that celebrates the body - and what bodies! A multi-racial society that is truly a rainbow of skin colors and physical types. We are learning all this and more as we sing and travel through the country. I am writing this on the bus from Sao Paulo to Belo Horizonte, where we will perform twice. We wind up our tour in Rio de Janeiro next week. And when we return to Tucson we will find ways to share as much as we can of Brazil with you.

U.S. Official Challenged On G/L Bias Policy

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The head of the U.S. Office of the Special Counsel has come under fire again from lawmakers and Gay groups for his refusal to enforce a policy that protects federal workers from discrimination based on sexual orientation, reported the PlanetOut Network.

Testifying before a Senate panel on Tuesday, May 24, Scott J. Bloch said there is nothing in federal law that requires him to safeguard a federal employee who is fired or somehow penalized for being Gay or Lesbian, the Washington Post reported.

"We are limited by our enforcement statutes as Congress gives them," he told the senators. "The courts have specifically rejected sexual orientation as a class protection."

"Bloch's claim is baseless, and it ignores 30 years of precedent," the Gay Log Cabin Republicans said in a press release, citing a federal law that has been interpreted since 1974 to prohibit bias against federal employees based on sexual orientation.

Tuesday's Senate hearing was an inquiry into the embattled tenure of Bloch,

a Bush appointee who heads the independent agency charged with protecting federal whistle-blowers from retaliation.

Bloch was rebuked last month by the White House for removing language from the agency's literature and Web site that claimed Gay and Lesbian employees could not be discriminated against on the basis of their sexual orientation.

"Longstanding federal policy prohibits discrimination against federal employees based on sexual orientation," a White House spokesman said last month. "President Bush expects federal agencies to enforce this policy and to ensure that all federal employees are protected from unfair discrimination at work."

Bloch restored the language under pressure.

Gay political groups expressed concern after Tuesday's hearing, with the Log Cabin Republicans calling for

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UPDATE

Walsted Memorial June 18

TUCSON - The Wingspan Anti-Violence Project (AVP) will hold a memorial event to remember Philip Walsted on Saturday June 18, 10:30 am to noon, Catalina Park, at 1st Street and 4th Avenue.

Walsted, a 24-year old Gay man, was murdered in the 4th Avenue area on June 12, 2002. In January this year David Higdon was found guilty of first degree aggravated and premeditated murder and armed robbery. Higdon was sentenced to natural life in prison on March 28.

Family members, Wingspan staff, and others will speak at the event. A tree will be planted in Philip's memory and a stone and bench will be dedicated.

For more information, call (520)

Desert Voices Update

BISBEE - Desert Voices, Tucson's GLBT & S Chorus will present portions of their Spring Show "Our True Colors" at the Bisbee Gay Pride Festival in Bisbee's City Park on Saturday, June 18, 3:30 p.m.

Bisbee Gay Pride is open to all, and anyone who wishes to attend are heartily encouraged to do so. Bisbee is a progressive little town with a mixture of people. The eclectic mix from all walks of life makes living and visiting Bisbee one of life's little experiences!

Desert Voices will present portions of their Spring Show, and highlights will include a beautiful a cappella arrangement of De Colores, a Namoli Brennet composition titled Shades of the Rainbow, a wicked parody of 'Red Roses for a Blue Lady' from Alegria, the women's barbershop quartet, a beautiful jazz arrangement of 'Over the Rainbow' and much more.

City Park is off of Brewery Gulch, just past St Elmo's Bar on the left. The front of the park rests on top of some buildings on Brewery Gulch and there are two stairways to the park from Brewery Gulch. At the far end of the park, there's a street that goes up to the park level before it curves up and around behind and above the band shell.

For further information about Pride events, hotels and restaurants, go to bisbeepride.com.

SASD Meeting June 7

TUCSON - The next meeting of the Southern Arizona Stonewall Democrats (SASD) will take place, Tuesday, June 7, 7 p.m., at Pima County Democratic Headquarters, 4639 E. 1st St.

SASD's political action committee will be talking about the upcoming Tucson City Council elections in Wards, 3, 5 and 6, and whether the organization will support any of the candidates running for office.

In addition, upcoming activities by SASD will be discussed as well. For more information, call (520) 326-3716 or E-mail: thea2@lycos.com.

Community Forum On PMA June 17

TUCSON - A community forum, June 17, 7 - 9 p.m., about the Protect Marriage Arizona (PMA) amendment will take place at Wingspan, 300 East Sixth Street.

The PMA was written by the Center for Arizona Policy, a right-wing, anti-Gay group, and if approved by voters, it would ban recognition of same-sex marriages, civil unions and domestic partnerships. This measure will affect every Arizonan.

This forum will be discussing the Amendment and what it will mean for the LGBT and Allied communities, and will also be an orientation for the Arizona Coalition for Fairness and you can learn how to become involved.

For more information please contact Jess Knutson Public Policy and Outreach Coordinator at (520) 624-1779 ext. 22 or jknutson@wingspan.org.

Desert Coyotes At Cactus Bowl

TUCSON - Due limited lane availability and an overwhelming community response, the Desert Coyotes will be bowling at Cactus Bowl, 1630 S. Alvernon, for their Summer League, instead of Santa Cruz Lanes, which will be their home for the upcoming Fall Season.

League officers and bowlers urge the community to join them, at Cactus Bowl, located near 29th and Alvernon, Wednesday nights through August 17, starting at 7 p.m.

The league is currently at full capacity, however, feel free to join us as a spectator, or bring your ball and shoes since you never know when a team may need a substitute.

SAGA Launches New Project

TUCSON - The Southern Arizona Gender Alliance (SAGA) will launch its latest project, Transitions: the Youth Outreach Project, with a kick-off weekend of youth-led workshops and a dance/drag show/party/fund raiser.

The Transitions project will include social and support activities for gender-variant and questioning youth; a support network for parents of Trans youth and children of trans parents; a mentoring project; ally education; and much more.

On Friday, June 3, SAGA will present two workshops entitled "What's in a Gender?" One workshop will focus on femme/feminine-identified people ages 23 and under; the other on butch/masculine-identified people ages 23 and under. Both workshops will be held concurrently at the EON Youth Lounge in downtown Tucson (on 6th St. just North of Congress) from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. The workshops will be led by youth facilitators, and food will be served. Admission is free; donations accepted.

A fund raiser will be held at the EON Youth Lounge on Saturday, June 4 from 7-11 p.m. The event will feature performances by drag troupes BENT and Boyz R Us, DJ by K2 Tunes, a raffle, and other surprises. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Admission is \$3 per person, and larger donations are encouraged. Raffle tickets are \$1. All are welcome and enthusiastically encouraged to attend. Both admission and raffle tickets are available at Wingspan by personal check only. SAGA cannot accept cash at Wingspan for tickets under any circumstances, if you need to pay in cash, you can buy your ticket at the door.

Visit SAGA's Web site, sagatucson.org for more information.

Gay-Themed Musical 'A New Brain' June 9 - 26

TUCSON - Arizona Onstage Productions, the company that brought "Falsettoland," last year's "Assassins" (winner of the MAC Award - Best Musical of 2004) and this year's side splitting musical comedy "Ruthless!" brings "A New Brain," a musical tale, to Pima Community College Center for the Arts Black Box Theatre for 11 performances June 9-26.

This story revolves around Gordon Schwinn - an openly Gay musical composer tired of writing for children's television shows. He discovers a brain disorder, and is faced with having dangerous surgery. He and his life partner Roger make decisions before this surgery takes place. Along the way, the audience meets singing frogs, M.R.I. machines that turn into sailboats, and mothers smart enough to wear black to "hide the fat".

"A New Brain" is the semi-autobiographical story of William Finn, the Tony-Award winner composer/lyricist (Falsettos, and the new Broadway hit, the 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee).

"I look for shows that have a Gay theme that are not 'just about being Gay,'" says Arizona Onstage Productions Artistic Director Kevin Johnson. "The two main characters happen to be Gay - I love that fact that they are respected by all the characters in the play, and that being Gay is just part of their makeup as characters. There are three beautiful love songs in the show - sung to a man for a man. They are heartfelt and honest. Then of course there is the hilarious 'shower scene' in which Richard the nurse has a rather good time watching the two leads taking a shower together - it is all great fun."

Tickets to Arizona Onstage Productions go fast. January's "Ruthless!" was sold-out every performance. Tickets are \$20 general admission and \$16 for students/seniors. Call (520) 206-6989 to get your tickets. Visit arizonaonstage.org for more information.

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Observer on the World Wide Web :
www.tucsonobserver.com
E-Mail: info@tucsonobserver.com

EDITOR/PUBLISHER:

Bob Ellis

ARTS & GRAPHICS:

Gary Clark

MANAGING EDITOR:

Mark Kerr

Special Events Photos:

Bill Morrow

Amanda Irvine

Horoscope:

Charlene Lichtenstein

Contributing Columnists

MARK R. KERR - LEE THORN

JERRY DIAZ

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Homophobia 'Hard Wired' Into Brain, Study Claims

TEMPE - Prejudice is a form of "common sense", hard-wired into the human brain through evolution as an adaptive response to protect our prehistoric ancestors from danger, according to a new study by researchers at Arizona State University, 365Gay.com reported.

"By nature, people are group-living animals — a strategy that enhances individual survival and leads to what we might call a 'tribal psychology,'" says Steven Neuberg, ASU professor of social psychology, who authored the study with doctoral student Catherine Cottrell.

"It was adaptive for our ancestors to be attuned to those outside the group who posed threats such as to physical security, health or economic resources, and to respond to these different kinds of threats in ways tailored to have a good chance of reducing them."

The study appears in the "Journal of Personality and Social Psychology." The study contends that, because human survival was based on group living, "outsiders" were viewed as — and often were — very real threats.

Unfortunately, says Neuberg, because evolved psychological tendencies are imperfectly attuned to the existence of dangers, people may react negatively to groups and their members even when they actually pose no realistic threat.

Neuberg and Cottrell had 235 European American students at ASU

think about nine different groups: Gay men, activist feminists, African Americans, Asian Americans, European Americans, fundamentalist Christians, Mexican Americans, Native Americans and nonfundamentalist Christians. The researchers then had the participants rate these groups on the threats they pose to American society (e.g., to physical safety, values, health, etc.) and report the emotions they felt toward these groups (e.g., fear, anger, disgust, pity, etc.).

Consistent with the researchers' hypotheses, findings revealed that distinct prejudices exist toward different groups of people. Some groups elicited prejudices characterized largely by fear, others by disgust, others by anger, and so on. Moreover, the different "flavors" of prejudice were associated with different patterns of perceived threat.

Follow-up work further shows that these different prejudices motivate inclinations toward different kinds of discrimination, in ways apparently aimed at reducing the perceived threat.

"Groups seen as posing threats to physical safety elicit fear and self-protective actions, groups seen as choosing to take more than they give elicit anger and inclinations toward aggression, and groups seen as posing health threats elicit disgust and the desire to avoid close physical contact," says Cottrell.

"One important practical implication of this research is that we may need to create different interventions to reduce inappropriate prejudices against different

groups," says Neuberg.

For example, if one is trying to decrease prejudices among new college students during freshman orientation, different strategies might be used for bringing different groups together.

"For instance, given that whites stereotypically perceive blacks as threats to physical safety, it would be inadvisable to suggest a game of outdoor night-time basketball, given that darkness heightens people's fear. Sharing a plate of nachos might be a better choice," Cottrell says. "But if the aim is to reduce prejudice against Gay men — viewed to pose a health treat because of association with AIDS, and thereby eliciting physical disgust — sharing finger food might not be a good idea."

Neuberg and Cottrell are both adamant to point out that just because prejudices are a fundamental and natural part of what makes us human, that doesn't mean that learning can't take place and that responses can't be dampened.

"People sometimes assume that because we say prejudice has evolved roots we are saying that specific prejudices can't be changed. That's simply not the case," Neuberg says. "What we think and feel and how we behave is typically the result of complex interactions between biological tendencies and learning experiences. Evolution may have prepared our minds to be prejudiced, but our environment influences the specific targets of those prejudices and how we act on them."

Two Million Celebrate Pride In Sao Paulo

SAO PAULO - Two-million people crammed into Sao Paulo on Sunday, May 29, for the world's biggest LGBT Pride celebration, 365Gay.com reported.

The highlight of the day was the annual Pride Parade that rolled down the skyscraper-lined Avenida Paulista. It was the ninth Pride Parade in Brazil's financial capital.

More than 20 sound trucks blasted music, and floats carried go-go boys, leather men and drag queens.

Brazil's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Trans-gender Pride Parade Association, which organized the celebration, and local officials, said that among the two-million were 700,000 tourists from around the world who flocked to Sao Paulo for the festival.

"With [this] many people showing up, the parade is major step to strike people's prejudice against Gays everywhere," said Pedro Almeida, a spokesman with the Pride Parade Association.

The parade's main theme was the legalization of civil unions in the South American country of 182 million. Civil unions between same-sex couples are permitted only in Brazil's southern-most state of Rio Grande do Sul.

Sunday's parade was the biggest single LGBT event ever held in the world. Last year Sao Paulo's Pride attracted 1.5 million.

By comparison, Pride celebrations in San Francisco, New York and Toronto each attract about 750,000.

Meanwhile, about 100,000 people took part in Pride celebrations in Birmingham, England on Sunday. Birmingham Pride is the UK's largest free Gay event, bringing in around \$15 million to the city's economy.



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Arizona Coalition For Fairness Update

On Tuesday May 17, was the official kick off of and the Arizona Coalition for Fairness vote no campaign against the amendment that will ban domestic partnerships.

The Center for Arizona Policy has formed a coalition called Protect Marriage Arizona and they announced the wording and have begun to collect signatures. The amendment reads as follows:

“To preserve and protect marriage in this state, only a union between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage by this state or its political subdivisions and no legal status for unmarried persons shall be created or recognized by this state or its political subdivisions that is similar to that of marriage.”

First, do not sign any of these petitions! People will be at supermarkets, churches, malls, etc. Please do not sign these petitions and ask friends family not to sign them either. They need to get a minimum of 183,917 valid signatures, let's not help them out. ...

In the meantime, if you are currently unmarried in a heterosexual or same-sex relationship, please consider registering as Domestic Partners in Tucson. There are currently almost 300 couples registered - our goal by next year is to have over 500 couples registered. You do not have to live in Tucson to register your relationships—people from across Arizona can register their relationship in Tucson.

The Tucson Domestic Partnership (DP) Ordinance is a city law effective December 1, 2003, that provides a registry for domestic partners who wish to register. This is a means by which unmarried couples who share a relationship of mutual support, caring and commitment may document their relationship. It is the first and only domestic partner registry in the State of Arizona.

Who are domestic partners? Domestic partners are two people who sign a statement affirming that they:

Are not related by blood closer than would bar marriage in the State of Arizona; Are not married to another person in a marriage expressly recognized by the State of Arizona or in any domestic partnership and/or civil union with another person; Are both 18 years of age or older; Are both competent to enter into a contract; Both declare that they are each other's sole domestic partner; Both currently share a primary residence, are in a relationship of mutual support, and declare that they intend to remain in such for the indefinite future.

Registrants may go to City Hall to register in person, or may mail in their registration form to: City of Tucson, Finance Department, attn: DP Registration, P.O. Box 27210, Tucson AZ 85726. The registration form is available to pick up in person at City Hall at the first floor payment windows, or may be obtained by calling the Finance Department at: (520) 791-4566. Each registrant must sign the registration form before a notary public. Registrants who turn in their properly attested registration statement in person at City Hall will receive a certificate of registration in person. Registrants who mail in their properly attested registration statement will receive a certificate of registration by mail. The cost of registering is \$50. Checks should be made payable to the “City of Tucson.”

Under this ordinance there is no requirement for residency within the city

limits of Tucson and lists two rights or benefits for registered partners in the City of Tucson: (1) a right to visitation of one's partner in a health care facility, as long as the patient consents; and (2) extending use of and access to city facilities (such as Park and Rec) to a registered domestic partner as if the domestic partner were a spouse. You will receive a certificate that honors your partnership. For more information and to access the forms, please visit tucsonaz.gov/hottopics/dprreg.html. ...

A community forum, June 17, 7 - 9 p.m., about the Protect Marriage Arizona (PMA) amendment will be taking place at Wingspan, 300 East Sixth Street.

U. S. Official Challenged

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Bloch's resignation.

Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign, said, “When a clear statement from President Bush bolsters Bloch's ability to enforce this law, it becomes clear that Bloch is looking for any way he can to ensure federal workers do not get equal employment protection.”

U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., said in a prepared statement, “It is essential that the president act promptly to do what is necessary to see that the policy he has announced is in fact enforced by his appointee.”

Memorial Day Renews Questions

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Meehan is also a member of the House Armed Services Committee, as are 7 co-sponsors of today's legislation.

Repeal of “don't ask” also has the support of the American public.

A poll released earlier this month shows that nearly 80 percent of Americans believe Gays should be allowed to serve openly in the military.

The survey, by the Boston Globe, also shows that party affiliation, age, or church attendance had little effect on their opinion.

The Globe poll follows other polls showing growing support for allowing Gays to serve openly. Recent Gallup polls have reported between 65 percent and 79 percent support for lifting the military's Gay ban.

An Annenberg Survey reported in October that half of junior enlisted personnel and their families support allowing Gays to serve.



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COMMENTARY . . .

Gay Marriage Amendment Goes Too Far

Read Arizona Revised Statutes to Section 25-101(C), and the law is clear: "Marriage between persons of the same sex is void and prohibited."

There it is in black and white. Marriage in Arizona can only be between a man and a woman. Gay marriage is illegal - and that's been upheld by the Arizona Court of Appeals and the Arizona Supreme Court.

So why is an outfit called the Protect Marriage Arizona Coalition circulating petitions seeking to have a ban on Gay marriage inserted into the state constitution? It's already illegal by state law.

A constitution - whether the U.S. or the state version - is not meant to be trifled with. Amendments should be added only for serious issues, not to score political points. If there already is a law, why clutter the constitution with duplicate language?

But that is only one of the objections we have to the proposal that will go before voters in November 2006 if enough petitions signatures are collected.

This is being sold as a constitutional amendment that would ban Gay marriage. But that is only part of what the measure would do.

More troubling is that portion of the amendment that says "no legal status for unmarried persons shall be created or recognized by this state or its political subdivisions."

This goes substantially beyond banning Gay marriage. This would

prohibit any government from offering benefits to couples - Gay or heterosexual - who are in a committed relationship.

Pima County, the city of Tucson and many private companies offer insurance and other benefits not only to married employees, but also to unmarried employees in long-term relationships. And that has not caused the downfall of civilization nor harmed the institution of marriage.

This is an issue of local control. If local governments wish to offer benefits to unmarried couples, that decision should be made locally by locally elected representatives - not through a statewide decision imposed on all.

Tucsonans should have the right to offer benefits to unmarried couples if they wish; Phoenicians should not be required to offer benefits to which they object.

But at the heart of this issue is an irrational fear and distrust of Gay people. It is admirable to support the institution of marriage. But domestic violence and the high divorce rate are far more serious threats to that institution than two people of the same gender loving each other.

Private relationships are not a threat to anyone and should not be the topic of constitutional amendments. This proposal is hateful, unnecessary, overly broad and seeks to fix a problem that doesn't exist.

[This was the editorial in the Thursday, May 26 edition of the Tucson Citizen, from which this is reprinted.]

Pink China Comes Out Of The Shadows

BEIJING - It is only four years since China dropped homosexuality from its list of psychiatric disorders, reported BBC News.

Now, Gay activists in China are using the internet and other high-tech methods to try to create Gay communities.

But even as China's Gays come tiptoeing out of the closet, they admit they are fighting an uphill battle.

At a recent meeting in Beijing, a group of woman were discussing gender identity.

This kind of open salon for Lesbians is relatively new in China, a product of the internet generation.

"If we didn't have the internet to unite people together, the salons, the bars, the discos could not be there. So the internet is a very, very important thing to Lesbian culture," said 23-year-old Sylvia, attending the meeting with her girlfriend.

"You have a brand new way for you to find friends, find girlfriends, and start your new life, because before the internet appeared, everybody thought they were the only person in the world and they couldn't find any other people like themselves," she said.

But Gay websites exist in a grey area, with some official interference.

"Some Gay websites are closed by the service provider, and sometimes they'll give you other reasons, like not really Gay-related, but actually the real

reason is the sensitive Gay content," said Xiao Xian, a Lesbian activist.

"We're still testing the water, like what we can do, what is being allowed. So the government didn't have a clear rule put down on paper. Rather, it's unwritten rules, so you have to test it, you have to see what you can do," she said.

A Gay and Lesbian film festival attended by more than 100 people was recently held in a small room in a disused factory - a second attempt, after the authorities refused to allow them to hold the event on a university campus.

The films shown were mostly shot on the mainland, but most had never been seen in China before.

One of the films - a bittersweet Gay love story between a man and a Martian - was directed by Cui Ze'en, a professor at Beijing Film Academy, who has been forbidden from teaching for 15 years since he came out of the closet.

He believes that the authorities feel as threatened by sexual dissidents as political dissidents.

"They're the same taboo," he said. "Homosexuality represents a different cultural politics. Being Gay is a kind of body politics, which is entirely rejected in our system, because in our country, politics is all about being the same. But Gay people are different."

At a smoky bar in southern

Continued on Page Six



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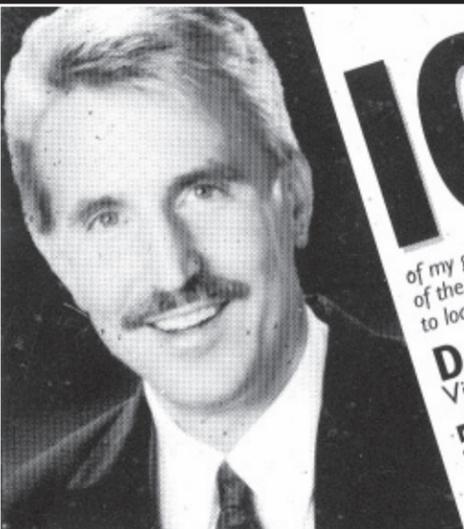


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Dan Savage In Tucson June 15



Dan Savage

TUCSON - In celebration of Gay Pride Month, the GLBT Services Committee of the Tucson-Pima Public Library (TPPL) will host an evening with author and columnist Dan Savage on Wednesday, June 15, 6:30 p.m.

Savage is the author of "The Kid: what happened after my boyfriend and I decided to go get pregnant, an adoption story," "Skipping Towards Gomorrah: the seven deadly sins and the pursuit of happiness in America," and writes the syndicated column "Savage Love."

The event is free and open to the public and will be held at the Joel D Valdez Main Library, 101 N. Stone, in the lower level meeting room. Free parking is available in the parking garage below the library, accessible from Alameda Street. This event made possible by The Friends of the Tucson-Pima Public Library.

For more information call Beth Petrucci, co-chair of the TPPL's GLBT Services Committee, (520) 791-5745.

Yuma Community Responds To Murder Of Gay Man

YUMA - A coalition of local and statewide organizations and concerned citizens created The Amancio Project Friday, May 27, calling for justice to be served in the murder of Amancio Corrales, who's body was found May 6 submerged in the Colorado River near Yuma, according to the Yuma County Sheriff's Office (YCSO).

The coalition, consisting of the Yuma County Gay Rights Meetup Group, United Church of Christ of Yuma, Arizona Leadership Institute (ALI), Arizona Human Rights Fund (AHRF), Wingspan, and Southern Arizona Gender Alliance (SAGA), formed in order to build support for the family of Corrales and is calling for an end to all acts of violence perpetrated against anyone, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Amancio Corrales, a 23-year-old Gay man who performed as a female impersonator under the name Delilah, apparently died from what is being described by authorities as "violent trauma." According to the YCSO, Corrales was dressed as a female while visiting one or more local bars on the night of May 5 and that it was a "significant possibility" that he left with people who thought he was a woman.

"This act of violence must be properly investigated," said Michael H. Baughman, a spokesperson for the Amancio Project. "As a community, we must have respect for human life and treat all people with dignity."

The Amancio Project is planning public events to help raise awareness

around this issue and to unify the community in its effort to stamp out acts of violence, especially those motivated by bias. The coalition also plans to work with the YCSO to ensure the perpetrator(s) are brought to justice.

Coalition members include organizational representatives, local citizens, members of Yuma's faith community and close family and friends of Corrales.

Anyone with information regarding this crime should contact Detective Raul Garcia of the Yuma County Sheriff's Office at (928) 783-4427.

Church Ousts Minister For Supporting Gays

ELKINS - The West Virginia congregation of Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church has voted to fire its minister after he wrote a newspaper story supporting homosexuals, the Associated Press reported on 365Gay.com.

"Gay and Lesbian Christians are no different than the rest of us," the Rev. Jeff Falter wrote in a Feb. 26 article in the Inter-Mountain of Elkins. "They deserve full equality in the church and in society, for they are my brothers and sisters, people for whom Christ died."

That passage led members to vote 100-72 last Sunday, May 22, to request that the Presbytery of West Virginia — the regional governing body — dissolve the church's pastoral relationship with Falter effective next Wednesday.

Presbyterian churches across the country have struggled with what role Gay and Lesbians should have in the denomination. Last year, the legislative assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) narrowly rejected a measure that would have allowed regional governing bodies to ordain Gay clergy and lay officers.

Pink China

Continued from Page Five

China I caught up with the country's underground Gay scene.

As disco lights flashed red, green and blue and music blared, a transvestite on stage strutted his stuff in a red bikini with gold tassels.

One of the performers was 28-year-old Yuan Bing, a slender boy from the country in a white diaphanous dress. He discovered as a child that he liked dressing up in girls' clothes. He said the audience reaction to his drag act was generally positive, but it could get nasty.

"When we are performing, sometimes customers really react against us. They simply can't bear us and they verbally attack us. We love what we do and we sometimes get angry with this response," he said.

Every person here has their own story of heartbreak and discrimination. "I don't think I can tell my parents. If other people found out, my parents would lose face," said Yuan Bing.

In his stage persona, Yuan Bing braves public discrimination and official disapproval every day. Yet in his private life he still hides behind a wall of silence.

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Protesters Demand Embattled Spokane Mayor Resign

SPOKANE - Demonstrators calling for Mayor James E. West to resign picketed Friday, May 27 at City Hall in the first such public protest since he was ousted and accused of abuse of office and child abuse, 365Gay.com reported.

The allegations were contained in a series of expose articles by the Spokane Spokesman-Review.

FBI has entered the case, probing accusations West offered municipal jobs to men he met in Gay online chat rooms

West has admitted being a regular in Gay chat rooms, but denies that he used city computers during his chat sessions or that he offered jobs for sexual favors or molested two men when they were teens.

The molestation allegations date too far back to prosecute under the state's statute of limitations. Nevertheless, West's lawyer has gone on the offensive charging that one of the men lacks credibility.

Lawyer Carl J. Oreskovich says that Robert J. Galliher, 36, of Seattle, lied when he said West visited him in prison in 2003 and told him to stop making abuse claims.

Oreskovich also says that West will hold a news conference to answer charges of abuse of power over the sex for jobs allegation.

"We ask the public to give the mayor the opportunity to investigate and come forward with his side of the story and not rush to judgment against him," Oreskovich said.

Since the newspaper expose began West has attempted to portray himself as a victim, saying that he was closeted as he tried to deal with his sexuality.

But, LGBT rights groups are showing little pity for the mayor, pointing instead to his conservative Republican record.

After Gov. Booth Gardner signed a surprise executive order banning discrimination in state jobs based on sexual orientation, West and 14 other Republicans introduced a bill in January 1986 to bar Gays and Lesbians from working in schools, day-care centers and some state agencies. The bill, which called for firing state workers whose sexual identities became known, failed.

In 1986, West voted to bar the state from distributing pamphlets telling people how to protect themselves from AIDS during sex.

West opposed Gay rights bills introduced in 1985 and 1987.

In 1989, West opposed expanding a needle exchange program from Pierce County to the entire state.

In 1990, West proposed that teen sex be criminalized.

In 1998, West voted for the Defense of Marriage Act, which defines marriage as between a man and a woman.

In 2003, West, as Senate majority leader, bottled up a Gay-rights bill in committee and it died.

As incoming mayor in November 2003, West opposed giving benefits to domestic partners of City Hall workers, citing cost. The Spokane City Council in

April approved domestic partner benefits in a 5-2 vote, enough to withstand any mayoral veto.

Throughout the scandal West has rejected demands he resign.

Protest Against School's Gay Diversity Posters Backfires

TROY - Protests from conservative Christian parents over a poster in a Troy High School classroom that contained the message that "Gay people are everyday people," has backfired, 365Gay.com reported.

Instead of forcing the school to remove the poster from the classroom other teachers have ordered copies for their rooms.

The poster had been on the wall in the English Department room for two years with no objections until earlier this month when a parent protested to the Troy School Board.

Anthony Cruz, 49, who has two daughters at the school said Troy High is supposed to concentrate on academics and leave other matters for after-school time and activities. Instead, the classroom poster has a "a captive audience," in students, Cruz said.

But Patricia Raezler, 55, a member of Parents Promoting Innocence in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, which supports Troy parents in the poster issue, said the school shouldn't be promoting sexuality of any kind.

"We are promoting innocence," said Raezler, whose children attend private school. "Once, these types of things were left up to the parents. Then there was a push to inform and let pupils know about sexuality. It hasn't decreased

sexually transmitted diseases."

But, despite threats of retaliation by Cruz, 25 more posters have been ordered.

"Now there's going to be 26 at the school," Leslie Thompson, executive director of Affirmations Gay/Lesbian Community Center, which distributes the posters, told the Detroit News.

"I'm really rather proud of the district, the school and the teachers for standing by their Gay students," she said. "(The poster) is really a strong message for those kids."

District spokesman Tim McAvoy confirmed that at least four new posters went up recently.

"The students requested the poster to show all people deserve respect and tolerance, and should not be harassed for any reason," McAvoy said. "The poster ensures student safety through a message of tolerance and respect."

But, Cruz isn't backing down, saying the posters promote a sexual lifestyle that is against Judeo-Christian beliefs.

"I am here to censor their attempts to promote that lifestyle on my children," he told the News. "We do not want them to try and change our children."

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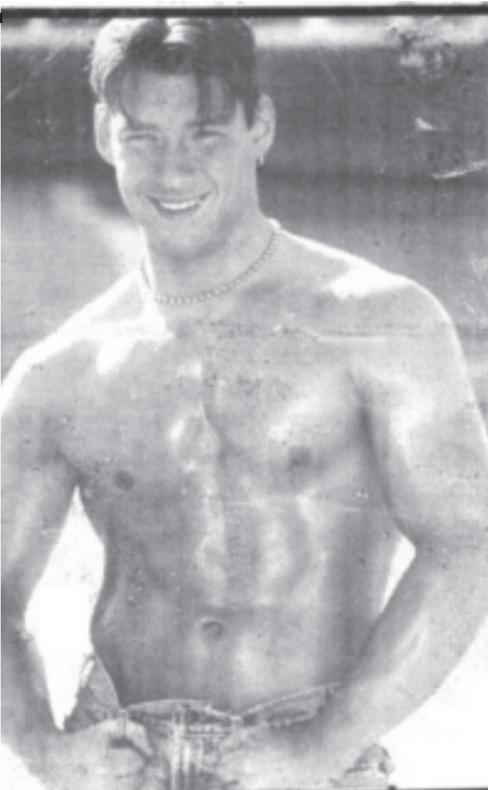
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Champagne and Cake Greet Massachusetts G/L Couples On First Anniversaries

BOSTON - The champagne corks popped, the wedding cakes were cut, and Massachusetts celebrated the first anniversary of the first legal same-sex marriages in the country on Tuesday, May 17, reported 365Gay.com.

Thousands of Gay and Lesbian couples stood on the steps in front of the State House for an official photograph marking the day. Tuesday was bleak and cold, but that did not damp the spirit.

Among those having their picture taken were Alexander Westerhoff and Thomas Lang. They held a sign reading "Thank you Massachusetts for one year of equality."

In the 12 months since the Supreme Judicial Court ruling that same it was unconstitutional to deny same-sex couples the right to marry went into effect some 6,200 Gay and Lesbian couples have tied the knot in cities and towns across the state.

Across the Charles River in Cambridge, Mayor Michael Sullivan hosted a party for Gay couples who were married in the city that is home to Harvard and MIT.

Cambridge was the scene of the very first Gay wedding in the state. Last year Sullivan kept City Hall open all night. Couples began lining up early in the evening the day before. At exactly midnight Marcia Hams, 56, and her partner, Susan Shepherd, 52, entered the history books as the first same-sex couple in America to legally apply for a marriage license.

In Northampton, J.M. Sorrell, a Lesbian justice of the peace who has married about 100 Gay couples, sat at a table at City Hall offering sparkling cider, cookies and bottled water to people as they

walked into city hall, wishing "Happy Anniversary" to Gay couples she recognized.

The scene there though was more subdued than in Boston or Cambridge.

"I was hoping people would be coming through the doors with flowers for the clerks to thank them for all their help in the past year," Sorrell said. "But it hasn't happened yet."

One of the couples who did stop by were Johanna Hammer, 31, and her wife, Rebecca Rogouin, 39. Hammer looked back at her wedding and said that she remembers being surprised at how monumental the feeling was.

"We weren't expecting the day to be as powerful as it was," Hammer said. "But it wound up being a really, really moving day."

Sue Hyde, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Field Organizer for Massachusetts said the impact of same-sex marriage has been liberating for straights as well as Gays.

"As we said from the moment the Goodridge decision was handed down, the single most important factor in persuading people that marriage equality would be good for all of us would be the marriages of same-sex couples," said Hyde.

"If an average of 25 people witnessed the weddings of the 6,000 couples who married, then 150,000 people participated in and observed the momentous event of a marriage between two people of the same sex. Almost all of them shared that experience with a co-worker, a family member, or a neighbor, not only because it is a lovely experience to attend a wedding, but also because in

Massachusetts witnessing a Gay wedding is an historic occasion and something people share with pride of place."

Same-sex marriage has also been good for business in Massachusetts.

About 15 percent of all the Gay couples who married in the state over the past year tied the knot in Provincetown.

Wedding and party planners, caterers and photographers, guesthouse and restaurant owners all have found revenues up over the past year according to the town's tourism director, Patricia Fitzpatrick.

"I think that on a scale of one to 10, it came in at about a seven," Fitzpatrick said.

But, looming on the horizon is a proposed amendment to the Massachusetts Constitution to ban Gay marriage.

The measure was given preliminary approval last year but needs to pass again in the Convention during this session of the Legislature in order to go to voters. The earliest it could be placed on the ballot would be 2006.

Last March when the proposed amendment passed the first phase, it did so by only a handful of votes and after heated debate. Many Democrats opposed the measure and many Republicans who object to Gay marriage voted against it because it would permit civil unions.

A joint session of the House and Senate will be held on Aug. 24.

On the weekend, state Democrats at their annual convention, endorsed a party platform that includes support for same-sex marriage.

At the same time, a new national

poll shows that support is growing for same-sex unions.

On Sunday, May 16, the Boston Globe released a new poll that approval of same-sex marriage by Americans is gaining support but still falls far short of a majority.

Thirty-seven-percent of those surveyed in the national poll said they support Gay marriage while an additional 11 percent said they did not care either way. Fifty percent of those surveyed said that same-sex marriage should not be legalized.

The poll, taken by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center, also found that half of Americans believe Gay marriages from Massachusetts, where same-sex marriages are legal, should not be recognized in their state. Forty-six percent said they should be recognized.

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POLITICS 2005

by Mark R. Kerr

'For Whom Does This Really Protect?'

For at least the past 2,000 years, the scripture-slinging denizens of purity, those moralistic avengers have partaken in the never-ending struggle for the ability to put their controlling, hypocritical hands on society's collective crotch.

Into the twenty-first century, this battle continues, with national ne'er-dowells, such as the Rev. Jerry "Tinky-Winky's purse" Falwell, the Rev. Pat "Gays want to destroy Christians" Robertson, Dubya, Dickie Cheney, House Majority, Tom "The Bugman" Delay, R-TX, Senator Rick "Man on Dog" Santorum, R-PA, the Rev. James "Sponge Bob Sissypants" Dobson, as well as the Center for Arizona Policy's (CAP) Len "I really love everyone" Munsil, Arizona's "boyish bigot" who is leading the crusade in the Grand Canyon State with the Protect Marriage Arizona (PMA) proposed constitutional amendment.

Munsil has blathered, on numerous occasions when a microphone or tape-recorder is put in his presence by the corporate hack media, that the goal of the PMA is to protect traditional marriage, which consists of a man and woman. Okay Lennie, but you had said that you really love everyone and all should be treated equally, and since Arizona's law already defines marriage and has been upheld in court, what is the real reason for the PMA?

Former State Representative Steve May, R-Paradise Valley, the current co-chair of the Arizona Human Rights Fund, said in an interview with this reporter, that the PMA is "an assault on all unmarried citizens who are currently in committed relationships or intend to be in committed relationships at some point in their lives."

As the language of the PMA proposal states, "To preserve and protect marriage in this state, only a union between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage by this state or its political subdivisions and no legal status for unmarried persons shall be created or recognized by this state or its political subdivisions that is similar to that of marriage."

May said "Gays and Lesbians are merely collateral damage in this attack by a radical religious minority that wants to impose their faith by legal decree instead of individual consent. This is an attack largely on unmarried women and their children that is disguised as an anti-gay marriage ban."

"Let's get real: Gay marriage here is already illegal," May continued.

Very true, Arizona Revised Statute 25-101, defines marriage in the state as between one man and one woman.

"The largest demographic likely to be hurt by this, is heterosexual firefighters and police officers who, for a variety of reasons, have chosen not to marry but accept domestic partner benefits for those in their household," he went on to say.

Also included are the government workers, for the Pima County government, the city governments of Phoenix, Scottsdale, Tempe and Tucson, as well as the employees of Pima Community College, Tucson Unified, and the Sunnyside Unified School Districts.

"There is another truth we need

to face," May said. "This proposal is a cynical attempt to frighten older conservative voters and evangelical Christians to turn out at the polls and defeat Democratic candidates, especially Janet Napolitano. I'm a Republican. But it disgusts me that my party is behind this in an unofficial yet significant way."

Matt Salmon, the former Republican Congressman and gubernatorial nominee, who lost to Napolitano in 2002, is currently serving as Chair of the Arizona Republican Party, and is part of United Families International, a group promoting "traditional marriage" which is also helping CAP with their proposal.

If the PMA gets the 183,917 valid signatures and approved in November 2006, this discriminatory amendment could have other affects as well.

"This proposal could invalidate medical powers of attorney and other contracts that unmarried people use to protect and provide for each other," May said, adding that it "could even prevent private employers from recognizing domestic partnerships and offering benefits to their employees. Most major private employers in this state offer some level of domestic partner benefits. Even my small business (25 employees) offers domestic partner benefits."

What can people do to help defeat this? According to May, take the simple first step, getting involved, "we need everyone to be thoroughly engaged in this battle. Sign up now at www.aztogether.org," May said.

GLB Adults More Likely To Book Online Travel, Study Says

NEW YORK - According to a recent nationwide survey, Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual (GLB) adults who are online are more likely to book hotel reservations through online portals than heterosexual online adults, gfn.com reported.

While fully 35 percent of heterosexual respondents said they don't book travel online, fewer than one in five (18%) GLB respondents said they did not.

About one-half (52%) of GLB respondents were likely to visit Travelocity.com when making hotel reservations, compared to 40 percent of non-Gay respondents. Gay and non-Gay use of Expedia.com did not vary much (45 percent of GLBs said they are likely to visit Expedia.com compared with 40% of non-Gays). Forty-six percent of GLB respondents are likely to visit Orbitz.com compared to 33 percent of non-Gays.

These are the results of a survey of 2,630 U.S. adults, of whom 177 were self-identified as Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual. The online survey was conducted between March 8 and 14, 2005 by Harris Interactive®, a worldwide market research and consulting firm, in conjunction with Witeck-Combs Communications, Inc., a strategic public relations and marketing communications firm with special expertise in the Gay market.

Many GLB online consumers rely on Gay-specific travel expertise when queried on the type of resources used when planning destination travel. Outside of the assistance Gays seek from friends and relatives (58%), Gay-specific websites (32%), such as Outandabout.com and Gay.com, top the list of resources Gays use

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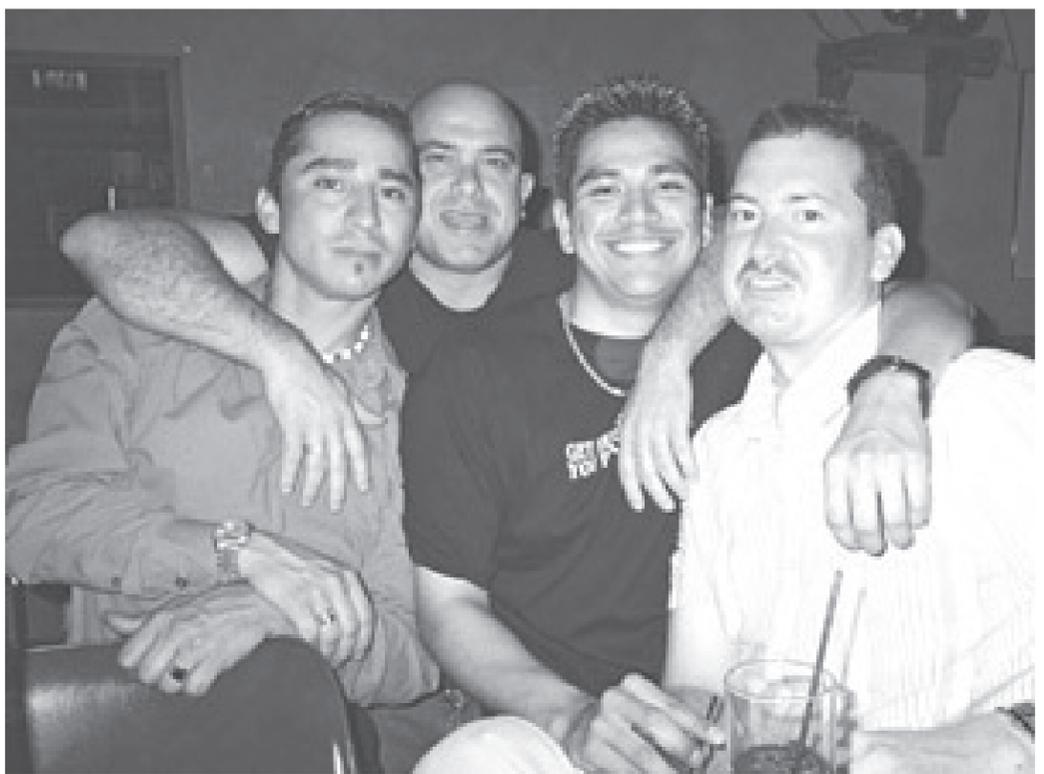
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to learn about future leisure travel destinations they consider visiting. Close behind are national Gay magazines (25%), such as Passport, Genre, and Out Traveler, and Gay-specific travel books (22%), such as Damron and Odysseus guides.

"Clearly, the honeymoon with online travel sites is likely to grow as more Gay and Lesbian consumers flock to specialized media and other Gay-specific

travel and tourism resources. When making leisure travel destination decisions, GLB travelers are seeking direction on how they can spend their dollars on both Gay-friendly travel channels and destinations," said John Butler, Senior Marketing and Communications Strategist for Witeck-Combs Communications.

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Microsoft Dumps Anti-Gay Advisor

SEATTLE - Microsoft announced Friday that it has severed ties with Ralph Reed, a conservative Republican lobbyist who once headed the Christian Coalition, reported 365Gay.com.

Reed a longtime opponent of LGBT civil rights had served as a political consultant to Microsoft.

He is now running for lieutenant governor of Georgia. "It would not be appropriate to have a consultant on retainer that is seeking elective office at the same time," company spokeswoman Ginny Terzano said.

But, many within Microsoft and outside the company believe his departure has more to do with the massive public relations hit the computer software giant took with it was learned it had withdrawn its support for a Gay civil rights bill in the Washington legislature.

The measure lost by a single vote in the Senate following Microsoft's move.

Microsoft's decision was taken after a meeting between company executives and the Rev. Ken Hutcherson, a Seattle evangelical minister and longtime associate of Reed.

Hutcherson allegedly threatened a national boycott of Microsoft if it did not disavow itself from the Gay rights bill that would have made discrimination against members of the LGBT community illegal.

As details of the meeting emerged there was a storm of protest from

Washington's Gay community.

Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer then sent an email to employees claiming that the company had made its decision before the legislative session began that it should to narrow its focus on a shorter list of issues directly affecting the business.

But, that explanation, in light of details of the meeting between Microsoft and Hutcherson, failed to appease the company's sizable LGBT workforce or Gays across the country. Even an attempt by Microsoft chair Bill Gates to quiet opposition failed.

"Next time this one comes around, we'll see," Gates told the Seattle Times on May 1. "We certainly have a lot of employees who sent us mail. Next time it comes around that'll be a major factor for us to take into consideration."

With the storm showing no sign of abating Microsoft came full circle, announcing that it would once again support LGBT civil rights.

ExxonMobil Non-Bias Policy Vote Fails Again

DALLAS - The largest U.S. oil company, ExxonMobil Corporation, still refuses to add sexual orientation and gender identity to its non-discrimination policy, despite growing shareholder opposition, reported the PlanetOut Network.

Shareholders at Exxon's annual meeting on Wednesday, May 25, voted in record numbers in favor of the policy change. A total of 29.4 percent of votes, representing more than 1.55 billion shares, were tallied in favor of a resolution to change the company's policy. That figure is a slight increase from the meeting last May, where 28.9 percent of shares were voted in favor of the policy change.

This is the seventh year in a row that the policy change has been suggested and failed.

In an earlier company statement, ExxonMobil defended its position: "We have stated that ExxonMobil's policies against harassment and discrimination apply to sexual orientation. In fact

[various Exxon proxy statements] specifically state that these policies prohibit harassment or discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation."

"ExxonMobil is wasting resources by refusing to write down a policy it says it already has," Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese said in a press release. "With companies now adding protections based on gender identity and expression, it's past time for ExxonMobil's leaders to give up their stubborn refusal to enact such policies."

Historically, companies started adding sexual orientation to their non-discrimination policies starting in the 1980s. Eighty-three percent of Fortune 500 companies now include it in their policies, and 54 percent of them prohibit discrimination on gender identity as well. Chevron Corp., BP Corp., Shell Oil Company, Sunoco Inc. and Marathon Oil are among the oil companies that include orientation in their nondiscrimination policies.

ExxonMobil is the only oil company in the Fortune 100 that fails to include sexual orientation in its policy. In fact, it is the first major U.S. company to take such protections away.

When Exxon merged with Mobil in 1999, sexual orientation had been a protected category for Mobil employees. The company also offered domestic partnership benefits. When the two merged, ExxonMobil leadership took that protection away and closed the domestic partnership benefits program to new members.



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Sexy Venus enters caring Cancer and warms the cockles of our hearts. We suddenly feel as if the world needs our help as we take on all comers with one hand. Become ambidextrous and gather up a bevy of warm memories.

ARIES (MAR. 21 - APR. 20)
The time to build bridges with family members is with Venus in Cancer. Mellow tones ring in even the nastiest of situations. Be yourself, proud Ram, and don't take "no" for an answer. Today it is yes, yes, yes. While you are so affirming, consider enhancing your home by redecorating or moving stuff around. Say a definite "yes!" to tossing out that beer barrel side table.

TAURUS (APR. 21 - MAY 21)
Queer Bulls seem to know exactly what to say with Venus in Cancer. Speak your mind and maneuver around the fallout. You are tempted to blurt out the most inappropriate (yet heartfelt) things now. Thankfully even your foulest comments become delicious bon mots most of the time. Have you ever thought of politics? Forgetaboutit compadre; you're just too honest.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
Venus in Cancer makes you more fiscally astute than usual. Pink Twins finally recognize the value of a dollar and how difficult it is to accumulate. If you can keep a careful eye on the retirement prize, this is the time to push your monetary cause one step further. You are tempted to purchase an antique or decorative object now but may splurge on that gem by the bar.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
You are even more appealing than usual with Venus in your own sign. Get Out there and meet and greet, Gay Crab. You impress, interviews go well and you seem to know what you are talking about. Set the agenda now by beginning new projects, trying new things and creating a new image. Who knows? For the first time in your life you may even get a good haircut.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)
Proud Lions are pleasantly surprised at the extent and power of their good vibes with Venus in Cancer. You can easily overcome dastardly evil plans of hidden enemies, at least in the short term. There is a healing taking place within you. Intuition is on target so do good things for deserving people and build up the good Gay karma. You get more than you give and you like that!

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)
Queer Virgins seem to be more in tune with group dynamics. Rather than coolly fade into the background they emerge, bold and beautiful, into the forefront. Gather your good buds together and plot a pink revolution. If you choose, bring warring factions to the peace table and strike a happy compromise. If not, create a new paradigm and enjoy it with a select few.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)
If your corporate political skill needs a bit of brushing up, try try again while Venus posits in Cancer. Proud Libras make some inroads in otherwise treacherous shark waters with their charming and charismatic style. You can even overcome entrenched workplace enemies if you can manage to spin a little sugar into the honest truth. Or you can hit them when they are not looking.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)
Proud Scorps peer longingly at the far horizons. Venus in Cancer expands your vision and tickles your already itchy feet. Think of a great global Gay project and become a pioneer. You have the tender touch now and can make a warm and compelling impression on those who you do not know well and who may differ. Say the word and I will nominate you for diplomat to the United Nations.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)
What is it that makes all Gay Archers so loveable and attractive? It has to be Venus in Cancer. You are not only especially charming, you become the epitome of sexy and have a choice of an array of admirers. Enjoy it while you can and don't waste time. This magic will dissipate quickly and before you know it you go from twinkie to day old bread. At least you'll have your dough.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)
Pink Caps love being in a relationship and now, with Venus in Cancer, you find the perfect saucer for your cup. One on ones go smoothly and harmoniously if you remember all those little things that make your significant other significantly happy. If you are in the market, you may just find your treasure among the trash. (Of course, you may prefer trash...) but you have to seek to find.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)
Although it may be cold comfort to heat seeking Aqueerians, Venus in Cancer makes the day to day job less dreary and onerous. If the job doesn't get your juices going try a brisk workout that will increase the chances of summer fun. Exercise now and enjoy your heated times in a couple of months. Imagine them watching you walk the gang plank when you look so ship shape!

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MAR. 20)
Venus in Cancer adds quite a bit of good fortune to an already lucky and carefree Guppie. Take advantage of your luck and pluck to send things your way. Expand your outlook and tap into anything that tickles your Gay muse. Or plan a fabulous party. Just make sure that you don't waste this energy on any of the seven deadly sins ... except perhaps lust and gluttony.



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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE
by Lee Thorn

Of Judges And Filibusters

I'm against putting right-wing nut cases on the federal bench as much as anybody can be against it, but I'm afraid their confirmations are currently being fought in two very misguided ways. Admirably anti-nut case pols are defending the filibuster and attacking the wacko nominees in laughably vague terms. Both tactics should be rethought.

The arguments being made in favor of the filibuster are that it's traditional, that it can be used for doing good, that abolishing it would require the senate to violate its own rules, and that it protects the rights of the minority party.

Let's first dispose of the wonderfulness of tradition by pointing out that for hundreds of years human slavery was traditional.

Moving on to the potential of the tactic for doing good, the filibuster is best known for being used by Southern senators to prevent Afro-Americans from acquiring basic civil rights. The fact that the filibuster might now be used in a good cause elevates it at most to a neutral status, the status of those double-edged swords we're so often warned about.

As for breaking its own rules, the senate gets to do that because there's nobody who can stop it. The courts can't tell the senate not to break its own rules because doing so would violate the doctrine known as "separation of powers."

And, once again because of separation of powers, the rights of the minority party are whatever the senate wants them to be.

The filibuster, once the above fig leaves have been removed, is a tactic that thwarts the will of the majority in a body that supposedly represents the principle of majority rule. As such it's logically indefensible. Readers of history will mutter at this point that the senate didn't always represent the principle of majority rule, and I happily tip my hat to that quite accurate irrelevancy. In the here and now, the best that the defenders of the filibuster can say is, rather pathetically, "Someday you'll want to thwart the majority too."

Looking at the actual attacks on the nominees, why must they be so ridiculously vague? Judges routinely judge themselves and each other on the percentage of their rulings that get reversed on appeal. There's no reason that the senators have to adopt this standard, but they really should come up with something better than saying, "He's out of the mainstream."

Does that mean out of the mainstream like Edison, Einstein and Picasso? How would you like to be turned down for a highly technical job that you'd had great training for and be told it was because you were out of the mainstream?

Judicial nominees have track records. If you don't like them, find outrageous things they've said or written and the contexts in which they've said them and build your argument on those specific pronouncements.

I mention context because we all, or almost all, get drunk now and then and say and do dumb things. That shouldn't keep us off the federal bench. But federal nominees make all kinds of statements in

all kinds of contexts that give ample grounds for evaluating them.

They write opinions and scholarly articles. They give speeches at high school graduations. They've often given political speeches.

Instead of telling the American public that a judge is "out of the mainstream" or even that he's a right-wing nut case, the politicians should be quoting the judge's own words from appropriate contexts and arguing that anyone who spoke or wrote those words in those contexts wouldn't make a good judge.

Perhaps the opposition to the nut cases is worried that it can't make arguments against them without becoming "too technical," that the disqualifying characteristic are of such legal subtlety that they can't readily be expounded to the general public. If that is indeed the nature of the matter, the case against confirmation would seem awfully weak.

The historical fact however is that judges have been blocked in the confirmation process on the basis of what they've actually said and written on the record. The most recent famous case that comes to mind is that of a guy named Bork. Politicians who opposed him got busy and publicized his views. The process required thought and effort, but in the end a large portion of the Americans who actively care about judicial appointments understood with substantial specificity why they didn't want Bork confirmed.

If we want to beat back the wackos and preserve the Constitution, we've got to quit throwing muddy generalizations and start pitching precise ideas. And let's leave the filibuster to the likes of Strom Thurmond.

[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.]

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Around The Gay World. . . .

Saudis Round Up 92 More Gays

LONDON - Despite international condemnation Saudi Arabia continues mass arrests of men suspected of being Gay. On the weekend Saudi heavily armed security forces burst into a building in Riyadh and arrested 92 men, 365Gay.com reported.

Al-Wifaq news, which has close links to the Saudi Arabian Interior Ministry, quotes officials as calling the venue a "deviants' party" - a term frequently used in describing Gays.

The paper also says the men were drunk and had taken drugs.

Homosexuality is illegal in the Saudi kingdom and punishable by flogging, lengthy prison terms or death under Sharia Islamic law. Use of alcohol or drugs is also illegal.

Al-Wifaq reports that some of the men were foreign nationals - from Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Syria and Lebanon.

It also says that some were dressed in women's clothes. It is not known if they were men in drag or transsexuals.

In March month, 110 men were arrested at what was described as a "Gay wedding" in the city of Jeddah.

About eighty men were later released. The remaining men were sentenced to prison and floggings.

Four of the men (two Saudi Arabians, a Jordanian and a Yemeni) were sentenced by a court in Jeddah to 2,000 lashes and two years' imprisonment, and 31 others to 200 lashes and six months to one year in prison.

The sentences prompted an appeal to the government by Amnesty International. There has been no response from the government.

A day prior to the March arrests, a Gay couple was beheaded in a public execution in the northern town of Arar, near the Iraq border. The pair had been convicted of killing a blackmailer who had threatened to expose them to authorities.

Swiss To Vote On Civil Unions

ZURICH - Swiss voters will go to the polls June 5 in the first European election on same-sex unions. Elsewhere in Europe the decision of how to recognize Gay and Lesbian relationships has been decided by governments, reported 365Gay.com.

Holland and Belgium have legalized same-sex marriage. Most other European Union nations have varying forms of domestic partnerships.

The Swiss Parliament last June passed legislation to create a civil unions registry and grant limited rights to same-sex couples - mainly in the areas of pensions, inheritance and taxes. But, opponents - headed by a small conservative religious party, the Federal Democratic Union - collected enough signatures to force a referendum on the issue.

The FDU claims that granting any rights to same-sex couples would undermine traditional marriage.

But Justice Minister Christoph Blocher disagrees, pointing out that the

domestic partner registry would not have the same status as traditional marriages and that same-sex couples would not be allowed to adopt children or have access to fertility treatment.

Registered Gay partnerships already exist in Geneva, Zurich and Neuchâtel. In Zurich 483 Gay and Lesbian couples have registered since the cantonal law came into effect in July 2003.

Churches in Switzerland are divided on civil unions. The Roman Catholic Church is opposed while the Federation of Protestant Churches supports them.

Armed Police Protect Bucharest Gay Pride Marchers

BUCHAREST - Heavily armed police were used to separate members of a rightwing group from Gay pride revelers in the Romanian capital on the weekend (May 29-30), reported 365Gay.com.

It was the first official Gay pride celebration and parade in Bucharest and almost didn't get off the ground.

Romania President Traian Basescu stepped in after the city's mayor, Adrieau Videanu, refused to issue organizers a parade permit.

Earlier, Bucharest's police commissioner threatened on national Romanian radio to use the police to "punish" marchers if they went ahead.

Following emergency intervention by Basescu, the mayor issued the permit and about 500 members of the LGBT community paraded through central Bucharest.

Gays and Lesbians carried banners saying "Stop prejudice, I love who I want" and "Out and proud".

On the sidelines, members of the extreme conservative group "New Right" heckled the marchers, yelling "Shame on you" and "Get out of Romania". The group carried signs reading "Against homosexuality, for normality".

When some members of the group tried to crash through a police barricade they were grabbed by riot police. The group was released after the parade ended.

President Basescu's support for the parade had little to do with an endorsement of LGBT civil rights in the former Soviet Bloc nation and more to do with Romania's desire to join the European Union. The EU constitution protects Gays, Lesbians, and the Transgendered.

Romania hopes to join Europe in 2007. As part of reforms required for EU membership the country decriminalized homosexuality in 2001. Until that time

Gay sex was punishable by prison terms up to five years. Thousands of Gays were jailed under the dictatorship of Nicolae Ceausescu. Despite the reforms most Romanian Gays are closeted.

Gay Bias Crimes Nearly Triple In Northern Ireland

BELFAST - The number of reported crimes with a homophobic motive have nearly tripled over the past year, the Police Service of Northern Ireland said Monday, May 23, the Associated Press reported on 365Gay.com.

In its annual report on crime trends, the police said the overall rate of reported crimes fell 7.7 percent in the 12-month period ending in March 2005. But crimes motivated by bigotry against minority groups, chiefly Asians and Gays, soared.

The report said the number of racially motivated crimes, mostly taunts and assaults, rose to 813 in the 2004-05 period. The figure for 2003-04 was 453, while in 2002-03 it was 226. Crimes involving an anti-Gay motive rose to 196, compared with 71 in 2003-04 and 35 in 2002-03.

Police cautioned that the statistical rises reflected, in part, their own increasing focus on investigating such crimes.

The police traditionally concentrated on combating the activities of Northern Ireland's rival paramilitary groups, such as the Irish Republican Army, but most of those groups have been observing cease-fires since the mid-1990s.

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6th Stop:

Howl at the Moon
915 W. Prince Rd
Friday June 17, 2005
Time: 7 pm – 10 pm

A collaboration of the Pima
County Health Department and
Gay Men's Health Project

Elton And David Set Nuptials Date

LONDON - Gay rocker Elton John and filmmaker partner David Furnish have ended months of speculation and announced the date they will exchange vows, 365Gay.com reported.

The celebrity couple will tie the knot on December 21 at their country home in Windsor.

"We are definitely going to do it and we're not going to do it in secret," John told Britain's ITV1.

Same-sex domestic partnerships become legal in the UK December 5. Under the civil unions law people entering into legal domestic partnerships must publicly announce their plans at least 15 days in advance.

Although the domestic partner registry offers most of the same rights and responsibilities of marriage they cannot be called marriages.

The couple has not said why they chose to enter a civil union in John's homeland rather than go to Canada where Furnish is a citizen and legally marry.

The 42-year-old Furnish is a noted film-maker. They have been together for 11 years.

"Meeting David has been the greatest thing to happen to me. Yes, we spend a lot of time apart and it's hard, but we make it work," Elton told a British newspaper last month, crediting Furnish with helping him get off drugs.

Filmmaker Ismail Merchant Dies At 68

LONDON - Ismail Merchant, the Gay filmmaker who made costume dramas such as "Howard's End," "A Room with a View" and "The Remains of the Day" with his partner, James Ivory, died Wednesday, May 25, at the age of 68, reported 365Gay.com.

"It is with great sadness that Merchant Ivory Productions announces that Ismail Merchant, our company founder and beloved producer for more than 44 years, has passed away after a brief illness in a London hospital where he was working on his latest film, 'The White Countess,'" the production company said in a statement on its Web site.

Merchant recently underwent surgery for stomach ulcers, the Associated Press reported.

Merchant, who was born in Bombay, India, in 1936, lived and worked with Ivory for more than 40 years, and their partnership yielded more than 40 films and numerous awards, including six Oscars.

"Some people meet and part ways," Merchant said in a People Weekly interview about living with Ivory. "Others bond together on a lifelong stream. I guess you could call our relationship 'destiny.'"

In general, Merchant served as producer on their films, while Ivory directed.

The two men also teamed with

their longtime screenwriter, Ruth Praver Jhabvala, to form a "creative trident," according to the book "Gay and Lesbian Biography." Their first film together, "The Householder," based on a novel by Praver Jhabvala, premiered in 1963.

The trio made several films adapted from classic literary novels, which gave them a reputation for being high-brow filmmakers with sumptuous, dialogue-heavy films. Several of the films were artistic and commercial successes, including "Howard's End," "A Room with a View," "The Bostonians," "The Golden Bowl" and "Mr. and Mrs. Bridge."

Their 1987 film adaptation of E.M. Forster's novel "Maurice" won them many Gay fans for its sensitive depiction of men in love with each other.

In recent years the artists turned away from classic literature, with such films as "Le Divorce" and "A Soldier's Daughter Never Cries."

"The White Goddess," which is in production, is a musical starring Tina Turner, and it's about the Hindu goddess Shakti. Merchant also produced "Heights," which is set for release this summer and stars Glenn Close, James Marsden and Jesse Bradford.

"We haven't done everything we wanted to," he told the Manchester Guardian in 1992, "but we wanted everything we've done."

NON-BAR CALENDAR

MONDAY, MAY 30
Tucson Prime Timers Lunch, 12:30 p.m., the Wildcat Hous 1800 N. Stone Ave.

Saturday, June 4
Tucson Prime Timers Food & Drinks- 5:00 p.m. Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd.

Monday, June 6
Tucson Prime Timers Bowling - 10:30 AM. Visitors Welcome. Lunch - 12:30 p.m. The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

Saturday, June 11
Tucson Prime Timers Food & Drinks- 5:00 p.m., Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd.

Monday, June 13
Tucson Prime Timers Bowling - 10:30 a.m.. Visitors Welcome. Lunch - 12:30 p.m. The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

Saturday, June 18
Tucson Prime Timers Visitors Welcome, Lunch/Business Meeting - Noon, Home Town Buffet, 5101 N. Oracle Rd.

Saturday, June 18
Tucson Prime Timers Food & Drinks - 5:00 p.m., Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd.

Monday, June 20
Tucson Prime Timers Bowling - 10:30 a.m., Visitors Welcome. Lunch - 12:30 p.m. The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

Saturday, June 25
Tucson Prime Timers Food & Drinks - 5:00 p.m., Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd.

Monday, June 27
Tucson Prime Timers Bowling - 10:30 a.m.. Visitors Welcome. Lunch - 12:30 p.m.



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Let me ask you something... Since when is bigotry a moral virtue?

—Back in 1906, a leading American Theologian published a best-selling book justifying discrimination against African Americans, saying they were creatures of uncontrollable "sensuality." Similar racist themes were spouted by politicians like the notorious "Pitchfork" Ben Tillman who toured the country under the banner, "Negro equality in politics means social equality, mongrelization, hellfire and damnation!" Belief in the innate immorality of black people, buttressed by selected scriptural references, formed the basis for slavery, segregation and lynchings. Now come the homophobes, spouting the same hate-filled rhetoric about a different minority group. "Homosexual-

Ira Glasser
Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union



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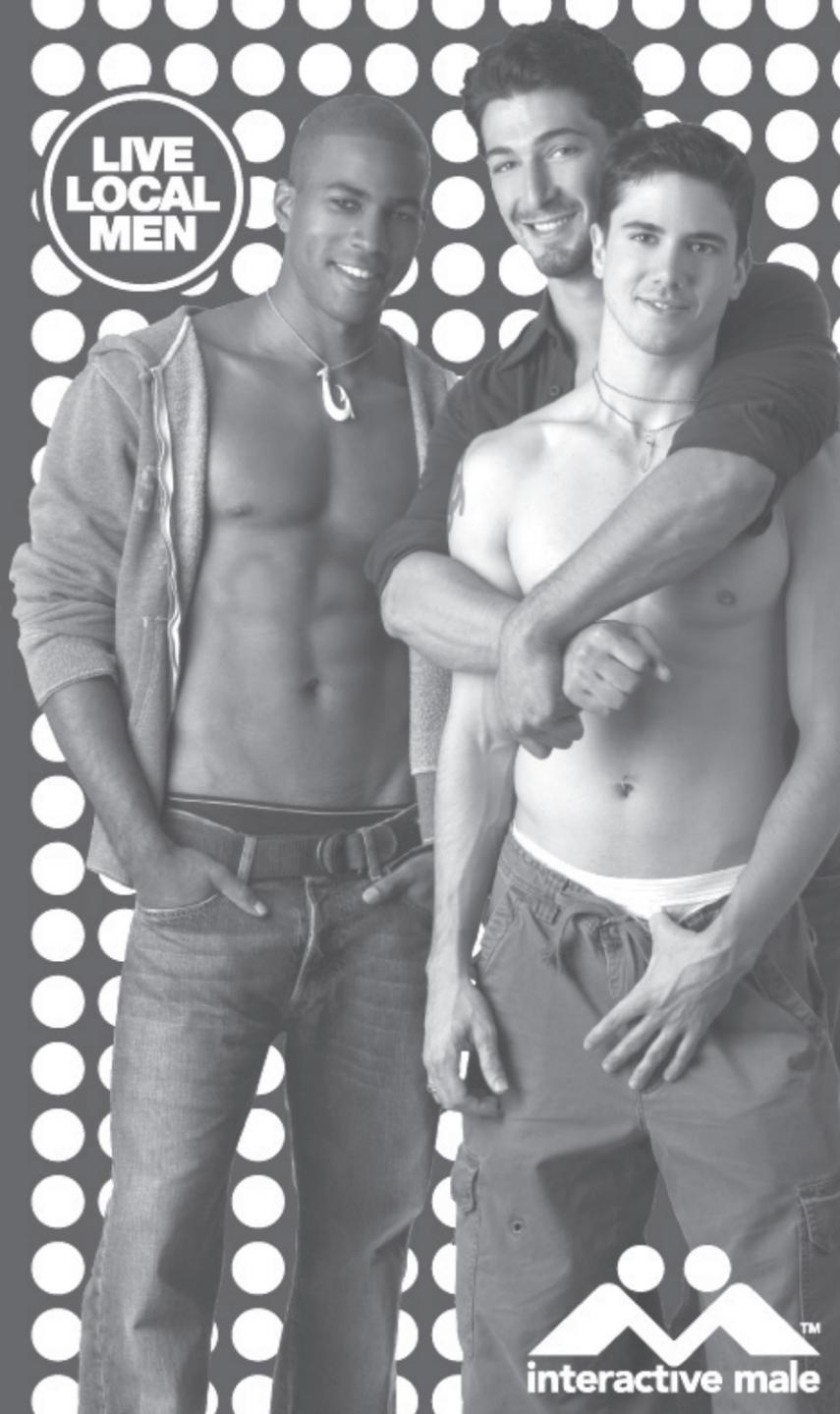
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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

sunday

COLORS - Open 11am. Champagne Brunch 11am - 2pm with complimentary mimosa. Lunch menu served 11am-10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 11:00 am. Chuckwagon Breakfast 11am - 1pm, \$4.00 - Scrambled eggs, hash brown, biscuit & sausage gravy and your choice of Bloody Mary, coffee, juice or milk. Free Texas Hold'em Poker Tourney at 4 and 7pm. 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, or mimosas. til 4pm. 4-7:30 Karaoke with Michael D. on the patio 5:30-7:30 Beer Bust. 2-4-1 drink specials and DJ Mike Lopez 10pm to close. (Some restrictions apply).

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. Brunch \$5, 11:30 - 2:30. Patio open 1pm-close. Yard games on the grass. Beer Bust 16oz \$1 2-7p. \$2.50 Sirloin Burger or Chicken w/sides 5-9pm. Karaoke with Michael D. 9pm-close. Drag Bingo every other Sunday 8-9

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

monday

COLORS - Closed on Mondays.

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-8pm, DJ Mike Lopez 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. w/Special Happy Hour prices til 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 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7 \$2.25 well & domestic. Full menu served 4-10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

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-8pm, Tropical Tuesdays \$2.50 Tropical drinks and DJ Q playing Retro Music 70's, 80's and 90's 9pm-close.

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

WOODY'S - Open 10am w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. 80s Nite 9-close. \$1 off to those wearing 80s concert t-shirt. (Excludes draught & schnapps).

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

wednesday

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$2.25 well & domestic. Full menu served 4-10pm. Nightly dinner specials. 1st Wednesday of month "Dinner & Movie" sponsored by GMHP. All other Wednesdays "Dinner & Concert" shown on our 52" projection System.

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. Country DJ Jake plays 8:30 - close

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, 9pm "Diva-Licious" show w/ Bunny Fu Fu. HiNrgy dance with DJ Q.

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Draft Special 12-4pm. \$2.75 Cuervo Margaritas 4-8pm

WOODY'S - Open 10am w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Underwear- fetish-leather nite \$1 off for those wearing underwear-fetish or leather. (Excludes draught & 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 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$2.25 well & domestic. Full menu served 4-10pm. Nightly dinner specials. Karaoke from 9pm with Johnny DJ & Dan..

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-8pm, Boyz Nite Out with your Bartenders & GoGo Boys dancing in their undies and DJ Mike Lopez spinning Top 40 & All request \$1.75 Long Islands and \$1.50 Tequila shots 10pm-2am.

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 w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Free Pool all day. NTN Game Nite w/prizes 9-close. \$1 Pabst Blue Ribbon. Patio bar open 8pm-close

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

friday

COLORS - Open 4pm-2am. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$2.25 well & domestic. Full menu served 4-11pm. 6:30-9:30pm Amber Norgarrd sings originals and cover tunes. 10pm "Guys & Dolls" Hosted by Lucinda Holliday in a 2 girl cabaret show with a different guest each week. Reservations suggested.

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-8pm, Live Jazz on the Patio with Susan 6pm-9pm, Hot Dance with DJ Mike Lopez 9pm-2am.

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

WOODY'S - Open 10am. w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Patio Bar open 8-close. Party w/DJ Jeff 9-close.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Gin until 7pm. Beer Bust 3-7pm. Kennel open 9pm.

saturday

COLORS - Open 4pm-2am. Full menu served 4-11pm. Nightly dinner specials. Reservations suggested. Karaoke 10pm-close with Johnny DJ & Dan.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 11:00 am. Chuckwagon Breakfast 11am-1:30pm, \$4.50. 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-8pm, 5-8pm karaoke and Teryaki Kabobs on the patio. 8:30pm Show time w/ Ajia Simone or Janee Star. DJ Q spinning Club Music inside and Mike Lopez spinning on the patio 10pm to close..

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio Bar open 3pm. Patio Beer Bust 3-7pm. DJ 9-1.

WOODY'S - Open 10am w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. \$5 Steak or Fish w/all the trimmings 5-9. Patio Bar open 5-close. Live Jazz w/Arthur Miguazza on the patio 6-9. Party w/DJ Jeff 9-close.

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.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THRU JUNE 12

Live Theatre Workshop presents "Baby With The Bathwater" by Christopher Durang. 5317 E. Speedway. Thursdays thru Saturdays 7:30pm; Sundays 3pm. Tickets \$13 - \$15. Call 327-4242.

THRU JUNE 5

Invisible Theatre presents "Meshuggah-Nuns!", the Ecumenical Nonsense Book, Music and Lyrics by Dan Goggin. The 5th in a series of six "Nonsense" shows. This one finds the Little Sisters of Hoboken out to sea on a "faith of all Nations" Cruise. After a terrible storm, every cast member of the ship's production of Fiddler on the Roof succumbs to sea sickness

Invisible Theatre is located at 1400 N. First Avenue at Drachman. Tickets are available at the Box office by calling 520-882-9721 or by stopping by the theater, Tuesday through Friday, 10 am - 4pm. Visa, Master Card and American Express are accepted. Play dates and times vary. Call the box office for more information.

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

FRIDAY, JUNE 3

COLORS FOOD & SPIRITS - Beginning tonight and every Friday from 6:30 to 9:30 it's Hot Jazz and Cool Martini's with Susan Artemis. And, of course, at 10:00 p.m. it's showtime with Lucinda Holliday. Lucinda's guest this week is Janee Starr.

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

YARD DOG SALOON - Steak Nite 7:00 p.m. cooked to order by Rob and Pete.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8

WOODY'S - Sarong Party. 8:00 p.m. Wear a sarong and get special drink prices. (Sarongs available).

FRIDAY, JUNE 10

WOODY'S - June birthdays celebrated today. 9 9:00 p.m. Cake - Balloons - Cchampagne Toast. You must Sign up.

SATURDAY, JUNE 18

WOODY'S - Matt Butterman Jazz Concert tonight.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22

WOODY'S - Luau Pride Party. More details later.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT CONTINUED

JUNE 9 THRU 26

Arizona Onstage Productions, the company that brought "Falsettoland," last year's "Assassins" (winner of the MAC Award - Best musical of 2004) and this year's side splitting musical comedy "Ruthless" brings "A New Brain", a musical tale to Pima Community College Center for the Arts Black Box Theatre for 11 performances.

The story revolves around Gordon Schwinn - an openly Gay musical composer tired of writing for children's television shows. He discovers a brain disorder, and is faced with having dangerous surgery. He and his life partner Roger make decisions before surgery takes place. Along the way, the audience meets singing frogs, M.R.I. machines that turn into sailboats, and mothers smart enough to wear black to "hide the fat".

"A New Brain is the semi-autobiographical story of William Finnn, the Tony-Award winner/composer/lyricist.

Tickets to Arizona Onstage Productions go fast. January's "Ruthless" was sold out for every performance. Tickets are \$20 general admission and \$16 for students/seniors. Call (520)206-6989 to get your tickets. Visit arizonaonstage.org for more information.

CASINOS

AVA AMPHITHEATER AT CASINO DEL SOL COMING ATTRACTIONS:(Box office 838-6700 - I-10 Exit Valencia West)

JUNE 16 - Reba /w Brad Paisley and Terri Clark

JUNE 27 - Tom Jones

JULY 13 - Julia Iglesias

DESERT DIAMOND CASINO UPCOMING ATTRACTIONS: (Box office 393-2799 - I-19 & Pima Mine Road, Exit 80 - 7 minutes south of Tucson)

JUNE 4 - The Temptations

OCTOBER 16 - 17TH Annual AIDS WALK takes place at Rillito Downs Race Park, s River Road and First Avenue in Tucson. AIDS WALK 2005 will again feture both the traditionala 4K walk as well as a 10K non-competitive run. Tucson's support of AIDS WALK over the years has made an important and lasting statement about Southern Arizona's commitment to the fight against AIDS. AIDS WALK attracts approximately 4,000 walkers annually and continues to enjoy strong corporate underwriting alliances.

Of reported demographic information from participants, 60% of all registered walkers are female, two thirds are under 35, and one-fourth are under 18. AIDS WALK Tucson has grown from 800 participants in 1989 to more than 4,000 individuals and 79 businesses raising over \$239,000 in 2004 for local HIV/AIDS education, prevention and support programs.

NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

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

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

SOUTHERN ARIZONA AIDS FOUNDATION (SAAF), 375 S. EUCLID. Office Hours 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday. Direct services and emotional support for persons with and affected by HIV. Anonymous HIV testing and support groups available. Prevention education programs. 628-SAAF (7223). World wide web: <http://www.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@gpglcc.org or call (602)225-8444.

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

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

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, at 3202 E. 1st St. (the "Ward 6" Office Bldg.) Just south of Speedway & East of Country Club. PotLuck Dinner begins at 6:30 and the monthly meeting follows at 7:15 p.m.

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.

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.

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

Call for Participants: Help us stop the spread of HIV.



Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation is embarking on a new and unique HIV prevention project that combines innovative photography with intensely personal stories of how HIV has affected our lives.

We are looking for approximately forty individuals of all genders, ethnicities, body types, sexual preferences, HIV+ (-) and all ages 18 years and older who are willing to bare their bodies and souls for this distinctive project.

Once the stories have been completed you will be asked to tastefully bare your body for a large-scale group photo that will showcase the beauty of the human body in all its forms. Put together, this special project will be the newest HIV prevention campaign for Tucson.

First, you will be asked to bare your soul in a personal interview that will be condensed into a short story.

Help us stop the spread of HIV and possibly become a local celebrity. Call Gary at GMHP to participate in this unique and exciting opportunity.

520-628-7223

GMHP
Gay Men's
Health Project

SAAF
SOUTHERN ARIZONA AIDS FOUNDATION