



Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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WEEKLY OBSERVER

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Large Crowd Participates In AIDSWALK 2005



TUCSON (ON) - Thousands of people of all ages, sexes, sexual orientations and gender identity turned out on Sunday, October 16 at Rillito Downs to take a walk, a jog or run.

Some came out for a loved one, living or passed, a friend, a family member, someone they know or for the cause to help others in the community either living with HIV/AIDS or affected by this dreaded disease by participating in the 17th annual AIDSWALK, the annual fund raiser for the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF).

Anne Maley, Executive Director for SAAF said in an interview about the participants that, "To see the community come out and help raise funds for an illness that deeply impacts us is quite touching."

AIDSWALK is an annual fund raiser for the AIDS service organization, for which all the proceeds raised goes to the prevention services and various programs that SAAF offers. SAAF hopes the message generated by AIDSWALK is for people to know their HIV status.

Early Voting Has Begun

TUCSON - Early voting and voting by mail has begun for the three Tucson City Council seats up for consideration in this year's election. All registered voters in the city can vote for council members from Wards 3, 5 and 6. In Ward 3, Republican incumbent Kathleen Dunbar is being challenged by Democrat Karin Uhlich while in Ward 6 Democrat Nina Trasoff is challenging Republican incumbent, Fred Ronstadt and Democratic incumbent Steve Leal is running unopposed in Ward 5.

Voters also will decide whether to lift the city's state-set spending limits and allow the city to use its annual budget as its spending limit. The city's current spending limits are determined by taking 1987 spending limits and adjusting them upward for inflation and population growth. City officials have said Tucson's revenues will exceed the state limits at the end of the current fiscal year. If approved, the so-called "home-rule option" would be in effect for four years, after which voters would be asked to vote on the issue again.

Early ends Friday, Nov. 4. Tucson's general election, is Tuesday, November 8, and

"If you're in a high risk group, get tested and know your status. Get help and care and medical treatment, because that is what will keep you healthy and enhance the quality of life," Maley said in an interview.

An interfaith ceremony by TIHAN started the day for participants.

In addition to the opening service, registration, walk, the run and jog, a display of panels of the AIDS Quilt of Tucsonans who have lost their battle with HIV/AIDS took place, with volunteers, community leaders, friends and family members helping to display the memories of those who died.

SAAF will hold another fund-raising event, Festival for Life, on Saturday Nov. 19.

For more information about SAAF, donating either time or money, call (520) 628-7223, or go online to saaf.org.

[Compiled from various news and media stories. More photos Page Nine].

to be eligible, one must be a city resident, 18 years of age or older, and registered to vote.

Voters wishing to cast early ballots may do so either at the following locations: City Hall, 255 W. Alameda St., Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., City Clerk Election Services, 800 E. 12th St., Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., or the Wilmot Library, 530 N. Wilmot Road, on Mondays and Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Fridays from noon to 4 p.m. The last day to cast an early ballot at these locations is Nov. 4.

Voters also can cast early ballots by mail, and request an early ballot by filling out an online form at tucsonaz.gov/clerks, by calling (520) 884-8683, mailing a written request to City Clerk, P.O. Box 2031, Tucson AZ 85702-2031, or faxing a written request to (520) 791-2674. The last day to request an early ballot is 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 28. All early ballots must be in the City Clerk's possession by 7 p.m. Tuesday Nov. 8 to be counted.

For more information, call the Tucson City Clerk's office, (520) 791-4213.

New LGBT Hate Crime Stats Show Little Change

WASHINGTON, D.C. - LGBT civil rights groups on Monday (Oct. 17) said that new statistics on hate crimes shows the need for swift passage in the Senate of a hate crime bill, 365Gay.com reported.

The FBI Uniform Crime Report shows cities 738 hate crimes committed against Gay men and 164 were against Lesbians. That is a six percent drop from the previous year. The FBI does not track crimes against transsexuals.

A similar report by the New York-based Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project shows a four percent increase in crimes against Gays and Lesbians.

"The to figures - the FBI decrease and the Violence Project increase shows that nothing has changed," Clarence Patton of the Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project told 365Gay.com. "Both figures are within the margin of error."

The FBI bases its statistics on a compilation of crime data reported by nearly all state and local law enforcement agencies for 2004 while the Violence Project uses figures submitted by local LGBT groups across the country.

Patton said that a longstanding wariness by Gays of reporting crimes to police likely accounts for the differences between the two studies. Gays have traditionally not reported crimes to police because of fears of being outed or that police will not pursue the cases. Patton said that Gays are more likely to

report crimes against them to LGBT community organizations.

"We can't tell how long it will take before the FBI realizes it must work more consistently with community based advocacy groups because we're going to get more reporting," Patton said. "Hate violence remains a major problem for our community," he said.

"We need a hate crimes law that includes Gays and Lesbians and gender identity," Steven Fisher, a spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign told 365Gay.com "We need this bill enacted into law to ensure the strongest possible penalties against hate crimes."

Last month the House of Representatives passed legislation to expand federal hate crimes laws to include Gays, Lesbians and the Transgendered.

Called the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act it has passed the Senate in previous congressional sessions only to die in the House. A Senate version of the bill is currently before the chamber, but unlike the House bill it does not include the Transgendered.

The legislation extends existing hate crimes laws that already cover crimes motivated by race, color, national origin and religion. If enacted it would allow the Department of Justice to assist local authorities in investigating and prosecuting cases in which violence occurs.

War Of Words Over 'Lesbian-Baiting Coach' Intensifies

PHILADELPHIA - Lawyers representing a former Penn State women's basketball player on Monday (Oct. 17) threatened to sue the university for defamation if it does not publicly retract a statement issued Friday by women's basketball coach Rene Portland.

The statement, released by the university's public affairs department, quotes Portland as saying the charges that she engaged in discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation are "completely and utterly untrue."

Jennifer Harris, a 6 foot guard played on Penn State's Lady Lions basketball team from 2003 to 2005. Harris alleges that Portland repeatedly questioned her about her sexual orientation, repeatedly threatened to kick Harris off the team if she found out Harris was a Lesbian, and eventually told other players not to associate with Harris because she believed that Harris was Gay.

In 2005, Coach Portland abruptly told Harris to find somewhere else to play. Harris transferred to James Madison University. The National Center for Lesbian Rights sent a letter to Penn State University President Graham Spanier, demanding that action be taken against Portland.

On Friday (Oct. 14) Portland fired back. In her statement, Portland said that Harris had a bad attitude and a poor work ethic. "It is unfortunate that [Harris] has chosen to attack me for her lack of success at Penn State," Portland said. "However, her lack of success had everything to do with her lack of commitment to basketball."

Portland's statement said Harris was

no longer with the team "because of her performance and attitude in relation to basketball" and because she "did not meet the level of commitment" required of players, which includes game and practice performance, physical conditioning and academic performance. "For example, she engaged in disrespectful, profane and belligerent behavior toward coaches and teammates, and she exhibited a work ethic and attitude that were unsatisfactory and detrimental to the success of our team," the statement said.

The release of the statement could derail a move by Penn State President Graham Spanier. He offered to meet with Harris's attorney, NCLR Regional Counsel Karen Doering. Spanier said the school is investigating, calling the nondiscrimination policy "fundamental to the principles of our university." But, a conference call between the university's lawyers and Doering that was scheduled for later this week may be cancelled because of the controversial statement from Portland, Doering told 365Gay.com. "It is shocking that an institution of Penn State's caliber would respond to the serious legal issues raised by Ms. Harris not by investigating her claims, but rather by launching a malicious and retaliatory public campaign to falsely smear the reputation of a dedicated young athlete and student," said Doering.

The NCLR gave Penn State until Wednesday (Oct. 19) to retract the statement. If that is not done, Doering said, Harris will abandon attempts to settle out of court "and will file a lawsuit against Coach Portland and the University that will include not only her original discrimination claims, but retaliation and defamation claims as well."

UPDATE

Re-Established Gay Fraternity Seeks UA Approval

TUCSON - The newly re-established Gay fraternity is still waiting for approval from the University of Arizona before it can attain official fraternity status on campus, reported the Arizona Daily Wildcat.

Delta Lambda Phi must receive a majority vote by all of the fraternity chapter presidents before it can officially be recognized by the UA, said Michael Katzman, president of the Interfraternity Council.

The fraternity was originally founded at the UA in 1990 by Dominick DeCarlo. A year later the new president was impeached because of "internal issues," and the fraternity shut down in 1993, said Christopher Newman, president of Delta Lambda Phi. Newman said he re-founded the UA colony in January because he and his friends were being discriminated against in the conventional Greek setting because of their sexual preference.

Although the members have created their own fraternity to avoid such discrimination, people still have misconceptions about how a Gay fraternity functions, said Vice President Dan Churgin. "The biggest misconception many people have about their fraternity is that the men are trying to start a dating service, but dating other fraternity members is prohibited and is taken seriously," Churgin said.

"We are a brotherhood just like any other fraternity," Newman said, adding that they hope to establish a strong foundation and longevity as a social fraternity that provides an opportunity for Gay and progressive men to experience greek life.

The fraternity should have no problems gaining approval because Delta Lambda Phi is a nationally recognized fraternity, but they still have to wait on the vote, Katzman said.

DeCarlo could not be reached for comment, but said in a Arizona Daily Wildcat article that he hoped Delta Lambda Phi would come back to campus and encouraged Gays to start it up again. "I would love to see it back," DeCarlo said. "It was about learning about yourself and giving thanks to the older generation that paved the way for us."

Recruitment for Delta Lambda Phi begins the first weekend of November, but members utilized Coming Out week to spread the word about their colony and to recruit new members, said Newman, a secondary education senior. Delta Lambda Phi has organized a week's worth of events with help from the Associated Students of University of Arizona's Pride Alliance and Students Promoting Respect for Individuality Through Example, for Coming Out Day.

Senior Pride Halloween Party

TUCSON - The Senior Pride group will be hosting a Halloween Party, Oct. 29, 1 - 4 p.m., at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St.

Join them for a great costume event with dance, chat, snack and have an all around spooky time. An Informal costume contest with prizes will take place. Bring a snack to share (if you like) and dance music you like.

For more information, contact Pat Woelke, (520) 624-1779, pwoelke@wingspan.org.

Position Open At AHRF

PHOENIX - The Arizona Human Rights Fund & Foundation (AHRF) is seeking a dynamic, experienced manager, strategist and thought leader to assume the post of Executive Director.

AHRF is the statewide largest LGBT civil rights organization. With general guidance from AHRF's Board of Directors and in cooperation with allied individuals and organizations in Arizona and throughout the nation, our Executive Director is at the forefront of efforts to secure, protect and defend the rights and welfare of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered individuals in our state.

For a complete job description and information on how to apply, please go to our web site at www.ahrf.org or write: AHRF, P.O. Box 25044, Phoenix, AZ 85002-5044 or call (602) 650-0900.

Breast Cancer Awareness Oct 27.

TUCSON - In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Wingspan invites all LGBT and Allied people whose lives have been touched by breast cancer to come to Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St., Thursday, Oct. 27, 6:30 - 8:00pm at Wingspan (425 E 7th St) for a free and open discussion with Dr. Michael Uzick, who will discuss Naturopathic Support for Breast Cancer.

Dr. Uzick will discuss the best research supported approaches to preventing breast cancer, in addition to significantly enhancing the effectiveness and reducing the side effects of chemotherapy and radiation. Michael Uzick, N.M.D. is in private practice in Tucson specializing in the adjunctive support of patients with cancer and HIV. During medical school he was trained at Cancer Treatment Centers of American in addition to working with some of the most renowned physicians in the field of complementary oncology. He also served as the Naturopathic medical director for the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation's Complementary Therapies program from 2001-2005.

For more information, contact Wingspan's Health and Wellness Program Coordinator, Judy Kinney, for more information, jkinney@wingspan.org, (520) 624-1779.

SASD Update

TUCSON - October has been and continues to be a busy month for Tucson's Southern Arizona Stonewall Democrats (SASD).

Members of SASD have been working hard campaigning for Nina Trasoff and Karin Uhlich who are running for City Council. SASD has also launched a "Monday Madness" walking event for Nina and Karin, meeting every Monday until election day, at Pima County Democratic Headquarters, 4639 E. 1st St., 5 p.m., and walking in teams handing out literature for candidates, collect early voter registration, and answering questions. After walking, members meet for refreshments and fun conversation.

SASD members have also been working along with other wonderful LGBT organizations on Rainbow Build, the LGBT sponsored house for Habitat for Humanity. It probably won't surprise you that, given how the LGBT community has an abundance of over achievers, the Rainbow Build house is way ahead of schedule for completion. For more information, go online to rainbowbuild.org.

SASD works toward a noticeable presence of LGBT people throughout the campaign process, focusing on increasing LGBT presence in all government appointments, offices, and advisory posts. Members of SASD give their support to affirmative action, equality for women, aggressive prosecution of hate crimes, and full enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Membership is open to anyone who supports fair and equal treatment for all people. If you'd like more information about Southern Arizona Stonewall Democrats in Tucson, email: sasdtucson@yahoo.com.

TIHAN Volunteer Training Oct. 29

TUCSON - Have you experienced a TIHAN Volunteer Training? If not, come spend a day: expand your mind, challenge your heart, and energize your TIHAN spirit! Invite your friends and family, all are welcome! The last quarterly volunteer training of 2005 will take place on Saturday, Oct. 29, from 8:30am - 4:00pm.

Volunteers are needed to represent TIHAN at information booths and community fairs; H to do minor repairs/improvements around office; HIV+ speakers at events; as Chaplains, counselors to support Care-Teams and a Volunteer Coordinator (20 hour/week volunteer position).

Registration fee to cover materials and lunch is \$15; scholarships are available. Please call (520) 299-6647 to register or for more information.

New HPV Vaccine May Help Gay Men

QNEW YORK - An experimental vaccine that has been shown to be 100 percent effective in preventing cervical cancer may also be used to treat Gay men with anal cancer, reported 365Gay.com.

The pharmaceutical company Merck developed the vaccine, Gardasil, which targets two strains of human papilloma virus (HPV) that cause at least 70 percent of cervical cancers as well as two other strains that cause genital warts. HPV has also been linked to a rising trend of anal cancer in Gay men. Researchers believe more than a third of Gay men are carrying HPV.

"The vaccine has the potential to protect men from HPV in the same way that it is protecting women," said Dr. Stephen Goldstone, spokesman for the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association and medical director of GayHealth.com. "The vaccine now has been expanded to cover the high-risk HPV types 16 and 18 which are associated with anal and cervical cancer as well as low-risk types 6 and 11 associated with genital warts," Goldstone added.

Continued on Page Four

Calling for friendly and reliable people to join SAAF's Client Services Team as volunteer Peer Counselors.



If you are interested in offering peer support to clients, educating on HIV/AIDS and more, please contact Wendy Ascione at 628-7223 wascione@saaf.org

SAAF
Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation



P.O. BOX 50733,
TUCSON, AZ 85703
(520) 622-7176 (Voice)
(520) 792-8382 (Fax)

Office Hours: 9a.m.-6p.m.M-F

Office Closed Thursdays

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Having A Will Protects You And Your Partner

NEW YORK - Even financially savvy Lesbian and Gay couples may wonder if they really need to go through the effort of creating a will, gfn.com reported.

After all, they own their home with their partner in joint tenancy with right of survivorship, and their life insurance policies have their choice of individuals named as beneficiaries. Some couples have even arranged it so that investments held in taxable brokerage and bank accounts will pass directly to beneficiaries using pay-on-death or transfer-on-death orders. Isn't that enough? With All The Other Documents in Place, Is A Will Necessary?

Even with a carefully drawn estate plan, every Lesbian and Gay individual, whether single or part of a couple, will benefit from a will, because it will tie up loose ends and make specific wishes known. If you die without a will, the law will presume that you intended your property to go to your surviving spouse if there is one (the ex-wives and ex-husbands of a Gay man or Lesbian have been known to suddenly appear to make a claim), then your children, your parents, your siblings, or other blood relatives. Unfriendly family members have used the law to their benefit when a Gay relative has died without a proper will.

The law does not recognize the right of a surviving same-sex partner to inherit the property of a deceased partner without a will, no matter how long you have lived together. This may not apply, happily, to couples who are residents of Massachusetts and are married, and for other couples in states where civil unions (Vermont and Connecticut) or registered domestic partner agreements (California) provide for partner inheritance.

[For members of the Gay community who think all the talk about civil unions, let alone Gay marriage, is just unnecessary political flag waving, this issue alone should

compel anyone on the fence to recognize the inequities GLBT individuals face when it comes to the law.]

My Estate is so Small...Should I Bother? A will allows for decision-making beyond property distribution, and therefore it is important for people who don't own much property to still consider making a will. For instance, you can nominate a guardian for your minor children, such as your partner who has been helping you raise your children. While your family may challenge the nomination of your partner as the children's guardian, the will would let the court know what your wishes were after death.

You may also provide for funeral and burial arrangements in your will. This is especially important for a person whose wishes will be not what their family wanted, often contrary to their religion. Without a will stating your intentions for burial and services, some states allow "next-of-kin" (usually your adult children, or parent) to take possession of your body and make the funeral arrangements they want.

Think of your will as a legal mop, an indispensable tool without which you wouldn't run a household, or an estate. A will can mop up spills and handle messy chores such as:

Naming your executor. This is the person (or institution) who represents your estate and is responsible for seeing to it that debts and taxes owed are paid and property transferred as you instructed. An executor will enforce all provisions of your will, including making sure your burial, property distribution, or guardian provisions are followed. It is a position of great trust, and you should normally appoint your partner to be the executor and name another close friend as an alternative in case you and your partner die at the same time, or your partner is unable to act as your executor because of illness or their own incapacity.

Clarifying how estate taxes will be paid. Your will should say who will pay the tax and with what. Say you have a taxable estate and have arranged it so that your IRA beneficiary can minimize distributions and stretch out the IRA's tax-deferred growth for years. If you don't address how estate taxes will be paid, your beneficiary may be forced to tap the IRA to pay them.

A Challenge to Your Will. Lesbians and Gay men often fear that blood family members will be able to successfully challenge their wills, particularly if they leave all or most of their property to their lover, to Gay friends, or charitable organizations. If the will is properly drafted and executed, the person is of sound mind, and there was no fraud or undue influence by one of the beneficiaries of the will, it is highly unlikely that a family member could succeed in overturning the will.

Remember, the sexual orientation either of the person making the will or the beneficiary under the will, is not a legal basis of overturning the will. Of course there is nothing that can actually stop a family member from filing a challenge to your will or any legal document, no matter how frivolous the grounds. Consider using one of the following ways to prevent this from happening:

If your will is made while you are ill, on your deathbed, in a hospice, hospital or nursing home, have your physician make a statement carefully documenting your mental condition, and noting that you are of sound mind at the time your will is made. Let your family know of the contents of your Will, Living Will, Durable Powers of Attorney for Health Care and Financial Decisions ahead of time so that you can personally explain your wishes, and let them get used to them to avoid trouble after death. In addition to making these legal documents, create a videotape of yourself at the same time as the documents are executed,

discussing your wishes. It may seem a bit theatrical, but it will serve to demonstrate mental competence, and double confirmation of your true wishes.

Pro-Gay UCC Ad Again Rejected By The Networks

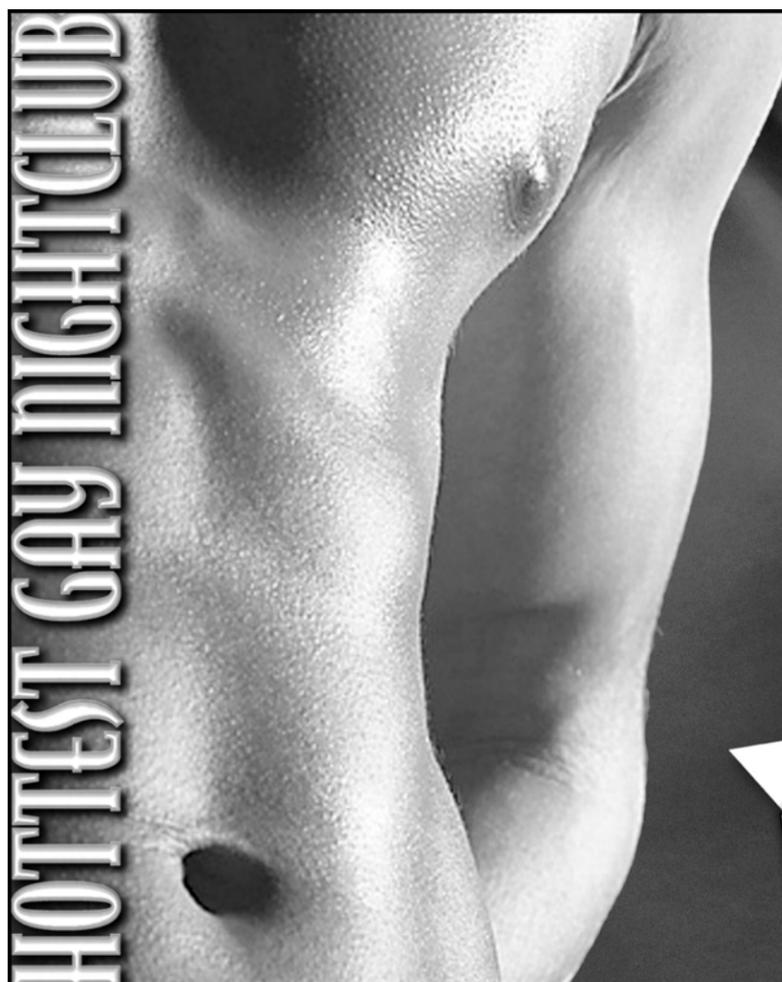
NEW YORK - Television network CBS is again balking at a pro-Gay commercial from the United Church of Christ, saying it amounts to "advocacy" and therefore cannot be aired because it runs counter to a network policy against advocacy ads, reported Advocate.com.

Last year the network refused to air the ad, in which bouncers are shown refusing Gays and Lesbians entry to a large church, followed by a welcoming message from UCC.

After a recent meeting with high-level CBS executives, UCC president Ron Buford said it appeared the network would again reject the ad. "We told them that the United Church of Christ commercial was not advocating anything; rather, we are letting people know that no matter who they are, or where they are on life's journey, they are welcome," Buford said.

After reaching an impasse, Buford asked the executives what would have to change for the ad to be acceptable. "The executives said that it would have to become commonplace across the United States for churches to welcome Gays and Lesbians," Buford said. Buford said UCC would again find cable television outlets for their ad. After it aired on cable last December, there was a sharp spike in the number of people—Gay and straight—inquiring about joining UCC, Buford said.

TUCSON'S HOTTEST GAY NIGHT CLUB



FRIDAYS

Noon - 8pm Happy Hour
 4 - 9pm Martini Madness (Drink Specials on all Martinis)
 9pm - Close DJ Mike Lopez Spinning on the Patio and DJ Q on the Dance Floor

SATURDAYS

5 - 8pm Karaoke on the Patio and Teriyaki Beef Kabobs #3 for Teriyaki Beef Kabobs and \$1 Draught Beer
 8:30pm Showtime Starring Ajia Simone
 10pm - Close DJ Q Spinning on the Dance Floor and DJ Mike Lopez on the Patio

SUNDAYS

Noon - 4pm Troy's Recovery Bar \$1.75 Bloody's and Screwdrivers
 4 - 8:30pm Karaoke on the Patio
 5:30 - 8pm Bar-B-Q to Benefit Community Charity
 9pm - Close DJ Mike Lopez Spinning the Hottest Club Music





Ajia Simone



Bunny Fu Fu



Jane Starr

IBT'S SHOW HEADLINERS

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|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| <p>DAILY SPECIALS</p> <p>Hours: Noon - 2am</p> <p>Happy Hour: Noon - 8pm</p> | <p>SUNDAY</p> <p>Troy's Recovery Bar 12-4pm \$1.75 Mimosas & Bloody Marys Karaoke 4-7:30pm Beer Bust 5:30-7:30pm DJ Mike Lopez 10pm - Close some restrictions apply</p> | <p>MONDAY</p> <p>DJ Craig Carter Spinning the Hippest Music in Tucson!</p> <p>\$1.50 Well Vodka Drinks</p> <p>10pm - Close</p> | <p>TUESDAY</p> <p>Tropical Tuesdays with DJ Craig Carter spinning music from the 70s, 80s and 90s</p> <p>\$2.50 Tropical Drinks</p> <p>10pm - Close</p> | <p>WEDNESDAY</p> <p>The Best Premier Drag Shows in Town! 9pm</p> <p>The Divalicious Show Starring Bunny FuFu</p> <p>Dance with DJ Q 10:30-Close</p> | <p>THURSDAY</p> <p>Boyz Night Out Hot Bar Staff and GoGo Boyz dancing in their underwear</p> <p>\$1.75 Long Islands \$1.50 Tequila Shots</p> <p>10pm - Close</p> | <p>FRIDAY</p> <p>Dance all night with DJ Mike Lopez spinning the best music in town!</p> <p>9pm - Close</p> | <p>SATURDAY</p> <p>Beef Kabobs, Beer and Karaoke 5-8pm</p> <p>Drag Show 8:30pm - 10pm</p> <p>Party with DJ Mike Lopez 10pm - Close</p> |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|---|

Woody's

TUCSON'S VIDEO - SPORTS - CRUISE BAR

Woody's "Blacklight Party" Sat Oct 22nd 8PM til Close

Hot Drink Specials and Music

Drag Bingo Sunday Oct 23rd 8PM
with Janee Starr and Stella Virgin

Join Us Wed Oct 26th for
a Special Wine Tasting Party 6:30PM
Sign Up with Our Bartenders (limited space)

All New "Boy's Gone Wild" Underwear Party Wed Oct 26th
Wear Underwear or Fetish and
Get \$1 Off Your Drink (excludes draught or schnapps)

Mark Your Calendars For Woody's Weekend of Halloween Parties
Sat Oct 29th Costume Party and Contest
Sun Oct 30th Scarryoke and Make Up Party
Mon Oct 31st 2nd Annual Masquerotic Ball and Costume Cont

Woody's Is Open Noon - 2AM Mon - Fri, 11AM - 2AM Sat & Sun
HOME BAR OF "BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO"
3710 N. Oracle Rd. * 292-6702 * www.hometown.aol.com/woodystucson

EDITORIAL

No On Propositions 100 & 400

In addition to two contested races for Tucson's City Council for Ward's 3 and 6 in the upcoming November 8 general election, voters also have two propositions on the ballot for consideration.

Proposition 100 would raise the salary of the Mayor from \$42,000 to \$52,080 and Councilmembers from \$24,000 to \$29,760.

Proposition 400, also known as the Home Rule Option, would allow the Mayor and Council to raise the expenditure (spending) limitation on locally collected revenues.

In 1980, Arizona voters established a constitutional expenditure limitation for cities. This state-imposed limit used Fiscal Year 1980 expenditures as the base limit. Tucson last modified its base limit in 1987. This limit applies to locally-raised revenues and grows annually by an inflation factor and population growth.

As The Observer pointed out in the editorial (Observer #1108) endorsing Democratic party candidates, Karin Uhlich for the Ward 3 Council seat and Nina Trasoff for the Ward 6 Council seat, the current "majority" of Mayor Robert Walkup (Rep.), Ward 3 Councilmember Kathleen Dunbar (Rep.), Ward 6 Councilmember Fred Ronstadt (Rep.), and

Ward 2 Councilmember Carol West (I), made some very questionable, financial decisions in regards to spending and the City budget, during the troubled times the City has been in for close to four years for which Tucsonans have had to endure, leading to the question of whether the "majority" has earned the trust and has the confidence of its constituents.

The Observer believes the answer is a simple, "no," and has called for a change on the Tucson City Council, so that a new, positive working majority can be in place, making sound decisions for the betterment of the entire community and not the power-brokers who've had their way for close to four years running.

This also applies to both Proposition 100 and 400 as well. During these troubled economic times, this isn't the moment to grant a raise in pay to an elected official or governmental body such as Tucson's Mayor and Council. Also, with all the financial mismanagement and boondoggles the current "majority" have approved, for the betterment of the power-brokers, the current members haven't earned the right to spend more, since their past track record leaves a lot to be desired.

Vote no on Propositions 100 and 400.

LGBT Teens Report High Rate Of Harrassment In School

WASHINGTON, D.C. - An unsettling number of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual teens are being bullied at school due to their sexual orientation—and they do not feel safe, says a new study released Thursday (Oct. 13) by the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network, reported Advocate.com.

The national survey—of more than 3,400 students between the ages of 13 and 18—found that LGBT students are three times more likely as non-LGBT students to say that they do not feel safe at school. A stunning 90% say they have been harassed or assaulted during the past year. In addition, 33% of respondents reported that students are frequently harassed because they are or are perceived to be Lesbian, Gay, or Bisexual.

"This study clearly illustrates the prevalence of bullying and harassment in America's schools and that students who experience harassment are more likely to miss classes, which can impact a student's ability to learn," Kevin Jennings, founder and executive director of GLSEN, said in a statement. "It also shows how having antiharassment policies in schools—particularly those policies that include sexual orientation or gender identity/expression—can be associated with students feeling safer at school."

The online survey, conducted between January 13 and January 31, also included responses from 1,000 teachers. It was conducted by Harris Interactive.

Other findings include:

65% of teens report that they have been verbally or physically harassed or assaulted during the past year because of their perceived or actual appearance, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression, race/ethnicity, disability, or religion.

85% of secondary school teachers agree that they have an obligation to ensure a safe learning environment for LGBT students.

57% of students who experience harassment in school, regardless of demographics or reasons for the harassment, never report these incidents of harassment to teachers or other school personnel.

"This is the first national survey on bullying in America's schools that includes anti-LGBT bullying and harassment. It is particularly striking that this type of harassment is only second to physical appearance in terms of severity and frequency for students overall, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender expression," said Dana Markow, senior director of the Youth and Education Research Practice at Harris Interactive.

New HPV Vaccine May Help Gay Men

Continued from Page Two

Dr. Jay Lalezari told the San Francisco Chronicle he is hopeful the vaccine will be effective in preventing HPV infection in Gay men. "I lose more HIV patients to anal cancer than anything else," he said. "It is the one opportunistic infection that has not gotten better in the era of HAART," the three-drug combinations that keep the AIDS virus in check.

Dr. Anne Szarewski, a clinical consultant at Cancer Research UK, says more research is "desperately needed" into the issue of HPV and its links to anal cancer in Gay men, especially those with HIV. "The whole HIV thing is interesting, because no one knows the impact the vaccine would have on HIV," she said.

Merck is currently testing the vaccine in Gay men in several centers around the country. It is potentially open to men who have had anal sex and are between 16 and 27 years of age. Goldstone said the study is also welcome news for Gay women. "Lesbians also get cervical cancer, and the vaccine could protect all women no matter what sexual orientation."

Please join us for MONDAY MADNESS

Join Stonewall members who are walking neighborhoods for City Council candidates Nina Trasoff, Karin Uhlich, and Steve Leal each Monday, through the election, November 8. We meet at Dem. Headquarters at 4639 E. 1st Street at 5 PM. Next Monday, October 24, after walking, we'll be at the Tucson Museum of Art, 140 N Main Ave., for a candidates forum starting at 6:30 PM. Nina Trasoff, Karin Uhlich, and Steve Leal understand and ***consistently*** support LGBT rights, and are advocates for progressive change in Tucson.

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Miers Doublespeak On AIDS

NWASHINGTON, D.C. - Newly released documents show that when Supreme Court nominee Harriet Miers was running for a seat on the Dallas City Council in 1989 she was telling conservatives she would oppose civil rights protections for people with HIV/AIDS and at the same time telling Gay activists she would support such a measure, 365Gay.com reported.

The new documents, turned over to the Senate Judiciary Committee, contain a questionnaire filled out by Miers for the conservative Eagle Forum of Texas. The group is affiliated with the national Eagle Forum, founded by anti-Gay activist Phyllis Schlafly.

The questionnaire was distributed to all candidates during the 1989 Dallas Council race.

One of the questions asks: "Would you support an ordinance that would force individual property owners and businesses to provide accommodation to persons with AIDS and those perceived to have AIDS." Miers answered "No."

A second question asks if she would "support an ordinance that would force businesses to hire persons with AIDS and those perceived to have AIDS." Again, Miers answered "No."

But, responding to a similar questionnaire from the Lesbian/Gay Coalition of Dallas Miers was asked if she would support a law protecting people with AIDS from discrimination she answered "Yes."

She also told the coalition that she believes the city has a responsibility to fund AIDS education and patient support services. She again answered yes.

Asked if she would support raising the ceiling on the amount the city spends she also said yes, adding a caveat that it would depend on the available money in the city budget.

Miers' nomination to the Supreme Court has drawn criticism from both conservatives and liberals.

The administration has been attempting to shore up support for President Bush friend and currently the White House Counsel.

Earlier this month the Republican national Committee hosted a conference call between White House aides and conservative religious leaders in an attempt to win their support for Miers.

The call prompted National Stone-wall Democrats to call on the President to also meet with Gay leaders.

But, despite the opposition to Miers by several conservative groups concerned she might be weak on abortion, she has the support of Focus on the Family's James C. Dobson - support that has raised the specter of a 'deal' between the administration and conservative Christian groups.

Specially, committee members from both parties, including chairman Senator Arlen Specter, want to know if Focus on the Family's James C. Dobson was given "back room assurances" that Miers would oppose same-sex marriage and Roe v Wade if appointed to the high court.

The question began to arise after a comment Dobson made on his nationally broadcast radio program.

"When you know some of the things that I know - that I probably shouldn't know - you will understand why I have said, with fear and trepidation, that I believe Harriet Miers will be a good justice," Dobson told listeners..

"If I have made a mistake here, I will never forget the blood of those babies that will die will be on my hands to some degree," he said.

In the 1989 Eagle Forum document Miers said that she would "actively support" a proposed constitutional amendment that would ban abortion except when necessary to prevent the death of the mother.

Jim Dyke, a White House spokesman, told the Associated Press on Tuesday (Oct. 18) that Miers's views as a candidate did not necessarily reflect what she might do as a Supreme Court justice.

"A candidate taking a political position in the course of a campaign is different from the role of a judge making a ruling in the judicial process," he said.

TV Study Tracks LGBT Viewers Favorites

NEW YORK - A major marketing research firm released results of a study on the television viewing habits of Americans, revealing comparisons between Gay viewers and the overall population. It found that Gays and Lesbians seek a mix of both Gay-themed programming and mainstream TV shows, the PlanetOut Network reported.

"It's a much more complex media environment than people might think," said Max Kilger, chief behavioral scientist for Simmons Market Research Bureau, the company that conducted the study. "There are a lot of media that Gay and Lesbians and straight audiences share in terms of viewing and attitudes toward media. That's good in helping dispel some stereotypes."

Simmons surveyed 19,000 people over the past year. It found that Gay men and women were more likely than heterosexuals to subscribe to cable and satellite TV - 91 percent compared to 80 percent of the total population.

Analysis of the study by MediaLife Magazine found that Gay people tend to favor premium channels, where they have been able to find shows like "Queer as Folk," "The L Word" and "Six Feet Under." And, no surprise here, the research found that LGBT people were much more likely to watch Gay-themed shows, such as "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy."

The top five cable networks viewed by the LGBT population in the last week, according to Simmons, were: A&E, The Discovery Channel, Lifetime, HBO and CNN.

One expert on LGBT television viewing habits told the PlanetOut Network that while the information about what channels LGBT people are watching is illuminating, he would like to know more about which specific shows they are tuning in to. "It's the shows that drive viewership, not the networks themselves," said Richard Kravitz, publisher of the TV Gay Guide, which publishes information about TV shows of interest to the Gay community.

The Simmons study also made comparisons about people's spending habits. It found that LGBT people were more likely than the total adult population to buy the latest electronic equipment and gadgets, to dine out, and to attend concerts or live theater.

Chris Wilson, president and chief operating officer of Simmons, noted, "Advertisers want to know more about the LGBT population." His company estimated the annual buying power of the LGBT population at over \$600 billion.

That's a figure questioned by Kravitz, who said he found it to be "ridiculously high." "It goes to the old myth of Gays having expendable income ... that we don't have children and so we can do whatever the hell we want with our money," he said. "With \$600 billion in income, one would think that if people really wanted our money they would let us marry and throw extravagant weddings! You know what that would do to our economy?"



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Report: Matthew Shepard's Mom Target Of Bomb Threat



Judy Shepard

some of this country's most heinous crimes."

The House of Representatives passed legislation last month to expand federal hate crimes laws to include Gays, Lesbians and the Transgendered but a Senate version remains tied up in committee, and would not cover transsexuals. Called the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act it has passed the Senate in previous congressional sessions only to die in the House. The bill would allow the Department of Justice to assist local authorities in investigating and prosecuting cases in which violence occurs

Matthew Shepard, a University of Wyoming student, was kidnapped, pistol-whipped, robbed and left to die tied to a fence outside Laramie. He died five days later in hospital on October 12, 1998. Two men, Russell Henderson and Aaron McKinney are each serving two life sentences for the killing. Since her son's murder Judy Shepard has been an outspoken advocate of LGBT rights especially the need for hate crimes legislation.

Appeals Court: Gay Man Cannot Sue For Wrongful Death Of Partner

BROOKLYN - A Gay man does not have the right under New York law to sue a hospital where his partner died, an appeals court ruled on Thursday (Oct. 13)

The 3-2 decision by the appellate division second department reversed an order by a Nassau County supreme court judge that would have allowed John Langan, 41, to sue St. Vincent's Hospital for the wrongful death of his partner, Neal Spicehandler, according to Newsday. Spicehandler died at the hospital after he was hit by a car in Manhattan in 2002.

The appeals court ruled that although Spicehandler and Langan were joined in a Vermont civil union in 2000, their relationship did not allow Langan to sue the hospital under New York law. The court acknowledged that Langan and Spicehandler had a committed relationship much like spouses in a traditional marriage. New York's wrongful-death statute allows spouses and other relatives to sue for negligent death. However, the court said a same-sex partner can't be viewed as a spouse. "The thought that the surviving spouse would be of the same sex as the decedent was simply inconceivable," the appellate court said of the law's original intent.

In a forceful dissent, Judge Steven Fisher, once chief administrative judge for Queens, said the court majority "missed the point." Fisher said he couldn't conceive of how New York's interest in promoting traditional marriage was helped by denying access to the courts for members of recognized civil unions such as the one Spicehandler and Langan had.

Spicehandler, 41, died five days after Ronald Popadich drove into a crowd of 18 people near Madison Square Garden. Spicehandler, a lawyer, had a broken leg and seemed on the way to recovery when he died. Langan and Spicehandler's mother sued St. Vincent's for wrongful death and medical malpractice. The hospital denied wrongdoing. Popadich pleaded guilty to murder in Spicehandler's death and was sentenced to up to 25 years in prison last month. He was also given a 30-year sentence in New Jersey for the 2002 murder of Lisa Gotkin, 40, a neighbor in Garfield, N.J. Adam Aronson, the staff attorney for Lambda Legal who is representing Langan, said there might be an appeal. "The majority decision is very clearly wrong and demonstrably wrong in several different ways," he said.

HELENA - Police are investigating threats to disrupt a speech at Carroll College by the mother of murdered Gayteen Matthew Shepard, reported 365Gay.com.

Judy Shepard is scheduled to speak at the private Catholic college Tuesday (Oct. 18) about the impact of Matthew's death.

Nancy Lee, spokeswoman for Carroll, said the purpose of the lecture is to promote tolerance. But the Kansas-based Westboro Baptist Church, known for its strongly worded anti-Gay literature, has threatened to picket the event.

One flier distributed on campus makes reference to the use of "improvised explosive devices," Lee told the Associated Press. Copies of the flier have been turned over to police and an investigation is underway to determine if they violate Montana law. It also is not known if they originated with Westboro Church or were made by someone trying to capitalize on the planned protest.

Members of the Westboro Church are followers of the Rev. Fred Phelps - mainly relatives - and although they regularly demonstrate at LGBT events - including Matthew Shepard's funeral - have never used violence in the past.

A heavy police presence, bolstered by campus security will be on hand for the speech. Lee said that picketers will not be allowed on the private campus. Still, Westboro members could enter the public lecture unnoticed, then disrupt it, she said.

Jim Harwick, vice president for student life at Carroll, said Matthew Shepard's story is not unfamiliar on campus. Freshman have been required to attend a screening of "The Laramie Project" - the movie base on Shepard's killing - the for the past three years. But, as part of the fallout from fears of violence during the speech the college has told the Montana Human Rights Network that it cannot set up a table on campus, out of fears the table and people gathered around it could become a target.

"The table request is where it gets difficult," Lee said. "If we had the tables out there, we're just asking for a confrontation, and we don't want to go there."

Judy Shepard has called on Congress to enact legislation adding sexuality to hate crimes laws. "My son Matthew was murdered in an anti-Gay hate crime seven years ago this month. Since then, too many other innocent Americans have been attacked or killed because they were Gay or Transgender. But Congress still hasn't acted. Every American child deserves the strongest protections from

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Gay Man Barred From Speaking

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Gay African American leader Keith Boykin was prevented from speaking Saturday morning (Oct.15) at the Millions More March on the National Mall, despite an invitation from march organizer Louis Farrakhan, 365Gay.com reported.



Keith Boykin

Boykin, President of the National Black Justice Committee, had been invited on Wednesday (Oct. 12) by Farrakhan after the organization publicly criticized Farrakhan for excluding Black Gays and Lesbians from the planning process.

As Boykin was about to climb the stairs to the podium, Rev. Willie Wilson told a speech coordinator to tell Boykin that the decision to allow him to address marchers had been rescinded. Boykin said that Wilson was smirking as he spoke to the woman.

In a statement the NBJC said it is deeply disappointed by the decision. "In our previous conversations with Minister Farrakhan, he has consistently kept his word. Rev. Wilson, however, has not been cooperative. We call on Minister Farrakhan to fulfill our agreement," the statement said.

Benjamin Chavis, a member of the committee that organized the march, said he did not know whether Boykin officially had been invited to speak, but he said Gays attended and "are welcome here today."

Rev. Wilson is executive director of the Millions More Movement. He is also pastor of Union Temple Baptist Church in Southeast Washington, the District's largest Black congregation and has a record of homophobia.

On July 3, Wilson, warned his congregation that "Sisters making more money than brothers and it's creating problems in families ... that's one of the reasons many of our women are becoming Lesbians." In the sermon entitled "You've Got to Fight to Be Free" he also said, "Lesbianism is about to take over our community. I'm talking about young girls. My son in high school last year tried to go to the prom. He said, 'Dad, I ain't got nobody to take to the prom because all the girls in my class are Gay. Ain't but two of 'em straight, and both of them ugly.'" Wilson went on to say, "I ain't homophobic because everybody here got something wrong with him," he said. "But ... women falling down on another woman, strapping yourself up with something, it ain't real. That thing ain't got no feeling in it. It ain't natural. Anytime somebody got to slap some grease on your behind and stick something in you, it's something wrong with that. Your butt ain't made for that."

In preparing for the Millions More March Rev. Farrakhan reached out to Gay African Americans saying they would be welcome, but the NBJC and other Black Gay organizations threatened to hold their own rally saying they had been cut out of the planning process for Millions More.

Last month Farrakhan held a conference call with leaders of the groups - the first such meeting he has had with LGBT African Americans - in a bid to resolve differences over the weekend event to mark the tenth anniversary of the Million Man March. During the conference call Farrakhan said that he would consider allowing a Gay Black leader to speak. Last week the NBJC submitted a list of 10 names to Farrakhan of prominent black Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual leaders. Ironically Boykin's name was not on the list.

Wednesday (Oct. 12) members of the NBJC board met face to face with the controversial Nation of Islam leader and the invitation was offered to Boykin. Boykin was planning to talk about hostility toward homosexuals in the black community, said Ray Daniels, communications director for the group. Cleo Manago of Black Men's Exchange, which calls itself a group for black men of "diverse sexual/intimate expression," briefly

addressed the crowd. The Exchange, not considered part of LGBT Black mainstream, regards the word Gay as a term that should be applied only to non African Americans.

Members of the much larger NBJC staged a demonstration to protest Boykin's "disinvitation" to speak. The group marched down Pennsylvania Avenue behind their distinctive lavender banner. Other members of the protest carried signs that said: "Black by Birth, Gay by God". The group marched through the Millions More crowd stopping in front of the stage where Jesse Jackson was speaking. Thousands of people from across the country are gathered on the mall, marking the tenth anniversary of the Million Man March.

Texas Gays Accused Of Voter Fraud

HOUSTON - Fliers are being distributed throughout Texas accusing Gays fighting a proposed constitutional amendment to ban Gay marriage of voter fraud, 365Gay.com reported.

The fliers claim that Gay groups have been bussing out-of-state voters into Texas to register here and steal the election. The leaflets have been stuffed in mailboxes and left in public buildings, but no one is claiming responsibility for them. Voters go to the polls Nov. 8. The proposed amendment would define marriage as a union solely of a man and a woman and bar civil unions in Texas.

The LGBT rights group opposing the amendment calls the fliers "scurrilous." "If you go down and ask the County Clerk in Bell County or McLennan County or any of the central Texas counties, have they seen busloads of people showing up to register to vote? No. It's not real credible," said Glen Maxey, Director of No Nonsense in November.

Even Republican lawmakers who sponsored the Gay marriage amendment have distanced themselves from the fliers' claims. "There certainly is plenty of folks that will be emotional and excited about this issue in the state of Texas, but I don't think it's credible that folks will come from outside the borders," Rep. Charles Anderson said.

There has, however, been a small increase in the number of registered voters - attributed to evacuees from Louisiana who fled hurricane Katrina and are putting down roots in Texas. The number of Gays among that group is not known, but the Montrose Counseling Center in Houston had voter registration forms on its front counter and urged LGBT evacuees who would be in the state on election day to register.

The Secretary of State's office says it is closely watching for any unusual spikes in voter registration, but has not seen anything significant. Recently, some of Houston's leading political leaders urged the defeat of the amendment.

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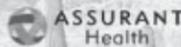
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POLITICS 2005

by Mark R. Kerr

Lather, Lie, Rinse & Repeat

Osama Bin-Laden, the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, Saddam Hussein's connection to 9-11, Weapons of Mass Destruction, the Iraq War, budget deficits, tax cuts, the economy, Social Security reform, the Medicaid Prescription Drug Program, "... major combat operations have ended ...," "Brownie you doing a heck of a job," to Harriet Miers. When issues, policies and operations, such as these aren't going over so well, the conservative Republican cabal follows the mantra, "lather, lie, rinse and repeat," resulting in the mainstream media putting out the message so much, the gullible public buys it.

marriage."

For the record, the only two proponents interviewed for the piece by Davenport are Munsil and Nathan Sproul and they are using the mantra true to form, since Arizona's law (A.R.S. 25-101), prohibiting same-sex couples from marrying as well as (A.R.S. 25-112), prohibiting same-sex unions from being recognized in Arizona both drafted by Munsil in 1996, the year they were approved by the Arizona Legislature and signed into law is still on the books and in effect.

This has been a strategy, devised by Karl Rove, succeeding until recently with events such as: Cindy Sheehan in Crawford, Hurricane Katrina and the burgeoning CIA leak scandal (Valerie Plame).

Davenport's story goes on to state that "They say the 'legal status' language is meant to keep activist judges from legalizing civil unions."

Radical right wing conservatives, throughout the 50 states, such as the proponents of the Protect Marriage Arizona amendment (PMAA) for example, still practice it, since their issue and message isn't going over with voters, if the recent poll conducted by a Phoenix Public Television station and Arizona State University is accurate.

Despite the assertion, This was decided with Standhardt V. Superior Court, 206 Arizona 276 (Arizona Appeals Court 2003) that upheld Arizona's laws, for which Munsil and the CAP acknowledge in their issue brief, "Civil Unions and Gay Marriage," for which Munsil praised the decision in various interviews at the time.

In an article, dated October 17, by Paul Davenport of the Associated Press, entitled "Domestic partners an early focus of debate about marriage measure," Lynden (referred in the article by his stage name "Len") Munsil, Protect Marriage Arizona (disguised as the Center for Arizona Policy) and Nathan Sproul, (referred to initially in the article as "a consultant for the initiative campaign" but there is more to Mr. Sproul) are using the time-tested mantra.

"What we can say at this point is that the amendment is to identify and define marriage as between one man and one woman," said Nathan Sproul, later in the article referred to as a Republican political operative only recently hired by the initiative campaign. "That is all that this is trying to accomplish." Arizona's law and court action accomplished this already.

"Initiative supporters say the domestic partner issue is a smoke screen and that the proposed 58-word measure is solely intended to protect marriage," the article states.

"While some Protect Marriage Arizona supporters previously said domestic partner benefits provided by governments would be prohibited," the article later states, "Sproul declined to explicitly state during an interview whether the amendment would affect those benefits."

According to the language filed for the petition drive to get their proposal on the Nov. 2006 ballot, the PMAA, if approved, would add an amendment to the Arizona Constitution that "preserves marriage as only consisting of the union of one man and one woman, and prohibits the state and its political subdivisions from creating or recognizing any legal status for unmarried persons that is similar to that of

This is a pattern Sproul follows, "declining to explicitly state." Case in point, the investigations of alleged voter registration and petition fraud during the 2004 Presidential campaign over reported incidents in several states - Nevada, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, to name several. More to follow ...

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In Their Own Words



"The fact of the matter is that when we were attacked on September 11, we had a choice to make. We could decide that the proximate cause was al Qaeda and the people who flew those planes into buildings and, therefore, we would go after al Qaeda...or we could take a bolder approach..."

- Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, on Meet the Press, Sunday Oct. 16, 2005, explaining the administration's decision to invade Iraq instead of focusing efforts on destroying al-Qaeda and capturing Bin Laden.

"We have no evidence that Saddam Hussein was involved with the September 11th attacks," - President George W. Bush told reporters as he met members of Congress on energy legislation Sept. 17, 2003.

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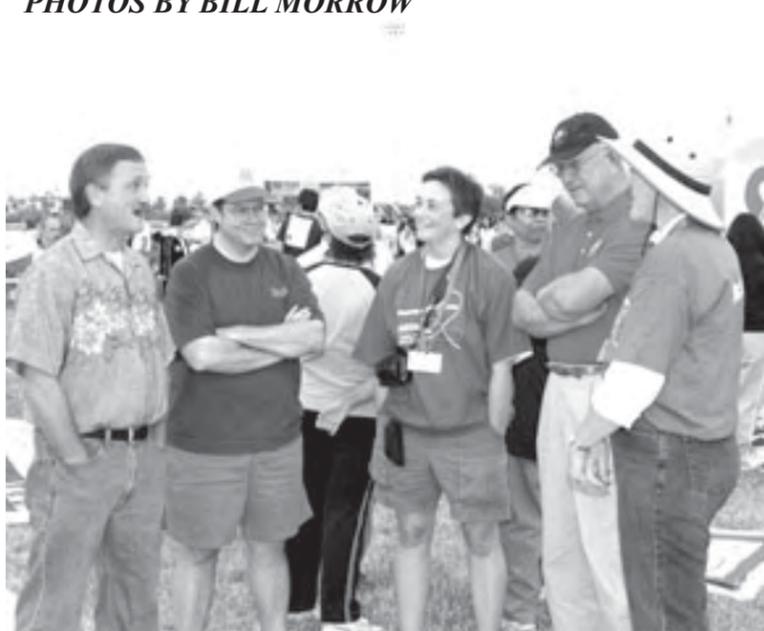
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Venus ventures into affable, honest Sagittarius this week. Our love knows no bounds even if a few of the niceties fall through the cracks. So while we may not be the smoothest of operators, we still know how to ring the bell. Ring-a-ding!

ARIES (MAR. 21 - APR. 20)

Even if you are no longer a student, you can still learn a thing or two while Venus lolls in Sag. Your curiosity is piqued and you yearn to expand your knowledge. Good. Don't be lazy proud Ram. Get off your duff and scratch your cosmic itch through learning or travel. You can snare a foreign comrade in this wilde journey. Two travel as cheaply as one if they bunk together.

TAURUS (APR. 21 - MAY 21)

Queer Bulls can charm the pants off just about anyone when Venus enters Sag. You simmer in your sexuality so try to blow a few fuses as you increase your voltage. Choose your conquests wisely; you may not know when enough is enough and it would be a shame to waste energy on liaisons who are bull dozing guzzlers. Then again, it could be rather fun....

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Feel free to discuss any nit picky issues with partners now that Venus has entered Sag. But be warned; When pink Twins become too comfortable in relationships, they may begin to take partners for granted.. As charming as you think you are, remember to be especially caring and thoughtful now. If not, ask for forgiveness with buckets of champagne and crates of attention.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

It's a time of great accomplishment in your day to day job with Venus in Sag. Gay Crabs should make the best use of this beneficent energy by unleashing new ideas, beginning prized projects and planning your best moves three ahead. Also use this time to revamp your diet and exercise regime. It is never too early to prepare for festive nude holiday celebrations.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)

Unleash your creative Gay muse with Venus in Sag; Paint, dance, write or create something beautiful. If you're no Picasso, then put your juices to work planning a delightful party or five. It is a time for romance so add a dash of fun into an otherwise monastic life. Proud Lions needn't stay home nursing their memories. Get Out there and flip your tail around town, honey.

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)

Queer Virgins often decorate their homes in early functional office style. Venus in Sag now demands a warmer, charming and comfortable home decor. So trade in your modern steel highback chair for something a bit more cushy and inviting. When you begin to feel cuddly, who knows who you can lure into your web to snuggle with you. How fly is that?

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

If you have something ... anything ... meaningful to say, say it with conviction this week. Proud Libras can sugarcoat any harsh comments and be diplomatic with almost anyone. Create connections and rebuild any frayed ties. If you give even the most beastly folks a chance to redeem themselves, you may even find something genuinely nice about them. And then again....

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

They say you should never count your chickens before they're hatched and yet Venus in Sag now enables you to hatch a very clever investment strategy. Even secretive strategists offer you tantalizing tidbits of fiscal information. Make good use of every snippet of advice, do your homework and carefully invest your dough. Gather those nest eggs and sit on them

a while.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)

Venus enters your own sign and highlights your glowing personality. People of influence gather around you and anxiously wait for your ideas. Use this hot intensity for niceness instead of nastiness. The temptation may be to settle an old score but wise Gay Archers understand that revenge is one of the few dishes that is best eaten cold.... along with potato salad.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)

Think beyond your own petty concerns this week. Venus in Sag demands a more universal and humanitarian effort from you. So rather than continue to view life from the sidelines, volunteer, donate and get involved in any worthy cause. What a change of pace for you! And yet, smart pink Caps also realize that the more they give, the more they get. No not in aggravation!

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

Compadres are mere putty in your hands with Venus in Sag. Folks gravitate to you as you command the group dynamic. This is fine as long as you don't let the party turn into a great performance. There is a time for the conquering diva and a time for democratic camaraderie. Choose the latter, Aqueerius. Life moves on and the blush will soon be off your particular rose.

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MAR. 20)

Guppies are not ones to kow tow to the rich and powerful. It almost seems beneath them. But if you were to think of it as "greasing the wheels" to your eventual success, it may be a bit more palatable. And it will be so easy for you to do now with Venus in Sag. Really what is the harm in oiling a few large cogs? It is fine as long as you don't do it with your tongue.

Gay Arson Victim Allegedly Torched His Own Home

LAKELAND - A Gay man who reached out for help after claiming that his mobile home had been torched by arsonists, has been charged with the crime, The Ledger newspaper reports on Advocate.com.

A Lakeland fire investigator on Wednesday (Oct. 12) charged Christopher Michael Robertson, 23, with one count of arson, burning to defraud an insurer, two counts of false and fraudulent insurance claims, and making a false report to a law enforcement officer, according to the Lakeland Fire Department. The July 25 fire gutted the home Roberston shared with his partner, Paul Day, at Kings Manor Mobile Home Park. Several valuables were stolen—including a TV and a laptop computer—and "Die fag" was spray-painted on the front steps of the home, the couple told Lakeland firefighters, making the fire appear to be a hate crime.

Robertson confessed to the crime, saying he wanted insurance money from the mobile home, said Lakeland fire spokeswoman Cheryl Edwards. He also said he used the fire as a "scare tactic" to motivate his partner into moving out of the mobile home park, Edwards added. Day, who was interviewed by The Advocate in September, had no knowledge of his partner's setting the fire and was not charged, the fire department said.

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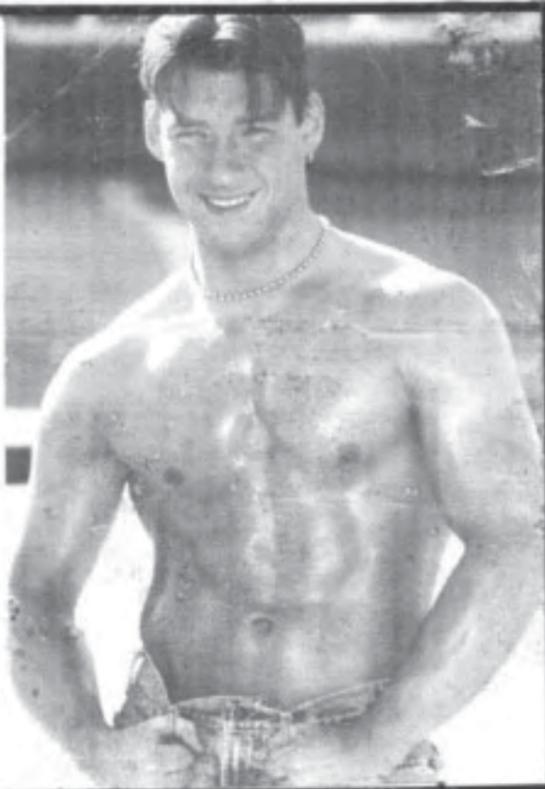
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Arab Gays Defy Laws, Venture Into Open

BEIRUT - When Ahmad Mahfouz told his mother he is Gay, she took him to a psychiatrist, thinking he had a disease that could be cured by antidepressants. When that didn't work, she urged him to date a woman. He ignored her advice. "So now, whenever she sees me, she beats me with anything she can lay her hands on: a metal hanger, leather belt, her shoes," reported the Associated Press on Advocate.com.

The 19-year-old Lebanese college student is unusual in his candor and willingness to be identified, though not photographed. But more Arabs are coming out as Gay, or at least coming to terms with their sexuality, even though in some countries they face laws that can land them in jail or are confronted by extremists who beat them up because Islam condemns homosexuality.

On top of that, homosexuality is widely seen as a disease spread by the United States and Israel to corrupt Arabs and undermine their religious faith. In Lebanon, Gays can find refuge at the cramped one-room office of Helem, which says it's the first Arab nongovernmental organization openly fighting for Gay rights. Helem was set up last year despite a vaguely worded law that punishes "unnatural sexual intercourse" with up to one year in jail. Lebanon, with its mixed population of Muslims and Christians, has a history of religious pluralism and exposure to the West. But elsewhere, Gays are on their own.

Egyptian authorities use criminal articles against debauchery and prostitution to prosecute Gays. They have entrapped, arrested, and tortured hundreds of men thought to be Gay, says a report by New York City-based Human Rights Watch. It says police agents snare Gay men through Internet personal ads and that at least 179 men have been prosecuted for "debauchery" since the start of 2001. Hundreds of others have been harassed, arrested, and often tortured without charge, it says. Among them are 52 men rounded up in 2001 in a police raid on a boat-restaurant on the Nile and accused of taking part in a Gay sex party. A court acquitted 29, 16 were convicted and freed pending their appeal, and a few were jailed for a year.

French president Jacques Chirac has expressed concern to Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak about the treatment of Gays, but the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights, the country's largest rights group, says it cannot speak out against prosecutions of Gay men because homosexuality is so detested in Egypt.

A recent Egyptian news report posted by Al-Arabiya TV on its Web site described a Kuwaiti Gay wedding party in Cairo and triggered hundreds of blistering messages. Some of them said insurgents in Iraq should be killing Gays instead of innocent Iraqis. Many claimed the United States and Israel were promoting homosexuality to strip Arab men of their manhood. Only a handful urged tolerance of homosexuality. Whether the wedding actually took place is not clear. The story was detailed but didn't identify the hotel, and Egypt's attorney general, Maher Abdel Wahid, issued a statement saying no complaint was received and no investigation was ordered.

Saudi Arabia, which enforces a puritan Islamic code, also keeps Gays under pressure, according to Human Rights Watch. On March 10, it said, authorities detained more than 100 men at a party in the city of Jiddah, sentencing many of them in closed trials without legal counsel to up to two years in prison and 2,000 lashes, usually meted out 50 at a time depending on medical examinations. Human Rights Watch said the offenses weren't spelled out, but a Saudi news report claimed the men allegedly were "dancing" and "behaving like women." Last year another Saudi daily, the English-language Arab News, said 50 men were arrested for allegedly attending a Gay wedding in the holy Muslim city of Medina.

Dalal al-Bizri, a Cairo-based Lebanese sociologist, says Gays are more reviled

than drug addicts "because homosexuality is seen as being exported to the region by a country whose armies and fleets have struck Arabs—the United States." "It's also seen as a threat to an insecure Arab machismo that has been politically impotent and feels humiliated by its inability to do much for the Palestinians or Iraqis," she said.

In the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Palestinian vigilantes at one point were treating Gays as unforgivingly as they do informers and drug or gun dealers. This has even led to cases of Palestinian Gays finding sanctuary in Israel, where homosexuality is tolerated. Gay Palestinians have said it's easier to find common ground with Israeli counterparts because both can relate to being oppressed. In June 2001, a handful of Palestinians joined thousands of Israelis in Israel's Gay Pride Day. Homophobia forces many Arab Gays to lead a double life, marrying and having children while secretly pursuing Gay relationships.

But others, like Mahfouz in Lebanon, refuse to play along. A slim man with dark hair, he says he is looking for a new place to live to escape his mother's wrath, her efforts to take away his cell phone, and her attempts to stop him from listening to music that she believes made him Gay. "Until I leave, I am trying to placate her by pretending to date. The woman is a Lesbian friend, but my mother doesn't know it," he said with a smile.

Bilal Sharaf el-Din, a 21-year-old Lebanese studying information technology, said he has told friends and sisters—but not his mother—that he's Gay. Shafar el-Din, a Muslim, said he knows homosexuality is a sin in Islam but that humans shouldn't be the judges. "It should be done up there," he said, pointing to the sky. "Until the time comes, I will enjoy myself."

There have been no recent prosecutions of Gays in Lebanon, but men have been beaten up for looking effeminate or fired for being Gay, said Georges Azzi, a Gay man who is the only paid employee at Helem, the rights center. He said his group tries to raise awareness by speaking at colleges. There are now more Gay-friendly bars, and in May the International Day Against Homophobia was observed for the first time in Lebanon. Helem marked the occasion with a gathering of about 200 people, straight and Gay, at a seaside Beirut hotel. It screened I Exist, a documentary about Middle Eastern Gays living in the United States, and distributed buttons and pamphlets with the slogan "You drink coffee, I prefer tea. Does that mean one of us is abnormal?" Helem also launched Barra (Out), billed as the first Arab Gay magazine.

Lebanon even has male belly dancers. One of them is a slim 23-year-old Bisexual who identifies himself only as Teddy, his stage name. Teddy says his insistence on leading a "normal life" has come at a price: "People look at me as if I have descended from Mars." With an elegant black ponytail, mascaraed lashes, pouty lips, and manicured nails, he stood out as the only man in makeup at a trendy Beirut coffee house. He said demand for his dancing is strong, though "Sometimes, at nightclubs, people spit at me or throw drinking glasses. I don't respond because I don't want to make an issue out of it."

He says life in some ways is harder for Gays in Lebanon, oddly enough, because boys and girls mix freely, so parents are more likely to notice those who don't. "It's easier in Saudi Arabia, where the sexes are segregated," said Teddy. "As long as boys and girls are separate, parents feel their children are safe." Where would he like to be 10 years from now? "I'd like to become the head of a union for the protection of Gays in Lebanon and the rest of the Arab world, and a very famous lawyer in the sphere of human rights," he said. "Once I have achieved that, I'd like to marry a woman and have 14 children."

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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

Semantics

by Lee Thorn

The conservatives are mad at the president for nominating his personal lawyer to the Supreme Court. But how can they be mad at him? Isn't he a conservative? It's enough to confuse George Will!

The problem is that we're all running around using the word "conservative" to mean at least three different and quite dissimilar things. And it's no good blaming the media; they're simply conforming to popular usage. Words can, however, mean something if we're just a little careful with them.

Of the three currently popular political uses of "conservative," the oldest refers to a philosophical position that goes clear back to the days when Bill Buckley was at Yale. The idea, in a nutshell, is that government should be kept as small as possible because it has a dangerous monopoly on power and power corrupts. The philosophy points out that a monopoly in the marketplace can be challenged by other companies or broken up by the government. It argues that there's nobody in place to rein in a government that gets out of hand. As a last resort you end up with wars and revolutions to get rid of bad governments, both wars and revolutions being costly, bloody messes.

The solution: Keep government small so its sins can be small. Throw in some internal checks and balances like our three branches of government. Divide power with different functions performed at different levels as in our federalism. The result, under this conservatism, is little government, low taxes, no deficit spending, little involvement in foreign affairs, as few laws as possible, and the state doing only those essential things that wouldn't otherwise get done, like establishing a national military and local police forces.

We carelessly use the very same word — conservatism — to describe the political stance of the current Bush, this despite the fact that there is a gigantic political conflict between the two approaches to government. Bush's position, and it should be noted that it's been amazingly consistent, is that his job is to shovel as much money as possible to the rich and their corporations. To achieve this end, it matters that taxes be reduced. On the other hand, it doesn't matter if government is large or small, if spending is high or low, if deficits replace surpluses and become the largest in history, if war replaces peace, etc.

None of the concerns of the philosophical conservatives, except their liking of low taxes, are even relevant to Bush conservatism, yet we call them by the same name. To put the contrast in concrete practical terms, Halliburton wins in Iraq whether the United States wins or loses. Halliburton wins in New Orleans whether Pima manages or mismanages. The drug companies, the insurance companies, the energy companies all win no matter what their winning does to the size and functioning of the government and to the shape of the country's economy.

If that's not confusing enough, we have the religious conservatives who really don't significantly overlap either of these first two. The religious conservatives would like the United States to become a theocracy. Many

specifically, and in the exact words of many of their leaders, they want us to become a "Christian country." What does that mean? Again, in their own words, they don't believe in our separation of church and state. They want to pass laws that enforce what they take to be the laws of God.

How could such a radical position ever come to be called "conservative"? Search me. The confusion is fueled not just by our own general intellectual laziness, but by the fact that all these groups like to be called "conservative." The word is enormously popular. It's popularity seems to increase as its meaning dissipates. All of which is vastly amusing to someone old enough to remember when the only person in the United States who didn't mind being called a conservative was a vocally pro-gay rights senator from Arizona by the name of Barry Goldwater.

You'll note that the "conservatives" of one camp won't challenge the conservatism of the others. You'll only rarely hear a philosophical conservative point out that the Bush stance is anything but conservative. And I've never heard anyone, in person or on the tube, say that the lunatic notion of turning this country into a theocracy is anything but conservative. Confusion and contradiction reign, and I'm guessing that they serve the purposes of most groups who like to be called "conservative."

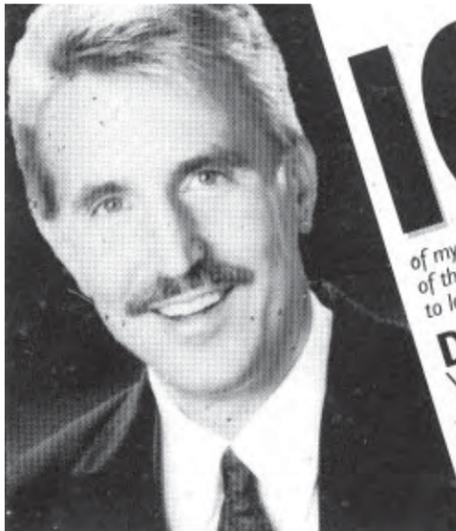
[Thorn welcomes comments, suggestions for future columns, and tips on local skulduggery that ought to be exposed. Write to Box 85571, Tucson, AZ 85754. E-mail: Doid3@aol.com.]

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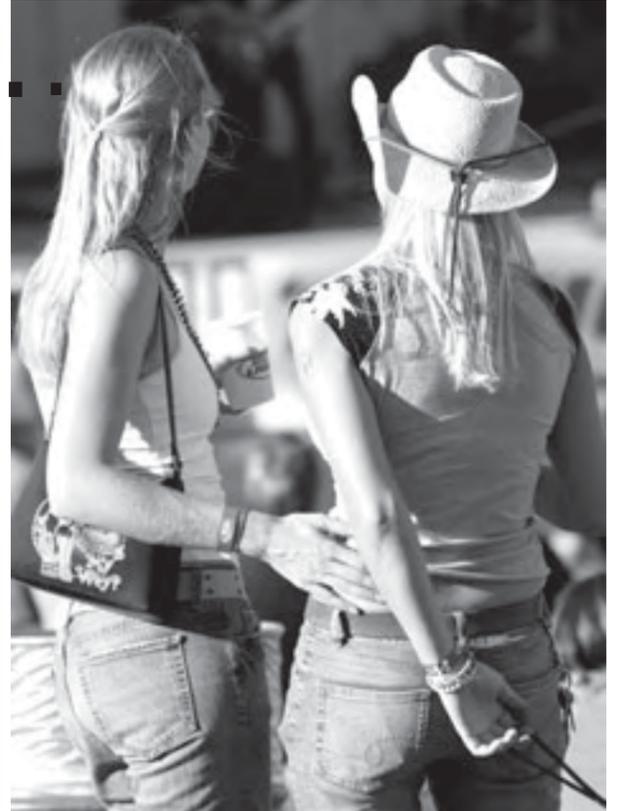
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Non Bar Calendar

Wednesday, October 19

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Merlin and Lee for an evening of Canasta. If you don't know how to play, they'll teach you-and it's a very relaxed atmosphere. For directions and reservations, please call Lee and Merlin at 207-5336.

Thursday, October 20

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 a.m. Join the men of MSN for Coffee Night out at Rainbow Planet Coffee House. This is a chance to have a cup of coffee and chat with the men of MSN. This is a No-host event, so please ask Barista to point you in our direction.

Friday, October 21

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Lloyd as he hosts Pizza Night. For just \$5.00, come and enjoy a night of Pizza and good conversation. For reservations and directions, please call Lloyd at 792-8537. Please reserve your spot by noon on Thursday, October 20th.

Saturday, October 22

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

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

Sunday, October 23

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages;

newcomers welcomed) 12:30 pm Join MSN for Brunch at the Tanque Verde Guest Ranch. Lloyd hosts the popular, twice yearly event. Reservations and \$ for this event were due on 10/18. Contact Lloyd for details at 792-8537.

Monday, October 24

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join us for the "putting out the Newsletter" Night. For reservations and directions, please call Arlan at 323-7414.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:30 p.m. Join us for the MSN Premiere of "Eating Out" (after Newsletter Night). For reservations and directions, please call Arlan at 323-7414.

Tucson Prime Timers Bowling, 10:30 a.m. Golden Pin Lanes, Miracle Mile. Lunch -- 12:30 p.m., The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

Tuesday, October 25

#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. The Circle of Men is a support group that helps you deal with yourself and your relationships with others. For directions and reservations, please call Tom at 591-2828.

#2 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Willie hosts Bridge Night. If you don't know how to

play, they'll teach you-and it's a very relaxed atmosphere. For reservations and directions, please call Willie at 297-8756.

Wednesday, October 26

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Karol for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Karol at 744-9017.

Thursday, October 27

#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 1:00 p.m. Les hosts a Lunch Out at mother Hubbard's (Grant & Stone). For reservations and directions, please call Les at 690-9565.

#2 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join the men of MSN for Coffee Night out at Rainbow Planet Coffee House. This is a chance to have a cup of coffee and chat with the men of MSN. This is a No-host event, so please ask Barista to point you in our direction.

Friday, October 28

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join the men of MSN for Coffee Night out at Rainbow Planet Coffee House. This is a chance to have a cup of coffee and chat with the men of MSN. This is a No-host event, so please ask Barista to point you in our direction.

PULSE is hosting a "Chiller" with DJ Qub, after hours tonight from 2:00 until 4:00 a.m. at the Casbah Tea House on 4th Avenue next to IBT's. Food and drinks will be served. PULSE is a collaboration effort with Arizona Department of Health Services, Pima County Health Department, Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) and Wingspan.

Saturday, October 29

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Steve hosts Pinochle Night. If you don't know how to play, but would like to learn, this is the place. For more information, please call Steve at 664-2076.

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

Monday, October 31

Tucson Prime Timers Bowling 10:30 a.m., Golden Pin Lanes, Miracle Mile. Lunch -- 12:30 p.m. Wildcat House, 1800 N Stone Ave.

Saturday, November 19

17th Annual Jerome Beillard Festival For Life, a live and silent auction fund raising event for SAAF will take place from 5pm until 8:30pm. The event takes place at the University of Arizona Student Union Grand Ballroom, 1303 E. University Blvd. Tickets are \$50 in advance. \$60 at the door. For more information call 628-7223 or email events@saaf.org. Amazing artwork, casino-style gaming and live entertainment. Convenient parking at the Mountain and Second Street Garage.

Judge Refuses To Delay G/L Partner Ruling

LANSING - A Michigan judge has refused to delay implementing a ruling that a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage does not prevent the state from offering health insurance benefits to the same-sex partners of state workers, 365Gay.com reported.

Republican Attorney General Mike Cox had asked Judge Joyce Draganchuk to stay her ruling and prevent the state and the city of Kalamazoo from offering domestic partner benefits until the issue can be decided by the appellate courts. Draganchuk ruled last month that health care benefits are benefits of employment, not marriage.

Twenty-two same-sex couples filed suit against the state in March after Democratic Gov. Jennifer Granholm, acting on Cox's advice terminated domestic partner benefits that had been won by state unions. One partner of each of the 22 couples works for the state of Michigan.

In his legal opinion to the governor, Cox said that the constitutional amendment passed by voters last year bars all public employers from providing domestic partner benefits. But, although Granholm removed the benefits from the contracts she disagreed with Cox's interpretation of the amendment and in July she entered the case on the side of the Gay couples. Cox was obligated to argue the case against benefits as Attorney General.

"Health care benefits are not among the statutory rights or benefits of marriage," Judge Draganchuk said in her written ruling. "An individual does not receive health benefits for his or her spouse as a matter of legal right upon getting married."

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Invisible Theatre Hosted 'Voice Over' Seminar



Kathy Garver (l) with Invisible Theatre Director, Susan Claassan.

TUCSON - In conjunction with the 35th Anniversary of the Invisible Theatre, director Susan Claassan held a free workshop/seminar on Monday, Oct. 17. Kathy Garver shared her experience in recording commercials, animation and narrative voice-overs.

If Garver's experience in the theatrical world is not overly well-known, it's because for some time she has been lecturing about "Voice Over" - using one's voice to make the sound of an imaginary figure talking, singing or just acting - with your voice! Her acting experience has kept her busy also, ever since she joined the 1950's TV production of "Family Affair," in which she played the big sister to Buffy and Jody, with Brian Keith as the father and, of course, Mister French, the butler - for those who are old enough to remember the very popular TV sitcom.

Kathy kept the attention of the full

house of young and older folks in the audience showing them how to speak properly - especially in the way they should pronounce words, and to seek a clarity of sound. The practice sounds made by Kathy and the audience might have sounded silly, but Kathy reminded them of the excellent financial opportunities in the 'voice over' field of radio, TV and movies.

At the end of the hour and half session, all agreed that it was an eye-opener and most probably have started on the Vocal Warm-Ups that she left with them. "Speed is not the key here," she said, "clarity is!".

And while we are on the subject of Invisible Theatre, Susan Claassan, has written, will direct and act in a one-woman production of "The Life and Times of Edith Head". Watch for the dates of this must-see production about the life of Hollywood's most famous designer.

Commitment Announcement



TUCSON - On Friday, October 22, Scott Childress and Joseph Roos will celebrate five years of love and devotion as they exchange a few words affirming their commitment to one another.



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 6. HOWL AT THE MOON - 915 W. Prince Rd. 293-7339
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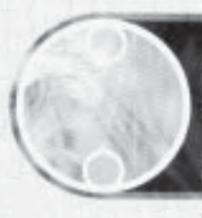
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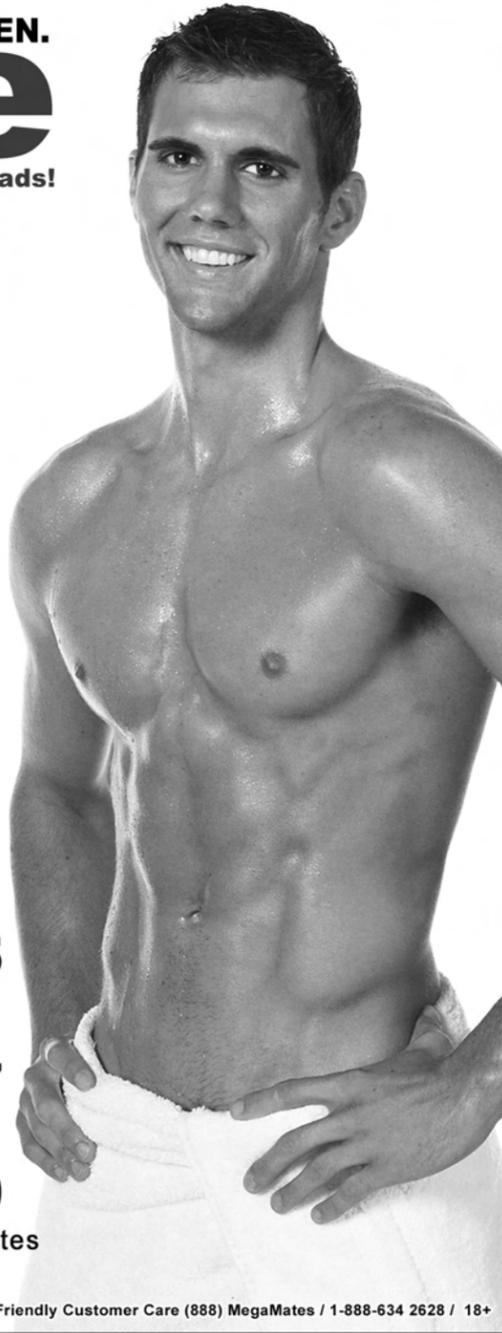


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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

sunday

COLORS - Open 11am - 11pm Champagne Brunch 11am - 2pm with choice of complimentary mimosa, Bloody Mary or Screwdriver. Happy Hour 4-7pm \$3 skyy Cocktails, \$4 Skyy Martinis, \$2 Domestic and half-price appetizers. Full menu served 2-10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

HOWLATTHEMOON - Open at 11am. Lotchen open until 8pm. Watch the NFL here! \$1.00 Jumbo Hot Dogs, \$2 Chili Dogs. Free Texas Hold'em Poker Tournaments 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 - Troy's Recovery Bar noon-4pm. 4-7:30 Karaoke on the patio. Benefit B-B-Q for the Pride Parade 5:30-7:30 and dance with DJ Mike Lopez 9pm to close.

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio open 3pm. \$2.00 Bloody Marys or Screws til 3pm Patio Beer Bust 3-7. Burger BBQ 5-7. Selection of burger meats to choose from. \$3 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 \$12-7p. \$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 10am - 2am. Patio Bar opens at 5pm.

monday

COLORS - Closed on Mondays.

HOWLATTHEMOON - 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 Craig Carter 10pm-2am \$1.50 well vodka drinks, All drink specials not available during special events.

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio 6pm. Free pool til 4pm. \$2.75 Skyy & Beebeaters Martinis.

WOODY'S - Open 10am. w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm \$1.50 well or domestic longnecks. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Karaoke w/Michael D. 9-1

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. 50¢ off any Top Shelf Rum until 8pm. Beer Bust 4-8pm

tuesday

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7 \$3 Skyy cocktails, \$4 Skyy Martinis, \$2 Domestic and half-price appetizers. 1st Tuesday of month "Dinner & Movie" sponsored by GMHP. All other Tuesdays "Dinner and a Concert" shown on 52" projection system. Full menus served until 10pm.

HOWLATTHEMOON - 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 Craig Carter playing Retro Music 70's, 80's and 90's 9pm-close.

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Spaghetti Nite (2nd Tuesday every month \$2.00).

WOODY'S - Open 10am w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm \$1.50 well or domestic longneck. 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 8am. 50¢ off any Top Shelf Tequila until 8pm Beer Bust 4-8pm.

wednesday

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3 Skyy cocktails, \$4 Skyy Martinis, \$2 Domestic and half-price appetizers Full menu served 4-10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

HOWLATTHEMOON - 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.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, "Divalicious" show 9pm w/ Bunny Fu Fu & Friends. After show dance with DJ Q til 2am.

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

WOODY'S - Open 10am w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm \$1.50 well or domestic longnecks. 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 8am. 50¢ off any Top Shelf Vodka until 8pm Beer Bust 4-8pm.

thursday

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3 Skyy cocktails, \$4 Skyy Martinis, \$2 Domestic and half-price appetizers. Full menu served 4-10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

HOWLATTHEMOON - 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 9am. 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 \$6.00.

WOODY'S - Open 10am w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm \$1.50 well or domestic longnecks. 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 8am. 50¢ off any Top Shelf Bourbon til 8pm. Beer Bust 4-8pm. Patio Bar opens 5pm.

friday

COLORS - Open 4pm-2am. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3 Skyy cocktails, \$4 Skyy Martinis, \$2 Domestic and half-price appetizers. Full menu served 4-11pm. Nightly Dinner Specials. 6:30-9:30pm. "Hot Jazz, Cool Martinis" with Susan Artemis 10pm "Guys & Dolls" hosted by Lucinda Holliday. Reservations suggested. Open 11am for lunch. Dinner 5-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm domestic beers or well cocktails \$2.25. Close 1am.

HOWLATTHEMOON - 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 re-opens 9 pm to Midnight for late night munchies.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm,, Hot Dance with DJ Mike Lopez 9pm-2am.

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

WOODY'S - Open 10am.w/Special Happy Hour til-2pm \$1.50 well or domestic longnecks. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Patio Bar open 8-close. Party w/DJ Jeff 9-close.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. 50¢ off any Top Shelf Gin until 8pm. Beer Bust 4-8pm. Patio Bar Opens 5pm

saturday

COLORS - Open 4pm-2am, Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3 Skyy cocktails, \$4 Skyy Martinis, \$2 Domestic and half-price appetizers Full menu served 4-11pm. Nightly dinner specials. Amber Norgard sings originals and cover tunes 6:30-9:30pm. Reservations suggested. Close 1am.

HOWLATTHEMOON - Open at 11:00 am. Kitchen open til 8pm. Happy Hour 11am-8pm, \$2 Well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 small pitchers, \$5 large pitchers. \$4.00 Cheeseburger & Fries all day. DJ Johnny D playing your favorite dance & country 9pm to close. Kitchen re-opens 9pm - midnight 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 9am. Patio Bar open 3pm. Patio Beer Bust 3-7pm. DJ 9 to close.

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

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. Beer Bust 4-8pm. \$1.25 glass, \$2.25 pitcher. Patio Bar Opens 5pm.

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Oct. 19 - Dwight Yoakam
Oct. 29 - Bluegrass Festival

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Noel Coward's "BLITHE SPIRTI" continues through Sunday, November 13. Performance times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday thru Saturdays and 3:00 p.m. Sundays. \$13 - \$15.

"THE EXISTENCE OF FAERIES", the story of what happens when the fairies of the world decide to perform a musical to announce their existence continues thru Sunday, Nov. 27. Shows are 1:00 p.. Sundays, Tickets are \$5.00 to \$7.00. Call 327-4242 for reservations.

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21

COLORS - Guys and Dolls show begins at 10:00 p.m. with Lucinda Holida and special guest from Phoenix, Phaedra

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22

WOODY'S - Blacklight Party 8:00 p.m.

YARD DOG SALOON - Pork Chop Dinner tonight beginning at 7:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23

WOODY'S - Drag Bingo with Janee Starr and Stella Virgin at 8:00 p.m.

YARD DOG SALOON - Texas Hold-em Poker Tournament at 5:00 p.m. hosted by Boo. Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26

WOODY'S - Sign up NOW for a special Wine-Tasting Party at 6:30 p.m. There is limited space so sin up with one of the bartenders before today. Then stick around for the all new "Boys Gone Wild" Underwear Party. Wear underwear or Fetish and get \$1.00 off your drink (excludes draught or schnapps).

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29

WOODY'S - A weekend of Halloween Parties begins tonight with a Costume Party and Contest

YARD DOG SALOON - Halloween weekend presents tonight "Night of the Living Dead" with a Halloween Costume Contest at midnight plus drink specials.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

WOODY'S - Halloween Party Weekend continues here with Scarryoke and a Make-Up Party.

YARD DOG SALOON - "Wake of the Living Dead" Halloween party with Bloody drinks and Coffin Drivers \$1.75; Puppies Black Cherries \$3.50.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 31

VENTURE-N - Annual Halloween Spooktacular with costume contest, great prizes, specials and more.

WOODY'S - 2nd Annual MasquErotic Halloween Costume Ball. Mark your calendars.

YARD DOG SALOON - "Return of the Living Dead" Halloween Party with Witches Brew and Witches Stew at 10:00 p.m.

LGBT Workers More Worried Than Straights About Retirement

NEWYORK - As the first wave of LGBT Baby Boomers reaches age 59 1/2, the first year they are eligible to make tax-free withdrawals from their retirement plans, many are taking their first real look at retirement and a good portion are not happy, gfn.com reported.

A new study shows that Gays, Lesbians and the Transgendered are more likely than straights to worry about how they will survive when they retire. The study, by Zogby for the MetLife Mature Market Institute, found that 41 percent of LGBTs, compared to 33 percent of straights, were worried their later years.

The study also showed that staying healthy later in life was the most frequently cited consideration in retirement among LGBT Boomers; financial concerns are second; and being old and alone was third. Those in the LGBT had significantly greater apprehension about being alone once they retire - 14 percent compared to just six percent of heterosexuals.

"Despite their comparatively moderate concern over finances, only half (54%) of those in the GLBT group are saving at a rate needed to maintain their lifestyle in retirement," said Sandra Timmermann, director of the Institute. "Of significant interest is that 16% of GLBT Boomers say they spend no time at all on retirement planning."

GLBT Boomers are just as likely as heterosexuals to expect to continue working beyond retirement age, but they are more likely than the heterosexual population to say that their reasoning is financial. They are also more likely - 40 percent compared to 28 percent for heterosexuals - to express concern about physical limitations that may inhibit their ability to

Continued On Page Nineteen

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.saaaf.org>. **VOLUNTEERS WELCOME.**

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

P.F.L.A.G. - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays - is a support group available to anyone who has a son, daughter or friend who is Gay. Call 575-8660 or write P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740-6264. All replies confidential.

GLBT-friendly AL-ANON group meets Saturdays at 11am at Unitarian Universalist Church, 4831 E. 22nd Street, Tucson

YOUNG AND GAY?
GLBT Youth 23 and under, meet every Saturday in Tucson for sharing, support and information. Meetings are held at 425 E. 7th Street from 3 to 4:30 pm. You are not alone. For more info call Wingspan, 624-1779.

The **TUCSON Chapter of PRIME TIMERS WORLD-WIDE** 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 743-0810, 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 M-F.

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, 425 E. 7th 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 message. TucsonSources@aol.com

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

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

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO — a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, Call the Bears Hotline (520)790-5775 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 or 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 GAYAL-ANON - Affected by someone's drinking? Meeting every Tuesday 8:45 to 9:45 p.m. at Lambda Center, 2940 E. Thomas, Phoenix. Ellie 581-8850 or Ronn 968-2384.

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

Walters, (602)371-1102

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SPORTS TEAMS and updates on Gay Games 2002, contact **TEAM ARIZONA** at their website: teamarizona.org

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

THE 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.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GLBT, Tucson's Gay and Lesbian business networking group holds regular meetings the third Thursday of every month. Call 615-6436 for more info. www.tucsonglbtchamber.org

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 / MOVIES / ETC! Nonsmoking Lesbian Network meets every month. If you'd like to meet women 50+ (flexible) and socialize in a smoke-free environment, please call or email: 888-8010 'til 9pm, or joycesmth1@aol.com. The group dines OUT! and attends shows, movies, comedy events, etc. Now in our 23rd year, 7th in Tucson.

SOUTHERN ARIZONA GENDER ALLIANCE (SAGA). The Southwest's largest transgender and gender-diversity advocacy organization. Speakers and panelists available. General meetings monthly on the 1st Mondays at 7pm; Dezerz Girlz (MTF Support) meets 2nd Mondays at 7pm; Dezerz Boyz (FTM Support) meets 3rd Tuesdays at 7pm. Also serving partners, youth, intersex, service providers and allies. Call (520)624-1779 x26 for more info.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LIKE TO READ?
The Guys' Book Club (TGBC) invites new members to join us. The group meets once a month, on the 3rd Monday, at 6:30 p.m. Reading selections include Gay-themed novels, bios and other nonfiction. For location or more info, email Bryan at

Bryansct@aol.com

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

LGBT BUDDHIST MEDITATION GROUP. Join us for two 20 minute silent sitting meditations, a reading from a Buddhist religious text and discussion. Bring a friend and a pillow or cushion. Meets every Sunday from 10:00 - 11:30am at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St.. Contact Sean Seeba at 622-8759 for more information.

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

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

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

SUN WORSHIPERS OF TUCSON (SWOT) is a local men's nudist organization for men of all ages. Events feature swimming, hot tubbing and socializing in a relaxed, private setting. Check out our website at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/swot>. Bi-weekly daytime meetings, Saturdays at 10am and Sundays at 2pm. Contact John at 327-3135 for more info and upcoming dates.

MAN TO MAN INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY FORMING for anyone wanting quality friendships, better health and more passion in their lives. This group has far-reaching benefits for those who want to explore their own spirituality, sexuality and purpose in life. Weekly social events include Keys to Healthy Relationships, and Be Your Own Best Lover. Also events include entertainment like dinner, movies, theater and art. Group discussions. Group fun with intimacy, spontaneity and play. A great way to meet other men who are on a more focused path. Contact Marc Haberman, Holistic Health Practitioner at 881-4582.

LGBT Workers More Worried Than Straights About Retirement

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function as they get older.

The study also showed that as Baby Boomers in general mature their concerns grow. The number of Boomers "worried about retirement" has doubled, since 2001. "While it is troubling that Boomers are concerned about finances, perhaps more worrisome is that fewer are taking the steps necessary to ensure financial security in retirement," Timmermann said.



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Vatican's Tolerance Of Gay Priests Moves Toward Strict Oversight

VATICAN CITY - For more than four decades the Roman Catholic Church has followed its rules concerning Gay priests while recognizing the reality of their presence, reported the Associated Press on Advocate.com.

But the Vatican—as far back as 1961—has made it clear they are not wanted. Many seminaries, however, continued to tolerate what one conservative theologian calls a “lavender subculture” that has brought perhaps thousands of Gay men to ordination. Now those parallel worlds are headed for a collision.

The Vatican is putting the finishing touches on a document that strengthens its view that Gay orientation and the priesthood are essentially incompatible. But the text—which could be released as early as next month—reportedly will not impose a blanket ban on Gay priests. Instead, it may demand years of chastity before entering a seminary and prohibit any public acts deemed to support the sexually active Gay community. If true, the Congregation for Catholic Education will be bolstering existing Vatican positions rather than shutting the door completely on Gay clerics, as many liberal Catholics have feared it might. The question then becomes: What message is the Vatican hoping to send?

Many experts in church policies don't expect widespread purges of Gay clerics from parishes, schools, and seminaries. Many places—particularly in Europe and the United States—are suffering under priest shortages and can't risk further losses. What's more likely, they say, is that bishops will gain new leverage to dismiss or sideline clergymen considered in open defiance of the document. Also, the Vatican statement may serve as a foundation for much more intensive screening of seminary candidates to try to identify—and possibly reject or discourage—those who are Gay.

“It could end up restricting entry into the priesthood to heterosexuals, which is a de facto extension of the existing teachings,” said R. Scott Appleby, a professor of religious history at the University of Notre Dame. “Even worse, it would place homosexuals into the position of hiding their orientation, lying and suppressing their identity, or not entering the church.”

Even some conservative Catholics wonder whether the church could become bogged down in internal contradictions from its own rules: If a priest remains celibate and loyal to other Catholic tenets, why does his sexual orientation matter? “This is where it gets very tricky,” said the Reverend Richard John Neuhaus, editor of the New York City-based religious and public affairs journal *First Things*. He sees the upcoming document as an attempt to curb “a growing influence of Gay lifestyles, or what's been called a lavender subculture” in seminaries and other church institutions.

But this can indirectly strike at one of the core elements of the Catholic priesthood—the belief that the call for a vocation can come to anyone. Estimates of the number of Gays in U.S. seminaries and the priesthood range from 25% to 50%, according to the Reverend Donald Cozzens, a former seminary rector and author of *The Changing Face of the Priesthood*. Credible global statistics are not available.

“There can be little doubt that over the centuries there have been great priests, bishops—and maybe even popes—who by today's criterion would be deemed homosexual in orientation,” Neuhaus said. “It's not the nature of one's temptations—be they sexual or something else—it's how to deal with these temptations.”

No place is this more an issue for

church leaders than in the United States, where the nation's bishops were launching a new campaign Friday to attract seminarians. The sex abuse scandals have forced the church to undertake unprecedented introspection over its clergy and how to train future priests. In September, Vatican-directed inspectors started visiting all 229 American seminaries. Part of their mission is to seek any “evidence of homosexuality” at a time when some Catholics have put forward the highly contested premise that Gay priests are more likely to be responsible for criminal behavior such as serial same-sex molestations.

Archbishop Edwin O'Brien, who leads the U.S. military archdiocese and is coordinating the seminary evaluations, strongly opposes any openings for Gays in the priesthood. But apparently the document will offer some avenues—however narrow—for Gay priests. Earlier this month a senior Vatican official said the document may allow Gay men into seminaries if they have lived a chaste life for at least three years. Other possible stipulations reportedly being discussed include forbidding Gay seminarians or priests from making public comments or participating in acts that would draw attention to their sexual orientation.

Bishop William Skylstad, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops,

said that he is heartened by reports indicating that the document may be “much more nuanced” and “far more sensible” than an outright ban.

The Vatican has often visited the issue of homosexuality, reflecting an unbending theological opposition but also an acknowledgment that discrimination based on sexual preference is not justified. A key document from 1961 said Gays should be barred from the priesthood. In 2003 homosexuality was described as a “troubling moral and social phenomenon” in a document by the powerful Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, then headed by German cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, who became Pope Benedict XVI this year. Vatican teaching also holds that Gays are “intrinsically disordered.” The church, however, says Gays and Lesbians should be treated with compassion and dignity.

Declining vocations and relaxing the rules on priestly celibacy are among the main topics among 250 bishops and other prelates from around the world gathered at the Vatican to examine various aspects of the Catholic Mass and make recommendations to the pope. The three-week meeting wraps up October 23. But synod participants say the document on Gay priests has barely been mentioned,

reflecting the imbalance between the intense interest in the United States and limited impact in other regions. “In the synod, nobody is talking about that,” said the Reverend Josep Maria Abella Battle, superior general of the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. “I know in America there is a lot of worry.”



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