



Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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WEEKLY OBSERVER

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ISSUE 1121

2006 AGRA Roadrunner Regional Rodeo This Weekend, Jan. 13-15



TUCSON - It's Rodeo this weekend (in case you hadn't heard!). Even though it takes place in Phoenix, many Tucsonans will be in attendance. To make an even closer connection, the Yard Dog Saloon is sponsoring two cowboys who will appear in several of the weekend events.

Jim Anderson and Jeff Schroeder will be carrying the Yard Dog banner Saturday and Sunday at Rawhide. The cowboys were in town last weekend with their horses for a visit to their sponsors. Shown above outside the Yard Dog Saloon are Jim on his horse Cookie and Jeff aboard Banjo. Good luck to both. See related story below.

AGRA Rodeo Facts and Figures

PHOENIX - The Arizona Gay Rodeo Association is holding its annual Roadrunner Regional Rodeo in Phoenix this weekend, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, January 13-15. This year the event is being held at The Rawhide, at Wild Horse Pass on the Gila River Indian Community South of Metro Phoenix, just off of I-10.

AGRA is the state chapter of the International Gay Rodeo Association (IGRA). Proceeds raised at the rodeo go to LGBT and HIV/AIDS charities in Phoenix and Tucson. Tickets are general admission: \$15 per day or for weekend passes: \$25 for both days. All tickets are non-refundable and children under 12 years of age admitted free. For more information, call (602) 265-8166, E-Mail: rodeoinfo@agra-phx.com. For more information about the events or times the events take place see below.

RODEO EVENT RUNNING ORDER, SATURDAY & SUNDAY

7:30 am. Mandatory New Contestant Meeting (Saturday only).

8:00 a.m. Rodeo Events Begin: Calf Roping on Foot, Goat Dressing, Steer Riding, Mounted Breakaway Roping, Team Roping

1:00 p.m. Grand Entry/Foot Parade, Rodeo Events Continue:

Bareback Bronc Riding, Wild Drag Race, Chute Dogging, Bull Riding, Pole Bending, Steer Decorating, Barrel Racing, Flag Race.

9:00 p.m. Awards Ceremony (Sunday only).

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
Wednesday - January 11, 2006
8:00 p.m. - A.G.R.A. Mini Rodeo at Charlie's

Thursday - January 12, 2006
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - A.G.R.A. Rodeo School @ Rawhide
7:00 p.m. - 2006 A.G.R.A. Royalty Competition @ Charlie's - Western Wear/Public Presentation

Friday - January 13, 2006
7:30 a.m. - Noon - A.G.R.A. Rodeo School @ Rawhide
9:00 a.m. - 2006 A.G.R.A. Royalty Competition @ Hilton Garden Inn, Phoenix Midtown

Interview & Horsemanship (interview closed to public)
5:45 p.m. - Trustees' Pre-Rodeo Meeting - Sunset Room @ Rawhide
6:00 - 9:00 p.m. - Sunset Room @ Rawhide, Rodeo Contestant Registration

Grand Entry Sign-Up, Volunteer Sign-Up, Entertainment and Vendor Registration,
Continued on Page Four

Army Discharges Attacked Gay Soldier But Keeps Attacker

FT. HUACHUCA - A 19-year old Army Private who was beaten by one soldier and threatened by another after they learned he is Gay has been discharged, reported 365Gay.com. Private Kyle Lawson was punched in the face by a fellow member of a training unit at Fort Huachuca at an off-post party in October after a friend let it slip that Lawson was Gay.

The soldier accused of hitting Lawson told police that Lawson made sexually suggestive remarks. But the Sierra Vista police officer who investigated the case said "there was no provocation."

Lawson told police that the soldier who broke his nose used a profane anti-Gay slur. He said a second soldier threatened him with a knife outside a barracks as word spread about his sexual orientation.

He became so concerned about his personal safety after the attacks he slept on a cot in his drill sergeant's office.

Police charged Private

Zacharias Pierre with felony aggravated assault - a charge that draws an average 3 1/2 years in prison upon conviction in Arizona, more if a judge finds the crime was hate-based.

Using military regulations officials at Fort Huachuca took control of the case, dropping the charges laid by Sierra Vista police. They have refused to say if any appropriate action has been taken to hold his attacker accountable but media reports indicate that Pierre has received only a slap on the wrist - the withdrawal of a weekend pass.

Lawson requested the discharge following the attack. Thursday night (Jan. 5) he left the military with an honorable discharge, a suggestion that military police agreed with local authorities that the attack on him had been unprovoked.

The discharge papers contain space for illegal or problematic behavior to be noted. Each of those spaces in really loved it," he told the Arizona Daily Star.

While Lawson begins his new life Continued on Page Six

EDITORIAL

Six Days

Pima County has a new voice in the Arizona State Senate and more importantly, for the first time, Pima County's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and HIV/AIDS communities, for the first time, finally has a voice in the Legislature when the Pima County Board of Supervisors on Jan. 3, by a unanimous vote, appointed Paula Aboud to serve the remainder of the term of the Legislative District 28 State Senate seat.

"I'm very honored by the Supervisors and District 28," Aboud said. "I look forward to standing up for the rights of the people of Arizona."

Prior to her appointment, Aboud had run previously for the Tucson City Council in 2001, and is a longtime community activist.

Aboud is one of the cofounders of the Ward 3 Neighbors, past president of the Democrats of Greater Tucson and is one of the founders of the Southern Arizona Stonewall Democrats and was in charge of the Democratic Party's Get-Out-The-Vote effort in the 2005 Tucson election which has resulted in a positive working majority on the City Council with the election of Nina Trasoff and Karin Uhlich.

Arizona's Legislature convened Monday, Jan. 9, for its second regular session, so Pima County's



Paula Aboud

newest elected official had little time to savor the moment. When asked about this, Aboud said she is a quick study. Aboud will be joining openly Ken Chevront, D-Phoenix, in the state Senate, and Robert Meza, D-Phoenix and Kyrsten Sinema, D-Phoenix, who are in the state House as part of the LGBT caucus.

The Observer wants to express its congratulations and wishes Ms. Aboud the best for the upcoming session.

UPDATE

Wingspan Anti-Violence Project Training Jan. 21

TUCSON - The Wingspan Anti-Violence Project offers a free, amazing three-day volunteer training, Jan. 21, 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

At the end of these three days you will be able to: identify local community resources for people in crisis, be a more effective communicator and listener in all your relationships, feel comfortable doing crisis intervention work, and learn more about the issues facing Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender people including domestic violence, sexual violence, hate crimes, harassment and discrimination.

The training also offers cultural competency training in Latino, Transgender, and LGB issues and the opportunity to learn about the various agencies AVP works with. Following the training you will be given the opportunity to become a much-needed volunteer on the Anti-Violence Project 24-hour crisis line. Volunteering requires committing to a minimum of one night per month.

In order to volunteer, you must attend all three days of the training and seating is limited, so contact Ed Ware, E-mail: eware@wingspan.org or (520) 624-1779, ext. 20, to sign up or for more information.

Speakers Training With A Faith Community Perspective January 21

TUCSON - The purpose of speakers training is to learn how to speak publicly, teach "LGBT 101," and tell coming out stories. Trained speakers then travel to different groups, organizations, faith communities, colleges, and house parties to talk about issues relating to the so-called "Marriage" amendment.

There is a minimum charge of \$5.00 for this event to help offset the cost of materials. Checks can be made to AZ Together or you can make your donation on-line at www.aztogether.org (please bring in a copy of your E-mail confirmation or receipt).

The Tucson training will be Sat, Jan 21st from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Contact: Jess Knutson at jk@aztogether.org, or call (520) 275-4790 for location and RSVP.

Brokeback Mountain Opens At Loft Cinema Jan. 13

TUCSON - The opening night screening, (Jan. 13) of Brokeback Mountain with co-screenwriters Diana Ossana and Pulitzer Prize winning writer Larry McMurtry (Lonesome Dove) is sold out. An additional event with the two screenwriters has been added on Thursday, January 19th at 7pm. Tickets are on sale now.

The Saturday, Jan. 14 show with McMurtry and Ossana has been cancelled due to a last minute change in their availability. Any tickets purchased for the Jan. 14 screening will be honored at the Jan. 19 show or they can be returned to the theater for a full refund. The Loft Cinema apologizes for any inconvenience. Tickets to regular screenings of the film are on sale now and can be purchased at The Loft box office or by calling (520) 795-0844.

Brokeback Mountain, the newest film from director Ang Lee, is already racking up numerous awards, including Best Film prizes from the critics of New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco, and is nominated for 7 Golden Globes, including Best Picture, Best Director and a Best Screenplay nomination for McMurtry and Ossana. The film will open at The Loft on Jan. 13 and opens in other theaters in Tucson the following weekend. Tickets: \$15 Tucson Film Society members (on sale now for members only), \$20 general admission (on sale Jan. 1).

Puertas Abiertas Meeting Jan. 18

TUCSON - Si es Latino o Latina gay, lesbiana, bisexual, o transgenero..no esta solo/a. Wingspan le invita a reunirse con nuestro grupo Latino. Wingspan, donde las puertas siempre estan abiertas.

If you are a Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, or Transgender Latina or Latino..you are not alone. Come join Puertas Abiertas, who will be holding their monthly meeting, Wednesday, Jan. 18, 6 - 8 p.m., at Wingspan.

For more information, call Geovanna (520) 624-1779, gdelaree@wingspan.org.

'No Longer Silent' Holds Silent March For LGBT Rights, Against PMAA

PHOENIX - On Monday, Jan. 9, the first day of the second regular session of Arizona's Legislature, No Longer Silent: Clergy for Justice marched to the Capitol, voicing its support for LGBT rights and its opposition to the Protect Marriage Arizona (PMAA) initiative.

More than 100 people walked to the Capitol in time for the governor's State of the State address.

"I think it's important that people who are involved with churches speak up for equality and justice," said Frank Loulan of Lutherans Concerned, an organization that promotes Gay and Lesbian causes within the Evangelical Lutheran Church, in an interview with local reporters.

LGBT Bowling League Forming Jan. 19

TUCSON - Another LGBT bowling league is in the process of being formed, with the first meeting to be held, Thursday, Jan. 19, 6:30 p.m. at Tucson Bowl, 7020 E. 21st St.

Teams will consist of four persons, and Gary Gaynor, manager of Tucson Bowl said there are up to sixteen lanes available for the league, that is "the league that gives you what you want," with choices of a new custom drilled bowling, couple pizza slices and a drink (non-alcoholic), as well as other gifts and a potential trip to Las Vegas.

The league will bowl for 16 weeks and is may either be sanctioned or unsanctioned, depending upon the participants decision at the league meeting. For more information, call Tucson Bowl, (520) 747-1363, E-mail: tucsonbowl@aol.com.

A Passionate Affair Feb. 4

TUCSON - Think romance and passion, with plenty of elegance, lots of great music, and fabulous shopping, and you'll be envisioning "A Passionate Affair," with Desert Voices, Tucson's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Straight chorus, who present their annual Silent Auction fund raiser complete with cabaret style entertainment, just in time for Valentine's Day gift giving, Saturday, Feb. 4, 6:30 p.m., at the Historic Y, 300 E. University.

Guests will enjoy beer, wine and champagne from the open bar (courtesy of Woody's and Barefoot Vineyard) and some tantalizing hors d'oeuvres and sweets (courtesy of Feast, Bentley's Delectables, Blue Willow and Blue House Catering) while they browse. Auction tables feature bed and breakfast stays, artwork, tickets to local theatre productions, jewelry, home-made pies, restaurant gift certificates, gift baskets and much, much more for lots of shopping excitement. An ipod nano will be raffled off at the event as well.

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased in advance by calling the Desert Voices office at (520)791-9662 or at Antigone Books, 411 N 4th Ave, or at the door if available. More information is available on the Desert Voices website, desertvoices.org, so make your plans now to get in the mood for love by taking part in "A Passionate Affair," and tickets are limited, so don't delay!



Volunteer orientations are open to all those interested and are held once a month at our main office, located at 375 South Euclid Avenue.

Sign up today!

Contact Wendy Ascione at 628-7223 or wascione@saaf.org



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PERSPECTIVE

by David Williams

My boyfriend and I went to see "Brokeback Mountain" yesterday (he jokingly referred to it as "Bareback Hill," but that's another story!) By the time we got there, the showing was sold out (we'd bought tickets earlier). When we got in 15 minutes before showtime, there were perhaps less than a dozen seats open and only two seats together, right on the first row. Not a happy situation but we didn't want to sit apart so we took them, even though it meant having to sit next to a woman with a loud, raucous, hair-spring laugh.

First of all, I think any criticism to be laid against it is misdirected. I read the short story a few weeks ago, and the film is about as faithful to the story as any Hollywood production can be. The director and screenwriters could have altered the story if they'd wanted to (as happens with so many Hollywood films, of course), but it seems they didn't want to touch the story very much because, after all, it is very well written. (One of the worst movies I ever saw was Hollywood's 1950s production of Tennessee Williams' "The Glass Menagerie," complete with happy ending). So if there's any criticism on this point or that, it should be towards the story and not the film itself.

In my view, the whole theme of the story and film is about missed opportunities and how circumstances of one sort or another can often prevent us from taking advantage of opportunities. The sex relationship is incidental in many ways to that theme.

That is driven home at the end in the schmaltzy scene between Ennis and his daughter, who's getting married on June 5. He replies he can't make it because of a roundup he's

scheduled to make during that time. After thinking about it, though, he tells her his boss can always find another cowboy and decides to attend, suffer the consequences. One potentially missed opportunity that he didn't miss (unlike a long-term relationship with Jack).

Of course, the defining moment of the film is the flashback to when Ennis was nine years old. Several local men get upset when they learn about two ranchers living together in the area. The two are assumed to be homosexual. Eventually they beat one of them to death and castrate him in a gruesome fashion (not shown in the film). After the murder, Ennis' father takes him and his brother to see the body of the victim lying in a gully.

So when Jack Twist proposes that he and Ennis go off and live together on a ranch, the terrifying fears raised in Ennis by the earlier incident come back to haunt him, making it basically impossible for him to have any long-term, intimate relationship with any man except out in the wilds when they're alone and no one's around to see them.

The heterosexual sex scenes? My take is that these conflicted men have conflated homosexuality with weakness, as do so many men, and that they are trying to overcompensate by having wild sex with their wives. I think this is borne out by the first sex scene Ennis and Jack have: it's almost a rape, it's near-violent and super-physical, as if they're denying

it's sex or attraction, and showing that it's just about power and masculinity. That physicality continues periodically throughout the movie (Jack gives Ennis a bloody nose at one point), but many of their intimate scenes together are more tender. They allow their softer, inner feelings to come out when they are with each other, in contrast to their wives, to whom they show masks.

Some critics, like Gene Shallit, have called Jack Twist a "sexual stalker." There is some of that element, but of course the choice of words can mean a lot. I'd call him a pursuer rather than a stalker. After all, Jack's seduction of Ennis is very low-key, drawn-out, and almost imperceptible.

Conservative critic Michael Medved says the movie glorifies adultery, the breakup of families, etc. My take: it points out the problems that happen when Gay men attempt to suppress their true feelings and pretend to be something they're not (another message of the film, I think). Medved also thinks Hollywood is trying to push the "Gay agenda." I guess that's about like saying that "Shakespeare in Love" is pushing a heterosexual agenda or "Fiddler on the Roof" is pushing a Jewish agenda. Doesn't cut it. Sorry.

In the end, I don't think the movie is anti-Gay or anti-marriage, or anti-anything. It's just a story. It has no political or cultural agenda to it. The film's theme isn't about any of that. It's about missed opportunities,

but it shows how we can often miss opportunities simply because of past life experiences or individual circumstances. In other words, the human condition, writ large.

The best films (and short stories and novels) are those which leave each one of his coming away with a different take. Most Hollywood fare these days, you look at it and forget about it next week, but this film makes each of us think, and in the end we all come away with different conclusions. In other words, the greatest films (and fiction in general) make us think, they make us active participants in the story, they make us care about what these people do and what happens to them.

I suspect we'll still be thinking about this film long after it's gone from the theaters (heck, I'm still thinking about "Thelma and Louise," and that film's 15 years old!) I think we'll probably be doing the same for this one.

[David Williams is a editor/columnist for The Letter of Louisville, Kentucky, from which this is reprinted from.]



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Sunday Jan 29th @ 3PM

Cherokee High Court Dismisses Same-Sex Marriage Suit

TAHLEQUAH - The Judicial Appeals Tribunal of the Cherokee Nation, the highest Cherokee court, has rejected an attempt by several tribal council members to invalidate the marriage of a Cherokee lesbian couple. 365Gay.com reported.

The Court held that the council members, who are the legislative branch of the Cherokee Nation, had no standing to seek a court order invalidating the marriage of Kathy Reynolds and Dawn McKinley because the council members could not show that they were individually harmed or affected by the marriage.

The Court rejected the council members' argument that permitting the marriage to stand would injure "the reputation" of the Cherokee Nation.

"We are relieved by the Court's ruling," Reynolds said on Wednesday. "Dawn and I are private people, and we simply wish to live our lives in peace and quiet, just as other married couples are permitted to do."

This is the second time the Court has rejected a challenge to the couple's marriage. In May 2004, Reynolds and McKinley applied for and were issued a marriage certificate and the couple wed shortly after that.

Todd Hembree, who serves as counsel to the tribe's legislative body and opposes same-sex marriage, went to court arguing the Cherokee Nation had no right to recognize the marriage.

Last September the court ruled that Hembree had no standing to sue and could not show that he suffered any harm by the couple's attempt to be recognized as a married couple.

In August, a group of elected tribal councilors filed a new court challenge.

Represented by the National Center for Lesbian Rights the couple sought to have the challenge dismissed.

"We are pleased that that Court protected the fundamental principles of the Cherokee legal system, which prevents government officials from dragging private citizens into court unless the officials have a direct personal stake in the lawsuit," said NCLR staff attorney Lena Ayoub, who represented the couple.



Kathy Reynolds and Dawn McKinley

"The Court held that legislators must demonstrate a specific, individualized harm in order to challenge the validity of a person's marriage, regardless of whether the marriage is between a different-sex or a same-sex couple."

The ruling, however, does not automatically open the door for other same-sex Cherokee couples to marry.

After McKinley and Reynolds wed last year, the Cherokee Nation Tribal Council unanimously approved language that defined a union as between one man and one woman.

Schedule of Rodeo Events

Continued from Page One

- 9:20 p.m. - Rodeo Officials/Staff Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. - 2006 A.G.R.A. Royalty Competition in Rawhide Pavilion. Entertainment Judging
- 2005 A.G.R.A. Royalty Step-Downs; Announcement of 2006 A.G.R.A. Royalty . Entertainment/Dancing
- Saturday - January 14, 2006**
- 7:30 a.m. - Gates Open/Ticket Office Opens @ Rawhide
- 7:30 a.m. - Mandatory New Rodeo Contestant Meeting
- 8:00 a.m. - Rodeo Events Begin
- 1:00 p.m. (approx.) - Grand Entry/Foot Parade
- Rodeo Events Continue After Grand Entry
- Entertainment/Dancing in Pavilion After Grand Entry
- Sunday - January 15, 2006**
- 7:30 a.m. - Gates Open/Ticket Office Opens @ Rawhide
- 8:00 a.m. - Rodeo Events Begin
- 1:00 p.m. (approx.) - Grand Entry
- Rodeo Events Continue After Grand Entry
- Entertainment/Dancing in Pavilion After Grand Entry
- 9:00 p.m. - Rodeo Awards in Rawhide Pavilion
- Entertainment/Dancing After Awards
- Monday - January 16, 2006**
- 11:00 a.m. - "Survivors' Brunch" @ Charlie's (hosted by 2006 Royalty)
- 1:00 p.m. After Rodeo Pussy LeHoot Show @ Charlie's

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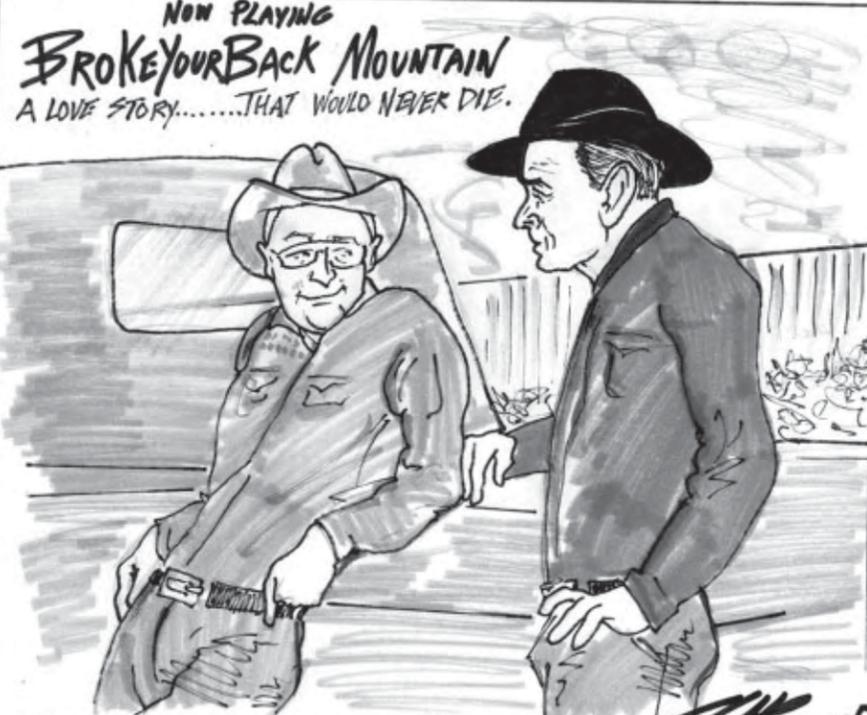
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AS I SEE IT..... BY CLARK

NOW PLAYING
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PHOENIX - People could debate whether Chuck Browning was born a Gay cowboy or chose to become one. After all, he did lead a different lifestyle for many years before he came to grips with his inner Western tendencies and settled on a Phoenix ranch tending horses. And also realized he was attracted to members of his own sex. It would seem, judging by the reaction - and giggles - over the film *Brokeback Mountain*, that it is the cowboy portion of Browning's life that is surprising, not his sexuality.

Had the film been the love story between two hairdressers, it might not have raised an eyebrow. People seem willing to accept the idea that two men can have a relationship, but not this challenge to their perception of a macho American icon. Browning, a sturdily built 42-year-old, doesn't think about that each morning as he rises with the sun, dons his jeans and work shirt, and feeds his three horses. But those stereotypical perceptions, of both heterosexuals and homosexuals, caused confusion for him growing up. He nearly followed the movie's painful script, where both cowboy characters marry and start families.

"That goes on a lot now," Browning said, "Not just in the cowboy sector, that goes on everywhere." Browning was raised in rural Casper, Wyo., before moving to Arizona. As a boy, he rode horses and aided as much as he could in cattle roundups. When he saw *Brokeback Mountain*, it brought back memories of the mountains and open landscapes. It also brought back other memories. "Growing up in Casper, everybody puts up with the jokes about fags and Gays and all that stuff," he said, leaning on a

COMMENTARY . . .

Relating To 'Brokeback' by Richard Ruelas

fence, surveying his horses.

When he first realized he might be Gay, during college in Montana, he thought, "People say all these horrible things. There's no way in God they're going to accept me." He also second-guessed his sexuality because he couldn't identify with what he saw as typical Gay life. One of the few openly Gay men in Montana was a lifeguard who Browning said he couldn't relate to because he was more effeminate than he was.

"I started to (think), 'Well, it's probably where I am, but I'm not like him so, maybe I'm not.' "You go through a lot of self-analysis," Browning said. "I'm not the typical stereotypical Gay person. What's wrong with me? And so then you start to think, well, maybe you're not. "It takes a while to get through all that crap to figure out (that) I'm just a Gay person who likes the Western lifestyle and likes horses."

When he graduated from college, he came to Phoenix. He was still coming to grips with his sexual orientation. He also had a girlfriend and was entertaining thoughts of marriage. "I was capable and functional and knew that could have happened," he said. "But I think when I moved down here and realized a little more about myself and became more accepting of myself, I realized that probably wouldn't have lasted."

Browning wonders how many

Gay cowboys there are in Wyoming and Montana, or even Arizona, who remain closeted and outwardly heterosexual. "There are straight men out there who have another side to them . . . They find themselves living a life that's not their life," he said. "I couldn't do that. I know other people can."

Browning lived in a townhouse in the middle of Phoenix for a few years. But he also bought a horse he boarded. Then another, and another. He started looking for ranch property and found it. He now has a slice of clear blue sky and open land just outside the urban portion of Phoenix.

"There's a peace and a solitude," he said. He's raised two of his horses from birth, training them as they grew up. "I'm sure I didn't do things perfectly, but if you have a calm hand and are patient with them, they'll do anything for you." His three horses are used for barrel riding, one of the events in next weekend's Gay rodeo at Rawhide. Browning will compete in several events, including roping and bull riding. "I have a pink rope," he joked. Browning does not have a pink rope.

Browning praised the accuracy of *Brokeback Mountain*, not just in its portrayal of the struggle Gay men can feel in accepting their sexuality, but also its portrayal of cowboy life. The equipment and attire were right on, he said. Those kind of details will be appreciated by Gay cowboys, Browning said, who live, as he does,

just outside urban areas in the West.

"There's a lot of friends who I know who do (the rodeo) circuit, and they're on the outskirts of larger cities where they can still do their cowboy thing, but they're also close enough to the city," he said. The rodeo is a place for those men to reconnect with their rural roots, to outwardly display the cowboy and cattle lure in their blood that they might not be so free to show the rest of the year. Others, though, are from big cities back East. They weren't born into the cowboy life. They're just curious.

[Richard Ruelas is a columnist for the Arizona Republic, from which this is reprinted.]

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RODEO

January 13-15, 2006
Rawhide at
Wild Horse Pass
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**Coming
Jan 28th
"The Year of
the Dog"
New Year's
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YARD DOG**

Feds Force HIV Groups To Ask Prying Questions

ATLANTA - New federal rules will force HIV-prevention programs to ask people prying questions and send the answers to the government, according to critics of the new requirements, reported pageoneq.com. The Program Evaluation and Monitoring System is being phased in by the federal Centers for Disease Control. Its new rules began extending to HIV prevention programs on January 1, and some Ohio agencies must begin asking the questions this month.

"It's nationalized data collection on a scale not done before," said Sean Barry, director of prevention policy of the Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project, or CHAMP, a national AIDS activist organization in New York City.

The new rules require that participants in federally funded HIV prevention programs be asked a series of questions, and that the responses be entered over the internet. The CDC did not provide any spokesperson with expertise in the rules' details for this report. Spokesperson Jennifer Ruth, however, pointed out that CDC is providing the software and training to agencies for free. CDC documents online tout the new rules as necessary to measure the effectiveness of prevention programs.

Bill Hardy, who directs the AIDS Resource Center in Dayton, said he is not opposed to collecting data and measuring outcomes, "but in a political culture of funding, we're at risk of using data to promote a philosophical bias." The new questions are probing and personal, including where you met your last sex partner and if you knew their name. The questions probe the demographics of sex partners and ask detailed information about sexual histories and drug and alcohol use. They are intended to let the government know who is seeking prevention services and what their risk factors are. For prevention targeted at people who are already HIV-positive, the questions include when the person became aware of their status and identifying information for their partners since then. In states like Ohio with notification laws, this could put people with AIDS at risk of

criminal prosecution.

Michael Gipson of the Cleveland AIDS Taskforce, whose programs will be the first in Ohio to begin the new rules on January 13, said they are currently asking some of the required questions as part of pre- and post-HIV test counseling. "But it's our own internal stuff now," said Gipson. "Now we're going to have to report it to the government."

Agencies that do prevention work currently report only basic demographics like age, gender and race of those who use their programs.

"PEMS resembles behavioral research more than simple monitoring," said Barry, "and as such should be governed by the legal protections of research such as informed consent and Institutional Review Board approval." Barry said people giving information may not know that it is going directly to the CDC.

CHAMP's director Julie Davids is also dismayed that science-based prevention programs are required to do PEMS reporting, while "abstinence-only" ones are not. "PEMS prioritizes invasive data collection above the actual work of HIV prevention itself, threatening to turn educators into interrogators and overwhelm already under staffed agencies," said Davids. "Barely-monitored abstinence only programs get funding increases despite no evidence that they prevent HIV, and much documentation that they spread disinformation." Davids also called PEMS an unfunded federal mandate. According to information published by the CDC in the Federal Register, agencies should expect to pay for at least 67 additional work hours each quarter to do PEMS reporting, and health departments should add 99.

Additionally, according to Barry, the computer requirements may be more than small agencies have, and there is no funding to cover the cost of either the hours or the technology. "This program is not going to give us the answers we need," said Barry. "PEMS will give us neither good monitoring nor good information on outcomes."

Army Discharges Attacked Gay Soldier

Continued from Page One

as a civilian the underlying issue of homophobia in the military remains.

"The command at Fort Huachuca owes Private Lawson, Congress and the public an explanation about why an anti-Gay attack appears to have gone unpunished," said C. Dixon Osburn, executive director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

"Harassment will continue to flourish and commanders will continue to condone that harassment, as they appear to have done in this case, so long as it remains official policy to discharge soldiers for being Gay," said Osburn.

"Congress and the Pentagon must repeal 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' immediately and impose strict penalties against those who engage in any form of harassment. If America is fighting for democracy abroad, it must abide by those same principles at home."

Openly Gay Congressman Barney Frank is also waiting for answers.

Last month Frank sent a letter to Army Chief of Staff General Peter Schoomaker, Frank criticizing the handling of the Lawson case.

"According to unchallenged reports, the local police believed the attack to be a criminal assault, with no justification such as self-defense,"

Frank said his letter to Gen. Schoomaker.

"Despite this, apparently at the request of the Army over which you preside, no charges were filed against the assailant and the consequence is that Private Lawson was doubly victimized, once by the assailant, and then by having to leave the Army in the absence of any action by those under your command to protect him."

Shortly after the attack on Lawson the mother of a soldier killed in a homophobic attack by fellow members of the military in 1999 accused the Pentagon of doing little or nothing to end hate attacks.

In 2000, the Pentagon announced it would take concrete steps to curb anti-Gay harassment in our military and to hold accountable those who harass and condone harassment.

"Nearly six years later, Pentagon leaders have failed to keep their promise," said Patricia Kutteles the mother Army Private First Class Barry Winchell. "The time has come for them to do just that, or for Congress to hold them accountable if they do not."

In 1999 Kutteles's son, Army Private First Class Barry Winchell, was perceived as Gay because he was seeing Calpernia Addams, a pre-op transsexual. Winchell was beaten to death with a baseball bat in his barracks. Two men are currently in prison for the attack.

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Interesting how the corporate hack media says one thing and reports another, so the following for your consideration and review:

Lobbyist and Tom DeLay political crony, Jack Abramoff plead guilty, Tuesday, Jan 3., to federal charges in the bribery and corruption scandal as well to state charges in a Florida case involving SunCruz casinos and a line of cruise ships. Scott McClellan, the White House spokesperson, on Wednesday, Jan. 4 said the Bush administration will donate \$6,000 to the American Heart Association, the same amount Scott says was linked to Abramoff.

Abramoff raised at least \$100,000 for President Bush's 2004 re-election effort, earning the honorary title "pioneer" from the campaign. (Bush to Give Away Abramoff Donations - Associated Press (AP), Jan. 4, 2006). . . .

On Thursday, Jan. 5, Scott McClellan called Abramoff's actions "outrageous" and reiterated to reporters that Bush was not friends with the lobbyist and does not recall ever meeting him—though he said it was possible that Bush met Abramoff at a fund-raising function or at a White House holiday party. (Ties That Bind? - Newsweek, Jan. 4-11, 2006).

In President Bush's first 10 months, GOP fundraiser Jack Abramoff and his lobbying team logged nearly 200 contacts with Bush and the administration. [...] (Controversial Lobbyist Had Close Contact with Bush Team - (AP), May 6, 2005).

In 2001, Bush tapped Abramoff as a member of his Presidential Transition Team, advising the administration on policy and hiring at the Interior Department, which oversees Native American issues. [...] (Controversial Lobbyist Had Close Contact with Bush Team - (AP), May 6, 2005).

POLITICS 2006

by Mark R. Kerr

For Your Consideration

Abramoff's former top aide, Susan Ralston, currently serves as the top aide to Karl Rove. (Ties That Bind? - Newsweek, Jan. 4-11, 2006).

Administration officials obtained from the Secret Service a list of all the times Abramoff entered the White House complex, and they scrambled to determine the reason for each visit. Bush aides are also trying to identify all the photos that may exist of the two men together. (Never a Texas Two-Step, Time Magazine, Jan. 16, 2006 edition). . . .

Various media outlets reporting on Jack Abramoff's plea bargain with federal prosecutors conflated two categories of conduct, one legal and the other illegal, in casting the scandal as bipartisan.

From 1999 to the present, Jack Abramoff and his wife Diana had solely given donations to Republican candidates for the U.S. House and Senate, including incumbents, (such as Arizona's own, Congressman J.D. Hayworth) as well as the GOP and various Republican political action committees and organizations.

There are no Democrats who took direct money from Jack Abramoff. Senator Byron Dorgan D-ND, as well as some others took money from Indian tribes who are not agents of Jack Abramoff. (The Abramoff Scandal (R., Beltway) - It's the Republicans, Stupid, written by Rich Lowry, Editor - National Review (the conservative magazine!), Jan. 10, 2006. Lobbyist Abramoff's 'Equal Money' Went to Republicans, Bloomberg.com, Dec. 21, 2005. Lawmakers Under

Scrutiny in Probe of Lobbyist Ney and DeLay Among the Members of Congress Said to Be a Focus of Abramoff Investigation, Washington Post, Nov. 26, 2005). . . .

President Bush and Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., agreed to language Thursday (Dec. 15, 2005) on a bill to ban U.S. interrogators from using "cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment" of detainees in the War on Terror.

"We reached this agreement and now we can move forward and the whole world can know as we know that the United States does not permit cruel and inhuman treatment," McCain said after an Oval Office meeting with the president and Sen. John Warner, R-Va., chairman of the Armed Services Committee. "We've sent a message to the world that the United States is not like the terrorists," McCain said. "We have no grief for them, but what we are is a nation that upholds values and standards of behavior and treatment of all people, no matter how evil or bad they are. And I think this will help us enormously in winning the war for the hearts and minds of people throughout the world in the War on Terror." [...] (Bush, McCain Reach Deal on 'Cruel, Inhuman' Treatment Ban, Fox News, Dec. 15, 2005).

President Bush agreed with great fanfare last month to accept a ban on torture, but he later quietly reserved the right to ignore it, even as he signed it into law. Acting from the seclusion of his Texas ranch at the start of New Year's weekend, Bush said he would interpret the new law in

keeping with his expansive view of presidential power. He did it by issuing a bill-signing statement - a little-noticed device that has become a favorite tool of presidential power in the Bush White House.

In fact, Bush has used signing statements to reject, revise or put his spin on more than 500 legislative provisions. Experts say he has been far more aggressive than any previous president in using the statements to claim sweeping executive power - and not just on national security issues. "It's nothing short of breath-taking," said Phillip Cooper, a professor of public administration at Portland State University. "In every case, the White House has interpreted presidential authority as broadly as possible, interpreted legislative authority as narrowly as possible, and pre-empted the judiciary."

Signing statements don't have the force of law, but they can influence judicial interpretations of a statute. They also send a powerful signal to executive branch agencies on how the White House wants them to implement new federal laws. In some cases, Bush bluntly informs Congress that he has no intention of carrying out provisions that he considers an unconstitutional encroachment on his authority.

"They don't like some of the things Congress has done so they assert the power to ignore it," said Martin Lederman, a visiting professor at the Georgetown University Law Center. "The categorical nature of their opposition is unprecedented and alarming." [...] (Bush Using a Little-noticed Strategy to Alter the Balance of Power, Knight-Ridder, Jan. 7, 2006).

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Group Wants Pentagon Papers On Spying

WASHINGTON, D.C. - An organization that represents Gays in the military Thursday (Jan. 5) filed a Freedom of Information Act request to learn if it or other LGBT organizations have been spied on by the Bush Administration, 365Gay.com reported.

had spied on New York University law school's LGBT advocacy group OUTlaw, which the military classified as "possibly violent." The administration is also alleged to have spied on Gay groups at the State University of New York at Albany and William Patterson College in New Jersey.

The Servicemembers Legal Defense Network filed the request on behalf of itself and 13 other organizations. Last month media reports said that the Pentagon has been spying on "suspicious" meetings by civilian groups, including student groups opposed to the military's "don't ask, don't tell."

The FOIA request includes a demand for "any and all documents" concerning meetings and communications within and between LGBT organizations, including SLDN. The filing includes a request for "reports, video recordings, audio recording and photographs" obtained through Pentagon surveillance.

"The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community is justifiably alarmed to learn that the federal government has been spying on private citizens exercising their first amendment rights to speak, protest and gather," said C. Dixon Osburn, Executive Director of SLDN.

"We will not stand by and allow the current Administration to use fear as a basis for eroding our constitutional liberties. Free speech means free speech, regardless of one's race, gender, religion or sexual orientation," said Osburn.

"We demand to know which LGBT groups have been monitored, what data has been gathered about those groups and why Pentagon leaders consider law-abiding citizens to be a threat to our national security. As Edward R Murrow said during the McCarthy era, 'We must not confuse dissent with disloyalty. . . . we cannot defend freedom abroad by deserting it at home.'"

In addition to SLDN, the FOIA request includes Gays & Lesbians Against Defamation; the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association; the Human Rights Campaign; the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission; the Los Angeles Lesbian & Gay Center; the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund; Lambdas, Chicago-Kent College of Law; the Mautner Project; the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Projects; the National Youth Advocacy Coalition; Outlaws, University of Michigan School of Law; Pride at Work, AFL-CIO; QLaw, University of Wisconsin School of Law; and OUTLAW, Stanford Law School.

The December media reports said that Pentagon investigators labeled one anti-"don't ask, don't tell" a "credible threat" of terrorism. Media outlets also reported that Pentagon

Medical Group Rejects Bush Admin. Abstinence-Only Policy

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Society of Adolescent Medicine, in one of the most exhaustive reviews to date of government-funded abstinence-only programs, has rejected current administration policy that promotes abstinence as the only sexual health prevention strategy for young people in the United States and abroad, 365Gay.com reported.

requirement that U.S. AIDS relief programs abroad spend at least 33 percent of prevention dollars on abstinence-only programs, the report states: "Human rights groups find that U.S. government policy has become a source for misinformation and censorship in these countries. U.S. emphasis on abstinence may also have reduced condom availability and access to accurate information on HIV/AIDS in some countries."

"We believe that current federal abstinence-only-until-marriage policy is ethically problematic, as it excludes accurate information about contraception, misinforms by overemphasizing or misstating the risks of contraception, and fails to require the use of scientifically accurate information while promoting approaches of questionable value," the report concludes. "Based on our review of the evaluations of specific abstinence-only curricula and research on virginity pledges, user failure with abstinence appears to be very high. Thus, although theoretically completely effective in preventing pregnancy, in actual practice the efficacy of abstinence-only interventions may approach zero."

"The report reads like an indictment," said James Wagoner, president of Advocates for Youth. "Enough is enough. The time has come for Congress to declare an immediate moratorium on federal funding for these programs. It is a national scandal that we have already spent over \$1.1 billion of taxpayers' dollars on programs that don't work and that censor vital public health information for young people."

When the report's authors looked specifically and LGBT teens they found that abstinence-only education was "unlikely to meet the health needs" of the group because abstinence-only programs focus heavily on no sex until marriage and ignore homosexuality. This could lead to increased risk of infection among these youngsters, the investigators said. The report, published in the peer review Journal of Adolescent Health, also says that abstinence-only programs negatively impact other federal policies

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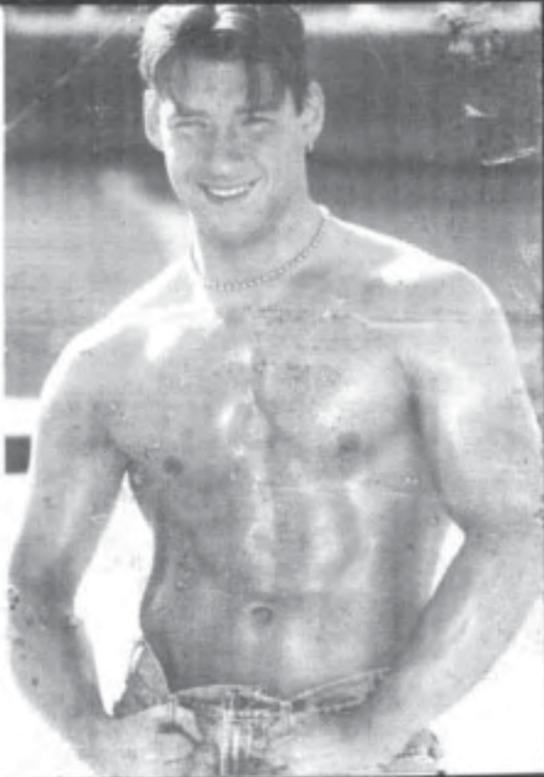
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Kevin Spacey Inadvertently Outed



Kevin Spacey

LONDON - Kevin Spacey's name wound up on a list of legendary Gays and Lesbians that was distributed to students in the United Kingdom, reports SpotlightingNews.com PM on Advocate.com.

Documents distributed by a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender group, under the auspices of Britain's Department of Education, listed Spacey alongside such notables as Oscar Wilde, Tennessee Williams, and Graham Norton. The Oscar-winning actor has consistently denied ongoing rumors that he is Gay.

"We double-check our material carefully, but Mr. Spacey's name got through," said organizer Paul Patrick. "I don't know how; it will be withdrawn. It should not have happened, and we apologize." Spacey will next be seen in Gay director Bryan Singer's *Superman Returns*.

Barbie Website Changed To Appease Conservatives

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Under pressure initiated by a variety of conservative groups, the Barbie website has been amended to no longer include "I Don't Know" as a choice in addition to "Girl" and "Boy," pageoneq.com reported.

The Gender Public Advocacy Coalition (GenderPAC), a DC-based advocacy organization said the changes were not necessary. The group characterized the change as a "retreat." In a statement issued by the organization, executive director Riki Wilchins noted, "Conservative organizations have attacked a variety of

cartoon and fictional characters, including Winnie the Pooh, Tinky Winky, SpongeBob SquarePants, Shrek 2's Pinocchio, and now Barbie for either sex or gender issues," continued Wilchins. "What's next?" she added.

Acknowledging that children are given a neutral or non-response option on all questions on their websites, Mattel spokeswoman Lauren Bruksh called such an option under gender, "just an innocent oversight."

'Brokeback Mountain' Leads SAG Awards Nods

LOS ANGELES - "Brokeback Mountain," a tale of cowboys in a forbidden romance, led contenders Thursday (Jan. 5) for the Screen Actors Guild Awards with four nominations, including honors for lead actor Heath Ledger, reported the PlanetOut Network. The film biography "Capote" and the ensemble drama "Crash" were next with three nominations each, among them honors for their entire casts and for lead actor Philip Seymour Hoffman ("Capote") and supporting actors Don Cheadle and Matt Dillon ("Crash").

Ledger earned a best-actor nomination for his role as a family man concealing a Gay affair with an old sheepherding buddy, played by Jake Gyllenhaal, who received a supporting-actor nomination. Michelle Williams, who plays Ledger's wife, was among supporting-actress nominees. "Brokeback Mountain" also was nominated for best performance by its entire cast, along with "Capote," "Crash," the Edward R. Murrow tale "Good Night, and Good Luck" and "Hustle & Flow," the story of a pimp and drug dealer forging a career as a rap singer. Joining Ledger in the lead-actor category were Hoffman as author Truman Capote in "Capote"; Russell Crowe as Depression-era boxer Jim Braddock in "Cinderella Man"; Joaquin Phoenix as singer Johnny Cash in "Walk the Line"; and David Strathairn as newsman Murrow in "Good Night, and Good Luck."

Lead-actress nominees were Judi Dench as a society dame who starts a nude stage revue in 1930s London in "Mrs. Henderson Presents"; Felicity Huffman in a gender-bending role as a man preparing for sex-change surgery in "Transamerica"; Charlize Theron as a woman leading a sexual-

harassment lawsuit at a mining company in "North Country"; Reese Witherspoon as Cash's soul mate and eventual wife, June Carter, in "Walk the Line"; and Ziyi Zhang as a poor girl who becomes a belle of Japan in "Memoirs of a Geisha." Huffman also was nominated for best actress in a TV comedy series for "Desperate Housewives," a role that earned her an Emmy last year.

Police roles in "Crash" - Cheadle as a devoted detective, Dillon as a racist beat cop - earned them supporting-actor nominations. Along with Gyllenhaal, the other contenders were George Clooney as an undercover CIA agent in the oil-industry thriller "Syriana" and Paul Giamatti as boxer Braddock's manager in "Cinderella Man." Joining Williams as supporting-actress nominees were Amy Adams as a Southern waif in the comic drama "Junebug"; Catherine Keener as Capote pal Harper Lee, author of "To Kill a Mockingbird," in "Capote"; Frances McDormand as an ailing miner in "North Country"; and Rachel Weisz as a slain humanitarian-aid worker in "The Constant Gardener."

Awards will be presented Jan. 29 in a ceremony televised on TNT and TBS. SAG nominations are chosen by 4,200 randomly chosen members of the actors' union, while the full membership of 98,000 is eligible to vote for winners.



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Pastor Accused Of Propositioning A Cop



Rev. Lonnie Latham

OKLAHOMA CITY - The Rev. Lonnie Latham, an outspoken opponent of homosexuality and a national figure in the Southern Baptist Convention, was arrested Tuesday (Jan. 3) in Oklahoma City and charged with propositioning a male undercover police officer, the PlanetOut Network reported. "I was set up," he protested while leaving jail. "I was in the area pastoring to police."

Latham was in the parking lot of the Habana Inn, an area not known for police officers but rather for male prostitutes who flag down cars, police Capt. Jeffrey Becker told the Associated Press. Becker said Latham asked an undercover officer to join him in his hotel room for oral sex. Police arrested the pastor and impounded his 2005 Mercedes. He was charged with a misdemeanor count of offering to engage in an act of lewdness and was released on \$500 bail Wednesday afternoon (Jan 4).

Latham could be sentenced to a year in jail. He also faces a \$2,500 fine, and will also face a puzzled congregation at South Tulsa Baptist Church, where he is the senior pastor. Latham, a member of the Southern Baptists' executive committee, has spoken out against same-sex marriage and has supported a Southern Baptist convention directive aimed at converting Gays into heterosexuals. Southern Baptists are urged to befriend Gays and Lesbians and try to convince them that they can become heterosexual "if they accept Jesus Christ as their savior and reject their 'sinful, destructive lifestyle.'"

His church has posted a note on its Web site that reads, "We are deeply grieved to hear the news about our pastor, Lonnie Latham. Our first concerns are with Lonnie, his family, and our church family. We will be focused on doing what we can to minister to everyone in this difficult time. Our church has a great history and a great future of ministry in this

community. We would appreciate your prayers." The Southern Baptist Convention is the largest Protestant denomination in the United States.

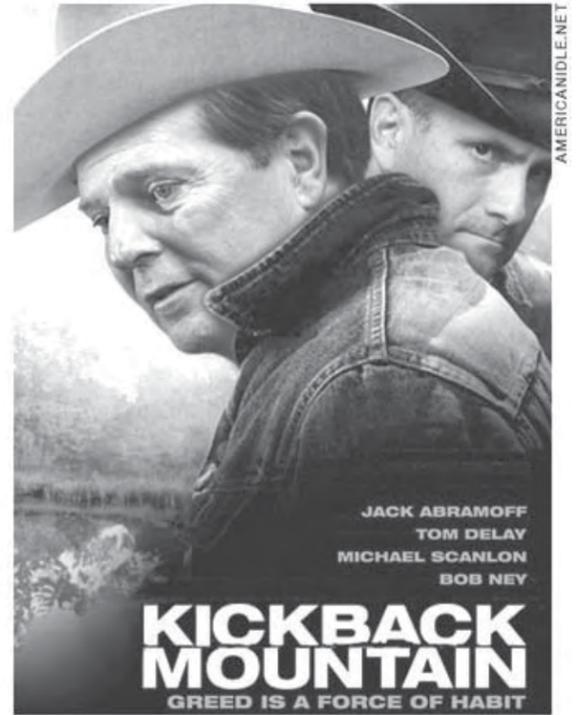
The Rev. Robyn Murphy, a spokeswoman for Soulforce, an organization devoted to changing the hearts and minds of religious leaders who engage in anti-Gay campaigns, was sympathetic to Latham. "The anti-Gay bias has now claimed another victim," Murphy said. "Now he will be ridiculed for being Gay." "What he needs is some sanity and grace, and that's the message he should have been spreading all along," she said. "We wish him well, and we wish he didn't have to be outed in this fashion."

Matt Foreman, the executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, suggested that Latham's arrest was indicative of a larger pattern. "This is just another example of people who are the most viciously homophobic and at the same time are clearly Gay," he told the PlanetOut Network, adding that he suspects the same is true for many anti-Gay leaders. "It's nearly impossible to explain the irrational hatred of our opponents, other than to think they have internal conflicts about their own sexuality," Foreman concluded.

In Their Own Words

"And because of that rule, the Democrats used this runaway District Attorney here in Austin, Texas to abuse that rule. Eight grand juries indicted me, and the only reason to indict me is to get me to step aside." - Rep. Tom DeLay about his indictments, Fox News, Jan. 9, 2006.

The state's highest criminal court on Monday (Jan. 9) denied Rep. Tom DeLay's request that the money laundering charges against him be dismissed or sent back to a lower court for an immediate trial. The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals denied the requests with no written order two days after he announced he was stepping down as House majority leader. - Texas Court Won't Dis-



miss DeLay Charges - AP, Jan. 9, 2006.

The highest appeals court for criminal cases comprises nine Republican judges. (DeLay heads for top appeals court - Houston Chronicle, Dec. 28, 2005.



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Silent Protest Greet 'Lesbian Bating' Coach At MSU



Rene Portland

EAST LANSING - More than a dozen people in purple T-shirts with the slogan "Lavender Menace" were scattered throughout the stands Thursday night (Jan. 5) as Penn State met Michigan State in women's basketball, 365Gay.com reported. The demonstrators were protesting against Penn coach Rene Portland who is accused of engaging in a reign of terror over her student athletes frequently resorting to anti-Lesbian abuse.

"If she cares about her team and cares about Penn State, or cares about women athletes, then she needs to value all of them. She needs to respect and give them the dignity they deserve," said MSU student Penny Gardner who organized the protest. Prior to the game Gardner was warned by MSU officials that while the students had a right to protest, if they became vocal or attempted to disrupt the game they would be removed from the gym.

The game ended with the MSU Spartans dumping Penn State 75-53. Last month a former Penn State women's basketball star filed a federal lawsuit against Portland, charging her with violating numerous federal and state laws and the Constitution. Also named in the suit were Athletic Director Tim Curley, and Penn State University.

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

Gay. In 2005, Coach Portland abruptly told Harris to find somewhere else to play. Harris transferred to James Madison University.

Harris, who is not Gay, is represented by the National Center for Lesbian Rights. The suit alleges the accused violated federal and state laws and constitutional protections prohibiting discrimination based on race, gender, and sexual orientation. In addition to seeking damages, Harris asks the court to order Penn State to conduct mandatory non-discrimination training for all athletic department employees, as well as create new policies to help student athletes report discrimination without fear of retaliation. Harris already has filed a complaint with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission against Portland and the university. Since then two other former players on Penn State's women's basketball team have come forward to accuse Portland of making disparaging comments about Lesbians.

Courtney Wicks, who played on the Lady Lions from 1996 - 1997, and Cindy Davies who played for Penn State in 1980, say that they also heard Portland make accusations about Lesbians. Davies who is a Lesbian and Wicks who has a Lesbian sister made the allegations on ESPN in a program looking into allegations made by Harris.

Gay Priest Comes Out To Parish

THIBODAUX - Deciding he had to practice the honesty he preached, a popular priest has told his family, his bishop and the people in his parish that he is Gay, 365Gay.com reported. The Rev. Jim Morrison said he had been working since October on the letter which he sent early this month to 300 members of the congregation at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church and 200 members of the student ministry.

He mailed the letter and handed his bishop a copy on Jan. 2, about a month after the Vatican released a policy statement saying people with "deep-seated" homosexual tendencies should be kept out of the priesthood. Saturday evening, (Jan. 7) the pews at St. Thomas Aquinas were full.

As pastor, Morrison told the congregation, "I ask you constantly to trust me. I ask you come to me with your life, all the blessings, all the struggles." "But it's not a one-way street," he said. Morrison said he told his parents, four sisters and two brothers before he mailed the letter. "I wrestled with talking to my parents," he said. But, he said, the family talks were "very positive." In the letter he said that for years, he had counseled people struggling with their sexual orientation to be honest about it with people they love. "I have come to realize that while I was encouraging others to be honest, I was not putting these words into practice in my own life," Morrison wrote. He said he wasn't looking for attention or approval but trying to be

more true to himself, God and those he serves.

"I thought it took a lot of courage," Winnie Fauchoux of Thibodaux said after the Saturday evening Mass. "I love him. I think he's a wonderful person. I think the community's going to grow from him being honest." Morrison said he has kept his vows of celibacy and is not in any romantic or sexual relationship. Being celibate and Gay is not against Catholic doctrine, so he does not plan to resign, he said. Nor is he being asked to, said Louis Aguirre, spokesman for the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux. "He's not being asked to do anything but to continue his ministry," Aguirre said.

In a written statement Saturday, Bishop Sam G. Jacobs said the Roman Catholic Church makes a clear distinction between homosexual actions and orientation. The Vatican's statement says homosexual acts are intrinsically immoral, but people don't choose their sexual orientation and should not be discriminated against because of it, the bishop wrote. And, he wrote, people should be judged by their acts.

Morrison, a priest for more than 18 years, has been pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church at Nicholls State University for more than three. Students often drop by to chat, drawn by his warmth and wit. He has led three other churches in Houma and Chauvin, and has been director of vocations and seminarians for the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux. He also helped found a school for at-risk Terrebonne youths and creating a benefit race to support that school. He has traveled to Nicaragua to minister, mentored youths hoping to become priests and won awards for his service. After Hurricane Katrina, Morrison welcomed storm evacuees with pets to the St. Thomas Aquinas Center when some other shelters wouldn't allow animals.

"As Jesus says, one judges a tree by the fruit it bears. A good tree does not bear bad fruit and a bad tree does not bear good fruit," Jacobs wrote. "In my short tenure as bishop of Houma-Thibodaux, I have known Father Jim Morrison to be a compassionate and energetic priest who has provided good pastoral ministry to the people he has served. Unless I discover otherwise, as with all of our priests, I support him in the good that he does for our people."

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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

Assessing 2005 by Lee Thorn

I won't remember 2005 in terms of significant events like the flooding of New Orleans and the government's depraved indifference to human life that it exposed. If I'm unlucky enough to remember 2005 at all, it will be as the year of the voids.

The political void with perhaps the greatest girth was the collapse of organized political resistance to the president. The Democrats seem to have all but disappeared. On the war in Iraq, we have some prominent Democrats agreeing with the president that we should "stay the course" of killing and mutilating Americans with no end in sight and all the objectively measured military trends running against us. We have the majority of prominent Democrats saying that "mistakes were made" and "maybe we shouldn't have even invaded." Neither of these assertions amounts to a plan or a policy or a direction for the future. We have one prominent Democrat saying that we ought to get out. It must be lonely for him out there in the void.

Then there's the lack of a Democratic response to the president's abrogation of the U.S. Constitution. I realize that the average American isn't well enough educated to be fully aware of the abrogation involved in presidential spying without warrants on Americans, but the politicians are fully aware and generally silent on the subject. Putting aside their lack of response to the war and to the tyranny, what are the Democrats planning to run on in 2006? They don't seem to have a program. What's worse is they don't seem to be working on one. Some political pundits are guessing that the Dems are going to run on Republican corruption. "Vote for me. The other guys are crooks." Since most voters already know that both sides have plenty of crooks, this strategy seems a little dubious.

There's a void in the media coverage of the Constitutional crisis. One every other legal issue that I can remember in recent years, CNN and the other networks get legal experts on and ask them, "What about the legality of (this or that)?" I've been watching pretty closely and I haven't seen one of the legal experts asked, "Was it legal for the president to spy on Americans without a warrant?" You can get legal opinions on all kinds of topics all day long on every news channel but I've heard no one ask that simple question. CBS left a void when it disgraced itself with Rather's memogate scandal. It's an important void because CBS was a historically important and reliable source. The NEW YORK

TIMES just keeps on disgracing itself and thereby leaves a similarly important void. As I write this the TIMES has just reported the survival of twelve coal miners who in fact did not survive a mining tragedy. What can you say about that kind of venerable institution making that kind of outrageous mistake?

It's certainly not new to 2005, but the void in entertainment for adults continued big time in that year. It's no secret that the makers of entertainment long ago shifted their sights to a younger demographic, I'm guessing about 13-year-olds. Popular entertainment for educated adults keeps getting harder to find. We've got ever more channels with ever dumber content.

There's certainly no religious void but I'd argue that a spiritual void continues to expand. Religion, for many people, has very little to do with spirituality; it's much more in the nature of a business deal: you follow God's rules and He pays you off with certain rewards. Plenty of people can buy that just as easily as they buy their extended warranties at any big box store. But the spiritual questions have largely disappeared in the void. When's the last time you heard a serious discussion of questions like the following? What should a person do with his life? Why? Is there meaning to be found in the world? Is there meaning to be made in the world? What is the nature of good? What is the nature of evil?

I'd go as far as to say that there's even a void in the arts. Commercial art is thriving by catering to the 13-year-olds. Avant-garde art is thriving by catering to artists. But the platform for art aimed at sophisticated adults who are not artists, the platform for artists like Hemingway, Picasso, Arthur Miller, and Tennessee Williams seems to be steadily shrinking.

I'll end on a happy note. Maybe we've bottomed out and 2006 will be better.

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

Kenny Brau Celebrates The Big Five Oh



TUCSON - Kenny Brau celebrated his fiftieth birthday this past weekend. Here he is blowing out the one 'Big Fifty' candle being held by his long-time partner Boris Dunkov. Both will be moving to Bulgaria in the near future so this was the last birthday on American soil for a few years. Congratulations and welcome to the club!

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HOROSCOPES

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2006 enters with a bang. Did I say bang? I meant kaboom! A Grand Cross with Saturn (problems), Mars (actions), Jupiter (expansion) and Neptune (delusions) sets us careening on a highway with no guard rails. It's a thrill but keep your eyes on the road and pull into the nearest rest stop before you run out of gas.

ARIES (MAR. 21 - APR. 20)
If a certain monetary scheme looks too good to be true, chances are you will jump into it head first in early 2006. Proud Rambos dream of the easy life, full of extravagances and riches that they intend to share among their friends and various lovers. Well keep your day job. Somewhere there is a land where money is ripe for the picking. I haven't found it yet though.

TAURUS (APR. 21 - MAY 21)
Queer Bulls are tired of hovering expectantly in the background, waiting for an opportunity to display their considerable talents. They think early 2006 is finally the time to make their presence known at work, at home and in relationships. Pushy, pushy, baby. It may not get you the type of recognition that you expect or want. Instead of a fierce push, try a gentle prod. Oh yes!

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
No sooner do you think of something to say than it is out of your mouth and hitting its mark. Smack! Early 2006 may go down in your personal history as your era of the Big Mouth. This can make you rather popular in certain circles but it can also lead you astray. But don't worry. Pink Twins are known for their charm, their good humor and their genetic road map.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
2006 brings romance, giddy fun, a host of pals and an assortment of freeloaders who come along for the jolly ride. Who is paying the freight? Let's guess. Gay Crabs wind up coming out of their shells in a big way. But don't catch a monetary chill by spending more than you can reasonably afford. Keep your eye on the bottom line and learn to split the checks this year.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)
Your star rises and shines at the top of the corporate heap as 2006 gets underway. But will you climb each rung with an air of humility and grace or will you scramble up by pushing others off onto their respective professional dumps? Be proud but not dishonorable, Lion. Think about your public face and smile graciously as you scratch and claw behind the scene.

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)
Queer Virgins feel like empty vessels just waiting to be filled with all sorts of interesting, even relatively useless bits of information. Anything to touch the veneer of genius. 2006 proves to be a great year to expand your knowledge and overall wisdom. You talk a good game. Can cleverness alone bring you to nirvana? Maybe not but you will be the spark of the party circuit.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)
Balanced, diplomatic Gay Libras can be especially headstrong in early 2006. Somebody plants a bee in your bonnet and you are buzzing with spit and fire. Friends may not know what to make of all of this rant. They think that

you are racing towards a mirage. Get a grip, take a deep breath and survey the course of events. Looking for love in all the wrong places? Lucky you.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)
2006 is all about you, you, you - expansion, glory, riches and accolades. That is if proud Scorps can find that ineffable balance between their own ego, partner's needs, professional obligations and home interests. Egads, can this be done? Maybe and maybe not. Giving up what you have always desired for the sake of someone else is new terrain. Uhhh very new.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)
Glib Gay Archers may sound surprisingly wise as 2006 gets underway. Your head is filled with expansive and prescient ideas that, through sheer gumption, can come to fruition. Stay close to home, apply the pressure and don't chatter on about it. The more you espouse the more you expose. Brrrr. Just let your actions speak louder and prouder than your words.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)
Who let you out of your cage? Pink Caps become party animals this new year and are the ones to go to for a grrrrreat time. No matter how awful an event may sound, you find a way to liven it up with all sorts of spicy company. And money is no object! A combination of all of this activity may get lovers in a snit but it seems like you have a mandate. Hey, whatever turns you on!

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)
There is something wilde and wonderful about you as 2006 gets underway. Is it your unusual appearance? Perhaps it's your creamy, dreamy allure. Aqueerians turn heads and manage to impress the top tier. Good because partners may be decidedly unimpressed. Go your own way if you must but those January nights can get pretty cold and lonely. Not in Maui though!

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MAR. 20)
Your intuition ramps up in early 2006 and leads you into new areas of exploration and amusement. Wandering the great expanse seems like fun until you get lost in some faraway forest. Then it's a heck of a lot of work to undo what you have done, Guppie. Be sure to pack a boatload of breadcrumbs for the long walk home. I hope you don't attract any pigeons enroute.



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Wednesday, January 11

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

#2 If you would like to donate your gently used items to the MSN Auction at our February 4th Auction/Pot Luck, please contact Jack at home at 887-3736 or 745-8844 at work. He will store and if needed, pick up the articles from MSN members.

Thursday, January 12

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, January 13

AGRA 2005 Roadrunner Regional Rodeo in Phoenix. See page one story in this issue of Observer.

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

Saturday, January 14

AGRA 2005 Roadrunner Regional Rodeo in Phoenix. See page one story in this issue of Observer.

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.

Sunday, January 15

AGRA 2005 Roadrunner Regional Rodeo in Phoenix. See page one story in this issue of Observer.

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed: 10:00 a.m. Merlin & Bo host a Hike on Pontatoc Trail. There will be a choice of 2 trails, one strenuous and the other a bit easier. Bring lunch, water and dust off those of' hiking boots. For more information, including carpooling and directions, call Merlin at 207-5336

Tuesday, January 17

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

#2 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed: 7:00 p.m. Join Karol for an evening of Dinner and a Movie; "Grumpy Old Men". For details and directions, please call Karol at 744-9017.

#3 If you would like to donate your gently used items to the MSN Auction at our February 4th Auction/Pot Luck, please contact Jack at home at 887-3736 or 745-8844 at work. He will store and if needed, pick up the articles from MSN members.

Wednesday, January 18

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed: 7:00 p.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, January 19

#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 Bruce at 743-3890 and reserve by Noon today for Pizza Night on the 20th.

Friday, January 20

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Bruce 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 Bruce at 743-3890. Please reserve your spot by noon on Thursday, January 19th.

Saturday, January 21

#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.

Sunday, January 22

#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed: 12:00 p.m. Steve & Marv host Classic Movie & Bagels. They will be showing "The Day the Earth Stood Still". For reservations and directions, call Steve or Marv at 745-0304.

Non Bar Calendar

#2 If you would like to donate your gently used items to the MSN Auction at our February 4th Auction/Pot Luck, please contact Jack at home at 887-3736 or 745-8844 at work. He will store and if needed, pick up the articles from MSN members.

Monday, January 23

#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 "Holiday Heart", a 2002 film starring Ving Rhames as a larger than life drag queen. (after Newsletter Night). For reservations and directions, please call Arlan at 323-7414.

Tuesday, January 24

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

#2 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Karol hosts Bridge Night. If you don't know how to play, they'll teach you-and it's a very relaxed atmosphere. For reservations and directions, please call Karol at 744-9017.

Wednesday, January 25

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

#2 If you would like to donate your gently used items to the MSN Auction at our February 4th Auction/Pot Luck, please contact Jack at home at 887-3736 or 745-8844 at work. He will store and if needed, pick up the articles from MSN members.

Thursday, January 26

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, January 27

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

#2 If you would like to donate your gently used items to the MSN Auction at our February 4th Auction/Pot Luck, please contact Jack at home at 887-3736 or 745-8844 at work. He will store and if needed, pick up the articles from MSN members.

Saturday, January 28

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.

Tuesday, January 31

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

#2 If you would like to donate your gently used objects in support of MSN, please contact Jack at home at 887-3736 or 745-8844 at work. He will store and if needed, pick up the articles from MSN members.

SYPHILIS IS BACK!

&

HIV NEVER LEFT!

If you have had sex, you could be at risk for Syphilis, HIV and other STDs. Although condoms used correctly each and every time can reduce your risk, why not go the extra mile? Protect yourself, your health and your community by getting tested today.

Sexually Transmitted Disease**Clinic Schedule**

Theresa Lee Health Center
332 S. Freeway
Tucson, AZ 85745
(520) 624-8272

Monday	12:30 – 3:30 P.M.
Tuesday	8:00 – 10:30 A.M.
Tues.	12:30 – 3:30 P.M.
Wednesday	12:30 – 3:30 P.M.
Thursday	4:00 – 6:30 P.M.
Friday	12:30 – 3:30 P.M.

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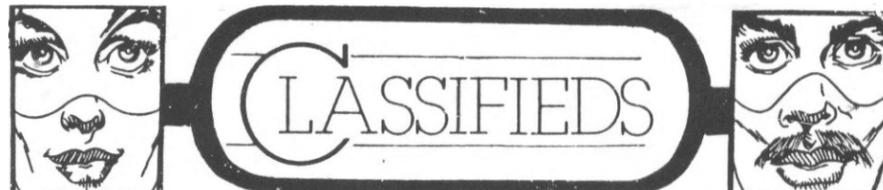
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4 BEDROOM, 2 1/2 BATH. Fireplace, built-in buffet, A/C. Hardwood floors, free W/D. \$1250 + utilities. Brian 270-1425 1121

3 BEDROOM/2 BATH. Near Ft. Lowell/First Ave. New central air/heat, Fenced yard and pets OK. Wall to wall tile. \$925/mo + Util. AND 4 bedroom/2 bath. New central air/het. Laundry hookup. Pets OK. Wall to wall tile. \$1225/mo. + util. Brian 270-1425. 1121

ROOMS BY THE MONTH - SPACIOUS, CENTRAL MEN'S RESIDENCE. All utilities, cable, pool, hot-tub, more! \$345/mo. Must See! Dodge @ Grant. John, 327-3135. 1119

6 BEDROOM/3 BATH - WINTERHAVEN AREA. 2625 E. Prince Rd. Fireplace, W/D hookups. Wall to wall tile. Pets OK. Central air & heat. \$1650 + utilities. Brian 270-1425 1121

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PART-TIME COOK NEEDED. Evenings and weekends required, 22-26 hrs/wk. Pick up application at Howl At The Moon, 915 W. Prince Road. 1119

HANDYMAN - Professional Background in electrical, carpentry and pool repair. No job too small. Call Jon at 881-5988 for rates and estimates. Not a licensed contractor by choice. 1119..

GAY HOUSE PAINTER. Interior and exterior. Quality work and good prices. Free inspection, guaranteed lump sum price. Not a licensed contractor. Chuck, 207-6467. 1119..

PERSONALS

LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO SHARE MY LIFE. G.W.M. Retired motorcycle cop. I'm a mentor. Successful, Hardworking, Honest and Good Looking. Write to: P.O. Box 885, Tucson, AZ 85702 1126

SERVICES

SENSUOUS/EROTIC MEN'S FULL BODY MASSAGE. Experienced Therapist. Satisfaction guaranteed., Tucson's Be\$t Deal. \$45/hr. Evenings/Weekends only. John 327-3135 1119

TENSE? STRESSED OUT? Relax for an hour with a full body rub by Frank. Private studio, off-street parking. 548-7019 days, evenings.

RELAX WITH A FULL BODY MASSAGE FOR MEN in a private studio on the West Side. Call Ralph, 883-74 96. 1129

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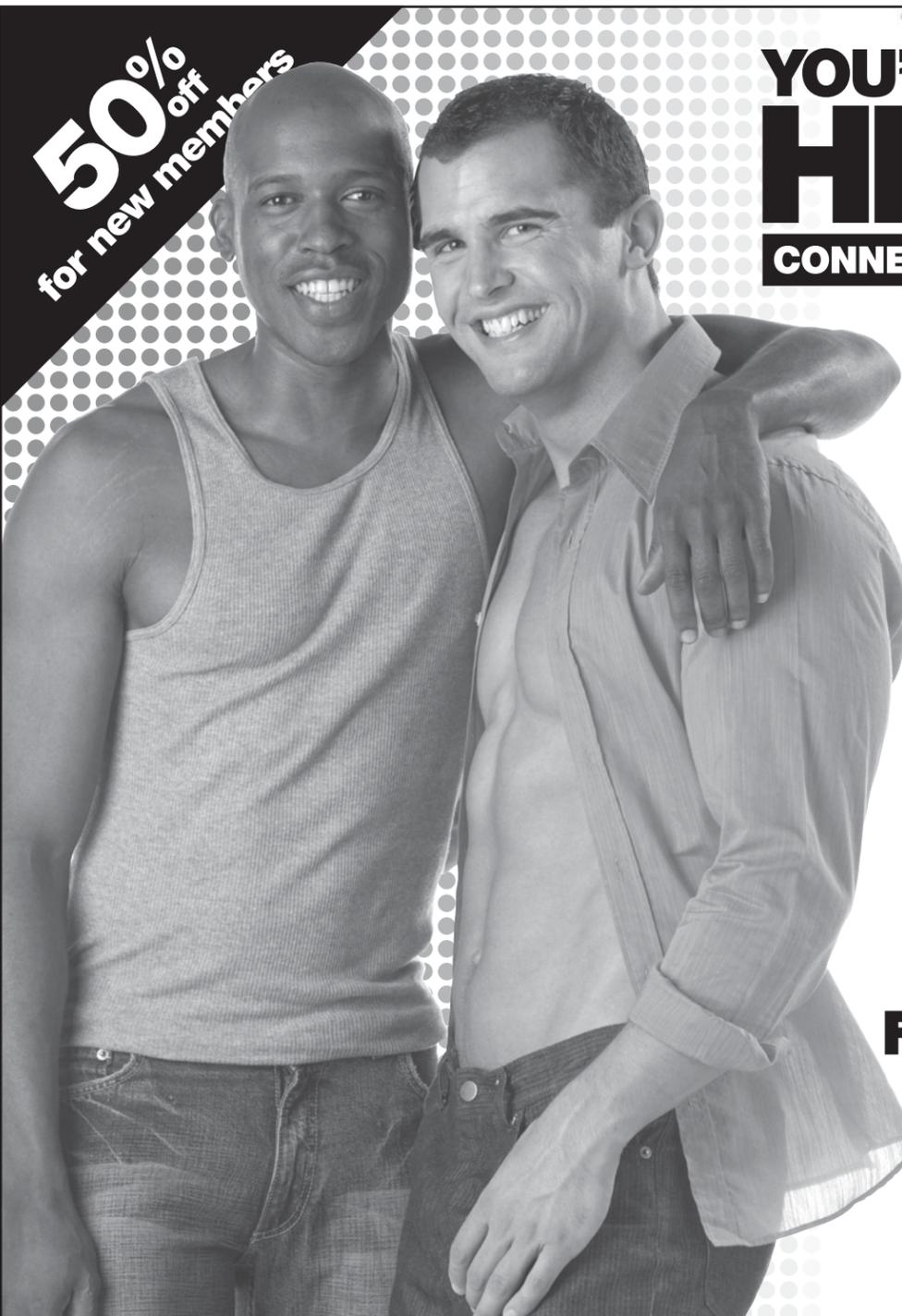
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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

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. \$2 Smirnoff Sundays. 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 \$3 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. Women-Only Texas Hold-Em P oker at 6:30 play for prizes and points.

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. Women-Only Texas Hold-Em Poker at 6:30. Play for prizes and points

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

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

WOODY'S - Open 10am w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm \$1.50 well or domestic longnecks. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Underwear- fetish-leather nite \$1 off for those wearing underwear-fetish or leather. (Excludes draught & schnapps) for all in leather or underwear.

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

thursday

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3 Skyy cocktails, \$2.25 Domestic and half-price appetizers. Full menu served 4-10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

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

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

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio open 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Pool Tourney 7pm. \$3 entry. Special prices for players. Steak Nite (4th Thursday of each month). Bring your own or get it here \$6.00.

WOODY'S - Open 10am w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm \$1.50 well or domestic longnecks. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Free Pool all day. NTN Game Nite w/prizes 9-close. \$1 Pabst Blue Ribbon. Patio bar open 8pm-close

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. 50¢ off any Top Shelf Bourbon til 8pm. Beer Bust 4-8pm. Patio Bar opens 5pm.

friday

COLORS - Open 4pm-1am. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3 Skyy cocktails, \$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, \$3 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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

WOODY'S - Black Light Party from 9:00 p.m. until closing. Drink specials / Wear leather or White and stand out!

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

WOODY'S - January Birthday Celebration for all those whose birthday is in January. 10:00 p.m. Balloons - cake and champagne!!!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

WOODY'S - Drag Bingo at 8:00 p.m. Final game prize will be a DVD Player.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

VENTURE-N - It's a big "Hello and Goodbye" party from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. as Big Jim is retiring and moving on with David and Tom taking up the reins. Come celebrate with David and Tom! Fun, food, drink specials and more!!!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

WOODY'S - Ski Weekend !! Just like Aspen. Don't miss out!!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

WOODY'S - Celebrate Chinese New Year's - the Year of the Dog.

YARD DOG SALOON - According to the Chinese Calendar, the New Year is the 'Year of the Dog' - So what more of an excuse to you need to throw a party? Mark your calendars now

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

WOODY'S - Still celebrating the Chinese New Year 'Year of the Dog' - Best Pooch Contest here at 3:00 p.m.

Trek's Gay Takei Joins Stern In Space On New Show



George Takei

NEW YORK - Howard Stern began his new satellite radio show on Monday (Jan. 9) by putting to rest rumors that he got married to his longtime girlfriend, model Beth Ostrosky - in a comment complete with a federally banned expletive, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. "I am not married. It's a nice feeling that we get along great. We're very happy and I don't want to (blank) it up," said Stern, who is finally free of government decency laws on Sirius Satellite Radio.

Stern has promised everything from stripper poles to live sex on his new show. His deal could be worth up to \$500 million over five years to headline two Sirius channels. At the start of the show Monday, Stern dished up some phone sex with Playboy bunny Heidi Cortez, who has her own phone-sex nighttime show lined up on Sirius.

Stern also introduced George Takei as his new on-air personality. Takei, who played Sulu on "Star Trek" and who last year publicly said he is Gay, will serve as announcer. After the first week, he will record segments for the show but will not be in the studio. "The revolution has begun" in new radio, Takei said Monday. When he came out the 68-year-old actor said he finally felt comfortable talking publicly about his sexuality. "The world has changed from when I was a young teen feeling ashamed for being Gay," he said. "The issue of Gay marriage is now a political issue. That would have been unthinkable when I was young."

Even before his first day on the job, the shock jock recruited listeners for the \$13-per-month service: Its audience expanded from 600,000 to 2.2 million subscribers after Stern announced his switch last year.

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 (GPGLCC) P.O. BOX 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2097. E-mail: webmaster@gpglcc.org or call (602)225-8444.

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

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

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

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO - a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, Call the Bears Hotline (520)790-5775 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 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 indi-

vidual 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 Care Teams 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.



The 'L' Word Returns For A Third Season

LOS ANGELES - The Lesbians of The L Word could serve as role models for their straight counterparts on *Desperate Housewives*: They've put a sophomore slump behind them to return more heartfelt and more playful, reported the Associated Press on Advocate.com. Starting its third season Sunday (10 p.m. Eastern), Showtime's drama about a circle of Gay friends and lovers who move in the trendiest of L.A. circles has upped the emotional ante while restoring the light touch that graced the first season.

The L Word can't match ABC's series in ratings, still strong despite critics' reservations about year 2. But the action on The L Word, including a wrenching journey for tennis pro Dana and—wait for it—Alice's fling with a vampire, makes Wisteria Lane look sleepy. That doesn't even address the fact that the ladies of The L Word, with couture duds to die for, are the better-dressed. And, courtesy of premium cable, they also have extensive opportunities to strut their stuff naked. The ensemble cast includes Jennifer Beals, Pam Grier, Erin Daniels, Laurel Holloman, and Katherine Moennig, with Alan Cumming, Dana Delany, and Rosanna Arquette among the guest stars in the dozen new episodes. "We were in our adolescence in the second season," said Daniels, whose character, Dana, faces breast cancer this year. "In the third season, we've grown up and really figured out what works."

"I made a conscious decision to go back to what we did in the first season, which I think worked better," said out series creator and executive producer Ilene Chaiken. "We went for more naturalistic drama, and we went for the humor which we missed the second year." One example: Alice's (Leisha Hailey) obsession with her ex, Dana, reaches comic proportions, including a spooky shrine. Then comes a rebound romance with Uta the vampire, whom Alice meets through a Bisexual speed-dating service. "It's not completely absurd," Chaiken said. "When I brought up that story [to the series' writers], I said, 'Lesbians and vampires: there's something there. How shall we do it?' A couple of the younger girls on the writing staff said, 'Well, there are these cults of Lesbian vampires.' Another said, 'Oh, yeah, it's called getting embraced; I got embraced,'" Chaiken recounted.

But The L Word, committed to exploring the lives and relationships of Lesbians, doesn't shun substance. Jenny (Mia Kirshner) introduces her pals to Moira (Daniela Sea), her gender-bending girlfriend. "She's our first real butch on the show—a fabulously attractive butch, but nonetheless a real butch," Chaiken said. "And we deal with the issue of gender. We wanted to tell that story—a big story in the Gay community and, in the last couple years, a huge story in the Lesbian community." In story discussions, she and the writers realized how "many of us know men who used to be women, and how many of us have ex-girlfriends who are now guys. I don't, but there were a few girls in our writing group who could speak to that experience."

Politics also is part of the mix, as art curator Bette (Beals) launches into an angry, antigovernment lament in private when the National Endowment for the Arts revokes its funding of her "Art of Dissent" exhibit and goes public at a U.S. Senate committee hearing. But the show's emotional pulse beats most strongly this season with Dana (Daniels) as she confronts her mortality. "We've all been affected by the experience of dealing with a serious illness in our group of friends," said Chaiken—and for Lesbians, she said, friends can constitute the closest of family. The story also touches on the discomfort some Gay women feel toward the medical community because of "all the presumptions that are made about us," she said. "There's so much shame involved that many women, particularly in smaller communities, just don't go" to doctors.

The issue of breast cancer inevitably has a broader resonance. "Ilene and I talked about that a lot, about how it's so important because it's not just Lesbians, it's women. And this is something most women fear," said Daniels. Dana's perfect, athletic body

("If there was one thing she was in control of, that was it," Daniels said) is in jeopardy, and so is her emotional state. "Dana has always wanted to be more loved than she was and more accepted than she was. Finally, she gets to a point where she's comfortable, and she's slapped in the face with another harsh reality.... In Dana's case it brings out an angry side, 'Why me?'" Even before the new season has started, the rumor mill (a.k.a. the Internet) has been churning with speculation about the popular character's fate. "People come up and ask me, 'Is it true? We know Dana has cancer. We just need to know if she dies,'" Daniels recounted. The actress is mum on the subject. But she's happy to talk about what the series and its social impact mean to her. "I would say the show is responsible for making it more OK for Lesbians to be seen publicly and to be out there. That kind of opportunity for an actor doesn't come around very often," said Daniels. The first time an enthusiastic fan voiced her appreciation, Daniels was unused to being recognized and recalls getting "bright red and ner-

vous." Now she welcomes it, she said, because it's a sign of the show's value. "I get, 'Thank you so much for giving me somebody to identify with,' or 'giving me the courage to come out to my parents,' or 'giving my sister an example so that she can sit me down in front of the television and say, 'See that...I'm a Lesbian.'" That's awesome," said Daniels.



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January 13-15, 2006
Rawhide at
Wild Horse Pass
 Gila River Indian Community



rodeoinfo@agra-phx.com

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