



Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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LGBT Groups to Oppose Alito Nomination

WASHINGTON, D.C. - National LGBT civil rights groups Monday (Dec. 12) announced their opposition to the nomination of Judge Samuel Alito to the US Supreme Court, reported 365Gay.com.

Lambda Legal accused Alito of putting his personal political agenda above the Constitution. The organization said that it has studied Alito's past rulings and writings and believes he is not qualified for a lifetime position on the nation's highest court.



Judge Samuel Alito

"Unfortunately, what our analysis reveals is that Judge Alito has a political agenda different from that required of members of the judiciary," said Lambda Legal executive director Kevin Cathcart in a statement. "We do not believe that Judge Alito has the necessary commitment to liberty and equality for all Americans. Judge Alito puts particular political ends above a fair reading of the Constitution, Bill of Rights and the laws passed by Congress. Put differently, his political agenda leads him to write judicial decisions to make the law conform to his politics. He then applies legal craftsmanship and precedent to justify the law he is making."

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Human Rights Campaign, National Center for Lesbian Rights, and Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays on Monday also voiced their opposition to Alito. "A nominee to the Court bears the burden of demonstrating that he or she is committed to rigorously enforcing the principles of equal protection and due process. Mere assurances before or during a hearing are not enough," they said in a joint statement.

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Executive Director Matt Foreman said that Alito's appointment "would spell disaster for LGBT Americans for decades to come." "His judicial record fully reflects his embrace in the 1980s of the right wing agenda and is completely antithetical to the constitutional principles and values on which our rights and equal protection guarantees rest," said Foreman.

The National Black Justice Coali-

tion also announced its opposition to Alito. "The Supreme Court is the final arbiter of our laws and its rulings can drastically impact the lives, liberties, and rights of all Americans," the NBJC said in a statement. "No individual should be confirmed to the Supreme Court unless he or she has clearly demonstrated a strong commitment to the protection of civil rights and liberties, human rights, privacy, and religious freedom. In these areas, the evidence reviewed to date shows that Judge Alito's record is highly troubling." The NBJC said that Alito's "overall record reveals a jurist whose views are well out of the judicial mainstream on a number of issues."

President Bush announced announced Alito's nomination to replace Justice Sandra Day O'Connor in October. Alito, 55, has been a strong conservative voice in his 15 years on the Philadelphia-based 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. He has been dubbed "Scalito" or "Scalia-lite" by some lawyers because his judicial philosophy invites comparisons to Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

In 2001, Judge Alito authored a decision in *Saxe v. State* that declared unconstitutional a public school district policy that prohibited harassment against students because of their sexual orientation or other characteristics. The policy focused on harassment that had the purpose or effect of interfering with a student's educational performance or creating and intimidating, hostile or offensive environment.

Alito reasoned that the policy was unconstitutional because it could cover what he called "simple acts of teasing and name-calling." But as a law student the now conservative Alito argued that discrimination against Gays in hiring "should be forbidden."

Lambda also opposed the nomination of John Roberts as Chief Justice. "With Chief Justice Roberts we waited until after the confirmation hearings to decide our position because we didn't feel that we had enough information about him," Cathcart said. "But Judge Alito is a different matter altogether. In this case, he has an extensive track record of court decisions and other materials that lend insight to his philosophy."

Ford Meets With LGBT Rights Leaders

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Several of the nation's leading LGBT rights groups were slated to meet with representatives from Ford Motor Co. on Monday afternoon (Dec. 12), to discuss the automaker's decision to pull Jaguar and Land Rover ads from magazines that cater to Gays and lesbians, reports the Detroit Free Press on Advocate.com.

Jeff Montgomery, executive director of the Detroit-based Triangle Foundation, a Gay rights group, told the paper his organization and several others, including the Human Rights Campaign and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force were

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Approved Oral HIV Test Giving False Positives

SAN FRANCISCO - A promising new oral HIV test that uses fluid swabbed from the mouth to quickly and easily detect the virus that causes AIDS incorrectly diagnosed a quarter of the people who tested positive in San Francisco, city health officials found, reported the PlanetOut Network.

Forty-seven people who tested positive after using the OraQuick Advance HIV test in city clinics were not infected at all, the San Francisco Department of Public Health said. Investigators learned of the errors after follow-up blood screenings gave the patients a clean bill of health, and health officials stopped using the test at City Clinic, the health department's primary testing location for HIV.

At the same time, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, which approved the OraQuick test for professional use last year, is now considering a request from drug maker Orasure Technologies, of Bethlehem, Pa., to approve it for home use and over-the-counter sales.

"We need to vigorously look at this," said Jeffrey Klausner, San Francisco's director of sexually transmitted disease prevention and control services. "You wouldn't want to have a home test with this problem." Klausner said there are no known instances in which the test missed an HIV infection that a traditional blood screening would have caught.

Orasure Technologies chief executive Douglas Michels said San Francisco is the only city that has reported the problem, and data collected from thousands of oral tests conducted in cities across the country show the test is reliable. A statewide survey by the California Department of Health Services that was prompted by the San Francisco findings has not yet found a similar problem. "We do not have any reason to believe our product is not performing to specification," Michels said. "We have every confidence that the test is reliable and accurate."

One explanation for the spate of false positives might be that there is something something unique about the San Francisco group, such as a high number of people with hepatitis, that may unexpectedly interfere with the test results, said Deanne Sykes, a research scientist for the California Office of AIDS. "We will watch it," she said. "We will monitor it to see if there is something consistent we can pinpoint."

The federal government is issuing new guidelines for doctors on the use of OraQuick after a quarter of the people who tested HIV-positive in San Francisco were found not to have the virus. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on the weekend said it will issue an advisory to clinics to do an immediate follow-up blood droplet test to doublecheck the

results when a patient tests positive.

"What we intend to suggest is that if someone is tested with oral fluid and is positive, that person - if it is possible at the clinic - should get a finger stick test," Dr. Bernard Branson, associate director for Laboratory Diagnostics at the federal agency, told the San Francisco Chronicle.

Branson also said that even if the second test is negative, the person would still need the more sophisticated lab test for a definitive diagnosis. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the OraQuick test for professional use last year. It is now considering a request from drug maker Orasure Technologies, of Bethlehem, Pa., to approve it for home use and over-the-counter sales. What effect the high rate of false positives will have on the decision is not yet known.

S.F. Cop Defends Homophobic Videos

SAN FRANCISCO - A police officer who produced videos that the mayor and police chief blasted as homophobic, racist and sexist is defending his work, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

Officer Andrew Cohen, 39, said he was suspended for posting inappropriate and unauthorized pictures about the department on the Internet. "I don't know what's going on," Cohen told The Associated Press. "I've never been in trouble before."

Cohen is one of about 20 officers expected to be disciplined for video clips that Police Chief Heather Fong called "egregious, shameful and despicable."

The skits featured uniformed and plainclothes officers making fun of Asians, blacks, women and Gay and Transgender people, Mayor Gavin Newsom said. He was particularly offended by a scene staged to show a white officer in a patrol car running over a black homeless woman. "It is shameful, it is offensive, it is sexist, it is homophobic and it is racist," Newsom said. "We're going to make sure that it ends, it ends immediately."

The video spoofs were shot over more than a year for a Christmas party, Cohen said. Most of the officers involved worked at the Bayview Station in the city's roughest section, an industrial area with a large minority population. The department's internal affairs division launched an investigation after the videos were discovered on Cohen's Web site, Inside the SFPD. Other city commissions also were assigned to look into the matter.

Cohen said Fong asked him to meet with her Dec. 14, and he eventually will have a hearing before the Police

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UPDATE

EON Youth Program Volunteer Training Dec. 17

TUCSON - Volunteer your time with Tucson's LGBT youth and their allies! Eon is a collaborative program that serves youth ages 13-23 and is operated by Wingspan, SAAF, the Pima County Health Department and CODAC.

As a volunteer, you'll have the chance to staff the youth drop-in center downtown, offer tutoring, help with events, and more.

The next volunteer training will be held on Saturday, Dec. 17, noon - 2 p.m., and is not held at Wingspan. To sign-up and for the location information for the volunteer training, please call J.C. Olson at Wingspan, (520) 909-6267 or E-mail: jco@wingspan.org.

Puerta Abiertas Holiday Party Dec. 19

TUCSON - Everyone is invited to the Puertas Abiertas Holiday Party, so come join your LGBT family, Dec. 19, 6 - 8 p.m. at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St.

Bring your favorite dish and meet your familia. For more information on Puertas Abiertas contact Geovanna De La Ree, (520) 624-1779 ext. 24, or E-mail: gdelaree@wingspan.org.

If you are an LGBT Latina or Latino, a partner of an LGBT Latina or Latino person, or a friend, family member, or an ally to LGBT Latino/as, please come to the place where the doors are always open - Puertas Abiertas — a place to celebrate our heritage together! Puertas Abiertas is Wingspan's social group for Latinos de Ambiente (LGBT).

Reading By Hannah Blue Herron Dec. 17

TUCSON - At age 79, Hannah Blue Herron published her first book, "That Strange Intimacy."

"That Strange Intimacy" is an autobiography that recounts her "journey from the innocence of a college lesbian love through seventeen challenging years in the convent and a return to the 'real' world which brings family alienation and attempted murder. After the freedom of hippiedom, Hannah comes to a commitment to lesbian/feminism."

Join Herron at a reading, at Wingspan's library, 425 E. 7th St., Saturday, Dec. 17, 1 - 2 p.m. For more information call Pat Woelke, (520) 624-1779 ex 22, E-mail: pwoelke@wingspan.org.

TIHAN Rounding Up Volunteers For AGRA Rodeo

CHANDLER - Volunteers are needed for January's Gay rodeo! Join TIHAN in supporting the Arizona Gay Rodeo Association, which in turn helps fund TIHAN's programs, by helping with the annual Road Runner Regional Rodeo Jan. 13-15, 2006, at its new location at the Rawhide Wild West Town on the Gila River Indian Community located outside of Chandler.

To sign up to volunteer for a few hours at the rodeo, agravolunteers.org. Be sure to put "TIHAN" under group name so that we 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, (520) 299-6647 or AGRA, (602) 265-0618.

With its beginnings in Reno in 1976, the LGBT 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.

AHRF Names New Executive Director

PHOENIX - The Arizona Human Rights Fund (AHRF) Board of Directors has tapped longtime community leader, Barbara McCullough-Jones to serve as Executive Director.

"Barbara's extensive background and skills are just what AHRF needs to help move us forward in achieving our strategic goals," stated AHRF Co-Chair Steve May. "We look forward to the leadership she will bring to our organization and to the community, at-large."

McCullough-Jones has more than fifteen years experience working in nonprofit management and fundraising. She has served as Executive Director of a large Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and

Transgender (LGBT) community center in Northern California. McCullough-Jones also held the top executive position at an international LGBT arts organization, based in Washington, D.C.

Throughout her career, Barbara McCullough-Jones has provided strong leadership on boards serving both local and national constituencies. "Her service has extended beyond the LGBT community to build partnerships and alliances with community-based organizations, City, County and State elected officials and community foundations," said AHRF Co-Chair Sara Powell. McCullough-Jones is the recipient of many awards and honors including Woman of the Year for the State of California. She was named Woman of the Year by Echo Magazine and has served as Grand Marshal for the San Jose Gay Pride Parade and Festival. McCullough-Jones is a graduate of Tempe Leadership, Class X and holds a Master's degree from Eastern Washington University.

"I am honored to take the lead of the Arizona Human Rights Fund and Foundation," stated McCullough-Jones. "I see an organization that is poised to change the political landscape in Arizona to help achieve true equality for all the citizens of our state. I look forward to unleashing our potential and standing strong with those committed to the equal rights for all LGBT people in Arizona," she added.

Home For The Holidays Takes On A New Rainbow Feeling

TUCSON - The Rubio-Fischer family will enjoy a new home this holiday season thanks to the local LGBT community and our allies.

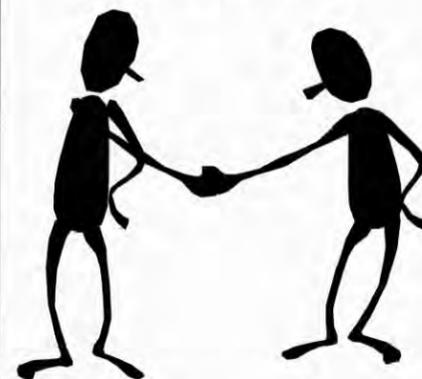
Saturday, Dec. 17, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., at the southeast corner of Balboa and Laguna (near Oracle and Ft. Lowell) will mark a special day as Habitat for Humanity Tucson dedicates a house to the family, funded and built by the Rainbow Coalition.

Ten months, hard work, dedicated volunteers and generous support sum up the success of the Rainbow Build. As the first in the nation, the Rainbow Build Coalition brought together 41 local organizations. The build not only produced a decent home for a low-income family, but strengthened the LGBT & Ally community.

Habitat homeowners are chosen by a selection committee according to a variety of income, current housing, employment and credit criteria. They provide a modest down payment, and make monthly mortgage payments to Habitat. In addition, each Habitat family must devote 400 hours of "sweat equity," by working on their home's construction or through other Habitat for Humanity Tucson volunteer activities.

For more information, go online to rainbowbuild.org.

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



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

SAAF
Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation



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TUCSON, AZ 85703
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Psychiatry Ponders Whether Extreme Bias Can Be An Illness

PART ONE

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The 48-year-old man turned down a job because he feared that a co-worker would be Gay. He was upset that Gay culture was becoming mainstream and blamed most of his personal, professional and emotional problems on the Gay and lesbian movement, reported the Washington Post.

These fixations preoccupied him every day. Articles in magazines about Gays made him agitated. He confessed that his fears had left him socially isolated and unemployed for years: A recovering alcoholic, the man even avoided 12-step meetings out of fear he might encounter a Gay person. "He had a fixed delusion about the world," said Sondra E. Solomon, a psychologist at the University of Vermont who treated the man for two years. "He felt under attack, he felt threatened."

Mental health practitioners say they regularly confront extreme forms of racism, homophobia and other prejudice in the course of therapy, and that some patients are disabled by these beliefs. As doctors increasingly weigh the effects of race and culture on mental illness, some are asking whether pathological bias ought to be an official psychiatric diagnosis. Advocates have circulated draft guidelines and have begun to conduct systematic studies. While the proposal is gaining traction, it is still in the early stages of being considered by the professionals who decide on new diagnoses.

If it succeeds, it could have huge ramifications on clinical practice, employment disputes and the criminal justice system. Perpetrators of hate crimes could become candidates for treatment, and physicians would become arbiters of how

to distinguish "ordinary prejudice" from pathological bias. Several experts said they are unsure whether bias can be pathological. Solomon, for instance, is uncomfortable with the idea. But they agreed that psychiatry has been inattentive to the effects of prejudice on mental health and illness.

"Has anyone done a word search for 'racism' in DSM-IV? It doesn't exist," said Carl C. Bell, a Chicago psychiatrist, referring to psychiatry's manual of mental disorders. "Has anyone asked, 'If you have paranoia, do you project your hostility toward other groups?' The answer is 'Hell, no!'"

The proposed guidelines that California psychologist Edward Dunbar created describe people whose daily functioning is paralyzed by persistent fears and worries about other groups. The guidelines have not been endorsed by the American Psychiatric Association, which publishes the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM); advocates are mostly seeking support for systematic study.

Darrel A. Regier, director of research at the psychiatric association, said he supports research into whether pathological bias is a disorder. But he said the jury is out on whether a diagnostic classification would add anything useful, given that clinicians already know about disorders in which people rigidly hold onto false beliefs. "If you are going to put racism into the next edition of DSM, you would have enormous criticism," Regier said. Critics would ask, "Are you pathologizing all of life?" You better be prepared to defend that classification."

"I think it's absurd," said Sally Satel, a psychiatrist and the author of "PC, M.D.: How Political Correctness Is Corrupting Medicine." Satel said the diagnosis would allow hate-crime perpetrators to evade responsibility by claiming they suffered from a mental illness. "You could use it as a defense."

Psychiatrists who advocate a new diagnosis, such as Gary Belkin, deputy chief of psychiatry at New York's Bellevue Hospital, said social norms play a central role in how all psychiatric disorders are defined. Pedophilia is considered a disorder by psychiatrists, Belkin noted, but that does not keep child molesters from being prosecuted. "Psychiatrists who are uneasy with including something like this in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual need to get used to the fact that the whole manual reflects social context," said Belkin, who is planning to launch a study on pathological bias among patients at his hospital. "That is true of depression on down. Pathological bias is no more or less scientific than major depression."

Advocates for the new diagnosis also say most candidates for treatment, such as the man Solomon treated, are not criminals or violent offenders. Rather, they are like the young woman in Los Angeles who thought Jews were diseased and would infect her — she carried out compulsive cleansing rituals and hit her head to drive away her obsessions. She realized she needed help but was afraid her therapist would be Jewish, said Dunbar, a Los Angeles psychologist who has amassed several case studies and treated several dozen patients for racial paranoia and other forms of what he considers pathological bias. Another patient was a waiter so hostile to black people that he

flung plates on the table when he served black patrons and got fired from multiple jobs. A third patient was a Vietnam War veteran who was so fearful of Asians that he avoided social situations where he might meet them, Dunbar said.

"When I see someone who won't see a physician because they're Jewish, or who can't sit in a restaurant because there are Asians, or feels threatened by homosexuals in the workplace, the party line in mental health says, 'This is not our problem,'" the psychologist said. "If it's not our problem, whose problem is it?"

Opponents say making pathological bias a diagnosis raises the specter of social engineering — brainwashing individuals who do not fit society's norms. But Dunbar and others say patients with disabling levels of prejudice should be treated for the same reason as are patients with any other disorder: They would feel, live and function better.

"They are delusional," said Alvin F. Poussaint, a professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, who has long advocated such a diagnosis. "They imagine people are going to do all kinds of bad things and hurt them, and feel they have to do something to protect themselves. 'When they reach that stage, they are very impaired,'" he said. "They can't work and function; they can't hold a job. They would benefit from treatment of some type, particularly medication."

Doctors who treat inmates at the California State Prison outside Sacramento concur: They have diagnosed some forms of racist hatred among inmates and administered antipsychotic drugs.

To be continued next week

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SATURDAY DECEMBER 17

- 5PM KARAOKE ON THE PATIO**
TERIYAKI-BEEF KABOBS
8:30PM "AN EVENING WITH AJIA SIMONE"
10PM PARTY ON THE PATIO WITH DJ MIKE LOPEZ
DJ Q SPINNING ON THE DANCE FLOOR

THE 2ND ANNUAL

JINGLE BALLZ PARTY!!!

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"AN EVENING WITH AJIA SIMONE"

10PM DJ'S SPINNING ON THE DANCE FLOOR & PATIO

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Anti-Gay Mayor Ousted In Sex Scandal

SPOKANE - Mayor James E. West must leave office this month after voters recalled him on Tuesday (Dec. 6) in a special election sparked by allegations he used a city computer to woo Gay men over the Internet, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

West, 54, must leave his position when the election results are certified Dec. 16. He has not been charged with a crime, but FBI agents seized computers from his home as part of an investigation. "I said I'd abide by the will of the voters, obviously, and they've spoken," West told The Associated Press Tuesday. "I'm at peace with their decision and disappointed." The recall election was launched by a local resident, Shannon Sullivan, who said she felt vindicated by the results.

West, a former Boy Scout executive and sheriff's deputy, was elected mayor in 2003 after serving more than two decades as a conservative Republican in the state Legislature, where he voted against Gay-friendly bills. A little more than half of the 110,000 ballots mailed to voters were counted in the first batch of results released Tuesday night. Of those, 38,718, or 65 percent, voted to recall West, while 20,681, or 35 percent, voted to retain him.

The recall campaign began after the Spokesman-Review newspaper reported in May that West was a closeted homosexual who visited Gay chat rooms using his city-owned laptop computer, and offered internships and other favors to young men he hoped to have sex with. Sullivan, a single mother with a high-school education and no legal background,



Former Spokane Mayor James E. West

shepherded her petitions for a recall vote through superior and state high court challenges brought by the mayor's lawyers.

"It's been a long, hard seven months," she said Tuesday. "Elected officials need to be held to higher standards." Shannon has said she started the campaign after finding herself at a loss to explain newspaper reports of West's behavior to her 9-year-old son.

West has denied any wrongdoing. In a newspaper ad, he acknowledged making "personal mistakes" but insisted he had "never done anything to harm our city." He has denied any wrongdoing. In a newspaper ad, he acknowledged making "personal mistakes" but insisted he had "never done anything to harm our city."

Wal-Mart Unit Caters To G/L Pairs In U.K.

LONDON - Wal-Mart's British subsidiary, Asda, has introduced a line of products aimed at same-sex couples to coincide with the country's legalization of same-sex civil partnerships, the New York Times reported, reported the PlanetOut Network.

Under the new law, same-sex couples in the U.K. began applying Monday (Dec. 5) for civil partnerships. The first ceremonies are set to take place Dec. 21, after a mandatory 15-day waiting period.

"Ever since Gay weddings were given the official go-ahead, we've had a number of customers asking if we could introduce Gay cards," Ed Watson, an Asda spokesman, told the Times. "With the launch of our new range, we can ensure that our customers can celebrate every marriage — whether it is between him and her, him and him, or her and her," he said.

One greeting card Asda is selling features two top hats and reads, "Congratulations, Mr. & Mr." Another card reads, "Wedding day wishes, Mrs. & Mrs." Asda is also selling a line of matching gold rings with diamond insets starting at \$104 each. The Times noted that some Asda campaigns would be considered "shocking" to Wal-Mart shoppers in the United States. Last year, Asda announced it was "rolling back" the price of condoms in time for the Christmas party season, and stores were open late in case customers "unexpectedly get lucky." Wal-Mart, in contrast, refuses to sell certain books, magazines and albums in U.S. stores due to controversial content, such as the book "When Will Jesus Bring the Pork Chops?" by comedian George Carlin.

Jay Smith Brown, a spokesman for the Human Rights Commission,

described Asda's product line as "a move in the right direction." "We definitely encourage them to not only recognize our relationships in their marketing but also in their policies," Brown said of Wal-Mart, the nation's largest employer and the world's biggest retailer.

The Human Rights Commission has given Wal-Mart a 57 rating on its corporate equality index for 2005, an improvement over last year's score of 43. The retailer does not offer health insurance to domestic partners, nor does it provide protections for gender identity expression in its equal employment opportunity statement. However, the EEO statement does provide protections for Gay and Lesbian workers. In addition, the company provides diversity training and does not sponsor anti-Gay organizations.

Recently, other companies have been attacked by conservative organizations for supporting Gay issues. Focus on the Family withdrew its accounts from Wells Fargo after the bank donated money to the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. Ford Motor Co. agreed to stop advertising in Gay publications after a boycott threat by the American Family Association.

Brown said he was not sure if the American Family Association would target Wal-Mart. "One can only guess what the AFA's next steps will be," he said.

Gail Lavielle, director of corporate communication for Wal-Mart, told the PlanetOut Network the company was not worried about a backlash from the religious right. "I think we have a culture at Wal-Mart first and foremost based on what our customers want, and giving it to them," she said. "At Asda, they had a real demand

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VENTURE-N
TUCSON'S ONLY MEN'S BAR
THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING HAPPENING

FRIDAY, DEC 16th
CELEBRATE GUY'S BIRTHDAY

CHRISTMAS DAY
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Sign up with bartender.

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624-3858
Home bar of Tucson Knight Owls

'Dykes On Bikes' Win Trademark



SAN FRANCISCO - The Lesbian bikers have won a major battle with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, reported 365Gay.com. For more than a year the San Francisco Women's Motorcycle Contingent has been trying to trademark the name "Dykes on Bikes."

The non-profit group is a fixture at San Francisco Gay pride celebrations. It says it decided to obtain a trademark for "Dykes on Bikes" to protect the non-commercial use of the name and its meaning to the LGBT community from private commercial use.

The Trademark Office twice rejected the group's application on the ground that the word "dyke" is disparaging to Lesbians. The group sought the help of the Brooke Oliver Law Group and the National Center for Lesbian Rights. They then submitted more than two dozen expert declarations from scholars, linguists, psychologists, and activists demonstrating how the word "dyke" has evolved to

become a positive term and that Lesbians view "Dykes On Bikes" as empowering.

Nevertheless, the Trademark Office then denied the request a final time. The group appealed to the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board, with the additional help of Townsend and Townsend and Crew, a law firm that specializes in intellectual property. The appeal board reversed the decision and notified the group that it can trademark the name.

"We are thrilled 'Dykes on Bikes' will be protected under trademark and recognized as a celebration of our identity," said Vick Germany, the group's president. After a short period for public comment, the mark can proceed to registration. "Given trademarks like 'Queer Eye for the Straight Guy,' any other decision simply was unacceptable" said Townsend's Gregory Gilchrist. This will be the first time the term "dyke" has been trademarked as a stand alone part of a trademark.

Google News Runs Anti-Gay Image

SAN JOSE - Internet powerhouse Google for several hours on Wednesday (Dec. 7) published an image on its health news Web page with the words "AIDS Kills Fags Dead," Advocate.com reported. The small image, linked to three separate HIV-related stories throughout the day before it was finally pulled, included the shocking tagline and a very small illustration that was difficult to make out but appeared to be that of a seriously ill man.

The image first appeared next to a story about a doctor in Russia calling for safer donated blood; was later linked to a story about an HIV-positive Russian blood donor; and finally appeared with a piece about HIV infections in Voronezh, Russia. It had no connection to any of the articles.

Nathan Stoll, product manager for Google News, agreed to remove the anti-Gay image from the Web site when alerted to its presence by Advocate.com, but it remained on the health page for several hours before finally being withdrawn. "Google takes hate speech seriously," Stoll told Advocate.com when notified about the problem. "Google News does not allow hate content. If we are made aware of articles or images that include hate content, we will remove them." He also said the image came from a separate source than the news stories it accompanied; the Google Web site attributed the antiGay image to Pravda, a Moscow-based newspaper.

Google's public relations office issued a statement to Advocate.com as to how its online news service operates: "Google News is a highly unusual news service in that our results are compiled solely by computer algorithms, without human intervention. Google News gathers stories and images from thousands of news sources worldwide and automatically arranges them. By clicking on a headline or thumbnail, users go directly to the site

which published the full story or image."

In a separate e-mail to Advocate.com, Google's public relations office stated that there is no editorial review process for material appearing on its news pages and that no Google employee was involved with locating or posting the offensive, antiGay image. Visitors to the site on Wednesday morning who were offended by the image and contacted Google were told the company isn't responsible for the content on its news pages.

Ken Darling of Portland, Ore., who called Google's Mountain View, Calif., headquarters to complain, recounted to Advocate.com, "They told me, number 1, that this is a free news service, and number 2, that it is 'auto-generated,' so apparently it sounded like they have no editorial control over what goes out there, which I find hard to believe. "After putting me on hold several times, the customer service person told me they really didn't have a way to report it and suggested I contact the news media source that originally put out the article and write a complaint to Google about it. I told her that if this had a different name to it instead of 'fags,' like the n word [that refers to African-Americans], I'm sure they'd do something about it."

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SAAF's Prevention Department believes that the needs of those at risk for HIV/AIDS is to be addressed from a holistic perspective – that in order for harm reduction to work, individuals/clients must feel a sense of self-worth and must have a positive connection to community. HIV is often one outcome from a series of risk behaviors committed by oppressed and marginalized individuals, thus the need for comprehensive education and prevention services.

The past year (FY 2004-05) was another successful year for the Prevention Services Department of SAAF. Our commitment to reducing the risk of HIV/AIDS, STDs, substance abuse, homelessness, suicide, school dropout, pregnancy, and disenfranchisement has never been stronger. We made over 18,000 contacts this year, facilitating the health and empowerment of individuals in southern Arizona's communities. Our programs and successes include:

Voz, formerly Omeyocan YES, serves youth ages 14-18 in south Tucson and the City of South Tucson by promoting risk reduction and reducing self-harming behaviors. In 2004-2005, we developed a new curriculum based on an experiential learning and empowerment model. 30 youth participated in a pilot launch of the program at Toltecalli Academy, and many more will benefit from the full program next year.

Check Yourself serves primarily African American and Latino/a youth ages 12-16 who are at increased risk of unintended pregnancy, STDs, substance abuse and school dropout. In collaboration with the Tucson Urban League, Luz Southside Coalition and the Tucson Unified Schools District's Howenstine High Magnet School, the final cohort

SAAF UPDATE

ARIZONA AIDS FOUNDATION by Anne Maley

participated in this culturally competent curriculum in 2004-2005. Youth Popular Opinion leaders trained by the program had almost 1,000 health promotion conversations with other youth.

Eon provides a safe space for Tucson's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Bisexual, two-spirit, queer, questioning, intersexed, and straight-ally youth, and served more than 4,000 youth in 2004-2005. Staff and youth leaders provided workshops, trainings, social events, support services, and a weekend leadership retreat. Evaluation results marked significant gains in preventing HIV/STDs, substance abuse, homelessness, truancy, school dropout, and suicide. Eon is a collaborative program of SAAF, Wing-span, and Pima County Health Department.

HIP/AZ – Prevention Case Management is a client centered HIV prevention program that promotes HIV and substance abuse risk reduction by providing people living with HIV/AIDS with integrative case management services at SAAF. Together, clients and case managers develop a treatment plan to initiate and sustain practices that prevent further compromise to clients' health, and reduce the transmission and acquisition of HIV in the community. HIP/AZ serves clients in Tucson/southern Arizona as well as Phoenix/central Arizona and Yavapai/northern Arizona.

Pulse educates Gay and Bisexual men on ecstasy, other club drugs, HIV/AIDS and safer sex practices. With the growing use of ecstasy and other club

drugs in southern Arizona, Pulse trains Popular Opinion Leaders (POLs) to deliver risk reduction messages. In its second year, Pulse trained more than 30 POLs, held four community education forums, provided six after-hours substance-free parties and made more than 4,000 contacts with community members.

Gay Men's Health Project (GMHP) made more than 3,500 contacts with Gay and Bisexual men in 2004-2005 through its outreach and educational programs. GMHP distributed over 20,000 condom kits, 15,000 condoms, 1,200 packets of lube, 650 flyers, and 2,500 information cards. The Men's Health Expo and other outreach events and activities have provided Gay and Bisexual men with easy access to information and safer sex materials, promoting behavior change to reduce risk for HIV/AIDS.

De Ambiente, formerly known as Salud es Poder, provides culturally and linguistically appropriate HIV prevention and substance abuse education to Latino men who have sex with men (MSM). De Ambiente made over 500 contacts with Latino MSM in 2004-2005. De Ambiente also trained 30 Latino MSM in Many Men, Many Voices, a substance abuse and sexual health curriculum specifically designed for MSM of color.

HIV Counseling and Testing is proudly provided, in collaboration with Pima County Health Department, at SAAF and in the community at prevention events throughout the year. Free, confidential HIV testing using OraSure (needle-free testing) and the new Rapid Test (results in

20 minutes) is available. During 2004-2005, approximately 600 HIV antibody tests were given.

[This information came from SAAF's 2004-05 Annual Report.]



EDITOR:

I just wanted to take this time to publicly thank Pet Watch and the Venture N.

I will be traveling to the Mayo Hospital for the next week for tests and had no place to take care of my cat. They stepped in and agreed to pay the full amount of sending my cat to a Pet Hotel for my stay.

This took a huge strain off of me, as I know now that he will be taken well care of and around someone 24 hours a day.

If you have not contributed to this fund, I would like to urge you to do so. It is a fantastic program and helps relieve the stress of those of us that are animal lovers to have our pets well taken care of in our time of need.

I would also like to remind you that the TIFAN Holiday Gift Drive is still going on at most of the bar establishments. Please bring a toy, canned food, gift card, etc and drop it in the Christmas wrapped box at your favorite watering hole. These gifts are to go to those less fortunate to brighten up there spirits during this Holiday Season.

Thank you,
 Dave Locke

POLITICS 2005

by Mark R. Kerr

Inequality Is Job One

Republicans across the country, facing plunging poll numbers thanks to the Bush-Cheney-DeLay-Frist "Culture of Corruption," an economy in the crapper, and their military invasion no longer supported are gearing up their sure-fire political strategy for next year's elections: "Smear the Queers," dusting off the political playbook, written by Dubya's "brain," the soon-to-be-indicted Karl Rove for which the Bush Crime Family was victorious with, in the 2004 elections.

For the upcoming 2006 elections, at least ten states: Wisconsin, California, Colorado, South Dakota, South Carolina, Alabama, Illinois, Tennessee, Arizona and even Massachusetts, have efforts to place on their general elections ballots, (either through petition or legislative action), proposed state constitutional amendments to ban same-sex marriage, civil unions and domestic partnerships, governmental recognition of, and the extension of rights and benefits (governmental or otherwise) to people and their families in committed relationships. According to proponents, right-wing, virulently anti-LGBT, christo-theocratic-fascists, these amendments are needed to make sure "it's ironclad."

So, with this being dredged up yet again, for the poor-oppressed majority who happen to be "married" as in "man and wife," some questions yet again:

As a "married" couple, have you been denied a bank loan to purchase a house, condominium, apartment, mobile home, R.V., trailer, etc., because of your relationship? Is it problematic or impossible to get health, life, dental insurance for your spouse because of your "marriage?" Can you not live under the same roof because of local, county, state and federal laws or due to the prejudice of a landlord, if you have to rent a place to call home?

Do you have to pay a higher tax rate because of your relationship and the subsequent deductions allowed to be taken under federal and state law given to your "marriage?" Under the federal laws covering Social Security, have you been denied benefits, such as for the surviving "spouse" or others that are available, because you are "married?"

According to a 2004 Governmental Accountability Office, a nonpartisan governmental body, report, there is 1,138 rights and benefits given under the respective laws (federal, state or otherwise). Are you denied these rights and benefits, too numerous to list, because of your "marriage?"

Is it almost impossible, to have a Power of Attorney drawn up and recognized because of your "married" situation? Laws dealing with domestic violence, child support or visitation of children, citing three that are on the respective books, not apply to you or your "married" spouse?

Have you ever been denied discounted rates for governmental facilities, such as parks and recreation, or programs offered because of your relationship as "man and wife?" Does your offspring not receive the full-entitlements stated under the laws because of your "marriage?" On the topics of adoption or becoming a foster parent, due to your "married" relationship, is it almost impossible or can you not adopt a child or open your home to children residing in a state children's programs?

Have you not been told about the medical condition of your "married" spouse, not played a part in the medical decision making process or been denied

hospital visitation rights to your "married" spouse for the reason of being a "husband and wife?" Can you not get a "last will in testament" drawn up, or hasn't been held up in court, because of your "marriage" as well as having your "spouse's" family taken all the possessions obtained during the "wedlock," even with a will drawn up, denying you everything due to the relationship of being "man and wife?"

For those couples who are married, as in "man and wife," if any of these answers are yes, please write this reporter at The Observer, POB 50733, Tucson, AZ 85703 or E-mail: mrkerr@tucsonobserver.com. In either your letter or E-mail, list your name, home (a snail mail address), a verifiable phone number (I will be calling to confirm), verifiable documentation showing that you are "married," and the case, incident or otherwise of the discrimination because you are "married," as in "man and wife."

With the recent retirement announcement by Jim Kolbe, the only acknowledging Gay Republican in the U.S. House of Representatives, the flurry and flummery surrounding the pending race in 2006 for the now-open seat is going into high gear and this past week was non exception with the "reports" that a supposedly-popular former television news "reader" may jump into the contest.

Patty "Great Story!" Weiss, formerly of KVOA-TV Eyewitness News, blathered to the daily fish wraps that she was thinking of running for the open seat, as a Democrat. Woo-hoo! Weiss cooed to the local "press" (everyone before KVOA), that she loves democracy having run for political office before - eighth grade class president, is knowledgeable about issues since she's "given thousands of speeches," and already has "\$2-million in publicity" if she decides to run. Wow! If Weiss runs for the Democratic nomination, she said she would run as "Patty Weiss Gelenberg," using her "married" name. This is interesting since according to voter registration records, she is not registered to vote by that name and Weiss isn't one of either the middle name, surname or otherwise but it gets better.

If Weiss is so "knowledgeable," she would know that the former darling of "Tucson television news" doesn't live in the Congressional District that she would represent in the U.S. House - a few minutes on the television machine in a few homes does not a Member of Congress make. According to voter registration records, verified by the Pima County Assessor records and the Pima County Recorder's Web site, she lives, owns property and is registered to vote in Congressional District 7, and has for several years!

There is no law requiring residency but this is an important factor. Just as Tom Volgy who moved in both Districts, running in 1991 when Mo Udall retired and in 1998, when he was Kolbe's Democratic victim that year. One can also ask Virginia Yrun, who also ran in the 1991 special election and for which this was an issue that derailed her chances as well.



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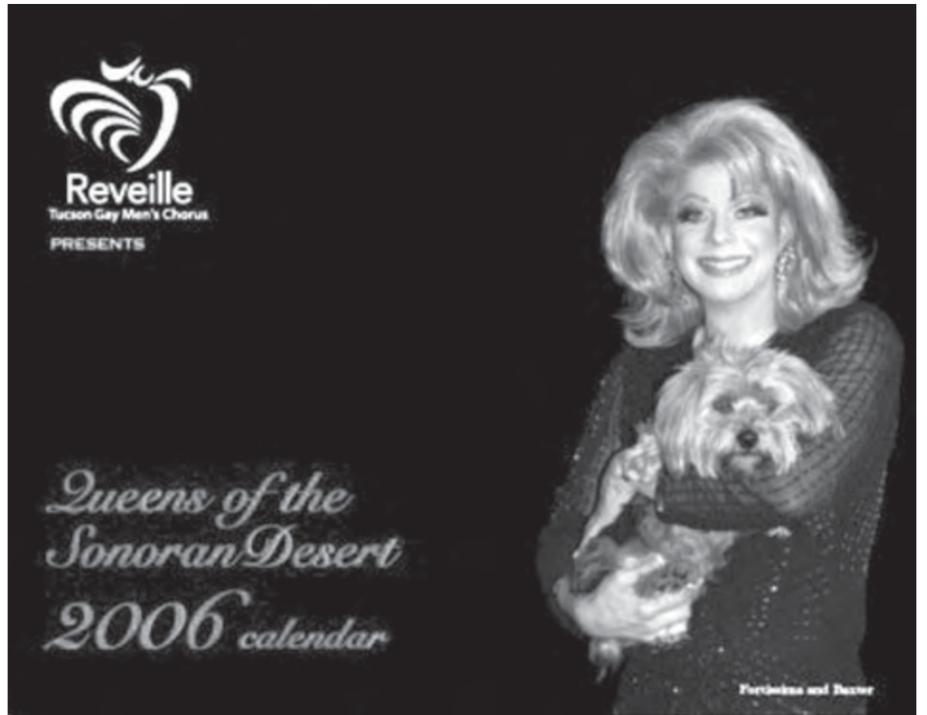
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Calendars are now available for sale for \$15 and can be purchased from any Reveille member or on the website, reveillegmc.com. Don't be the last one on your block to have a copy of the Queens of the Sonoran Desert Calendar!



Bunny FuFu



Lucinda Holliday



Janne Starr



Ajia Simone

S.F. Cop Defends Homophobic Videos

Continued from Page One

Commission. The department did not release the names of the officers.

"I'm sorry they did it, and I'm sure they are sorry they did it, but do not confuse these videos with how these officers perform in the real world," said Gary Delagnes, president of the San Francisco Police Officers Association. "These were meant as comic relief, parodies of police work."

Cohen's lawyer, Daniel Horowitz, said his client was slandered by officials who drew attention to the matter and took the videos out of context. "I think they wanted to be the poster children for the politically correct attitudes in the city and they misrepresented the contents of the tapes," he said.

Ford Meets With LGBT Rights Leaders

Continued from Page One
meeting with Ford. "We're going to be asking them for an explanation of exactly what has or has not transpired between them and the AFA," he said, referring to a threatened boycott of Ford by the anti-Gay American Family Association.

Ford has denied that it made its decision to pull the ads as part of a secret deal with the conservative Christian group, but the AFA seems to be suggesting otherwise. Montgomery said a lot of Gays and Lesbians are now upset with the automaker. "People are feeling very confused and betrayed, and I think there's a lot of anger," he told the paper.

Ford spokesman Mike Moran, who has denied there is any confidential agreement with the AFA, said the automaker is looking forward to discussions with the Gay groups. A Ford memo sent to a Ford Gay employees group said that Volvo has decided to advertise directly to the Gay community but that other brands have decided against that avenue. The Ford, Mercury, and Lincoln brands don't advertise in Gay and Lesbian publications and don't plan to do so, the automaker has said.

"Leaves Of Grass' Honored At 150 Years

NEW HAVEN - Every year, high school poetry students are introduced to Walt Whitman with a thud as the sound of his seminal work, "Leaves of Grass," hits their desks. Revised and expanded over four decades, the final collection runs hundreds of pages, reported the Associated Press on the PlanetOut Network.

This year, Whitman devotees and scholars are celebrating the 150th anniversary of the original 1855 edition, a concise masterpiece of just 12 poems that pushed the boundaries of social decency and of poetry itself. By rejecting the rigid structures of British meter, Whitman offered readers free-spirited bursts of consciousness that forever changed American poetry.

"The final 'Leaves of Grass' is an enormous book, with which Whitman did not do himself a favor because a lot of the poetry is pure padding, purely hot air," said biographer Justin Kaplan. "But if you go back to the original, it's a wonderfully sparse little book, something like 96 pages of absolutely remarkable, stunning poetry."

Across the country, celebrations of the anniversary have been as unpredictable as Whitman's poetry, from lectures and readings to a performance by the Brooklyn Philharmonic, from guided meditations to musical and dance tributes. "It is the landmark in Western Hemisphere literature," said literary critic Harold Bloom, a professor at Yale University, which is commemorating the anniversary

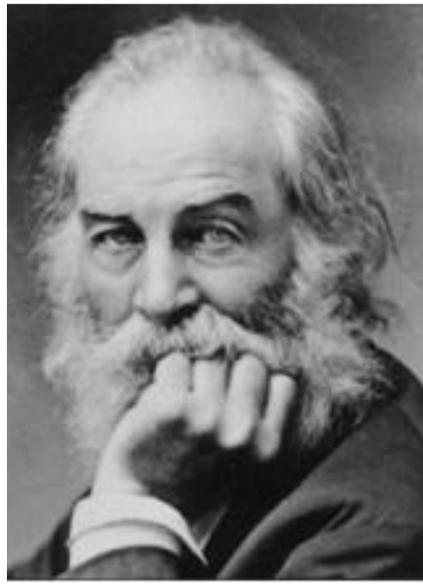
with an exhibit that includes five copies of the rare 1855 text. "It is the first appearance of someone I judge to be the most important, the strongest, the most beautiful, the greatest writer in any of the languages used in the New World."

Experts suspect only a few hundred copies of the original edition exist and are using the anniversary to try to count them. Self-published, the original edition contains the now famous "carpenter portrait" of Whitman inside. While writers traditionally were shown in head-and-shoulders images suggesting that their art was a product of the mind, Whitman was shown in work clothes. Experts say it suggests "Leaves of Grass" was a product of the entire body.

"I celebrate myself," Whitman began, setting forth the first three words of a poem that would become known as "Song of Myself."

Almost immediately, controversy followed. "People thought the sex scenes were far too frank and inappropriate for the civilized reading public," said Ivan Marki, a Whitman scholar and a professor at Eckerd College in Florida. "People said it was not really poetry. They were used to the works of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow."

Whitman's discussion of sexuality drew criticism for years. In 1881, it was banned in Boston after the district attorney deemed it obscene. "In his lifetime, it was condemned for its frank



Walt Whitman

reflection of heterosexuality," Kaplan said. "The people seemed not to realize that this is a very overtly homosexual work."

Ralph Waldo Emerson, however, was so moved by the book that he wrote Whitman a letter praising it. "I greet you at the beginning of a great career," Emerson wrote. Whitman inscribed the quote on the bindings of future editions, a brazen move that some say made him the first person in publishing to use a critic's blurb on a book. He was a master promoter, including photographs of himself with his letters and sometimes reviewing his own work anonymously.

"To be candid, Walt Whitman is a pretty hard nut to crack," Whitman

wrote of himself in an 1871 letter on display at Yale. "His involved sentences are always hiding at least half their meaning."

His sentences proved to have resonance, however, in American poetry. Ezra Pound addressed him by name in his 1916 poem, "A Pact." "It was you that broke the new wood," Pound wrote. "Now is a time for carving."

Beat poet Allen Ginsberg's epic poem, "Howl," is a long, winding verse reminiscent of "Song of Myself." Ginsberg's title, Marki said, referred to a line in Whitman's poem in which he suggests mankind restrains its emotions in the name of manners: "what howls restrain'd by decorum."

Jerome Loving, a Texas A&M professor and a frequent author on Whitman, said the anniversary offers a timely opportunity to ponder that influence and read the original 12 poems, a collection he called "authentic." "That's the book that we're celebrating this year, this burst of poetry on the American scene," he said. "Before that, American poetry really hadn't done that much for itself. It's a time to be marked. It's worth celebrating."

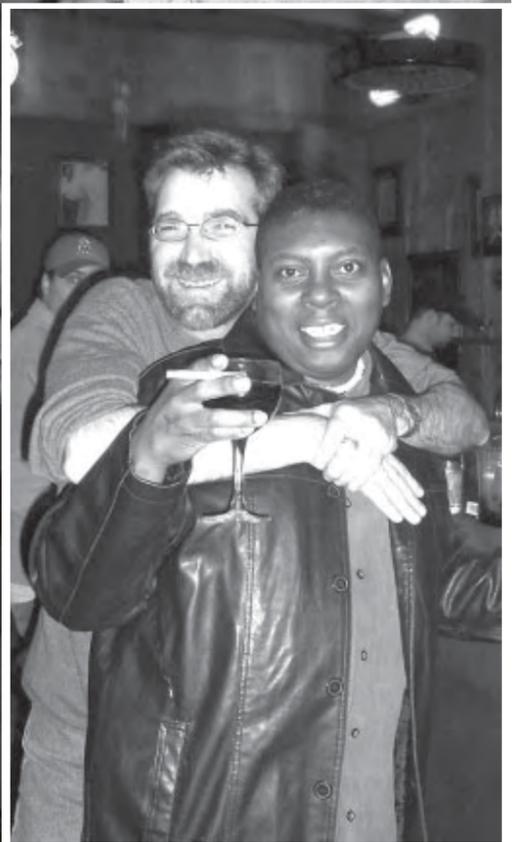
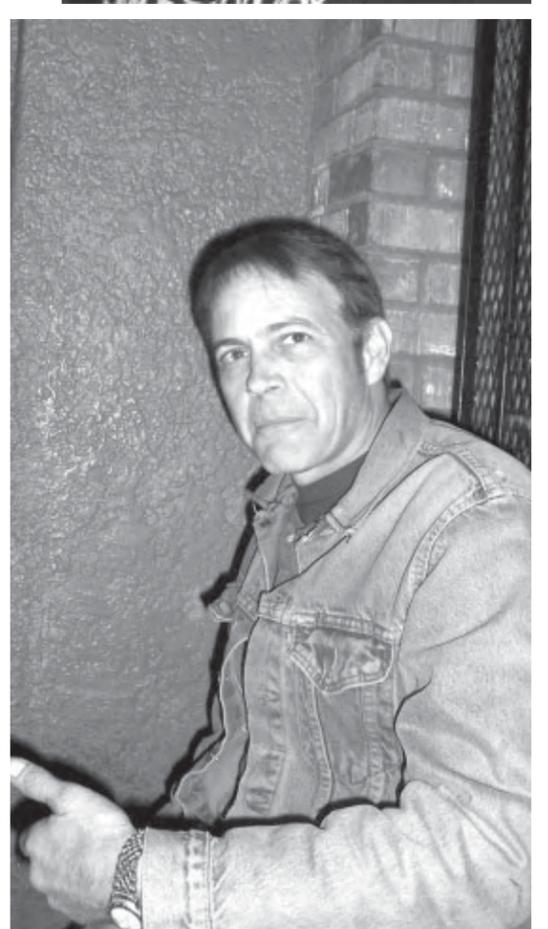


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You're hot!



New Book Pulls Back Veil On 1950s Gay Hollywood



Rock Hudson

LOS ANGELES - Henry Willson, the agent who masterminded Rock Hudson's career along with those of such other Hollywood hunks, straight and Gay, as Troy Donohue and Tab Hunter, had rules for his Gay clients, reported Reuters on Advocate.com.

"No two men can live together and have a career in Hollywood," he advised one of his actors in the 1950s. "It is not allowed. You'll ruin it all if you live with this other man." If Willson, who died in 1978, were still alive, Hollywood's changing attitudes toward homosexuality would probably leave him at a rare loss for words. Although no A-list star has yet emerged to challenge Willson's long-held belief that the public will not accept an openly Gay leading man, in most other respects the scene has changed dramatically.

Ang Lee's *Brokeback Mountain*, a tale of two men struggling with their attraction for each other, already is positioned as one of this year's major awards contenders. Performances like Philip Seymour Hoffman's portrayal of the title character in *Capote* and Cillian Murphy's turn as a cross-dresser in *Breakfast on Pluto* are drawing raves. And though they haven't crossed over into the territory of romantic leading men, openly Gay actors Nathan Lane and Anthony Rapp are headlining the films *The Producers* and *Rent*, with both Broadway-trained actors playing thoroughly hetero characters.

By contrast, the '50s, when Hudson reigned as the country's top box office draw and Willson, one of Hollywood's leading agents, commanded the best tables at *Ciro's* and the *Mocambo*, was far more rigid and closeted. It was hardly straitlaced, though, because the decade also harbored a subterranean Gay culture with its own elaborate codes and customs.

In the newly published *The Man Who Invented Rock Hudson: The Pretty Boys and Dirty Deals of Henry Willson*, Robert Hoffer offers a fascinating, compulsively readable account of an era that contrasts starkly to our own. Willson, born in Lansdown, Pa., the son of an East Coast record company executive, migrated to Hollywood in the '30s, first working as a fan-magazine writer chronicling the migration of Broadway talent attracted by the talkies. By the '40s he had become

producer David O. Selznick's head of talent, where his duties included squiring Selznick's star and paramour, Jennifer Jones, around town. By the '50s, Willson had gone into business for himself, representing a growing stable of clean-cut, hypermasculine stars who appealed to the bobby-soxers who drove the box office.

He also became a controversial figure. When the gossip magazine *Confidential* threatened to expose Hudson, Willson fended off the scandal, possibly working through intermediaries, by feeding the magazine information about Rory Calhoun's criminal record and Hunter's attendance at an all-male "pajama party." Willson, Gay but homophobic and politically conservative, maintained a straight persona—President Truman's daughter Margaret was just one of several dates he claimed was his "fiancé." But his lecherous reputation was an open secret in Hollywood—so much so that in later years many of his clients, both straight and Gay, would deny he ever represented them.



Tab Hunter

Nevertheless, Hoffer makes a compelling argument that Willson, though hardly laudable, served an important function. Such womanizing moguls as Selznick, Darryl Zanuck, and Harry Cohn might have had an eye for identifying female stars. But at a time when female executives didn't exist, Willson and other Gay agents and managers took on the job of identifying and grooming many of the male stars who brought in female ticket buyers. In short, they turned matinee idols into gold.

Wal-Mart Unit

Continued from Page Four

for these products and they responded to it. And it may come to us at some point in the future."

When asked if Wal-Mart would provide same-sex wedding cards for customers in Massachusetts or civil union cards for same-sex couples in Vermont or Connecticut, Lavielle said, "Well, I think it would depend if there was enough demand from our customers." "We want to improve our standing with all communities," Lavielle continued. "It's not just (the LGBT) community. We have dialogue with a lot of groups from the LGBT community, such as Out and Equal, the Human Rights Campaign, the Point Foundation."

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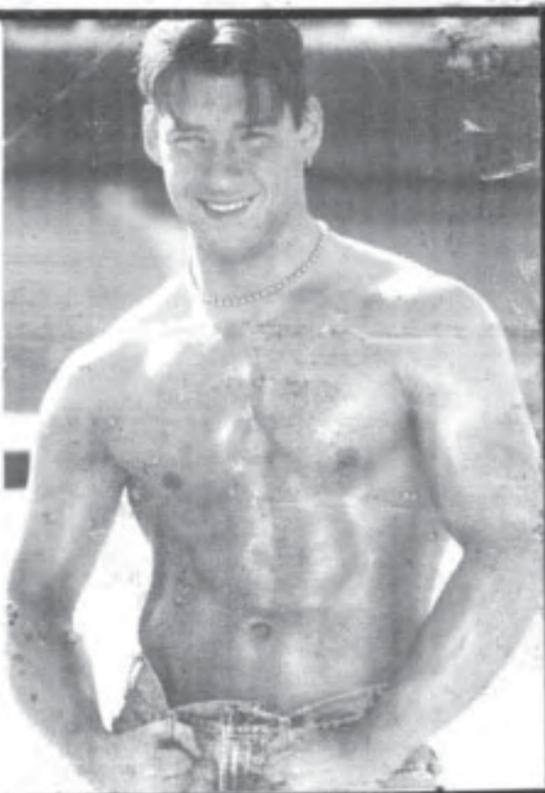
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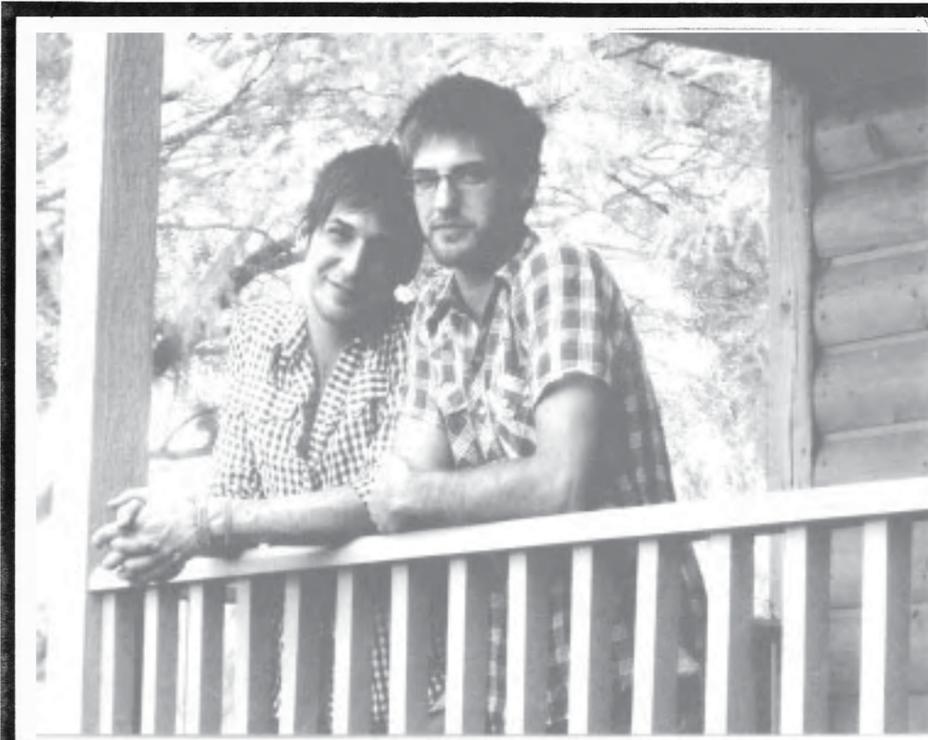


en·ter·tain' (en·tər-tān) v.t. 1. to afford amusement or diversion



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Opposition Continues Over Lesbian Pastor's Defrocking



Rev. Beth Stroud

PHILADELPHIA - Two rulings concerning Gays by the highest court in the United Methodist Church are continuing to divide the denomination, 365Gay.com reported. The denomination's Judicial Council in October overturned a lower church court ruling and ordered the defrocking of a Lesbian pastor who is in a committed relationship with another woman.

The United Methodist Church accepts Gay and Lesbian ministers as long as they are celibate. The Rev. Beth Stroud notified her Germantown, Pennsylvania congregation of the relationship in a sermon on April 27, 2003. Her bishop immediately began procedures to remove Stroud from the ministry.

In a second LGBT case, the Judicial Council ordered the reinstatement of a rural Virginia minister placed on leave for denying a Gay man membership in his church last winter. The Council decided the Rev. Edward Johnson was within his ministerial rights when he denied membership to the would-be parishioner. While the rulings pleased conservatives in the denomination liberals and moderates were angered.

In Denver, more than 124 members of the clergy from the Rocky Mountain region of the UMC have signed a statement protesting the rulings, particularly the one that barring a Gay man from membership. "We proclaim our vigorous disagreement with this act of injustice by the highest judicial body of our denomination," said the statement.

Among the signers were Bishop Warner H. Brown Jr., who heads the region, and the Rev. Phil Wogaman, acting president of Iliff School of Theology. Wogaman is a former president of the American Theological Society and was President Clinton's pastor. "Even in the Bible Belt, the reaction is generally negative," said Wogaman. "I have heard of only a handful of people who are supporting the judicial council decision. Even those who consider homosexuality a sin feel this has gone too far." Wogaman and Brown believe that the outrage is so widespread it will force the Judicial Council to revisit its decisions when it meets again in April.

Although the Judicial Council has the final word on church law, the denomination's Council of Bishops issued a unanimous declaration that homosexuality is not a barrier to church membership and that the church's rules "implore families and churches not to reject or condemn Lesbian and Gay members and friends."

Last month the pastor of Minneapolis' Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, the largest Methodist church in Minnesota, issued an apology from the pulpit for the denomination's treatment of Gays and Lesbians. "We cannot continue when people are excluded from exercising their gifts in the house of God and excluded from membership in church," the Rev. Robbins told the congregation.

Catholics Protest Gay Priest Ban

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Members of a lay group formed to combat sexual abuse in the priesthood staged demonstrations in cities across the country Sunday (Dec. 11) to condemn the Vatican's ban on Gay priests, 365Gay.com reported.

Voice of the Faithful said that banning Gays from entering or teaching at seminaries does nothing to address the problem of pedophilia in the priesthood and accused the Church of using Gays as scapegoats.

In a statement to the media the group said, "We repeat and reaffirm our support for priests of integrity - without regard to their sexuality. We urge all Catholics to dismiss sexuality litmus tests for service in our Church. And we strongly encourage prompt and adequate funding for the overdue Causes and Context Study - our Church cannot heal without it."

"We are told in Acts of the Apostles that the early Christian community was recognized when observers would say of them, 'See how they love one another,'" said Ray Joyce, Executive Director of VOTF. "What better time to live that message?"

The group, which has branches around the world, held demonstrations Sunday at cathedrals in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston and Fall River, Massachusetts.

In Boston, about 60 people held a vigil in front of the Cathedral of the Holy Cross.

"The integrity of Catholics who are homosexuals is being questioned while the bishops have yet to question themselves," said Dorothy Kennedy, chair of the Boston area Voice of the Faithful council.

Last month the Vatican officially

released its long awaited document outlining new rules for men entering the priesthood.

The document, called an "Instruction", says that "one cannot ignore the negative consequences that can stem from the ordination of people with deeply rooted homosexual tendencies."

"If instead it is a case of homosexual tendencies that are merely the expression of a transitory problem, for example as in the case of an unfinished adolescence, they must however have been clearly overcome for at least three years before ordination as a deacon."

In a covering letter to the heads of seminaries the Vatican says that Gays teaching in seminaries should be removed from their positions.

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Maryland Marriage Ruling Could Impact 2006 Election

ANNAPOLIS - A proposal to ban Gay marriages will be a contentious issue in the 2006 Maryland General Assembly session, but just how big an issue and how much of an impact it will have on next year's election may depend on a circuit court judge in Baltimore, reported 365Gay.com reported.

Gay rights opponents have failed in the past to pass a constitutional amendment banning Gay marriage, in part because state law already defines marriage as a union of a man and a woman. Legislative leaders have been able to keep the emotionally charged issue in the background by arguing that there is no need to write into the constitution a ban on something that is already prohibited by law.

But that law has been challenged in Baltimore Circuit Court, and if Judge Brooke M. Murdoch rules it's unconstitutional, opponents of Gay rights say that will give them a weapon to use to force the amendment out of committees and to the House and Senate for debate.

The presence of a Gay marriage ban on the ballot next November would further complicate an election that is likely to be the most unpredictable in Maryland in decades, with the two parties anticipating close battles for governor and the U.S. Senate and Democrats striving to hold on to their leads of more than 2-to-1 in the state Senate and House of Delegates.

Regardless of what Murdoch does, opponents of Gay marriage plan to introduce an amendment that would ban Gay marriage as well as civil unions between homosexual couples. "If the will of the public is heard, I believe that we will not only get the amendment out (of committee), we will pass it and it will be on the ballot so the citizens of Maryland can vote on this most crucial issue," said Delegate Don Dwyer, R-Anne Arundel.

Democratic leaders would prefer not to have a constitutional amendment on the ballot that might become a dominant issue in the campaign, and they are playing down the prospects that an amendment will pass during the 90-day session that begins Jan. 11 — even if Murdoch should rule the law unconstitutional. Regardless of how she rules, both sides agree her decision will be appealed and the case will eventually be decided by the state's highest court, the Court of Appeals.

"Traditionally, when there is an issue in front of the judiciary, the legislature waits to see how the process turns out before determining whether and for what reason we will overturn the decision of the courts," said House Speaker Michael Busch, D-Anne Arundel.

Democrat Brian Frosh, chairman of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, agreed, saying he would be surprised if there is any major change in Gay rights laws at the 2006 legislative session.

But Republican political consultant Kevin Igoe said a ruling by Murdoch that the law limiting marriage to one man and one woman is unconstitutional would have a significant impact on the upcoming session. "It would put a lot of folks, mostly Democrats from rural districts, in a very difficult spot," he said. Republicans already plan to go after Democratic incumbents from southern Maryland and in the moderate-to-conservative districts

in Anne Arundel and Baltimore counties that Republican Gov. Robert Ehrlich carried in the 2002 gubernatorial election. A vote to reject a Gay marriage ban — either in committee or in the full House or Senate — would undoubtedly be used against some Democratic incumbents by their GOP opponents.

If the Gay marriage amendment should wind up on the ballot, Igoe believes conservatives would benefit because of the impact on voter turnout. "I think there are more people who do not vote regularly who oppose Gay marriage than there are those who strongly support it and do not vote," he said.

In addition to the proposed constitutional ban on Gay marriage, legislators may be confronted by two other Gay rights issues in the form of two bills, vetoed by Ehrlich, that were passed by the 2005 General Assembly at the urging of Gay rights activists. The bills, which would have applied to both Gay and unmarried heterosexual partners, would have allowed couples to make medical decisions for their partners and to add a partner to a deed of property without paying the state transfer tax.

The governor said he supported the goals of both bills. But he objected to the creation of "life partnerships" in the medical decision-making bill "that could lead to the erosion of the sanctity of traditional marriage" and said the tax bill was so broad that people could create sham relationships to avoid paying taxes. The governor offered to work with the legislature to develop a medical decision-making law "that provides assistance for those in need while respecting the uniqueness of traditional marriage under Maryland law." Shareese DeLeaver, a spokeswoman for the governor, said a compromise bill "is still very much a possibility."

Delegate Richard Madaleno, D-Montgomery, one of the openly Gay members of the General Assembly, said overriding the vetoes would be difficult, and no decision has been made by legislative leaders on whether to try. He said four Republicans who supported the medical decision-making bill in the Senate probably would not go against Ehrlich and vote to override his veto.

Even though the two bills were not limited to homosexual couples, opponents portrayed them as Gay-rights measures and would, if they were brought up for a veto override, be able to use votes against Democratic incumbents in moderate to conservative districts. Constitutional amendments require approval of three-fifths of the House and Senate members. Derek Walker, spokesman for the Maryland Democratic Party, said he does not think there are enough votes in the legislature to put an anti-Gay marriage amendment on the ballot.

Meanwhile, a minister who is one of the key supporters of a constitutional amendment says he intends to run for the General Assembly. Rev. Rick Bowers, the pastor of Living Stone House of Worship in Pasadena says he will run as a Republican.

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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.

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 Arlan at 323-7414.
 #2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:30 p.m. Join us for the MSN Premiere of "Family Flaw", a 2002 film billed as a "family value film with a queer twist". (after Newsletter Night). For reservations and directions, please call Arlan at 323-7414.

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 relation-

ships 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; "Misery" starring Kathy Bates and "Mr. Man" himself, James Caan. For details and directions, please call Karol at 744-9017.

Wednesday, December 21
 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.

Thursday, December 22
 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed: 7:00 p.m. Join the men of MSN for Coffee Night out at Rainbow Planet Coffee House. This is a chance to have a cup of coffee and chat with the men of MSN. This is a No-host event, so please ask Barista to point you in our direction.

Friday, December 23
 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Lloyd hosts a fun evening of Scrabble. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Lloyd at 792-8537.

Saturday, December 24
 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.

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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. Errr, 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 Ramboes 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 hamstringing 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 "wild" temptation. Will you take a taste or keep your nose pressed against the window?

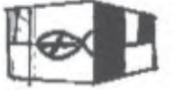
AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)
Skimishes with partners can reach a fevered pitch while Saturn squares Mars. There may be a few accusations lobbed back and forth. But don't give up and upend your domestic situation based on these few stressful moments. Sometimes you have to address the unspoken and thus 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?



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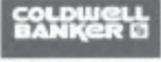
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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

sunday

COLORS - Open 11am - 11pm Champagne Brunch 11am - 2pm with choice of complimentary mimosa, Bloody Mary or Screwdriver. Happy Hour 4-7pm \$3 skyy Cocktails, \$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 4-9 pm with reduced prices on appetizers - best deal in town! Free Texas Hold'em Poker Tournaments at 6:00 pm and 9:00 pm. Sign-up begins one hour before playing time. No Cash - Play for Prizes and Points.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, DJ Craig Carter 10pm-2am \$1.50 well vodka drinks, All drink specials not available during special events.

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio 6pm. Free pool til 4pm. \$2.75 Skyy & 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 \$2 Skyy cocktails, \$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, \$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, \$2 Skyy cocktails, \$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, \$2 Skyy cocktails, \$2.25 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 4-9pm.

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, \$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. Kitchen re-opens 9pm - midnight for late night munchies.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, 5-8pm karaoke and Teryaki Kabobs on the patio. 8:30pm Show time w/ Ajia Simone or Janee Star. DJ Q spinning Club Music inside and Mike Lopez spinning on the patio 10pm to close..

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

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

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

CASINOS.

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

Feb. 26 - Brooks and Dunn (Tickets On Sale Now)

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

HARRAH'S AK-CHIN CASINO RESORT From Tucson take I-10 West to Queen Creek Road (Exit 164), turn left, drive 17 miles. Buses leave from Tucson daily. Call (520)743-4386..Ride freee and get cash. For more information 1-800-Harrahs or visit www.harrahs.com

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

VENTURE-N - Come by and help celebrate Guy's Birthday. He's turning 21 today! Ha ha

WOODY'S - December Birthday? Celebrate with your friends here this evening at 10:00 p.m. Balloons, champagne and cake. Also a special Drag Bingo at 8:00 p.m. with a chance to win a 20" stereo True Flat TV!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

HOWL AT THE MOON - AGRA mixer, meet and greet with members of the Phoenix Arizona Gay Rodeo chapter. 8:00 p.m. New faces new friends. Country Dancing Starts at 9:00 p.m. Raffle Prizes

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

VENTURE-N - It's Christmas Day and they're having a pot luck dinner starting at 1:00 pm. Sign up with your bartender

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

COLORS FOOD & SPIRITS - New Year's Eve "Black and White Ball". \$55 per person includes two well cocktails or domestics; appetizer, dinner, wine, dessert, champagne toast and party favors. 6pm: pianist Amiclar Guevara and Bassist Richard Shosie. 9pm: Improve comedy by "Not Burnt Out Just Unscrewed". 10pm: Stand-up comedian Kaynin Richardson, 10:30: Guys & Dolls Special Edition with Lucinda Holliday, Janee Starr & Veronica Halliwell. 11:30: Dancing with Johnny DJ.

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

VENTURE-N - Bring the New Year in with Buster's Balloon Ball here!

WOODY'S - Big New Year's Party here starting off with life jazz with Arthur Migliazza and a Buffet Dinner. Men of Phoenix strippers dance during the evening. Champagne Toast, party hats and favors. A mega Balloon drop. Special appearance by International Dance Diva Ms. Pepper MaShay singing her #1 hits "Dive in the Pool" from Queer As Folk, "I Got Pride" from Sex in the City and her newest hit "Beauty Shop". \$10.00 advance tickets available Dec. 15. \$15 at the door. Limited Tickets Available.

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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 WORLDWIDE** invites Gay or Bisexual men and their admirers to join and share Prime Timers fellowship. We welcome mature men (and admirers) who wish to become involved with planned and future Prime Timers (TPT) activities. Meetings luncheons and dinners are held monthly. For dates, times and information call 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 (GPGCC) P.O. BOX 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2097. E-mail: webmaster@gpgcc.org or call (602)225-8444.

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

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

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

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO — a social

club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, Call the Bears Hotline (520)790-5775 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 of visit our website at www.botop.com All are welcome to our general meetings/potlucks on the 2nd Friday of every month, at 3202 E. 1st St. (the "Ward 6" Office Bldg.) Just south of Speedway & East of Country Club. PotLuck Dinner begins at 6:30 and the monthly meeting follows at 7:15 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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, contract **TEAM ARIZONA** at their website: teamarizona.org

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

THE MEN'S MASSAGE GROUP meets the 3rd Sunday of each month. It is a good way to meet other men of all ages, safely, and with the art of nurturing touch. There is a fee. You must sign up in advance to participate. Call Marc at 881-4582 for more information or sign up.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GLBT, Tucson's Gay and Lesbian business networking group holds regular meetings the third Thursday of

every month. Call 615-6436 for more info. www.tucsonglbtchamber.org

TUCSON PRIDE, INC. (Formerly Tucson Lesbian and Gay Alliance - TLGA) meets on the second Tuesday at 845 S. Craycroft Road at 6pm. Tucson Pride events: Pride Week, Gay West and OUToberFEST. Inquiries about support groups and individual needs should be directed to Wingspan and other local agencies listed here. For more information call 622-3200 or visit the TPI website at www.tucsonpride.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

OUTLOUD! Tucson's premiere Local Lesbian and Gay Radio Show, broadcast every Sunday from 7-8 pm on 91.3 FM, Community Radio KXCI.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SUN WORSHIPERS OF TUCSON (SWOT) is a local men's nudist organization for men of all ages. Events feature swimming, hot tubbing and socializing in a relaxed, private setting

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. Contact Marc Haberman, Holistic Health Practitioner at 881-4582.

'Brokeback Mountain' Leads Golden Globes With Seven Nominations

LOS ANGELES - The cowboy romance "Brokeback Mountain" led Golden Globe contenders Tuesday (Dec. 13) with seven nominations, among them best dramatic picture and honors for actors Heath Ledger and Michelle Williams and director Ang Lee, reported 365Gay.com.

The Golden Globes are considered a clue into how the members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences will vote in the Oscars.

Two years ago, the Golden Globes correctly predicted winners in all key Oscar categories. However, a year ago, the Globes missed the mark, picking The Aviator as best picture, an honor that went to Million Dollar Baby at the Oscars.



The Globes are handed out by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association. Winners will be announced Jan. 16, five days before polls close for Oscar voters.

Monday (Dec. 12) the New York Film Critics Circle named Brokeback Mountain as the year's top film. Best-actor honors went to Ledger and both the Circle and the National Board of Review of Motion Pictures selected Ang Lee as best director.

On Saturday (Dec. 10), the Los

Angeles Film Critics Association also chose Brokeback Mountain as its top film of 2005.



The Golden Globes also had nominations for other LGBT productions and performers.

Philip Seymour Hoffman received a best actor nod for his performance as Gay author Truman Capote in "Capote."

Felicity Huffman received two nominations - best dramatic actress in a film for her role as a Transgendered woman in "Transamerica" and best actress in a TV musical or comedy for "Desperate Housewives." Her "Desperate Housewives" co-stars Marcia Cross, Teri Hatcher and Eva Longoria also were nominated.

Among the nominations in the musicals on film category is "The Producers." Nathan Lane received the nomination for Best Actor in a musical film. Lane will be up against Cillian Murphy who plays a gender bending Irishman in "Breakfast on Pluto".

Will Ferrell, who plays Franz Liebkind in "The Producers" received a Globe nod for Best Supporting Actor

Jamaica To Appoint Civilian Monitor In Gay Murder Probe

KINGSTON - A day after the United Nations accused Jamaica of dragging its feet in finding the killers of a Gay AIDS activist the government has announced it will appoint a civilian monitor to ensure police are doing their job, 365Gay.com reported. The monitor also will look at the police handling of other cases involving Gay victims.

Deputy Police Commissioner Mark Shields conceded that the announcement is the result of international pressure following the kidnapping and slaying of Steven Harvey on Dec. 1. "I have received several calls from human rights groups internationally and I have expressed to them that I would keep them up-to-date and informed as to where the investigations are heading," Shields told the Kingston Observer.

Harvey who ran Jamaica AIDS Support for Life was abducted and shot to death on the eve of World AIDS Day. Support for Life provides support to Gay men and sex workers.

Thursday (Dec. 8) UNAIDS said it was concerned Jamaica was doing little to find Harvey's killers and called for stepped-up efforts by the Jamaican Government "to address homophobia and other causes of stigma and discrimination, which are fuelling the spread of AIDS not only in Jamaica but across the Caribbean." Harvey was openly Gay and well known in Jamaica.

Three men who broke into Harvey's home on Dec. 1 confronting him and his two roommates. The armed men demanded money. "We hear that you are Gay," the gunmen yelled at the trio. The two housemates denied it but Harvey apparently remained silent. The housemates were gagged and bound. Harvey was ordered at gunpoint to help the gunmen

carry valuables to his car. He was forced into the vehicle and kidnapped by his attackers. Two hours later, he was found, shot dead.

Violence against Gays is widespread in Jamaica. Last year Brian Williamson Jamaica's most vocal advocate of LGBT rights was murdered. According to Human Rights Watch: "Police actively support homophobic violence, fail to investigate complaints of abuse, and arrest and detain [men] based on their alleged homosexual conduct."

Gay sex is illegal in Jamaica, punishable by ten years in jail, with the possibility of hard labor. Jamaican reggae star Buju Banton and two other men are facing trial on assault charges in a vicious attack on six Gay men earlier this year. Reggae, or Jamaican dancehall music, is blamed for fueling homophobia. Banton's hit song Boom Boom Bye Bye which threatens Gay men with a "gunshot in ah head".

Shields said the independent monitor would be named sometime next week (Ending Dec. 16). He said was confident that the case was being properly investigated and that arrests would be made. "I am taking a personal interest in the investigation and its outcome," he said.



There's No Place Like Home...



As families gather around their tables to celebrate the holidays, many homeless and unwanted pets gaze through kennel bars wondering when they will have a home of their own.

Countless wonderful, loving, adoptable animals are waiting for their dream of a new home this holiday season and for years to come. Adopt a shelter pet and help a loving companion animal spend every holiday in a loving home.

Can't adopt but still want to help? Make a donation or become a **Home 4 the Holidays** sponsor for just \$75 and help ensure wagging tails and contented purrs for scores of animals who are counting on a second chance. Call 321-3704, ext. 188 to find out how, or make your secure donation online at www.hssaz.org.



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