



Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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Bush Announces HIV Plans; Groups Protest

WASHINGTON, D.C. - As President Bush announced a new initiative on World AIDS Day to fight HIV/AIDS, LGBT organizations lashed out at his administration, claiming it has broken promises on fighting the pandemic and preferred ideology to science, the PlanetOut Network reported.

In a speech in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building next to the White House, Bush pledged Thursday (Dec. 1) to expand partnerships and "save more lives" under his five-year emergency plan to fight the disease around the world.

As part of his five-year plan, the president revealed a "New Partners Initiative." "Through this initiative . . . we will further reach out to our faith-based and community organizations that provide much of the health care in the developing world and make sure they have access to American assistance," the Washington Post quoted him as saying.

Bush added that the federal government is providing more than \$17 billion a year to help people in the United States who are living with HIV/AIDS, and he urged Congress to reauthorize the 1990 Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act, which helps people living with HIV meet their health needs.

But the Human Rights Campaign was not satisfied with the president's progress. In issuing its second World AIDS Day report card on the U.S. government's response to the pandemic, the advocacy group noted low grades.

The group rated the government in four areas: "F" for prevention; "F" for care and treatment; "D" for research; and "C" for responding to the global crisis. (In 2004, the corresponding grades were F, D, C and C.)

"These grades are not simply letters in the alphabet; they are emblems of our government's failure to respond to one of the most devastating national and global health crises in history," said Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign.

"Every hour, two young Americans become infected with HIV, and the government's irresponsible response is to cut funding and abandon science. The Bush administration and congressional leadership's response to this disease has been abysmal," Solmonese said.

Among the problems Solmonese's group cited were significant cuts to federal HIV/AIDS treatment and care programs, flat-funding most of the Ryan White CARE Act, and giving less than a 1 percent increase to the National Institutes of Health, the smallest percentage increase since 1970.

The National Association of People with AIDS accused the Bush administration of breaking its promises to fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic both domestically and abroad.

"In 2001, the U.S. promised to

reduce HIV infection rates in the U.S. by half and pay one-third of the global fund," said Terje Anderson, the group's executive director. "Actions speak louder than words."

NAPWA noted that American HIV infection rates remain at 40,000 annually. Although the U.S. "fair-share contribution" to the global HIV/AIDS response is \$6.7 billion a year, the United States is only expected to spend about \$2.9 billion on global HIV/AIDS in 2005.

"We have not met our domestic or international goals," said Anderson. "Bush's actions have not matched his rhetoric."

Howard Dean, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, was even stronger in denouncing the White House response to AIDS.

"The Bush White House has talked a big game on fighting AIDS, but has consistently shortchanged the president's initiatives and stood in the way of important global efforts to curb this disease," Dean said.

"In keeping with this year's World AIDS Day theme, 'Stop AIDS: Keep the Promise,' I call on President Bush to honor the commitments he made to ending this terrible disease," Dean said. "America can do better than a president who breaks his promise on a matter as important as AIDS."

Patrick Guerriero, president of the Log Cabin Republicans, called for an end to the political fighting over HIV/AIDS. "This shouldn't be a partisan issue, because it's too important to get bogged down in petty political bickering. We support the president's global HIV/AIDS initiative."

HRC Released Pro-LGBT Buyers Guide

WASHINGTON, D.C. - As the holiday shopping season heats up across America, consumers who want to support workplace equality for Gays and Lesbians now have a powerful tool. "Buying for Equality," a new buyer's guide from the Gay rights group Human Right Campaign, highlights corporate policies on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender equality, reported Advocate.com.

The publication allows consumers to make purchasing decisions based on a company's score on the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's nationally respected Corporate Equality Index, a scorecard of corporate policies affecting their Gay employees, including domestic-partner benefits and nondiscrimination policies.

"LGBT Americans are changing the policies of corporate America at the checkout line," said HRC president Joe Solmonese.

"With an estimated \$610 billion worth of buying power, this guide empowers our community to easily support companies
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The Rocky Road To Marriage Equality

WASHINGTON, D.C. - In more than one sense, Brian Rice and Jason Kelliher are pioneers. They were among the first same-sex partners in the nation to marry legally - last year in barrier-breaking Massachusetts - and now are among the few such couples to forgo their much-prized rights by moving to another state, reported 365Gay.com.

Their new home, Connecticut, is among the most liberal on the issue; its legislature has approved civil unions that extend marriage-like rights to Gay couples. But that option doesn't tempt Rice and Kelliher.

"We've already reached the pinnacle of what a couple can hope for - a marriage license," said Rice, a lawyer. "Civil union is a second-class citizenship. . . . We don't want to take a step backward."

Yet Rice and Kelliher know that if they venture to any other state - except back to Massachusetts - their status wouldn't improve. While a few states have recognized same-sex couples, many more are strengthening bans on Gay marriage. Conservatives in some places - including Michigan and Ohio - are now taking aim at existing domestic-partner benefit policies.

"There are lots of families in states where it's harder to be a strong family, where the state does everything it can to weaken you," said David Buckel, an attorney overseeing marriage issues for the Gay rights group Lambda Legal. "It's challenging, it's discouraging, at some points it's enraging."

Rice, 27, and Kelliher, 29, moved from Boston in August 2004 because of a job offer for Rice in Stamford, Conn. Kelliher now works for an apartment management company, and qualifies for domestic-partner health benefits from Rice's law firm.

They initially hoped Connecticut would recognize their marriage, but the state decided otherwise. They can't file joint state tax returns, as they could have in Massachusetts, and worry that they need to execute a will because Connecticut wouldn't consider the survivor a spouse in the event one of them died.

"There are very few attorneys who specialize in these issues, and the law is very unsettled," Rice said. "If you're moving from state to state, or traveling, protections you had in one state may not be available in another."

Despite the uncertainties, the couple sense they are better off in New England than in the dozens of other states that have explicitly outlawed Gay marriage. Many have enshrined such bans in their constitutions; several also forbid civil unions.

"We're fortunate not to be facing some of the challenges couples are facing elsewhere," Rice said.

Among those challenges: In Michigan, Republican Attorney General Mike Cox and several conservative groups are arguing in



Brian Rice and Jason Kelliher

court that the Gay-marriage ban approved by voters in 2004 should be interpreted as barring local governments and public universities from providing health insurance to partners of Gay workers.

In Nebraska, state officials are trying to reinstate a ban on same-sex marriages that was struck down by a federal judge and is considered by Gay-rights advocates to be the harshest such ban in the nation. Approved with 70 percent support in 2000, the constitutional amendment bars virtually any legal protections for same-sex couples, including shared health benefits for Gays employed by the state. The amendment "made Gay people into political outcasts," said American Civil Liberties Union lawyer Tamara Lange.

In Ohio, conservatives who helped win passage of a 2004 ban on same-sex marriages and civil unions are now suing to stop a state university from offering health insurance to employees' same-sex partners.

That Miami University program "violates state law by creating a legal status for same-sex couples designed to mimic marriage," said lawyer Jeff Shafer of the Alliance Defense Fund. "Granting special legal status to newfangled nonmarital relationships is a state policy option rejected by the voters."

Lambda Legal lawyer Camilla Taylor said the lawsuit, if successful, would validate discrimination. "I'm sure Gay and Lesbian families are wondering if Ohio is the right state for them to live in," she said.

In New Jersey, one of a handful of states with a domestic partnership law, activists were dismayed by two recent cases dramatizing the law's limitations. In one case, Ocean County officials refused to approve the transfer of death benefits to the Lesbian partner of a cancer-stricken law enforcement officer, Lt. Laurel Hester. In another case, also involving Lesbians who registered as domestic partners, 66-year-old Betty Jordan is suing the state because of a ruling that she is not entitled

Continued on Page Eleven

UPDATE

RGMC Holiday Concert Dec. 10-11

TUCSON - Reveille Gay Men's Chorus (RGMC) is very excited to begin their 11th year of changing hearts and minds through music with their holiday concert: Behold That Star, Dec. 10, 8 p.m., and Dec. 11, 3 p.m., at Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2331 E. Adams St.

Their annual Christmas show has become a tradition with so many of their friends in the LGBT community and with supporters throughout Tucson. RGMC will be performing many of your holiday favorites and Artistic director, Linus Lerner has selected some beautiful new music never before performed in Tucson that will move and inspire. In addition, Reveille will sing several humorous numbers that provide a uniquely gay perspective on the holidays.

Reveille's special guests for the Saturday evening (Dec. 10) performance will be the local gospel choir Tucson Arizona Mass Choir, and for the Sunday afternoon (Dec. 11) performance Tucson's only LGBT chorus, the popular Desert Voices. Get your tickets early as these shows always sell out.

Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door and are available from any Reveille member or at Antigone Books, online at reveillegmc.com, or by calling (520) 617-3100.

Water Of Life MCC Celebrates 35th Anniversary

TUCSON - Water of Life Metropolitan Community Church (WOL-MCC) will be celebrating its 35th Anniversary, Saturday Dec. 10, at the Hidden Valley Inn.

Community members are invited to join the buffet dinner and celebration which will begin at 5 p.m. WOL-MCC has been active in a variety of community events and activities during the past 35 years, most recently in the Habitat for Humanity Rainbow Build project.

Tickets for the event are \$35, per person and can be purchased by calling Beth Russler, publicity chair at the church (520) 292-9151. For more information, call the church or go online to wolmcc.org.

Senior Pride Holiday Potluck Dec. 9

TUCSON - Senior Pride, Wingspan's Social group for LGBT people age 55+ and their Allies of any age is holding their holiday potluck, Friday, Dec. 9, 5:30 - 8 p.m.

Senior Pride's potluck, in addition to the food and fun times, will also include a "White Elephant" gift exchange. If you have an item that you would like to pass on, wrap it up and bring it along. If you bring a gift you may take a gift.

For more information, contact Pat Woelke, (520) 743-3289, pwoelke@wingspan.org.

AGRA Rodeo Seeks Volunteers

PHOENIX - Volunteers are needed for January's gay rodeo! Join us in supporting the Arizona Gay Rodeo Association (which helps fund TIHAN's programs) by helping with the annual Road Runner Regional Rodeo January 13-15, 2006, at its brand new location at the new Rawhide Wild West Town on the Gila River Indian Community located outside of Chandler on the way into Phoenix. (Yes, the rodeo is closer to US this year!)

To sign up to volunteer for a few hours at the rodeo, <http://www.agravolunteers.org/> Be sure to put "TIHAN" under group name so that they get credit for your volunteer efforts!

Volunteer opportunities include ticket taking, ticket sales, volunteer check-in booth, security, parking, runner, relief, and AGRA booth. There are morning, mid-morning, afternoon, and late afternoon shifts available.

The new rodeo grounds are on the site of the new Rawhide, which is less than two miles off I-10. From Tucson, take I-10 west to Wild Horse Pass Boulevard exit. Follow the signs to Wild Horse Pass Casino and look for Rawhide on the right hand side of 40th Street.

For more information, call Scott Blades at 299-6647 or AGRA at (602) 265-0618.

With its beginnings in Reno in 1976, the gay rodeo movement has grown substantially, and raises thousands of dollars for charity each year. The Arizona rodeo is among the longest-running and best-attended on the International Gay Rodeo Association circuit.

All the profits raised from the rodeo is distributed to charities, and TIHAN has been the recipient of over \$10,000 from AGRA.

Susan Artemis CD Release Party

TUCSON - This Sunday, December 11, from 4:00 to 6:00pm, Colors Food and Spirits (5305 E. Speedway, near Craycroft) will host a CD release party for popular local performer Susan Artemis' new jazz CD, *Something to Live For*.

The new CD, as well as Susan's first CD, *Small Day Tomorrow*, will be on sale for \$15.00 each. They make great holiday presents, and when you buy them you will also be giving a gift to TIHAN, as Susan has agreed to donate \$2.00 from the sale of each CD to us! Colors will provide free hors d'oeuvres (and is donating 5% of beverage sales during this party), and live music will be provided by the Susan Artemis quartet. For more information, call Colors at 323-1840.

Local LGBT Students Find Support

TUCSON - Student interest in starting a Gay-Straight Alliance at Tucson's Doolen Middle School is the latest sign that support is growing here for Gay teens, reported the Tucson Citizen.

Despite daily complaints of harassment and sometimes physical abuse in schools, teens and others in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered community see more efforts under way to deal with issues they, their friends and families face.

Wingspan, University of Arizona's Pride Alliance and other organizations offer support groups and classes so educators, families and the teens can get the information they need to deal with budding sexuality.

In 1998, Tucson had two Gay-Straight Alliances. Now there are 25. The extracurricular clubs are for Gay teens and their straight allies. Last year, students at Apollo Middle School in Sunnyside Unified School District started to create an alliance, but then they moved on to high school.

This year, students at the Tucson Unified School District's Doolen, at Grant and Country Club roads, have asked about starting an alliance, said Lisa Rodrigue, an eighth-grade language teacher there. She's ready to be a faculty adviser if Doolen students decide to go ahead, she said. "It's not something adults do for kids; it's something kids do for themselves," Rodrigue said.

Amanda Haywood, 15, is president of the alliance at Canyon del Oro High School, where she is a sophomore. She came out as Bisexual at age 11, she said. She appreciates the array of support available to the teens in the Old Pueblo. "Just knowing it's there makes us feel safer," she said.

"Big money" lawsuits in the mid-1990s - not in Arizona - started a national trend toward inclusion and acceptance of the teens in schools, said Alan L. Storm, a clinical psychologist and assistant superintendent of the Sunnyside district who founded a local chapter of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network.

The 1984 Equal Access Act requires schools to offer equal access and treatment to students in any extracurricular club, including clubs for LGBT students, Storm said. The network helps ensure equal treatment by supporting the alliances and training school administrators and counselors, he said. But the trend toward acceptance didn't happen just because of lawsuits, Storm said. "It's happened because of parents who said, 'I'm going to protect my kids.'"



How can I help?

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Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation



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EDITORIAL

End The Ban So That All Can Help



Albert Soto

Albert Soto, artist, actor, community activist with LULAC and serving on the Board of Wingspan died on Thanksgiving Day. Our community could count on Albert to always help out and will miss him tremendously.

Soto had one request, when he passed that his organs be used to help others in need of transplants, which in Arizona, totals 1,134 (as of August) - in need of kidney, lung, pancreas, liver or heart.

All he wanted to do was help but Soto was denied, because he was Gay.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention policy excludes Gay men from donating blood, organs and tissues to supposedly prevent any possibility that HIV,

hepatitis B and other bloodborne diseases may infect organ recipients.

With technological advances, organs, blood and tissue can - and should - be tested routinely for safety and those organs, as well as blood and blood products that clear the tests should be retained for transplants and use to help those in need.

The Observer strongly endorses every effort to ensure that blood and organ donations are made without risks to the recipient.

Health concerns should include a full-fledged effort to save as many lives as possible. Under this policy, that effort is not being made adequately and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, as well as the CDC should revisit, review and revamp the policy for organ donations as well as donating blood and blood products and let other donor's, like Albert Soto, have their last wish granted - to save someone's life.

Arizona's Catholic Bishops Embrace Doctrine

TUCSON - The Catholic Diocese Bishop's for Phoenix and Tucson announced their praise of the doctrine issued by Pope Benedict XVI, concerning Gay men and the priesthood.

Roman Catholic Diocese of Tucson Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas on Tuesday (Nov. 29) praised a Vatican document that bars Gay men with "deep-seated homosexual tendencies" from entering the priesthood as a succinct summary of church teaching on

homosexuality.

But he added that it's unclear whether timing of the document was a response to the increasingly high-profile debate over Gay rights, or to the sexual-abuse crisis of priests abusing children in the United States, or a response to something else. The document applies to Catholics worldwide, not just those in the United States. "It's worded very abstractly. But this is a significant issue today in the culture and in some ways it's time for the church to articulate its position," said Kicanas in an interview.

Kicanas said there is not an "easy yes or no" answer to the question of whether the document says all Gay men are barred from becoming priests. He said the ultimate decision lies with the bishop of each diocese, but that seminaries and the seminarian himself play a role. "I think it's a helpful document in the sense that it summarizes the wisdom of the church and captures the practice of seminaries for the past 20 years. Prior to 20 years ago, sexual history and behavior were not asked of candidates entering the priesthood," Kicanas said. "This is a lifelong commitment similar to marriage and requires careful discernment."

He said the criteria are intended to ensure that a seminarian can live a celibate, chaste life. He stressed that a Gay person is a child of God and to be treated with respect, but homosexual acts are not permitted because in the Roman Catholic Church any act outside of marriage is not permitted. "Acting out on homosexuality is not acceptable and we understand that to be unnatural to natural law, to the way God has created human beings," Kicanas said. He noted that a person's sexual orientation is not the sole definition of someone's character, though a priest must be comfortable with church teaching on homosexuality, and he should not be advocating "Gay culture."

changes to the way it chooses priest candidates because its practices already are in line with a Vatican document banning Gay men from seminaries, the diocese's vocations director said Tuesday (Nov. 29). "The bishop is not going to ask me to change anything," said the Rev. Don Kline, vocations director for six years for the diocese.

Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted, in a brief written statement, said he "welcomed" the document, which the Vatican released Tuesday (Nov. 29). It rejects candidates who are "actively homosexual, have deep-seated homosexual tendencies or support the so-called Gay culture."

The Phoenix Diocese will make no

the LAW OFFICE of Carol L. Lohmann, P.C.

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Smoking Rates Soar Among Arizona's LGBT Community

PHOENIX - Glenn Fournie has tried to quit smoking at least five times.

Each time he's smoke-free for a couple of years and then, if he could have just one, and it's back to buying a carton, "Every time I've quit, I've quit for good," said the Tucson business development specialist, reported the Arizona Republic. But it's for real this time, he said, after joining a Gay smoking-cessation group in Tucson. He said he feels the group will be more supportive in a comfortable setting.

It's men and women like Fournie that the Arizona Department of Health Services wants to study to find the best way to help the state's Gay and Lesbian community stop smoking. About 31 to 38 percent of Arizona's Gay and Lesbian population smoke, according to the Health Department, compared with 21 percent of U.S. adults. Nationwide, about 41 to 45 percent of the Gay and Lesbian population smoke.

Dilia Loe, an Arizona Department of Health Services senior program coordinator, said the intent of the study is to find the best way to reach the Gay community with anti-smoking and smoking-cessation programs. "Gays and Lesbians are at higher risk for addictions," she said.

She said a main reason is social oppression, that many Gay men and Lesbians ostracized from their families get support from friends in the community, who tend to congregate at bars where they, and smoking, are welcome. She also said the demographic is very brand loyal and is targeted by tobacco companies.

"It became pretty apparent that there wasn't a lot of health information on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people," said

Kent Burbank, executive director of Wing-span who is conducting the study. "There's a real need to have information on a statewide level."

The \$65,000 study, which will run until June, will evaluate at least 10 focus groups in Pima and Maricopa counties and, like all state tobacco programs, will be funded by a tobacco tax.

"Quitting smoking is a really personal thing," said Jessica Pettitt, 31, an Arizona State University student success coordinator who is Gay and recently quit smoking. Pettitt said she started at age 16 and at one point smoked up to three packs a day. "I thought it would take me a long time to start smoking, but it took one cigarette," she said.

Burbank said it is in the state's best interest to look at health issues concerning any community. If any community in the population has higher risks, he adds, they can be a greater burden on health care and the state. "The whole idea is we need to know that information in order to craft information and preventative programs," he said.

Fred McConnell, an R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. spokesman, said his company does not single out any ethnic or minority group for marketing purposes.

Loe said Gay men or Lesbians who smoke; have smoked; have a chronic disease; have had a chronic disease or risk factors for a chronic disease; and those who would like to participate in the study can call (602) 364-0824 or (520) 624-1779.

Supreme Court Hears First G/L Military Case

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Supreme Court heard arguments on Tuesday (Dec. 6) in the first case involving Gays since John Roberts became Chief Justice.

The case is Rumsfeld v. Forum for Academic & Institutional Rights focuses on whether universities have the right to ban military recruiters from their campuses.

A number of universities banned the recruiters because "don't ask, don't tell" - the military's ban on Gays serving openly - violates the schools' human rights codes.

Under a law called the Solomon Amendment, schools receiving federal funds are prohibited from denying the military entry to campuses, access to students on campus and access to student recruiting information.

Twenty-four law schools that banned military recruiters went to court to fight the law. Last year the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled 2-1 that the Solomon Amendment infringes on the free speech rights of schools.

"The Solomon Amendment requires law schools to express a message that is incompatible with their educational objectives, and no compelling governmental interest has been shown to deny this freedom," the court said in a written ruling.

The Bush Administration appealed the ruling to the US Supreme Court.

Without waiting for the court to hear the case the Pentagon in September suspended funding to three universities which barred military recruiters.

A day later Harvard Law School said it would no longer ban military recruiters from its campus after it was threatened by the Pentagon.

In a rare move the Supreme Court,

released audio tapes of the arguments after the proceeding. TV cameras are not permitted in the court, and it has only released audio tapes in a handful of cases. Chief Justice John Roberts released tapes in a case involving abortion rights.

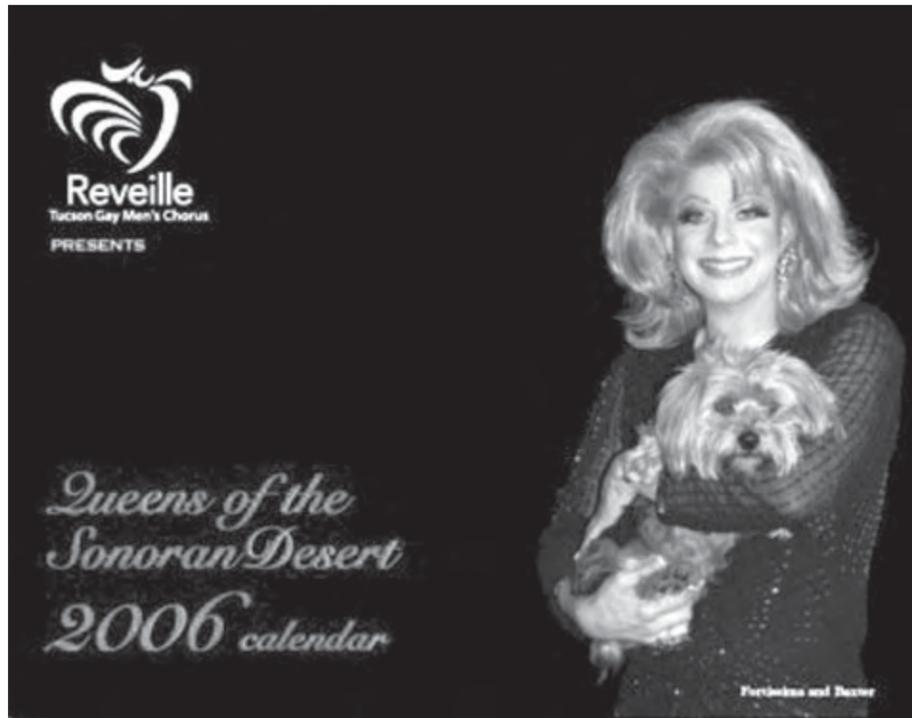
Log Cabin Seeks Investigation Of Drag Show

ST. LOUIS - The Gay political organization Log Cabin Republicans is asking for an investigation of a drag show at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, reported the Associated Press on Advocate.com.

The president of the Log Cabin Republicans of Greater St. Louis, Charles Stadtlander, said he attended the Oct. 14 drag show. He raised concerns that the show mocked heterosexual audience members and that performers wore revealing outfits, used inappropriate language, and simulated sex acts. He said university officials should not have allowed the event and raised concerns that tax dollars had been involved.

University spokesman Bob Samples said Stadtlander's complaint was the only one received about the event. Taxpayer money was not used to fund the event, and proper procedures were followed, he said. Samples said the matter was a First Amendment issue. He said campuses host hundreds of events annually that not everyone finds them to be appropriate. The drag event, the second such annual show, was sponsored by several groups, including PRIZM, an organization for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender students.

Get Ready For Those Fabulous Queens Of The Sonoran Desert



TUCSON - It's finally here, one of the most exciting fundraising projects Reveille has ever undertaken.

The only one of its kind, Queens of the Sonoran Desert is a fundraising calendar that features 13 of Tucson's most gorgeous and voluptuous female illusionists. Among the glamorous ladies gracing the months of 2006 are Ajia Simone, Lucinda Holiday, Bunny Fu Fu, Tori Steele, Veronica Chase, Kimi San-Dumi, newcomer Azul and many more (not to mention our very own cover girl Fortissima Piano).

Calendars are now available for sale for \$15 and can be purchased from any Reveille member or on the website, reveillegmc.com. Don't be the last one on your block to have a copy of the Queens of the Sonoran Desert Calendar!



Miss April Bunny FuFu



Miss January Lucinda Holliday

TV Commercials Press Transgender Rights

TRENTON - A Gay and Lesbian rights group has bought airtime for a 30-second television ad to back legislation that would expand state anti-discrimination law to include Transgender people.

Titled "Carol," Garden State Equality's spot features Carol Barlow, a Clifton woman who claims to have been cold-shouldered by 1,000 potential employers because she is Transgender.

"Transgender people are being treated like dirt and it's disgraceful," said Steven Goldstein, the group's chairman. "The passage of this legislation would rank right up there with legalizing marriage of Gay couples as one of the top two priorities of New Jersey's Gay and Lesbian community."

The legislation is currently before the Judiciary committees of both the Assembly and Senate.

The ad will air 21 times on News 12 New Jersey between Dec. 5 and Dec. 11, most heavily during commercial breaks of its "Power and Politics" program.

Garden State Equality's legal adviser, Leslie Ann Farber, 49, was born a male but started living as a female more than a year ago. "I've lost a few clients since I've become a woman," Farber said. "Doors get closed in people's faces, so this bill is crucial."

Current state anti-discrimination law includes only sexual orientation or affection, not gender identity.

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UPDATE

Pope Slams Gays, Condoms In AIDS Day Message

VATICAN CITY - Pope Benedict XVI used his AIDS Day message to remind Catholics that the Church opposes the use of condoms and to suggest that Gays are responsible, at least in part, for the growing AIDS crisis, 365Gay.com reported.

adding that he was encouraged efforts by the Church to combat the disease Of the 40 million people living with HIV/AIDS worldwide, 95 percent are in the developing world. Less than 10 percent of those living with the virus have access to life-prolonging anti-retroviral treatment. The Pope called the figures "alarming" and reminded pilgrims on the Square of the church's commitment to the care of the sick. "I feel close to those sick from AIDS and their families, and I invoke for them the help and comfort of the Lord," the Pope said in Italian.

In a message issued by the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Health Pastoral Care, the Vatican blamed what it called a "pansexual culture that devalues sexuality" for the spread of AIDS. The message said that only by keeping sex exclusive to marriage can the disease be prevented.

The papal pronouncement on condoms, Gays and marriage came a day after the Church released its new regulations for seminaries that bans Gays from becoming priests.

Nevertheless, in his weekly public audience in St. Peter's Square, the Pope said that he felt close to people with HIV/AIDS,

Mayor Pulls Support For Anti-G/L Democrat

SAN FRANCISCO - Democratic state representative Harold Ford Jr. didn't think twice about voting for a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage in his home state of Tennessee. But now that he is trying to raise money for a 2006 run for the U.S. Senate, that vote appears to be costing him much-needed support outside the state, reported Advocate.com. A Dec. 3 fund-raiser for Ford in San Francisco was postponed after San Francisco mayor Gavin Newsom backed out as a cochair of the event, citing Ford's support for the marriage ban.



Harold Ford Jr.

Newsom, who made headlines for conducting same-sex marriages at San Francisco City Hall in 2004, reportedly urged Ford to cancel the event after he learned that Ford had voted for the state constitutional amendment. Ford was one of 36 house Democrats to vote for the amendment, which gained a majority but failed to win the two-thirds majority necessary to pass. "It came to my attention that there were a few people in San Francisco concerned about my opposition to Gay marriages," Ford told the Memphis-based Commercial Appeal newspaper. "Out of concern for local politicians, we decided to push the event back to mid January."

honorary co-chairman of the event, as were former San Francisco mayor Willie Brown and District Attorney Kamala Harris. Ford said he doubts his vote will hamper his fund-raising in more liberal states. "I haven't, to date, had any problem raising money in red states or blue states," he told the Appeal. Ford has raised about \$3 million for his Senate race, with a stated goal of \$12 million.

The fund-raiser is one of dozens Ford has been holding around the country for his U.S. Senate bid. Newsom was billed as an



San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom and Two Newlyweds



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GLAAD EYE ON THE MEDIA:

GLAAD Calls On Media To Scrutinize Vatican Document Barring Gay Seminarians

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) is calling on the nation's media to carefully examine the implications of a Vatican "instruction" that seeks to bar Gay men from becoming seminarians and priests. GLAAD also is calling on the media to examine the simultaneous attack on Gay and Lesbian lives in a Nov. 29 article explaining the instruction in the Vatican newspaper "L'Osservatore Romano." The article by Monsignor Tony Anatrella, reported on by Reuters and other outlets, claimed that Gay identity and relationships do not "represent a social value and even less so a moral virtue that could add to the civilization of sexuality," adding that they could "be seen as a destabilizing reality for people and for society."

Anatrella also claimed that Gay identity and relationships "cannot be encouraged or even less so, supported with pastoral initiatives," and that being Gay is "a sexual tendency and not an identity" and "an incomplete and immature part of human sexuality." On Nov 29, the Vatican's Congregation for Catholic Education published "Instruction Concerning The Criteria Of Vocational Discernment Regarding Persons With Homosexual Tendencies In View Of Their Admission To Seminaries And Holy Orders." The document, which was leaked on Nov. 22 by an Italian Catholic news Web site called Adista, says that the Catholic Church "cannot admit to seminary or holy orders those who are actively homosexual, have deep-seated homosexual tendencies, or support the so-called Gay culture."

"This is a situation with tremendous potential for inaccurate and even defamatory

coverage," said GLAAD President Neil Giuliano. "And while coverage to date has been generally good, there have been incidents where media have presented without basic scrutiny the Vatican's latest attempt to scapegoat honorable Gay priests for the abuse crisis in the Catholic Church."

GLAAD is urging media to carefully examine the language of the Vatican instruction and Anatrella's attacks. Among the claims and passages warranting scrutiny and criticism: the instruction's suggestion that Gay men cannot "relate properly with men and women" and that being Gay is "objectively disordered," and Anatrella's numerous inaccurate, defamatory characterizations of Gay lives — long-discredited notions that stand in stark contrast to the basic psychological and sociological facts about sexual orientation, Gay people and their relationships. Also warranting scrutiny is the Vatican instruction's vague, peculiar language surrounding what it calls "homosexual tendencies" and its dictate that seminarians may not support "Gay culture."

"It's important that media look closely and with skepticism at the assumptions underlying this policy, which continues a history of denigrating Gay life, Gay identity and the vast, honorable majority of Gay priests," said GLAAD Director of National News Cindi Creager. "While the fact that some Catholic leaders are still waging a campaign to scapegoat innocent Gay priests is newsworthy, media outlets should neither present nor permit others to present these baseless attacks without vigorous questioning and scrutiny."

In addition, GLAAD is encouraging reporters to seek out and present both credible psychological experts and voices from faith

communities who can focus attention on the manifest irrationality and prejudicial intent of the Vatican's proposal. One faith community voice, Francis DeBernardo of New Ways Ministry, was quoted in the Nov. 23 "New York Times": "It seems that its intent is really to keep homosexuality quiet, to silence Gay priests and Gay seminarians." The "Times" added that, "Such secrecy, [DeBernardo] said, will make it even harder to find candidates who are well adjusted and sexually mature."

Others, including DignityUSA, Voice of the Faithful, Call to Action and the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP),

have condemned the Vatican's policy as well. DignityUSA Executive Director Debra Weill said in a Nov. 23 statement, "Catholic seminaries should be looking at the sexual maturity of the seminarian, not the sexual orientation — and should apply the same criteria to everyone regardless of perceived sexual orientation."

In a media release published Nov. 22, SNAP Midwest spokeswoman Mary Grant said, "This move will have little or no impact on preventing future abuse. It serves only as a distraction from the substantive issues and causes of widespread clergy child sex abuse and episcopal cover ups."

Gay Man's Killer Free After Two Years

VANCOUVER - After serving just two years in jail, a Vancouver, Canada, man who beat a Gay man to death was released on Wednesday (Nov. 30). The judge is urging the dead man's family to forgive the killer, The Canadian Press reported on Advocate.com.

Judge Valmond Romilly of the provincial youth court said the 21-year-old man—whose name was not released because he was a minor at the time of incarceration—needs help as he enters adulthood, the Press reported. The man's release is mandatory and allows him to serve the last third of his sentence in the community. He was convicted of manslaughter in the 2001 death of 41-year-old Aaron Webster, who was killed in a park. "The sole preoccupation at this stage should be to help the youth, who committed a terrible offense while still a youth," Romilly said.

Fred Norman, Webster's cousin, told reporters that "two years isn't long enough. It's

gone way too fast. In this young man's case it should be a little bit longer sentence for a human life." While in jail the man completed all educational programs and counseling programs. He has been given a 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew and must stay away from alcohol and weapons, including golf clubs and baseball bats. He also must attend school on a regular basis, the Press reported.

Norman doesn't believe the offender has been rehabilitated, adding, however, "This is something he's going to have to live with for the rest of his life. He put his family through hell."



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World AIDS Days Marked With Marches, Education, Campaigns

NEW YORK - Schoolchildren in Senegal pledged to abstain from sex and Indian village women cast off a veil of shame about their HIV status as World AIDS Day was marked around the globe Thursday (Dec. 1), reported the Associated Press on Advocate.com.

disease need to follow suit." An estimated 5.1 million people are living with HIV in India—the most in any single country except South Africa. Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, is third.

About 40 million people worldwide are now infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Some 3 million of them are expected to die of AIDS this year. Africa, with only 10% of the world's population, suffers over half of its HIV infections.

From the far reaches of the globe, solidarity was shown with the world's AIDS sufferers. Thousands of candles were lit to illuminate the Swedish winter gloom, with AIDS vigils planned for the capital, Stockholm, and a southern city, Malmö. The British government marked World AIDS Day by contributing \$48 million to the global fight against the disease. Estonia's National Institute for Health Development campaigned Thursday for increased tolerance and better integration of HIV-infected persons into Estonian society. With over 5,000 diagnosed cases, Estonia—a tiny nation with 1.4 million inhabitants—has one of the highest HIV infection rates in Europe, being spread in the country mainly through drug use.

Heavily Muslim Senegal is a relative bright spot on the continent, with only about 1% of the population infected. Thursday, dozens of children packed into a schoolhouse in the central Senegal town of Fatick to learn more about the disease. "Our teacher told us that AIDS is a very dangerous disease," said 13-year-old Aissatou Niang, wearing a green head scarf. "Only abstinence can save us," she said as her schoolmates giggled nearby.

World religious leaders also added their voices to calls for renewed commitment to fight the disease. In a statement, Archbishop Christodoulos, head of the Orthodox Church of Greece, said AIDS sufferers "should not lose their faith in God but see this major trial as a spiritual opportunity."

"I've decided to wait until I'm 19 to have a relationship," said Awa Sarr. "When I go back home I'll tell my brothers and sisters about AIDS; that's why we're here."

Such frank talk among African children is likely to cheer AIDS activists, who say science can help treat those with HIV but that ignorance or taboos surrounding its transmission and symptoms means AIDS is hard to halt—and treat. "We want to say to people that HIV/AIDS is not a death sentence—there is treatment, there is life after HIV," Karen Stewart, with the aid group Medecins Sans Frontieres, said at a rally in Lagos, Nigeria.

World AIDS Day, meant to boost awareness of the disease, didn't grab everyone's attention. The day's events were canceled by royal decree Thursday in Swaziland, among the hardest-hit countries and Africa's last absolute monarchy, because they clashed with a traditional ceremony scheduled for the same day. The announcement shocked activists in a country of 1 million where more than 38% of adults are infected with HIV—the highest infection rate in the world.

In India, some 70 HIV-infected women stepped out of the shadows during a rally in Golaghat, a town in the eastern state of Assam, to acknowledge that they are living with the disease and should not be shunned. "I'm happy many women have paid heed to our call and have openly admitted to their HIV-positive status," said Jahnabi Goswami, 28. "Men with the

Only a few dozen joined a procession in Nigeria's biggest city, Lagos. "Since I believe I don't have it, I don't see why I should march," said Mufu Adebajo, a 22-year-old craftsman watching from his roadside stand. "Otherwise, people will think I have it."

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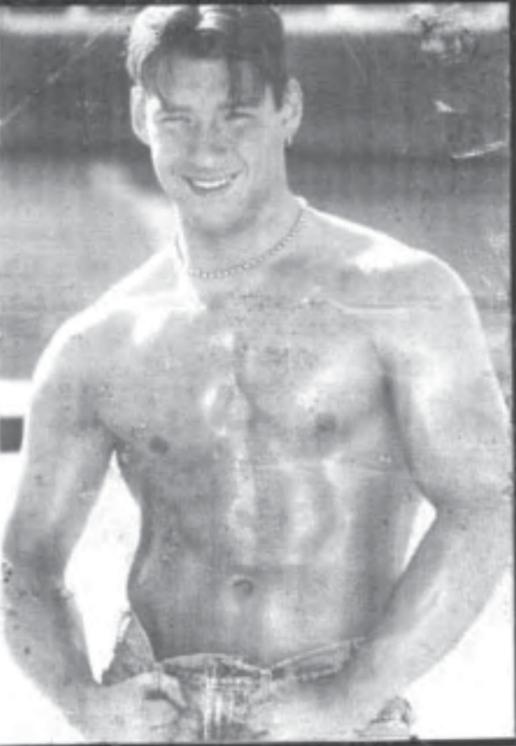
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In Their Own Words



"A picture is worth a thousand words," but this picture left us speechless. From Newsweek (which didn't publish the picture, Nov. 30), and the Rachel Maddow Show on Air America, "it's the sign the world is coming to an end."

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LGBT Activists Give Feds Poor Grades On HIV/AIDS Response

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The US government received poor grades in its response to HIV/AIDS Thursday (Dec. 1) in a report card released by the nation's largest LGBT civil rights organization, reported 365Gay.com.

The Human Rights Campaign's second annual World AIDS Day report card rated the government in four key areas: prevention, care and treatment, research, and global AIDS. "These grades are not simply letters in the alphabet; they are emblems of our government's failure to respond to one of the most devastating national and global health crises in history," said Joe Solmonese, HRC president.

"Every hour, two young Americans become infected with HIV and the government's irresponsible response is to cut funding and abandon science. The Bush administration and Congressional leadership's response to this disease has been abysmal."

In prevention the government received an F. "As AIDS ravages minority communities, government programs are failing to adequately respond to the epidemic among vulnerable populations," the report card said.

"The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that approximately 46 percent of African-American men who have sex with men in five major U.S. cities are HIV positive and almost two-thirds of those infected do not know their status. Infections among Gay and Bisexual men rose eight percent and still comprise the largest percentage of new HIV cases."

Under care and treatment the government also scored an F. "This year has seen significant cuts to federal HIV/AIDS treatment and care programs. After consistently flat-funding most of the Ryan White CARE Act for

five years and passing billions of dollars in cuts to Medicaid, a CDC study determined that 211,000 Americans are not receiving antiretroviral treatments they need," the report card noted.

The government also scored a D in the area of research. "The most recent version of the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill contained a less than 1 percent increase to the National Institute of Health, the smallest percentage increase since 1970.

Washington did slightly better in its global response to AIDS, receiving a C. The report noted that it was the highest mark it gave this year, the result of the Assistance for Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Developing Countries.

But, the report notes that "this year the U.S. will not fully meet its funding commitment to the Global Fund and the U.S. government has mandated that at least one-third of contributions to international programs must be devoted to abstinence-only programs that are seriously flawed and leave little control to local experts."

"We need a coordinated and comprehensive approach to fight HIV and AIDS," said Solmonese. "Many leaders have courageously and diligently championed HIV/AIDS issues and this report card does nothing to take away from the good work they are doing. This assessment reminds us all that much critical work remains to be done."

Solmonese said that America cannot idly sit by and watch as treatment goes under-funded, prevention efforts deny people at risk the unvarnished truth about how protect themselves. "Ideology should never drive our response to HIV and AIDS," he said.

AIDS Expert Reports HIV Vaccine Progress

ANNAPOLIS - A scientist who helped to discover HIV said he has made progress toward producing an HIV vaccine and hopes to launch a clinical trial in about a year, Reuters reported on Advocate.com. Robert Gallo, the director of the University of Maryland's Institute for Human Virology, said results from animal studies are encouraging. "I think we've made some advances in making antibodies that will react with the variety of strains of HIV," he said.

Scientists believe a vaccine is the best hope for ending the global AIDS pandemic, which has killed about 3.1 million people this year. But defeating the virus has proved more difficult than researchers had expected.

Gallo, in Israel to accept an award from Bar-Ilan University in advance of World AIDS Day on Thursday (Dec. 1), said it was still too early to say when a vaccine could be produced for humans. Researchers believe an effective HIV vaccine is still many years away. "We have had some interesting results in the monkeys that show we can make an immune response," Gallo said, noting potential progress on overcoming the problem of mutation of the virus. But the antibodies produced in his experiments lasted only up to four months, which is far less than needed for an effective vaccine.

"We are making progress with a preventive vaccine, but we are not there yet," added Gallo, who discovered HIV with France's Luc Montagnier.

Europe's biggest drugmaker, GlaxoSmithKline, announced a plan to develop an experimental HIV vaccine along with France's Institut Pasteur. They intend to make the vaccine by fusing genes from HIV onto an existing vaccine for measles. More than 30 HIV



Robert Gallo

vaccine trials in humans are ongoing, but no one can predict if any will be effective against the virus that has infected nearly 5 million people in 2005.

Antiretroviral drugs have prolonged lives of HIV-positive people, but public-health experts say preventing the spread of virus, by using condoms, abstinence, and needle exchange programs, is also essential for halting the epidemic. The number of people living with HIV hit a record high of 40.3 million this year, according to the latest figures from the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and the World Health Organization.



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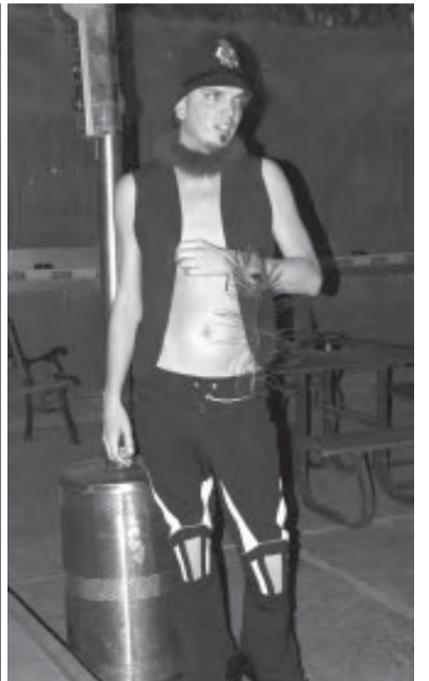
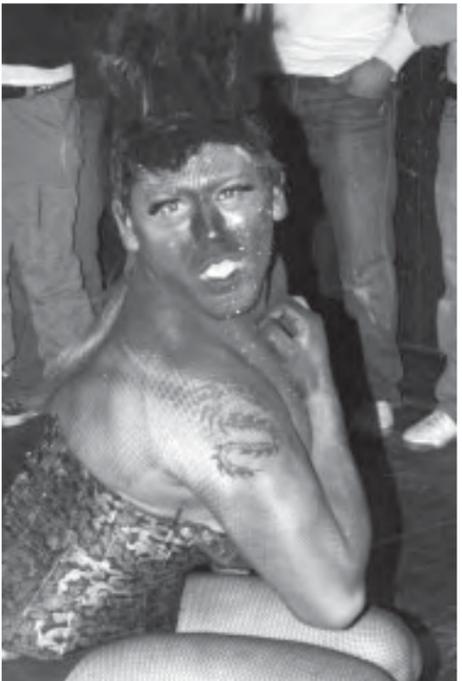
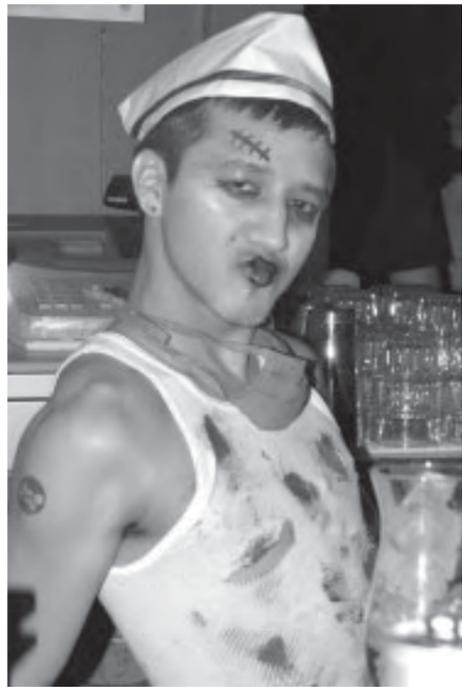
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POLITICS 2005

by Mark R. Kerr

Blurred Sight

"I'm looking forward to further detailing my vision for Arizona. I have much to say about the issues that confront us as people, including issues I have not addressed for the past decade because they are outside the mission of a pro-family organization with a clearly defined public policy agenda." - Lynden Munsil, Thursday, (Dec. 1), from the Family Facts Arizona newsletter which the quote was deleted by Monday, (Dec. 5).

Arizonans, straight, Gay, those living with HIV/AIDS, young and old can now look forward to the myopic, misrepresenting pronouncements from the "boy blunder" from Munsil on the campaign trail, as a candidate for the Republican nomination for Governor in 2006!

As usual the Arizona corporate hack media (CHM) is not reporting the fact on this, to the surprise of no one. They have Lynden "exploring a possible candidacy for the Republican nomination for Governor," and that Munsil will resign as president of the Center for Arizona Policy (CAP), "in order to explore his possible candidacy," a person familiar with Munsil's decision who spoke "on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity involved with Munsil's departure from the group."

Munsil had declined to comment on this announcement, the CHM reported, although in the (Dec. 1) press release that Munsil sent to the Arizona media, (which The Observer received), he wrote that his resignation is effective "at the end of this year," leading one to think it is Saturday (Dec. 31). Also, both versions of the Family Facts Arizona newsletter, lead with the following, "I'm Leaving CAP and Plan to Run for Governor!"

Lynden, referred to by the CHM as a "social conservative activist and attorney," said in his press release announcing the formation of his political committee, "Although it is not required by law, I believe it is in the best interests of The Center for Arizona Policy for me to refrain from publicly commenting further on the Governor's race until I have left the Center and become an official candidate."

This is another Munsil misnomer since 501©3 nonprofit organizations can't comment, take sides or be involved in political campaigns, which is a violation of both federal and state law and is why the newsletter was "edited." CAP paying CASH, as in TAXES?! Heaven forbid!

Lynden, in his press release said that an "exploratory committee" is formed "to consider running for Governor of Arizona," which the legal paperwork was filed (Dec. 1) with the Arizona Secretary of State's office to set this up but it fails to mention anything about the Web site, lenmunsil.com, that is set up, and that Munsil is collecting "seed money" contributions, (\$120-\$240), since he is running under Arizona's Clean Elections system, despite not having filed with the Clean Elections Commission as of press time (Tuesday, Dec. 6).

Is this really a surprise from Lynden, since this column and publication have reported all the numerous, contrary and misleading public statements from Munsil and CAP on the proposed, Protect Marriage Arizona amendment (PMAA) to the state constitution, as well as Arizona's biased, "liberal" CHM? . . .

With the announcement that Congressman Jim Kolbe will not be seeking a twelfth term, all eyes have turned to Arizona's Congressional District 8 (CD-8) and who will seek the now-open seat in a politically competitive district.

State Senator Gabrielle Giffords, D-

Tucson, was first out the gate when she resigned her seat to run for the CD-8 Democratic nomination. With Giffords resignation, the Pima County Board of Supervisors will appoint a Democrat to serve the remaining year on the term. On the Republican side, former state Representative Randy Graf of Green Valley is running again, frankly he hadn't stopped campaigning since his 2004 defeat in the GOP primary.

Expect many more resignations, political office shuffling, candidate announcements and premature withdrawals with this race for office for the foreseeable future, since the jockeying has gone into high gear.

Nurses & Doctor's Assistants Offer Better HIV Care Than GPS

BOSTON - Nurse practitioners and physician assistants at HIV clinics in the United States provide a quality of care to HIV patients comparable to that offered by doctors who are HIV specialists and better than that of general practitioners, according to a study in the Annals of Internal Medicine, Reuters Health reports on Advocate.com.

Researchers examined medical records of more than 6,600 HIV patients using eight quality-of-care measures and found that nurses and physician assistants offered a quality of care similar to HIV specialists and better than general doctors. On two of the measures, nurses and physician assistants even offered better care than doctors trained as HIV specialists.

The researchers say that their findings applied only to nurses and physician assistants who specialize in treating HIV, have considerable experience with HIV patients, and have easy access to a doctor who is an HIV specialist for consultation. They also say their findings are especially relevant to rural and inner-city areas of the country, where access to HIV specialists—or even to a general practitioner—is difficult and most health care is provided by physician assistants or nurse practitioners.

Rocky Road To Marriage Equality

Continued from Page One

to the couple's home and cars after her partner's death in July.

Steven Goldstein, chairman of Garden State Equality and one of New Jersey's leading Gay activists, said he was optimistic despite the two cases.

"The Hester case proves how progressive the state is," he said. "The outrage from the entire state is unbelievable - it brings home to legislators how narrow and insufficient the domestic partnership law is."

Some other recent developments have heartened Gay activists. In Alaska - one of the first states to pass a constitutional ban on Gay marriage - the state Supreme Court ruled in October it was unconstitutional to deny benefits to same-sex partners of public employees. And the mayor of Salt Lake City, capital of conservative Utah, signed an executive order in September extending health benefits to city workers' domestic partners.

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Anti-G/L Group Dumps Bank

DENVER - Focus on the Family, the conservative Christian group based in Colorado Springs, is withdrawing funds from Wells Fargo because of its alleged involvement in pro-Gay causes, 365Gay.com reported.

"Focus on the Family has elected to end its banking relationship with Wells Fargo, motivated primarily by the bank's ongoing efforts to advance the radical homosexual agenda. These efforts are in direct opposition to the underlying principles and purpose of Focus, and thus a decision of conscience had to be made, and a stand taken," said a statement Saturday (Dec. 3) on the Focus Web site. The group did not return a call seeking comment.

The Rocky Mountain News reports that the Wells Fargo logo was used in an Internet fund-raising campaign for a "fight against the 'anti-Gay industry' - a group that pro-Gay organizations have stated includes Focus on the Family." Wells Fargo & Co. is the fifth largest U.S. bank by assets

Chris Hammond a vice president of business development for Wells Fargo, said the bank agreed to match contributions to a media campaign fund for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, but had not authorized its logo to be used for the Internet fund-raising campaign and did not approve of it. Glennnda Testone, spokeswoman for the Gay alliance, did not return a call Saturday seeking comment.

"We simply made a grant to one of many nonprofits Wells Fargo supports in the San Francisco Bay Area," Hammond said. He said he told Focus officials that the bank contributes to many charities, "including nonprofit agencies Focus on the Family believes in."

Focus replied by broadening its criticism, said the News. The group said a Gay Pride Festival event in San Francisco, called "Leather Alley," had been staged in the parking lot of a Wells Fargo branch. Focus said Wells Fargo's Web site says the bank has donated more than \$14 million to pro-Gay organizations

in the last two decades.

A bank statement on its Web site said, "We direct our giving to areas that we believe are important to the future of our nation's vitality and success: community development, education and human services." Wells Fargo is a target for Gay groups, and is one of 49 of the Top 50 Fortune 500 companies that "have adopted pro-Gay policies. Looking at the entire list, 85 percent of the Top 500 companies have done so," said Focus CEO Jim Daly.

Gay Priest Ban Even More Restrictive Than First Thought

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A Vatican letter obtained by the Washington Post shows that the Roman Catholic Church is imposing deeper restrictions on Gay priests than those made public earlier this week in a new directive for Catholic seminaries, reported 365Gay.com.

The letter instructs seminary leaders to remove any Gay priests from teaching positions. It is the first indication that the Vatican wants to remove current priests who are Gay.

The directive released earlier says only that men with "deep-seated homosexual tendencies" cannot be admitted to seminaries, and those already enrolled cannot be ordained.

The two-page letter affecting current priests was dated Nov. 4 and sent to bishops around the world but not made public. Details were first published by the Catholic News Service, and the Washington Post obtained the full text on Thursday the Post said in a story appearing in Friday's (Dec. 2) editions.

The letter says of Gay priests already ordained " are to continue to exercise their ministry, taking care to live with integrity [but] because of the particular responsibility of those charged with the formation of future priests, they are not to be appointed as rectors

or educators in seminaries."

The letter was signed by Polish Cardinal Zenon Grocholewski and Canadian Archbishop J. Michael Miller, the top officials of the Congregation for Catholic Education.

The Rev. Donald Cozzens, a Catholic author and former seminary rector told the Post that the letter is a "bombshell" because of its implications on current priests.

Other Catholic priests agree and suggest it is only a matter of time before the Vatican extends the Gay ban to all priests.

"It's an amazing statement coming as it does on the heels of so many people assuring us that this document does not relate to priests already ordained," the Rev. James Martin, a Jesuit priest in New York told the Post.

Capote, Transamerica, Mysterious Skin And Brokeback Mountain Among Independent Spirit Awards Winners

LOS ANGELES - With six nominations, Noah Baumbach's *The Squid and the Whale*, the autobiographical tale of two boys dealing with their parents' divorce, led the list of nominees for Film Independent's 2006 Independent Spirit Awards, which were announced Tuesday morning (Nov. 29). It will compete for Best Feature with *Brokeback Mountain*; *Capote*; *Good Night, and Good Luck*; and *The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada*, which all picked up four nominations each.

Selected from more than 200 submissions, winners of the Independent Spirit Awards, which recognize American independent features, made for less than \$20 million, will be presented Mar. 4 in Santa Monica, Calif.

Jeff Daniels, who plays the novelist dad in *Squid*, was nominated for Best Male Lead, along with Philip Seymour Hoffman, who portrays the title character in *Capote*; Terrence Howard, who stars as a pimp who aspires to be a rapper in *Hustle & Flow*; Heath Ledger, who's a taciturn cowboy who falls in love with another man in *Brokeback Mountain*; and David Strathairn, who embodies journalist Edward R. Murrow in *Good Night, and Good Luck*.

In the Best Female Lead category, *Squid* also earned a nomination for Laura Linney, who plays a mom who is having an affair. The category also includes Felicity Huffman, who appears as a male-to-female transsexual in *Transamerica*; Dina Korzun, in the role of a Russian woman living in Memphis in *Forty Shades of Blue*; S. Epatha Merkerson, who runs a boarding house in *Lackawanna Blues*; and Cyndi Williams, who plays a Texas

woman haunted by psychic visions in *Room*.

Nominees for Best Supporting Female are Amy Adams, *Junebug*; Maggie Gyllenhaal, *Happy Endings*; Allison Janney, *Our Very Own*; Michelle Williams, *Brokeback Mountain*; and Robin Wright Penn, *Nine Lives*. Those nominated for Best Supporting Male are Firdous Bamji, *The War Within*; Matt Dillon, *Crash*; Jesse Eisenberg, *The Squid and the Whale*; Barry Pepper, *The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada*; and Jeffrey Wright, *Broken Flowers*.

Of the Best Feature nominees, three of the films also picked up nominations for Best Director: *Brokeback's* Ang Lee, *Good Night's* George Clooney, and *Squid's* Noah Baumbach. The other two Best Director nominations went to Gregg Araki for *Mysterious Skin*, a tale of how sexual molestation shapes the lives of two boys; and Rodrigo Garcia for *Nine Lives*, a portrait of nine different women.

Nominations for Best First Feature, an award that goes to directors as well as producers, include: *Crash*, directed by Paul Haggis and produced by Cathy Schulman, Don Cheadle, Bob Yari, Mark R. Harris, Bobby Moresco, and Paul Haggis; *Lackawanna Blues*, directed by George C. Wolfe and produced by Nellie Nugiel; *Me and You and Everyone We Know*, directed by Miranda July and produced by Gina Kwon; *Thumbsucker*, directed by Mike Mills and produced by Anthony Bregman and Bob Stephenson; and *Transamerica*, directed by Duncan Tucker and produced by Rene Bastian, Sebastian Dungan, and Linda Moran.

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Even the most patient of us come to the end of our wicks when retro Mars squares retro Saturn. Our actions lead to all sorts of trouble ... and that is exactly what we want. Err, is that advisable? Storm the barricades comrades but beware of slipping on your own boiling oil.

ARIES (MAR. 21 - APR. 20)

You put the ram into rambunctious this week. No matter how hard you try to remain cool, calm and collected, the cosmos conspires to toss you feet first into a frenzied fray. Gay Rambos feel the need to fight for their ideals even to the point where it comes to blows and spills the party punch. Nothing is achieved by all this fuss. Make love not war for now, Mata Hari.

TAURUS (APR. 21 - MAY 21)

Separate your private life from your public one while Mars and Saturn square. The urge is to meet and greet and queer Bulls make impressive first impressions now. But you also have a tendency to bowl folks over with your ferocity. Why bother to try to impress those who are not worth impressing? Are you doing it for ego? Remember, you're the top ... at least on Tuesdays.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

No sooner do you think about what you want to say than you blurt it out and let the chips fall where they may. Oh dear. Pink Twins are usually quite a bit more diplomatic or at least less controversial. Mars squares Saturn and encourages you to speak from the heart no matter how much heartburn you have. My advice - Open mouth, extract foot, close mouth. Repeat.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Friends lead you into all sorts of trouble and it may cost big bucks to extricate yourself from the nasty results. Proud Crabs are often content to follow the crowd but now, as Mars squares Saturn, content yourself to watch from the sidelines. When the dust settles you will be the one who is ready, willing and able to do the mopping up.... or hire a nubile someone to do it for you.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)

Your professional course seems to be slipping and the natural reaction would be to steer into the curve. But Mars squares Saturn and you can go into a skid. Okay, so the powers-that-be have grabbed you by the tail and are now turning the vise. They think they can eat your lunch, proud Lion. Don't worry. By next week they are just another item on your menu.

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)

Escape is futile queer Virgin. Mars squares Saturn and upends all your carefully constructed travel plans. Suddenly what you thought would be relaxing and charming is far too much trouble. Attend to the ups and downs of relationships and save your exotic explorations for haunts closer to home. There are some rather interesting diversions where you least expect them.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

I am not sure how things will play out this week between your friends and lovers. Each one wants a piece of you (perhaps different pieces but let's not quibble.) Ever balanced proud Libras may tip over and spill their good humor. Remain above it all as best as you can and wait for the Mars / Saturn square to pass next week. Then you can spread yourself thin all over town.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

Your professional life is taking on a netherworld life of its own and it is infringing on your personal life. Mars squares Saturn and puts all Gay Scorps on notice: Curtail your career aspirations or risk harming your most important personal relationships. Whose going to love you when you hit rock bottom and are down and out? Not the boss... at least I don't think so.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)

How quixotic must a Gay Archer be to expect to escape from job obligations and not pay a price? Granted, you are being taken advantage of at work. No matter how hard you apply yourself, others seem to benefit over you. But leaving the scene is not the answer. Working smarter (and slower) is the answer. Just do the very basics and tread water until next week. Watch them drown.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)

Forget your hang ups and let it all hang Out! Pink Caps have a fear of letting loose and enjoying themselves but really, what is the risk? Looking silly? Getting into irreversible mischief? This doesn't seem to disturb other folks so why you. Mars and Saturn now lead you into "wilde" temptation. Will you take a taste or keep your nose pressed against the window?

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

Skirmishes with partners can reach a fevered pitch while Saturn squares Mars. There may be a few accusations lobbed back and forth. But don't give up and upend your domestic situation based on these few stressful moments. Sometimes you have to address the unspoken and thus clear the air. Take down the phony air freshener and see what stinks, Aqueerius.

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MAR. 20)

Drowning? It may seem so while Saturn squares Mars. But remember Guppie, you are pretty agile when the water rushes in over your head. Your good nature makes you the go to person who will not say no to any request. It can get to be too much. Your initial reaction may be to complain and become inert but nothing gets accomplished that way. Why not just delegate?

HRC Released Pro-LGBT Buyers Guide

Continued from Page One

that take a stand for fairness."

Hundreds of popular American brands are listed in the publication, drawing simple distinctions between products, services, and retail outlets that consumers use on a daily basis. For example, shoppers considering where to buy electronic goods can choose between Best Buy, which has a 100% score, or Circuit City, with its 43% score. For pet food, Iams's 86% tops Alpo's 29%.

Seventy percent of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender people are very or extremely likely to consider a brand that is known to provide equal workplace benefits for Gay and Lesbian employees, according to research by Witeck-Combs Communications and Harris Interactive.

"Ensuring equality for all employees on the job is good for the bottom line, and corporate America is responding in historic numbers," Solmonese said. "We are using our collective purchasing power to continue to influence change." The guide is available online at hrc.org/BuyersGuide.



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Celebrating their 20th anniversary, Ballet Tucson presents "The Nutcracker" with the Ballet Tucson Orchestra and a special appearance by the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, December 9th at 7:30, Dec. 10 at 21:00 and 7:30 p.m.; December 11 at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. at Centennial Hall at the UofA. Fortickets and other information call 621-3341

ARIZONA THEATRE COMPANY

"Hank Williams: Lost Highway" Arizona Theatre Company ATC presents a biographical musical of the country-music legend's life. 7:30 with shows through Dec. 21 at the Tempe of Music and Art, 330 S. Scott. Tickets \$31-\$48. Call 622-2823 for information on additional show times and or reservations.

BORDERLANDS THEATER

A family favorite for the 10th year! "A Tucson Pastorela" by Max Branscomb December 8 thru 18 in the Leo Rich Theater at Tucson Convention Center, 260 S. Church. Once again brave shepherds, sheep and dog take the road to Bethlehem to witness the Nativity. It is full of humor, wacky Devils, glorious Archangels, and beautiful Christmas carols in English and Spanish. \$18.75 for general admission and various discounts are available. For times, reservations or more information call the Borderlands Box Office 882-7406; TCC Box Office 791-4268 or visit www.borderlandstheater.org

LIVE THEATRE WORKSHOP

Live Theatre Workshop. 5317 E. Speedway Blvd. 327-4242. "A Perfect Ganesh", the story of two women's quests for answers in their lives, continues through Sunday, Dec. 18. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday and 3:00 p.m. Sunday. \$13 to \$15; Call 327-4242 for more information.

GASLIGHT THEATRE

Gaslight Theatre. 7010 E. Broadway Blvd. 886-9428. Sgt. Preston Saves Christmas, or Yukon Count on Me! continues through Saturday, Dec. 31. Call for specific show dates. \$15.95 adults; \$13.95 students, seniors and active military; \$6.95 children age 12 and younger. Call 886-9428 for more information.

MAGICAL MYSTERY DINNER THEATRE

Mystery Mansion Dinner Theatre. 1800 E. Fort Lowell Road. 624-0172. Murder at Magic Manor—a two-hour, interactive comedy whodunit that includes a three-course dinner; plays at 7 p.m. every Friday and Saturday. Call 624-0172 for reservations and additional information.

NOT BURNT OUT JUST UNSCREWED

Bookman's. 6230 E. Speedway Blvd. 748-9555. The comedy troupe performs improvised, PG-13-rated scenes from audience suggestions from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. the last Friday of the month. Children younger than 13 must be accompanied by an adult. Free. Call 440-4436 for more information.

ODYSSEY STORYTELLING SERIES

Hotel Congress. 311 E. Congress St. 622-8848. Six invited storytellers have 10 minutes to talk about a theme. The stories are not read or memorized; they are told from the life experiences and creativity of the teller. Takes, place the first Wednesday of each month. \$7. Call 730-4112 or visit odysseystorytelling.com to find out who is telling, what the theme is, or if you have a story to tell.

TOP HAT THEATRE CLUB

Top Hat Theatre Club. 3110 E. Fort Lowell Road. Agatha Christie's Murder at the Vicarage continues through Sunday, Dec. 18. Performance times are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday. \$17; \$15 students, seniors and active military.

Non Bar Calendar

Wednesday, December 7

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.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, December 8

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.

Saturday, December 10

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.

Monday, December 12

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

Tuesday, December 13

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. Terry

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 Terry at 577-3545.

Wednesday, December 14

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Join Jack 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 Jack at 887-3736.

Tucson Pride, Inc., Now meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 845 S. Craycroft. Call 622-3200 for more information

Thursday, December 15

#1 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.

#2 Call Lloyd at 792-8537 and reserve by Noon today for Pizza Night on the 16th. Friday, December 16 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00p.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 Robert at 400-1376. Please reserve your spot by noon on Thursday, December 15th.

Saturday, December 17

#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed: 8:30 a.m. Join Robert, Mike & Jack for a morning of Volleyball.

This is played for fun, and you'll get to know some nice guys as you play. For details and directions, please call Jack & Mike at 881-5733 or Robert at 400-1376.

#2 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 - 5:00 p.m., Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd.

Sunday, December 18

The Men's Tantric Massage Group is a great way to meet men and have clean, safe, erotic fun. Non-sexual. Call Marc in advance at 881-4582 for information and to sign up. We have been doing this group for 15 years. Small fee.

Monday, December 19

#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 Arian 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 "Family Flaw", a 2002 film billed as a "family value film with a queer twist". (after Newsletter Night). For Tucson Prime Timers Lunch 12:30 p.m. The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

Tuesday, December 20

#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. Join Karol for an evening of Dinner and a Movie;

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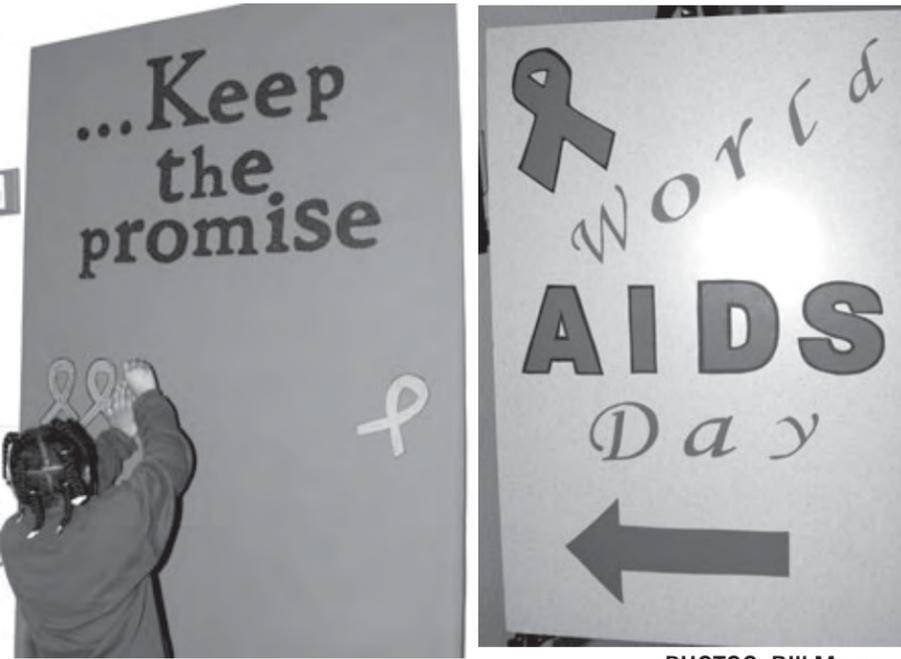
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HIV in Tucson: Accomplishments

- Free testing at many venues
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- Medications for all patients
- Sufficient targeted infrastructure for survival

The ADF is undeterred, however. The firm now has more than 20 staff attorneys and 850 volunteer attorneys who have committed to donate at least 450 hours over three years. It hopes to increase those numbers to 100 staff lawyers and 5,000 volunteer attorneys in the next decade.



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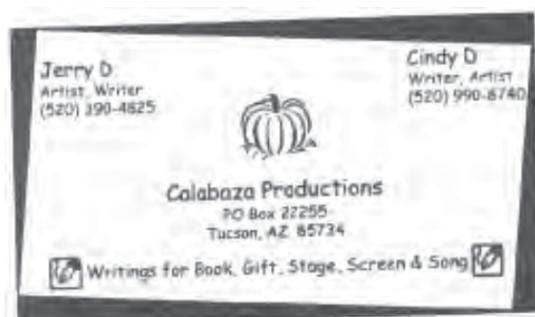
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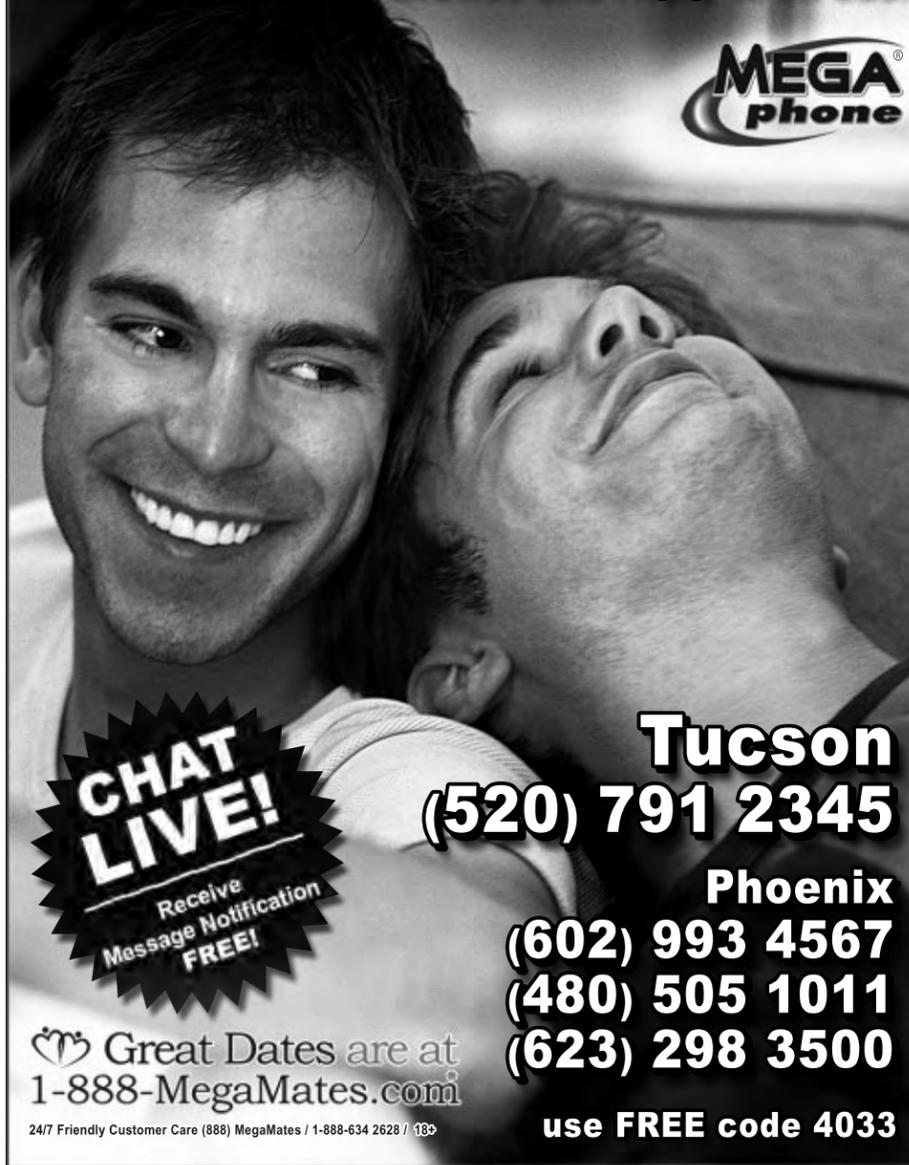
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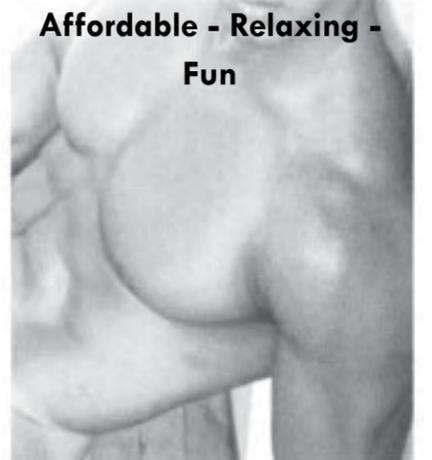
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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

sunday

COLORS - Open 11am - 11pm Champagne Brunch 11am - 2pm with choice of complimentary mimosa, Bloody Mary or Screwdriver. Happy Hour 4-7pm \$3 sky Cocktails, \$4 Sky Martinis, \$2.25 Domestic and half price appetizers. Full menu served 2-10pm. Nightly dinner specials. Live music from Bob Feldhaus during Brunch (11:30-2:30) & Dickie Steede during dinner (6:30-9:30)

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 11am. Kitchen open until 9pm. 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 \$1 2-7p. \$2.50 Sirloin Burger or Chicken w/sides 5-9pm. Karaoke with Michael D. 9pm-close. Drag Bingo every other Sunday 8-9

YARD DOG - Open 10am - 2am. Patio Bar opens at 5pm.

monday

COLORS - Closed on Mondays.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. Kitchen open 4-9pm 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 & Beefeaters 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, \$2.25 Domestic and half-price appetizers. Full menus served until 10pm.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. Tequila Tuesday: \$2.00 well margaritas, 50¢ off call tequilas. Kitchen open 4-9pm. 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, \$2.25 Domestic and half-price appetizers Full menu served 4-10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. Free Pool all day. Draught Beer Specials all day. Kitchen open 4-9pm.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, "Diva-Licious" 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, \$2.25 Domestic and half-price appetizers. Full menu served 4-10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. \$2.00 Mexican Beers all day. Kitchen open 4-9pm. 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-1am. 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.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. Line Dance Lessons 7:30 to 8:30 pm. DJ Pat plays your favorite country dance songs 8:30 to midnight then a mix of dance & country 'til close. Kitchen open 4-9 pm.

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-1am, Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$2 Skyy cocktails, \$3 Skyy Martinis, \$2.25 Domestic and half-price appetizers Full menu served 4-11pm. Nightly dinner specials. Singer, piano player Marilyn Harris performs during dinner from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Reservations suggested.

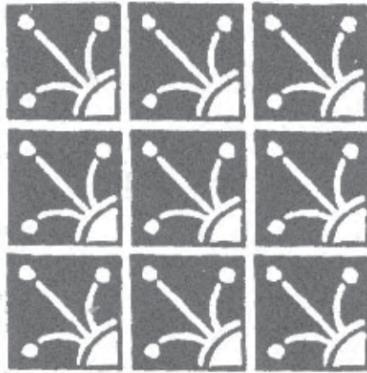
HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 11:00 am. Kitchen open til 9pm. Happy Hour 11am-8pm, \$2 Well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 small pitchers, \$5 large pitchers. \$4.00 Cheeseburger & Fries all day. DJ Johnny D playing your favorite dance & country 9pm to close.

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.



BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

WOODY'S - Fetish Nite. Got leather or a fetish. Wear it on Thursdays and party with Frank 8:00 p.m. til close, and get drink specials.

VENTURE-N - 14th Anniversary Party!!! A stroll down memory lane. Buffet and more 6:00 p.m. to closing.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

COLORS FOOD & SPIRITS - Special Guys and Dolls show tonight starring Lucinda Holliday and Special Guest Maya Montana, Miss Gay America 1998. 10:00 p.m.

IBT'S - 35th Annual 4th Avenue Street Fair begins today. Come on down and enjoy the crowds of cuties and beauties during happy hour with Tommy and later party on the patio with Mike Lopez as your DJ as Raymond spinning your favorites on the inside dance floor.

VENTURE-N - 14th anniversary party continues with a Buffet at 6:00 p.m. Then Leather Night with specials for men in gear from 9:00 p.m. to closing.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

IBT'S - Street Fair in full action today and IBT's will be open at 10:00 a.m. to start your day right. Thousands and thousands of people attend the fair and IBT's is right in the middle. Be sure to check out the special DivaLicious Show from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. hosted by Bunny FuFu. Karaoke on the Patio from 5 to 8 p.m.; Dancing on the inside and partying on the outside until 2:00 a.m.

VENTURE-N - Bucky's 'World Famous' Omelettes being served from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Celebrate!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

COLORS FOOD & SPIRITS - A CD Release Party and a Benefit for TIHAN here today from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Come celebrate the release of Susan Artemis' second Cd album "Something to Live For". It would make a great holiday gift! \$2 from each CD sold and 5% of Colors' sales will be donated to TIHAN.

IBT'S - They're opening at 10:00 a.m. for the street fair. Catch the special Street Fair "DivaLicious" Show from 3 to 6 p.m. and Karaoke on the patio from 4 to 8. There'll be a Street Fair 'Encore' Divalicious Show for us from 9:00 to 11:00 p.m. and then dancing on the inside dance floor from 11:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m. with Mike Lopez spinning your favorites.

WOODY'S - If you or your friend has a December birthday, stop on by and celebrate here with cake, balloons and champagne. It all begins at 10:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

HOWL AT THE MOON - AGRA mixer with the Phoenix chapter. More details soon.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

HOWL AT THE MOON - Holiday Drag Show - Special night of holiday cheer!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

COLORS FOOD & SPIRITS - New Year's Eve "Black and White Ball". By reservations only! Make yours now! More info later.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Ring in the New Year here! Spirits, Food, Music, Balloons, Streamers, Noise makers, the works.

WOODY'S - Plans for a major blast are going on here. A real New Year's Eve Spectacular.



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NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

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

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

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

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

P.F.L.A.G. - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays - is a support group available to anyone who has a son, daughter or friend who is Gay. Call 360-3795 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@nethere.com, P.O. Box 12176, Tucson 85792 or call 514-9894

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

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO - a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, Call the Bears Hotline (520)790-5775 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 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, 425 E. 7th St. 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 OTOberFEST. 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; Dezert Girlz (MTF Support) meets 2nd Mondays at 7pm; Dezert 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.

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

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

LIKE TO READ? The Guys' Book Club (TGBC) invites new members to join 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.



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Jaguar, Land Rover Ads Halted In LGBT Media, Ford Confirms

DETROIT - The anti-Gay American Family Association claimed a cultural victory on Thursday (Dec. 1) and called off its threatened boycott of Ford Motor Co. On Friday, Ford spokesman Mike Moran confirmed to Advocate.com that the company will stop advertising its Jaguar and Land Rover brands in Gay publications but insisted it was strictly a business decision, Advocate.com reported.

The Dearborn, Mich., automaker came under fire from the AFA in May for its longtime efforts to increase LGBT workplace diversity and support Gay rights causes. Ford has long been a regular advertiser within Gay media, including The Advocate, and has donated significant sums to LGBT causes and nonprofit groups such as the Human Rights Campaign. Threatened with a boycott by the Mississippi-based AFA, Ford and some of its dealers agreed to negotiate, and the AFA announced in June that it would hold off on its planned action. On Thursday, AFA announced the boycott would be canceled altogether.

"They've heard our concerns; they are acting on our concerns. We are pleased with where we are," said Donald Wildmon, AFA's chairman, in a statement. "Obviously there are still some small matters of difference, as people will always have, but generally speaking, we are pleased with the results—and therefore the boycott that had been suspended [is] now officially ended."

Specific terms of any formal agreement between the AFA and Ford—and whether any such agreement has in fact been reached—remain unclear.

When first contacted, Ford spokesman Moran referred Advocate.com to the AFA statement, suggesting that the company had no disagreement with Wildmon's assertions. In a second conversation he confirmed that the company would no longer advertise Jaguar and Land Rover products in the Gay media, saying that the decision was strictly "busi-

ness."

"In all cases, we review this issue from a business perspective in regards to advertising," Moran said. "Ford, Lincoln, and Mercury [brands] did not advertise in Gay publications anyway. At this time, Jaguar and Land Rover will not do so going forward." He added that Volvo will still advertise in Gay publications because the company believes it's an effective strategy for that market.

Detroit carmakers are facing tough economic times across the board, Moran pointed out. On Friday (Dec. 2), The Wall Street Journal reported that Ford plans to shut five North American plants that employ 7,500 workers. On Thursday, the company said its total U.S. vehicle sales in November fell by 15%.

Moran would not give further details on any agreement between Ford and the AFA, nor would he confirm that such an agreement existed. "Some months ago we began a constructive dialogue with them, just as we do with all other customers and interest groups," he said. "While we don't agree on all issues, we expect the dialogue to continue so that we understand each other better."

According to a list of demands on AFA's Web site, the organization insisted that Ford and all of its brands stop donating cash, vehicles, and endorsements to Gay social activities. This includes donations to pride celebrations and groups such as the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, the Human Rights Campaign, and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. AFA says those groups have received contributions from Ford in the past.

Whether such sponsorship deals—in which Ford brands are given visibility by nonprofit groups and at LGBT events in return for donations—will continue, Moran could not say.

Canadian Government Falls; Heated Races Loom, Marriage An Issue

OTTAWA - The Canadian House of Commons has brought down the government of Prime Minister Paul Martin, passing a vote of no confidence Monday, (Nov. 28), in a 171-133 tally. The move forces new elections, and same-sex marriage may be a controversial campaign issue, the PlanetOut Network reported.

On Tuesday, (Nov. 29) Martin dissolved the Parliament and scheduled elections for Jan. 23. According to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, campaigning will be suspended during the holidays, from Dec. 23 to Jan. 3.

Martin's downfall is not likely to undermine Canada's national policy of marriage equality, cemented by Parliament last June by a 158-133 vote. Nonetheless, some Conservative Party members and other opponents of marriage equality plan to feature appeals to traditional marriage in their upcoming electoral fights.

In a signal of the campaigns to come, Conservative Party leader Stephen Harper has already promised to hold another parliamentary vote on same-sex marriage if his bloc comes to power. The pledge drew sharp words from Canada's LGBT rights group, Egale.

"Canadians want Parliament to deal with pressing issues like health care, education and the environment," said Egale Executive Director Gilles Marchildon. "They don't want Parliament to spend time debating something that's already been settled, both by the courts and by Parliament itself."

Harper's threat may be only that. Conservatives lag slightly in the polls, and there is no reason to believe that another marriage vote would go against same-sex couples. Further, marriage equality in Canada is an outgrowth of high court rulings throughout most of the provinces that cannot be rolled back by simple legislative action. Lastly, as Egale reports, some 66 percent of Canadians tell the CBC that the question of same-sex marriage is settled and should not be revisited.

Martin's Liberal Party now holds a plurality of the 308 House seats, with 133. Conservatives hold 98 seats, the Bloc Quebecois represents another 53, while the New Democratic Party has 18. Four seats are held by indepen-



Prime Minister Paul Martin

dents, and two are vacant.

Although the Liberals lost their outright majority in the election of June 2004, Martin and associates have governed with the support of the New Democrats, forming a coalition that was shattered over the last year by revelations of a kickback scheme that fed public funds back into Liberal coffers. While Martin himself was not accused of any wrongdoing, his party took a blow.

Corruption aside, the Liberal Party has led Canada to a budget surplus, the lowest unemployment in three decades and, of course, the legalization of same-sex marriage by parliamentary vote. That vote, held after two years of political wrangling, was engineered to unite the country after several provincial courts ruled in favor of marriage equality. It was preceded by a Canadian Supreme Court advisory opinion that same-sex marriage conformed to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Canadian equivalent of the U.S. Bill of Rights.

According to the CBC, the Liberals and the Conservatives are running nearly neck-and-neck in the polls, with Liberals favored by 35 percent, Conservatives by 30 percent and New Democrats by 20 percent.



GMHP is looking for volunteers to give community feedback and input about prevention and outreach programs, campaigns and events in Tucson.

If you have questions or are interested please contact Gary at 628-7223 or email ghine@saaf.org



Gay Men's Health Project is a collaboration between the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, Wingspan and the Pima County Health Department