



Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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WEEKLY OBSERVER

FEBRUARY 8, 2006

ISSUE 1125

Suspect In Gay Bar Shootings Dies

SPRINGFIELD - A teenager wanted for the brutal attacks on three men in a New Bedford, MA Gay bar and the killings of an Arkansas police officer and a woman died Sunday (Feb. 5) in a hospital, reported 365Gay.com.

Eighteen-year old Jacob D. Robida had been shot twice in the head Saturday (Feb. 4) in a final gun battle with police in the northern Arkansas town of Norfolk. He died in hospital in nearby Springfield, Missouri early Sunday morning (Feb. 5).

What set off Robida's spree of violence last week may never be known. It began early Thursday (Feb. 2) when he went to Puzzles bar in his hometown of New Bedford Massachusetts, took a hatchet from underneath his sweatshirt and struck one man in the face and then pulled a gun and began shooting. In all three people were wounded and sent to hospital.

Robida escaped and an all points bulletin was put out for his mother's green 1999 Pontiac Grand Am.

Two of the victims remain hospitalized - one in critical condition. The third victim, Robert Perry, was released from hospital on Friday. He has a five-inch cut on his right cheek, a hole in the center of his back, where a bullet barely missed his spine, and a black right eye.

Robida's flight ended in a small Arkansas town, some 1,500 miles away.

Saturday (Feb. 4) the car was spotted in the northern Arkansas town of Gassville. As police officer Jim Sell attempted to apprehend Robida, the teen fired twice at the officer, killing him.

The car then sped off. State troopers laid spike strips on the roadway. Despite two punctured tires the car continued on into downtown Norfolk where police had set up a roadblock.

The car did a 180 degree turn and then slammed into several parked vehicles.

After being ordered to surrender the teen opened fire.

Baxter County Sheriff John Montgomery said that during the shootout Robida turned, pointed the gun at a female in the car with him and killed her. State Troopers said they could not confirm that the woman had been shot by Robida.

They said they would wait for ballistics tests before commenting further.

Saturday night (Feb. 4) news



Jacob Robida

of Robida's capture was brought to Puzzles Lounge personally by New Bedford Mayor Scott Lang. The news was greeted with applause.

Robert Perry returned to the bar Saturday night (Feb. 4) as soon as he heard that Robida had been captured. He was hugged by patrons and said the he hopes he can put the attack behind him.

Had Robida recovered from his injuries it is doubtful he would have been returned to Massachusetts. Authorities said he would first be tried first in Arkansas which allows for the death penalty in the killing of a police officer.

The teen's personal Web site shows a youth spiraling downwards. The site is full of references to the rap group Insane Clown Posse - known for its sinister clown makeup and violent lyrics. He posted lyrics from one of the band's songs - "Pass the Ax."

"Pass me something Sharp and Wicked and I'll pass it back, the posting read. The logo for the band's label, Psychopathic Records, depicts a silhouette of a man wielding a hatchet.

Using the nickname "Jake Jekyll" Robida also posted pictures of himself on the Web site pointing a gun. The pictures bear the caption "serial killer."

A search by New Bedford police of his home following the attacks turned up Nazi paraphernalia and anti-Semitic writings.

Friday (Feb. 3) police released one of two frantic 911 calls made from the club. Thursday night (Feb. 2) about 150 people, including Mayor Lang, attended a vigil at the bar.

Bush Administration Equates LGBT Rights Groups With Pedophilia

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The State Department said Friday (Feb. 3) that concern over potential support for pedophilia was behind the U.S. vote to exclude two Gay rights groups from membership on a United Nations panel, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

"We did not vote against the group because they are a Gay rights group," State Department spokesman Edgar Vasquez. "The United States remains a champion of human rights for all in the world and committed to the right of individual freedom of expression."

The department was responding to criticism that the U.S. had sided with Iran, Zimbabwe and other repressive regimes in excluding two Gay rights groups the U.N. Economic and Social Council.

"I had hopes for better from you," Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., said in a letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Frank told Rice he was "deeply troubled to learn that the U.S. government, presumably at your direction, sided with some of the most undemocratic, anti-human rights regimes in the world" in voting against the two Gay groups. "To refuse them status, what else is it except an act of bigotry?" Frank said. Frank is openly homosexual.

Human Rights Watch, the Gay rights group Human Rights Campaign and other Gay rights organizations also complained in a letter to Rice shortly after the Jan. 23 membership vote for the Economic and Social Council.

The U.N. panel is a think tank of nongovernmental agencies from around the world. The Brussels, Belgium-based International Lesbian and Gay Association sought inclusion in May, along with the Danish National Association of Gays and Lesbians. Nearly 3,000 organizations hold "consultative status" with the body, meaning they can participate from within in discussions among United Nations member states.

According to Human Rights Watch, states that joined the United States in voting against the applications were Cameroon, China, Cuba, Iran, Pakistan, Russia, Senegal, Sudan and Zimbabwe. Chile, France, Germany, Peru and Romania voted for inclusion. Colombia, India and Turkey abstained and the Ivory Coast was absent.

Cuba, Iran, Sudan and Zimba-

bwe are among nations regularly criticized by the State Department for repression and human rights abuses. The United States has also criticized China's human rights record, and made milder recent statements about the continuation of military rule in Pakistan and increasingly undemocratic moves by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

In 2002 the United States voted to support the International Lesbian and Gay Association's request to have its status reviewed. U.S. officials have not explained the change.

"We hope you will provide the reasons for this reversal," Human Rights Watch and about 40 other groups wrote to Rice. The letter asked whether it is now U.S. policy to oppose panel membership for any Gay rights group.

Vasquez said Friday (Feb. 3): "The United States continues to implement a law requiring certification by the United Nations to prohibit funding of NGOs that condone pedophilia. The United States as a policy matter remains concerned about support for pedophilia, and we believe that ILGA must establish a verifiable process" to ensure that neither it nor its member organizations promote or condone pedophilia.

U.S. officials thought there was enough ambiguity about the situation that they were uncomfortable voting for the groups.

The State Department documents abuses based on sexual orientation in annual country-by-country reports on human rights practices.

A report on Iran two years ago noted that Iranian law punishes homosexual conduct between men with the death penalty. Human Rights Watch said it has documented four cases of arrests, flogging or execution of Gay men in Iran since 2003.

"We find it incomprehensible that the U.S. government would recognize these human rights abuses while denying the people subject to them the right to make their case, alongside other respected human rights organizations, before the U.N.," the Jan. 25 Human Rights Watch letter said.

The groups noted that three other international Gay rights organizations have pending applications before the Economic and Social Council.

UPDATE

Community Leadership Series Workshop Feb. 25

TUCSON - Gay Men's Health Project is proud to announce its newest campaign in the fight against HIV. The multi-faceted approach, entitled The Naked Truth About HIV...will involve bold print media pieces, virtual interaction via the GMHP website, and a series of Community Leadership workshops.

Print media for The Naked Truth campaign centers around a group photo of individuals, in the buff, who are either infected with or affected by HIV. Each individual in the photo will also have a printed card detailing his or her story around being personally affected by HIV. These will be placed throughout Tucson at key locations frequented by Gay and Bi men. In addition, all campaign materials will be accessible online via the GMHP website at gmhp.org.

The Community Leadership workshops are short but intensive group sessions for men 18 years of age and older. The focus of these workshops is to develop participants skills to help friends and partners change their behaviors around substance use, such as the ever-increasing use of crystal meth, and sexual behaviors that put them at risk for HIV and other STD's. In addition to acquiring these valuable skills, compensation ranges from \$60 to \$180, depending on the level of participation.

For details about where you can see the campaign displayed, or if you are interested in being part of the Community Leadership series, please call Gary at (520) 628-7223 or grhine@saaf.org to secure your place for the next available date. The next session of the Community Leadership series will be held on February 25, 10 am - 4:30 p.m., at Wingspan 425 E. 7th St.

LGBT Lobby Day Feb. 27

PHOENIX - The Arizona Human Rights Fund (AHRF) is holding its Lobby Day at the Arizona Legislature on Monday, Feb. 27, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

This annual event has become the largest LGBT lobbying activity, with LGBT people and straight allies from around the state converging on the State Capitol. Organizers anticipate over 150 participants, who will be treated to this year's special guest speaker Roey Thorpe, Executive Director of Basic Rights Oregon. "We cannot achieve

equality and opportunity without having real political power and a strong legislative presence," said Barbara McCullough-Jones, AHRF Executive Director. "It's an honor to have Roey Thorpe in from Oregon, and a real opportunity to learn from the accomplishments and challenges of activists in other states. The combination of our local political information and training and Roey's keynote address will give folks a big picture of our movement here and around the country."

AHRF has invited representatives from other LGBT organizations to speak at the event. "We have an engaged and enthused audience at Lobby Day who want to learn about a range of LGBT issues, so we'll have speakers from the health care, education, youth, and faith communities address the crowd," said McCullough-Jones.

The event is free, although there is a minimal fee for lunch. A RSVP is not required but is appreciated so enough food can be ordered. Please contact amyk@ahrf.org to RSVP or for more information, call (602) 650-0900.

Antigone Book Event February 10

TUCSON - Local author Sylvia Haskvitz will be at Antigone Books, 411 N. 4th Ave, Friday, Feb. 10, 7 p.m., to discuss her new book, Eat by Choice, Not by Habit: Practical Skills for Creating a Healthy Relationship with Your Body and Food (Puddledancer, \$8.95).

Eating is a basic human need, but what if you are caught in cycles of over-consumption or emotional eating? Sylvia combines sound dietary information with the techniques of Nonviolent Communication, and focuses less on weight loss and more on changing the ways readers relate to food. Much more than another restrictive fad diet, this book teaches practical strategies to develop a healthier relationship with food.

The reading will be followed by a question and answer period. For more information, call (520) 792-3715, antigonebooks.com

Senior Pride Valentine Dance Feb. 11

TUCSON - Bring your dancing shoes and join Senior Pride in their potluck/dance at Howl at the Moon, Saturday, Feb. 11, 3-5 p.m., 915 W. Prince Road, (the southwest corner of Prince & Fairview), for fun!

We're kickin' up our heels with

a DJ spinning a mix of tunes from the 50's to the 80's with some country added, noshing on potluck treats at 3:30. Free ice tea, coffee and soda will be provided. Howl at the Moon is open and has food and alcoholic drinks available for purchase.

For more information, call Pat Woelke (520) 624-1779, ext. 22, or E-mail: pwoelke@wingspan.org.

Special Showing Of 'Dearly Beloved' February 10

TUCSON - Join Wingspan at 425 E. 7th St., Valentine's Day, Tuesday, Feb. 14, 7-8:30 p.m., to celebrate the 2006 Rally for Love and Justice and the two-year anniversary of the San Francisco Marriages by premiering Dearly Beloved, a powerful, funny, poignant, political, and engaging film that covers the marriage events from February to May 2004.

"Dearly Beloved," created by the California Freedom to Marry Coalition, features local news angles of the historical San Francisco marriages, as well as hilarious clips from Jon Stewart, Bill Maher, David Letterman, and Conan O'Brien.

The film also discusses comparisons of the LGBT civil rights movement with the Black civil rights movement of the 1960's. The showing is free and open to the public. Bring your sweetie, your friends, and your family to this important film. Notaries will be available prior to the film to register couples for the Tucson Domestic Partner Registry.

For more information, contact Cathy, (520) 624-1779, or E-mail: cathy@wingspan.org.

GLBTQ Youth Agency Seeks Past Participants For Book

PHOENIX - 1N10, formerly Valley One In Ten and Horizons, is seeking past youth participants and volunteers. This is for input to a book celebrating the non-profit agency's 15 year history serving Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, (GLBT) questioning youth and their straight allies.

Toby Urvater, co-chair and one of the founding volunteers, says the book will tell the history of the non-profit through the individual stories of those who attended. "Over the years 1N10 has played a vital role in thousands of youth's lives. Hopefully, telling individual stories will show how important it is to support GLBT youth. We look forward to the collaboration between youth, past and present," says Urvater.

Matt Heil and Gina Read will co-edit the book, and work with youth interested in telling their stories through prose or poetry.

"Hopefully, this project can show 1N10 participants that their experiences are important, and that our Valley's Gay youth have a community of support," says Heil. "Because we've had to change locations so many times in the past ten years, we've lost a lot of our history and contacts. It's important that we tell as many of the stories as possible, including those of our straight youth," added Read.

For additional information call (602) 373-9490. Past participants can E-mail: coordinator@1n10.org.

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Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation



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(520) 622-7176 (Voice)

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Informing the Community
The Observer

Rally For Love And Justice February 12

TUCSON - On Sunday, Feb. 12, 2 - 4 p.m., two days before Valentine's Day, and the two year anniversary of the historic San Francisco marriages - Tucson will join more than 20 cities and towns across the country to host the 2006 Rally for Love and Justice.

If you want to help defeat the "Protect Marriage Arizona" amendment, defend civil rights, protect your relationship and family, and celebrate love, family, and community in the spirit of Saint Valentine, please come to the rally on Sunday, February 12th from 2-4pm at Tucson's El Presidio Park (by City Hall) at Alameda and Church. Get involved now so on November 8, the day after the election, you won't ask yourself, Was there more I could have done?

Wingspan is organizing this year's Rally for Love and Justice, to demonstrate the power of Southern Arizona's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) and allied community to defeat the extreme and far-reaching proposed amendment to the Arizona state constitution, and show the entire community's opposition to the proposed amendment to the Arizona state constitution. If passed, the "Protect Marriage Arizona" amendment would not only ban marriage for same-sex couples, but would also outlaw all straight and LGBT domestic partnership benefits in Arizona.

Arizona's families and children would lose: health insurance benefits and access to health care; hospital visitations and family rate registration at city facilities. As well as protesting the proposed amendment, the rally is also a celebration of all of Arizona's Families. There will be activities at the rally for the youngsters and the young at heart, including face-painting, a Valentine-Making station, and more!

Rally for Love and Justice

speakers will include a broad based coalition of people opposed to this discrimination proposal, and include (subject to change):

Kelly Frieders, a straight, married, Christian, Republican, stay-home mother of triplets, and co-chair of the Faith Committee of Arizona Together and is a member of their Speaker's Bureau.

Carly Frieders, an eight years old and in second grade at Sahuarita Primary School along with her triplet brother and sister, Drew and Ally.

Lupe Castillo, longtime community activist.

Rev. James Lunden of Rincon Congregational United Church of Christ.

Laura Penny, Executive Director of the Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona, and serves as Treasurer of the Wingspan Board.

Clarence Boykin, Executive Director, Tucson/Southern Arizona Black Chamber of Commerce.

David Bucchiere and The Rev'd Dr. John Hooker have been partners for 16 years, and they are legally married in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Melita Quance is the Program Coordinator of the Wingspan Anti-Violence Project.

Linda Lopez, D-Tucson, Arizona State Representative.

Michael Woodward, program coordinator of the Southern Arizona Gender Alliance, a program of Wingspan providing support and advocacy services to the Transgender and gender-diverse community.

Tom Oliver and Fred Hubbard met over 11 years ago in San Francisco. Fred is originally from El Salvador and Tom was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Jess Knutson, Field Campaign, Arizona Together Coalition.

Michael Mandel, production manager for V-Day Tucson 2006.

Tucson Councilmember Karin Uhlich, D-Ward 3.

Jack and Karen Kressley have been married for 45 years and are the parents of four grown children.

Mary Casanova, who will graduate with Masters of Social Work in May 06' from ASU. Mary is a single parent with five year old bright, active and opinionated boy

Richard Elias, Pima County Board of Supervisors

Pam Squires, daughter of a Fundamental Baptist Minister, and Sarah Jones, daughter of a Missouri Synod Lutheran Minister, celebrated their 10th Anniversary this last fall.

Amanda Simpson, Project Manager at Raytheon Missile Systems, the first openly Transgender person to win a state party primary election in the United States.

Kaitlin Meadows and Albert Lannon are registered Domestic Partners living out in Picture Rocks, elders not able to marry without jeopardizing Social Security benefits, and very much in love.

Thom Melendez and Brian Bateman, celebrating 10 years together this April.

Amelia Craig Cramer, an

attorney practicing in Tucson, member of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Arizona and former co-chair of the Board of the Arizona Human Rights Fund and of the City of Tucson Commission on GLBT Issues.

Stacy J. Speer, a Senior Software Engineer with Raytheon Missile Systems and is President of the local Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Allies Employee Resource Group. She and her partner Kathy live in the desert near Bisbee with their collection of critters.

Monique Martin, Aide to Tucson Council Member, Nina Trasoff, D-Ward 6.

And several clergy from local places of worship!

Tucson's own Raging Granies, Desert Voices, Reveille Gay Men's Chorus, and Daizy L. Woodz (a big, voluptuous Diva who is strong like ever-lasting lip gloss and hot like red, strawberry skittles) and TigerCakes (T.C. Tolbert) will provide entertainment during the rally. A certified ASL interpreter will be provided during the speeches and address.

Volunteer notaries will be available during the Rally to register couples for the Tucson Domestic Partner Registry. Simply bring a check for \$50 made out to the City of Tucson. All couples who register during the rally can have the option of having their wonderful new Registry announced from the stage—what a great Valentine's weekend present for you and your sweetie! Please bring your signs, rainbow flags, families, friends, and neighbors in support of civil rights for all Arizonans. Please also bring chairs and blankets so you can sit comfortably and enjoy the entire afternoon. For more information, call (520) 624-1779.

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Subway Sued On HIV Bias Charge

LAS VEGAS - Lambda Legal filed a lawsuit Thursday (Feb. 2) in federal court on behalf of a Las Vegas man who claims to have led his Subway restaurant to record sales yet was fired after revealing he has HIV, reported the PlanetOut Network. According to the complaint, Robert Hickman distinguished himself after being hired by Subway franchiser Donna Curry Investments in November 2004, earning a merit increase in salary and becoming manager of a new Las Vegas store.

Despite his achievements, he was fired Feb. 4, 2005. The suit claims it was one day after Donna Curry, the owner of the company, learned Hickman had contracted HIV. "My HIV status in no way interfered with my ability to perform my job," Hickman said in a written statement. "The one thing that should have mattered at all to my employer - my job performance - didn't even seem to enter into their minds when they fired me, because all they cared about was that I have HIV."

"Not only is it not good business to fire an employee who was rewarded for high achievement just because that employee has HIV, it is also against the law," said Jen Sinton, staff attorney at Lambda Legal and

lead attorney on the case. "Terminating Bob Hickman because he has HIV flies in the face of established law and basic science that shows that HIV did not affect our client's ability to do his job."

The suit, filed in United States District Court in Las Vegas, accuses Donna Curry Investments as well as Doctor's Associates, the chain's national corporate entity, of violating the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Nevada Employment Practices Act. Sinton said Hickman is seeking a monetary award for the emotional distress his termination caused him. "Bob is seeking to vindicate his rights," she said. "He is seeking to prevent other terminations like this from happening."

This lawsuit is part of Lambda Legal's "Blow The Whistle" campaign to end workplace discrimination against LGBT people and those with HIV. The LGBT legal group has similar lawsuits pending against Harrah's Casino, Coldwell Banker Americana, the U.S. State Department and Miami University in Ohio. It has won or has settled cases with United Parcel Service, Cirque du Soleil, Foot Locker Inc., Nodak Enterprises, the city of New Orleans and the United Methodist Children's Home, in Decatur, Ga.

State Confirms Florida Anti-G/L Measure Dead

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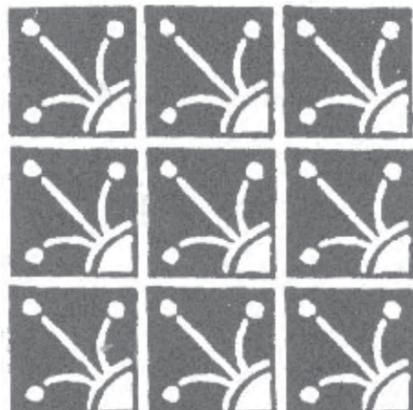
Jury Convicts Web Hook-up Killer

DES MOINES - An Iowa jury on Wednesday (Feb. 1) convicted Jon Matthew McGee, 24, of second-degree murder for killing a married man he met through a Gay personals Web site, Sirius OutQ News reported on Advocate.com.

McGee was found guilty of stabbing Terry Graham to death last year in a motel room, after the two connected through the site. The 52-year-old Graham was a former pastor, reportedly in Des Moines on business.

Prosecutors had sought a first-degree murder conviction for McGee, saying that the killing was premeditated. The defense argued that McGee, who had a history of mental illness, was legally insane at

the time of the stabbing. Defense attorney Peter Berger said that the second-degree conviction was "the correct verdict." McGee now faces a mandatory 50-year prison sentence.



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& "Tucson United in Leather"

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Alito Confirmed As 110th Supreme Court Justice; LGBT Reacts

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Samuel Anthony Alito Jr. became the nation's 110th Supreme Court justice on Tuesday (Jan. 31), confirmed with the most partisan victory in modern history after a fierce battle over the direction of the high court, reported the Associated Press on Advocate.com. The Senate voted 58-42 to confirm Alito, a former federal appellate judge, U.S. attorney, and conservative lawyer for the Reagan administration from New Jersey, as the replacement for retiring justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who has been a moderate swing vote on the court.

All but one of the Senate's majority Republicans voted for his confirmation, while all but four of the Democrats voted against Alito. That is the smallest number of senators in the president's opposing party to support a Supreme Court justice in modern history. Chief Justice John Roberts got 22 Democratic votes last year, and Justice Clarence Thomas, who was confirmed in 1991 on a 52-48 vote, got 11 Democratic votes.

The confirmation troubled many leading Gay activists who opposed Alito's nomination on the grounds that he would likely vote against the advancement of Gay rights. "With this confirmation, the Supreme Court likely will shift to the right and become a less welcoming forum for many kinds of civil rights claims," said Kevin Cathcart, executive director of Lambda Legal. "However, it is important for us to remember that the court still contains a majority of justices who ruled in favor of liberty and equality for Gay people in Lambda Legal's two recent Supreme Court successes that are the foundation for much of our community's progress—Lawrence v. Texas and Romer v. Evans—and those cases remain the law of the land. The confirmation of Justice Alito is being much celebrated by those who oppose equality and fairness for all Americans. But at Lambda Legal we firmly believe that time is on the side of continued legal progress for LGBT people. This is a movement for equality, and there are bound to be ups and downs. Nonetheless, we know how to move forward steadily and surely, and we will continue to do so."

With the confirmation vote, O'Connor's resignation became official. She resigned in July but agreed to remain until her successor was confirmed. She was in Arizona Tuesday teaching a class at the University of Arizona law school. Underscoring the rarity of a Supreme Court justice confirmation, senators answered the roll call by standing one by one at their desks as their names were announced instead of voting and leaving the chamber. Alito and Roberts are the first two new members of the Supreme Court since 1994.

Alito is a longtime federal appeals judge, having been confirmed by the Senate by unanimous consent on the third U.S. circuit court of appeals in Philadelphia on April 27, 1990. Before that, he worked as New Jersey's U.S. attorney and as a lawyer in the Justice Department for the conservative Reagan administration. It was his Reagan-era work that caused the most controversy during his three-month candidacy for the high court.

Alito replaces O'Connor, the court's first female justice and a key moderate swing vote on issues such as assisted suicide, campaign fi-

nance law, the death penalty, affirmative action, and abortion. Critics who mounted a fierce campaign against his nomination noted that while he worked in the solicitor general's office for President Reagan, he suggested that the Justice Department should try to chip away at abortion rights rather than mount an all-out assault. He also wrote in a 1985 job application for another Reagan administration post that he was proud of his work helping the government argue that "the Constitution does not protect a right to an abortion."

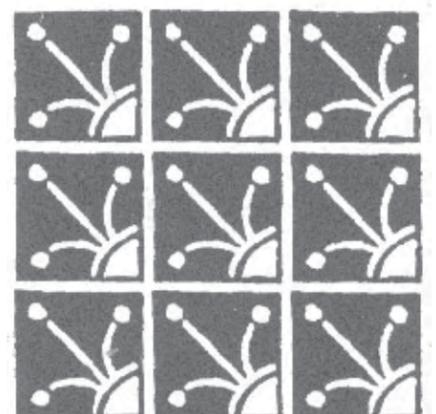
Now, Alito says, he has great respect for Roe as a precedent but refused to commit to upholding it in the future. "I would approach the question with an open mind, and I would listen to the arguments that were made," he told senators at his confirmation hearing earlier this month. Democrats weren't convinced, with liberals even unsuccessfully trying to rally support to filibuster Alito on Monday. "The 1985 document amounted to Judge Alito's pledge of allegiance to a conservative radical Republican ideology," Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid of Nevada said before the vote.

They also repeatedly questioned Alito during his five-day confirmation hearing after he would not discuss his opinions about abortion or other contentious topics. At one point, his wife, Martha-Ann, started crying and left the hearing room as her husband's supporters defended him against the Democratic questioning. "To Judge Alito, I say you deserve a seat on the Supreme Court," said Senate majority leader Bill Frist.

Alito's path to the Supreme Court is infused with New Jersey connections. Born in Trenton as the son of an Italian immigrant, he attended Princeton University. He headed to Connecticut to receive his law degree, graduating from Yale University in 1975. His late father, Samuel Alito Sr., was the director of New Jersey's Office of Legislative Services from 1952 to 1984. Alito's sister, Rosemary, is a top employment lawyer in New Jersey.

Alito was not the White House's first choice or even second choice for the Supreme Court. Bush picked Roberts when O'Connor first announced she was stepping down last year. After Roberts was promoted to the top spot after Chief Justice William Rehnquist died, the White House again passed over Alito for the vacant seat, instead selecting White House counsel Harriet Miers.

Miers's withdrawal following a barrage of conservative criticism in late October finally brought Alito's name to the forefront, although he then had to contend with constant references as "Scalito" or "Scalia-lite," references to his judicial similarity to Justice Antonin Scalia. "I'm my own person. And I'm not like any other justice on the Supreme Court now or anybody else who served on the Supreme Court in the past," Alito said at his confirmation hearing.



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Betty Friedan

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Betty Friedan, whose manifesto "The Feminine Mystique" became a best seller in the 1960s and laid the groundwork for the modern feminist movement, died Saturday (Feb. 4), her birthday. She was 85, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. Friedan died at her home of congestive heart failure, according to a cousin, Emily Bazelon.

Friedan's assertion in her 1963 best seller that having a husband and babies was not everything and that women should aspire to separate identities as individuals, was highly unusual, if not revolutionary, just after the baby and suburban booms of the Eisenhower era.

The feminine mystique, she said, was a phony bill of goods society sold to women that left them unfulfilled, suffering from "the problem that has no name" and seeking a solution in tranquilizers and psychoanalysis.

"A woman has got to be able to say, and not feel guilty, 'Who am I, and what do I want out of life?' She mustn't feel selfish and neurotic if she wants goals of her own, outside of husband and children," Friedan said.

Eleanor Smeal, president of the Feminist Majority Foundation, publisher of Ms. magazine and a former president of the National Organization for Women, praised Friedan's legacy.

Friedan, she said, "was a giant for women's rights and a leading catalyst of the 20th century whose work led to profound changes improving the status of women and women's lives" worldwide. "The Feminine Mystique" helped to "define the lesser status of women," she said.

"That book changed women's lives," said Kim Gandy, current president of NOW, which Friedan co-founded. "It opened women's minds to the idea that there actually might be something more. And for the women who secretly harbored such unpopular thoughts, it told them that there were other women out there like them who thought there might be something more to life."

In the racial, political and sexual conflicts of the 1960s and '70s, Friedan's was one of the most commanding voices and recognizable presences in the women's movement.

As the first president of NOW in 1966, she staked out positions that seemed extreme at the time on such issues as abortion, sex-neutral help-wanted ads, equal pay, promotion opportunities and maternity leave.

But at the same time, Friedan insisted that the women's movement had to remain in the American mainstream, that men had to be accepted as allies and that the family should not be rejected.

"Don't get into the bra-burning, anti-man, politics-of-orgasm school," Friedan told a college audience in 1970.

To more radical and Lesbian feminists, Friedan was "hopelessly bourgeois," Susan Brownmiller wrote at the time.

Friedan, deeply opposed to "equating feminism with Lesbianism," conceded later that she had been "very square" and uncomfortable about homosexuality.

"I wrote a whole book objecting to the definition of women only in sexual relation to men. I would not exchange that for a definition of women only in sexual relation to women," she said.

Nonetheless she was a seconder for a resolution on protecting Lesbian rights at the National Women's Conference in Houston in 1977.

"For a great many women, choosing motherhood makes motherhood itself a liberating choice," she told an interviewer two decades later. But she added that this should not be a reason for conflict with "other feminists who are maybe more austere, or choose to seek their partners among other women."

By then in her 70s, Friedan had moved on to the issue of how society views and treats its elderly.

She said that while researching her last book, "The Fountain of Age," published in 1993, she found those who dealt with old people "talk about the aged with the same patronizing, 'compassionate' denial of their personhood that was heard when the experts talked about women 20 years ago."

She had not stopped being a feminist, she said, "but women as a special separate interest group are not my concern any more."

Friedan, born Feb. 4, 1921, in Peoria, Ill., was a high achieving Jewish outsider growing up in middle America. Her father, Harry Goldstein, owned a jewelry store; her mother, Miriam, quit a job as a newspaper women's page editor to become a housewife.

As a girl, Friedan watched her mother "cut down my father because she had no place to channel her terrific energies, a typical female disorder that I call impotent rage," she said.

From high school valedictorian in 1938 to summa cum laude graduate of Smith College in 1942, "I was that girl with all A's and I wanted boys worse than anything," she said.

She won a fellowship in psychology to the University of California, Berkeley, but turned down a bigger fellowship there so as not to outdo a boyfriend.

The romance broke up anyway and Friedan moved to Greenwich Village in New York and became a labor reporter.

She lost one job to a returning World War II veteran but found another before marrying Carl Friedan, a summer-stock producer and later an advertising executive, in 1947. The marriage, which produced three children, ended in divorce 22 years later.

Continued on Page Seven

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Feminist Betty Friedan Dies

Continued from Page Six

Friedan got a maternity leave to have her first child in 1949, but was fired and replaced by a man when she asked for another leave to have the second child five years later.

The family had moved to a big Victorian house in the suburban Rockland County village of Grandview-on-the-Hudson, N.Y., where Friedan cranked out freelance magazine articles while bringing up her brood.

Hoping to get a magazine piece out of a Smith College 15-year reunion, Friedan prepared an in-depth survey of her classmates.

What she found was that these well-educated women of the class of 1942, now largely suburban housewives, were asking, in effect, "Is this all?"

Friedan couldn't get the article published in a magazine, but five years of more research and writing turned it into "The Feminine Mystique."

If some women read it as a call to arms, others were outraged, Friedan recalled. Dinner invitations stopped; she was out of the school car pool.

But the first printing of 3,000 eventually grew to 600,000 copies hardcover and more than 2 million in paperback. The book was listed at No. 37 on a 1999 New York University survey of 100 examples of the best journalism of the century.

In 1964, the family moved back to Manhattan in 1964 and Friedan began working to have the federal government enforce the Civil Rights Act as it applied to sex and not only to race, religion and national origin.

Founding NOW was a response to federal inaction. The finale of Friedan's presidency was the national women's strike of August 1970, which brought women out across the country on the 50th anniversary of women's suffrage.

Bush Renews Attack On G/L Marriage

WASHINGTON, D.C. - President Bush reached out to Democrats, called for new education, economic and fuel initiatives and renewed his attack on Gay and Lesbian families Monday night (Jan. 30) in his State of the Union speech, reported 365Gay.com.

Addressing a joint session of Congress the president said that "many Americans, especially parents, still have deep concerns about the direction of our culture, and the health of our most basic institutions. They are concerned about unethical conduct by public officials, and discouraged by activist courts that try to redefine marriage."

The comparison drew an angry response from the Human Rights Campaign.

"Trying to draw comparisons between the reprehensible acts of unethical politicians with fair and independent judges is both ridiculous and wrong," said HRC President Joe Solmonese.

National Stonewall Democrats, unexpectedly, were more blunt.

"It is dishonest for President Bush to ethically couple marriage recognition of American families with the permissive, slop-trough gorging on special interest money that has

shamed the Bush Administration and his Republican Party," said Eric Stern, NSD Executive Director.

She also was a founder in 1968 of the National Conference for Repeal of Abortion Laws, which became the National Abortion Rights Action League, and of the National Women's Political Caucus in 1971.

During the following decade she taught and lectured, and her 1981 book, "The Second Stage," was seen by many as a public break with the feminist leadership that had succeeded her. She said they had pursued "sexual politics that distorted the sense of priorities of the women's movement during the 1970s," and had opened the way for conservatives and reactionaries to occupy the center on family issues.

In "The Second Stage," Friedan also appeared to accept criticism from some women that "The Feminine Mystique" was too dismissive of domestic life. "Our failure was our blind spot about the family," she wrote.

Friedan taught on both coasts, at New York University and the University of Southern California, lecturing widely and traveling to women's conferences around the globe.

She helped persuade the Democratic Party to give women half the delegate strength at its nominating convention and was herself a delegate when Geraldine Ferraro was nominated for vice president in 1984.

She lived in New York City and Washington, D.C., and had a summer house in Sag Harbor, N.Y.

Survivors include her sons, Daniel Friedan of Princeton, N.J., and Jonathan Friedan of Philadelphia, and daughter Emily Friedan of Buffalo, N.Y.; nine grandchildren; a sister, Amy Adams of New York; and a brother, Harry Goldstein of Palm Springs, Calif. Carl Friedan died in December, according to Bazelon. The funeral took place Monday (Feb. 6) at Riverside Memorial Chapel in New York.

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The President also called for additional tax cuts and better health care insurance alternatives to working families.

"If the President is truly interested in cutting taxes and providing health care coverage for working families then he would support an end to the tax inequity on health care benefits for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Americans," said Solmonese. "Our community is being taxed at a much higher rate than our neighbors and the President and Congress should act on this disparity."

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POLITICS 2006
 by Mark R. Kerr

Arizona Legislative Update

Students in more than 3,000 middle, (junior high, grade level depending upon the state, usually 7-8) and high schools across the country have formed clubs or organizations (known as Gay-Straight Alliances or Diversity Clubs) for which the goals of these groups are to address anti-LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) name-calling, bullying, bias and harassment in their schools and promote respect for all students regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity - perceived or otherwise, and address the subsequent issues as well affecting all students.

Arizona, according to the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Educators Network (GLSEN), the national educational organization working to ensure safe schools for all students, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity perceived or otherwise, has 51 such clubs and organizations in schools across the state. GLSEN works to make anti-LGBT name calling, bullying and harassment unacceptable in America's K-12 schools; engage and empower educators as partners in creating schools where every student can fully participate in school life; and, ensuring that the national education agenda to ensure effective schools includes LGBT issues.

In 2005, GLSEN conducted a survey of the nation's schools system. Entitled the "National School Climate Survey," GLSEN found that more than four out of five LGBT students had experienced verbal, physical and sexual harassment frequently or often in their schools. Another 2005-national report from GLSEN and Harris Interactive found that a majority of teachers and students across America identify bullying as a "serious problem" in their schools. Sixty-five percent of America's students report they have experiences bullying with the most common reasons for bullying being students' physical appearance and they're real or perceived sexual orientation. These two same studies found that anti-bullying and harassment policies, a supportive faculty and the presence of school clubs are factors related to safer schools, better school performance and higher student aspirations.

If Arizona conservatives get their way though these clubs and groups could become history, thanks to legislation from a recently ousted legislator, David Burnell Smith, who was removed from office for violating Arizona's Clean Election Laws. Before Smith was ousted though he had introduced legislation, HB 2730 - schools; clubs promoting sexual behavior, if approved and signed into law, would prohibit these clubs from organizing, meeting or allowed to use facilities in any university or school in Arizona. On Monday, Feb. 6, HB 2730 was second read by Arizona House Speaker Jim Weiers and assigned only to the House Rules Committee.

HB 2730 is not an "isolated incident," since there is legislation pending in the legislatures in Virginia, Georgia and Utah being considered this year and other action, either legislative or through the courts, school boards or otherwise has taken place recently in Pennsylvania, California, Texas, Oregon, North Carolina and Kentucky, to name a few of the states where students and supportive teachers and school administrators are battling to organize such groups or maintain the clubs that are currently present. So who is behind all this? Either the religious-right, the local Republican party (GOP), or GOP legislators looking for that sure fire, election issue, have been spearheading these efforts to quash these clubs and organizations.

Weiers actions, assigning the bill only to the House Rules Committee, have put HB 2730 on a "legislative fast track," since the Rules Committee only looks at whether a bill is drafted in a way that would violate the Arizona Constitution.

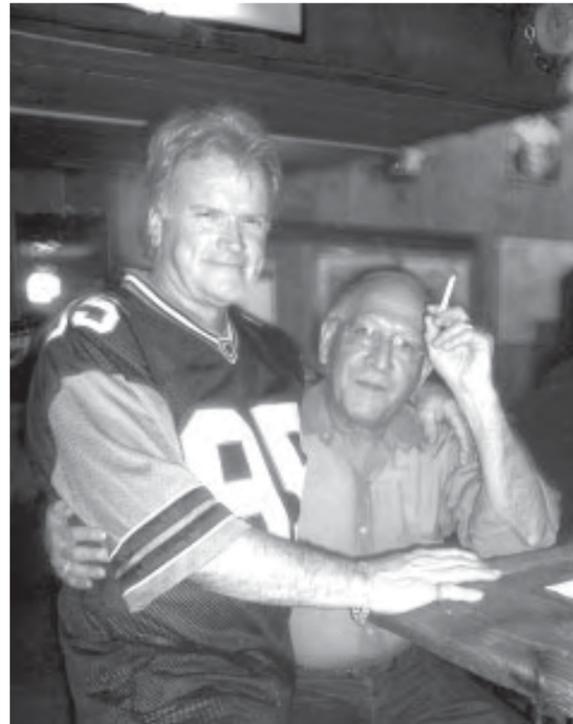
Votes in the Rules Committee are not recorded, and the legislation that is approved gets a do pass recommendation and then sent on to the House Committee of the Whole for consideration, and the subsequent third vote thereafter. What Weiers has done is get the measure over the first hurdle, the upcoming deadline to hear bills in their respective chamber's committees, which falls on Friday, Feb. 17. Also, of the 1,547 proposed pieces of legislation introduced by the 90 Arizona Legislators, most won't get past this first deadline but since the issue had been introduced in time, the issues they cover are still in play and can be resurrected through a parliamentary maneuver called the "strike-everything" amendment, taking out the language of a bill and inserting it into another that has gotten further along in the process.

For HB 2730 though the sponsor may no longer be in office, the issue remains "in play," and can advance either in its present form or through a "strike-everything" amendment. It is bad enough that the state's youth who are within the age range (15-24) for the most new diagnosis of HIV, according to recent medical reports and surveys, can't get medically accurate information about HIV/AIDS, as well as other sexually transmitted diseases in Arizona's school system and now efforts may be underway to prohibit who can organize groups or organizations and use the school facilities. Sources at the state capital may say the issue won't get anywhere but as it has been the case with Arizona's Legislature, nothing is over until Sine Die. ...

As previously reported, there are 9 other bills (seven positive, one negative) that had been filed by legislators for consideration: SB 1417 (medically accurate information in public schools, HB 2672 (hate crimes), HM 2002 (negative - opposing federal hate crimes bill), HM 2003 (don't ask, don't tell), HCM 2005 (don't ask, don't tell), HB 2726, HB 2422 (family leave insurance), HB 2696 (negative - adoption preference), and HB 2752 (state health plan). None of these measures have been scheduled for hearings, as of press time, by the respective committees they've been assigned to for consideration and the deadline for hearings in their respective chambers is approaching (Friday, Feb. 17).

To take action on the above-mentioned proposals, call contact your state Senator and Representative and speak out. In Tucson and Pima County, call the Tucson Legislative Office, (520) 398-6000; for Phoenix and Maricopa County, call the Capitol Complex, (602) 926-3559 (State Senate), (602) 926-4221 (State House); and, for those outside these two areas or who wish to reach their legislators offices at the Capital directly, one can also call toll-free, (800) 352-8404. To send an E-mail to your state Senator, go online to azleg.state.az.us/MemberRoster.asp?Body=S, and click on the E-mail link for your Senator, and to send an E-mail to your state Representatives, go online to azleg.state.az.us/MemberRoster.asp?Body=H, and click on the E-mail links for your two Representatives. If you want to send an E-mail or perhaps don't know who your representatives are, go online to eqfed.org/ahrf/home.html, the Arizona Human Rights Fund Advocacy Center, for which you can send messages on these measures in support and opposition, as well as finding out who represents you by just entering your zip-code and pressing enter.

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Bill Would Ban Use Of Tax Dollars For Partner Benefits

SALT LAKE CITY - Last fall, Salt Lake City Mayor Rocky Anderson signed an executive order extending health care benefits to the same-sex and unmarried heterosexual partners of city employees. Anderson said his action was a step toward equality for city employees, but a bill endorsed Wednesday (Feb. 1) by a House committee would make Anderson's order illegal, reported 365Gay.com.

does allow for expanded benefits, but only if the employee is willing to cover the entire cost of the insurance. "If its not subsidized by public tax dollars, were trying to make additional options available to public employees," he said after the meeting.

House Bill 327 would also prohibit any city, county or state government entity from using tax dollars to subsidize health care benefits for anyone but a narrowly defined list of dependents, including a current spouse and children who are either natural, adopted or for whom the employee is a legal guardian. Sponsor Rep. LaVar Christensen, R-Draper, said the bill presents an opportunity for the state to set public policy, rather than let the courts establish random policies through lawsuits spawned by the policies of individual cities. "If we don't act in this, are we then just abdicating our responsibility?" Christensen asked members of the House Retirement and Independent Entities Committee. The committee voted 4-1 to support Christensen's measure. It now goes to the full House for consideration.

What's unclear is if HB 327 might affect a pending action by the Salt Lake City Council to move beyond the mayors proposal to offer extended - and subsidized - benefits to employees who can prove an economically dependent relationship with someone.

A vote on the policy is expected this week (ending Feb. 10) City Council Chairman Dave Buhler said. The bill "would have an impact on it potentially if it passes as it is now," Buhler said. "But my recommendation to the council is that we go forward." Buhler says the councils goal is not to levy a moral judgment. "Its not based on a personal relationship, its based on an economic relationship. It could be a partner, it could be roommates, it could be a sibling, it could be a parent," he said. The benefit is expected to cost the city between \$140,000 and \$225,000 a year, depending on how many employees sign up. That conflicts with Christensen's bill, which would make it illegal for the city to subsidize insurance costs, Buhler said. "Where we're coming from is, let's treat all of our employees fairly and not make judgments about them," he said. Buhler said he's spoken to Christensen about his proposal and said he expects a continuing discussion. "But, of course, from a city perspective, wed rather (the Legislature) not dictate what we do with our employees," Buhler said. "Well see where things go."

Anderson's September order, which he intended to be effective immediately, is being challenged in court and is awaiting a ruling from a 3rd District judge. At issue is whether Anderson ran afoul of Amendment 3, a 2004 ballot initiative that banned Gay marriage or any legal equivalent recognition of marriage for same-sex couples Utah's constitution. Christensen said the amendment isn't an issue in his bill. In fact, HB 327

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San Francisco Looks To Name Street After Activist Drag Performer

SAN FRANCISCO - Fifteen years before Harvey Milk became "mayor of Castro Street," San Francisco drag performer Jose Sarria blazed a trail for openly Gay politicians by mounting an audacious 1961 run for the board of supervisors during which he campaigned in both men's and women's attire, Advocate.com reported. Though he placed ninth out of 33 candidates, Sarria mobilized the Gay voting bloc of San Francisco and symbolized the potential ascension of LGBT candidates, which would come to fruition with Harvey Milk's election to city supervisor in the late '70s. "I wanted to prove that a Gay person had the right to run for public office, that we all had that right," Sarria told the Los Angeles Times.

featuring San Francisco's LGBT history. Some residents, though, don't want the name change, and now two dozen neighbors have signed a petition to stop it. "Politicians don't rename the streets they live on," resident Jimmy Buckley told the paper. "They always go to somebody else's neighborhood."

To honor the accomplishments of the 82-year-old Sarria, Gay San Francisco city supervisor Bevan Dufty wants to name a city block after him, reports the newspaper. If successful, the move would create the first street in the city named after an out man. "My own little block, that's nice-it'll make my enemies jealous," Sarria, who now lives outside Palm Springs, Calif., said to the newspaper. "It's interesting they're doing this while I'm alive. They usually do such things after you die. Maybe somebody figures I haven't got much longer to live. I hope they're not pushing me out the door."

Similar street name changes that would have honored civil rights leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. and César Chávez have failed in California. Supporters of Sarria say his achievements, which include founding a successful charity organization called the Imperial Court System, warrant the honor. "Jose Sarria is our Rosa Parks," drag activist Nicole Murray Ramirez told the newspaper. "This one little man has had a far-reaching impact."

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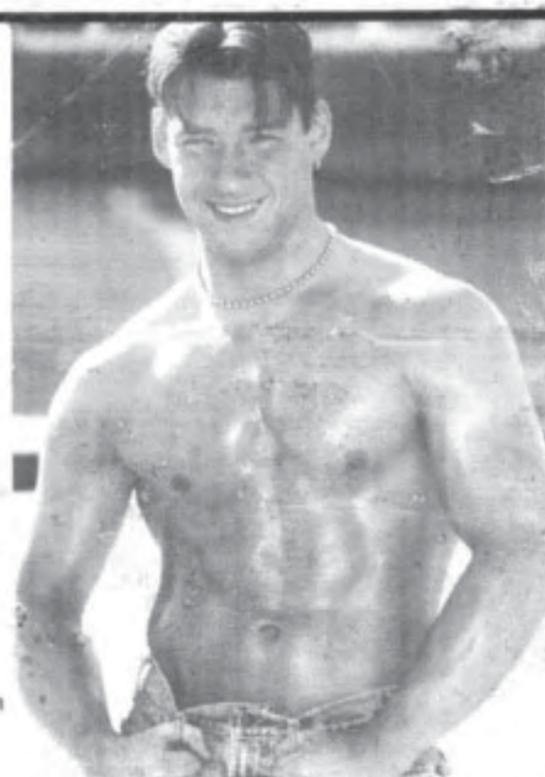
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Is Bringing Men Together

Jose Sarria Place would be part of San Francisco's 16th Street and encompass an area containing a public library named after Milk. The hope is that the library will be expanded to include a museum

Navratilova Joins OutGames



Martina Navratilova

MONTEAL - Tennis great Martina Navratilova has become the latest LGBT athlete to join the Outgames' Circle of Champions, reported 365Gay.com. Organizers of the games, to be held July 26 through August 5, said Wednesday (Feb. 1) that Navratilova will participate in the International Conference on LGBT Human Rights to be held in conjunction with the games.

The Conference has attracted Gay advocates from around the world and will focus on expanding LGBT civil rights. It will end with the signing of an

accord on Gay rights to be called the Declaration of Montreal. Navratilova will oversee the signing ceremony. She will be joined by Canadian Olympic gold medal winner Mark Tewksbury, Co-President of the 1st World Outgames, in presenting the Declaration at the official opening of the games.

"She and I will read the Declaration of Montreal, the true legacy of the Conference, at the Opening Ceremony of the 1st World Outgames," said Tewksbury. "This model will result in the largest LGBT sport and cultural event ever held," said Navratilova. "This is why I am so proud to be part of this important development in the history of the international LGBT community."

Organizers say they intend to introduce the document at the United Nations. The Outgames Circle of Champions is an international group of prominent individuals supporting the goals and principles of the 1st World Outgames. The games will bring together 16,000 participants from 120 countries and 250,000 visitors. The program will feature 35 sport disciplines, 6 cultural activities as well as the International Conference on LGBT Human Rights.

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EDITOR:

During the 2004 elections religious and Republican homophobes instigated unparalleled bigoted attacks while the Democrats caved and ran, disavowing their timid, phony vote-getting support. The violence that erupted from these twin events is particularly ruthless.

The U.S. is a cesspit of entrenched bigotry, a class/race/caste society dominated by the super rich. They use homophobia, racism, misogyny and anti-worker bigotries, bolstered by Christian dogma, to divide and rule. Homophobic violence occurs in the context of the callousness routinely exercised to protect the entrenched power of that super rich 1% of the population owning 60% of the wealth. That pitiless violence ranges from none too subtle doctrines like "benign neglect," which created the tragedy in New Orleans, to the blunt butchery of Panama and Iraq.

If it's true on the one hand that large numbers of Americans accept the idea of equality, it's equally true that the Christian-extremist axis would happily treat us like the Nazi's did their victims if given the option.

When violence like the terrorism in New Bedford erupts we should launch campaigns mobilizing ourselves and our allies, emphasizing mass demonstrations demanding prosecution of the thugs and their clerical and political sponsors, and then sue them, using their assets to compensate their victims. These aren't the Dark Ages - we don't have to live with fear. We OWN the moral high ground on the question of violence. The untold victims of murders and beatings paid for it with their lifeblood.

Taking the offensive against the bigots will help end the awful demoralization and isolation that many Gays and Lesbians face which causes stress, ill-health, addictions and the terrible rates of suicide, particularly among vulnerable young Lesbians and Gays.

Oscar Wilde, who endured national chauvinism and homophobia - the English pigs never forgave him being Gay or Irish - didn't abandon his socialist or liberationist ideas, saying "I have no doubt we shall win, but the road is long and red with monstrous martyrdoms".

Our job is to prevent victimization by landing like a ton of bricks on the heads of bullies and thugs and particularly on the religious and political bigots who empower them, whither they speak from the pulpit, the White House or Congress. Another way is to donate to Lambda Legal, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, and the ACLU, stressing the importance of prosecution and lawsuits against the bigots.

Bill Perdue (By E-mail)

ACLU Defends Oklahoma Minister Arrested For Soliciting Sex

OKLAHOMA CITY - Charges against an anti-Gay Southern Baptist minister arrested for soliciting sex from a male police officer in Oklahoma should be dropped on constitutional grounds, says the American Civil Liberties Union, reported Advocate.com.

The ACLU filed a friend-of-the-court brief on Wednesday (Feb. 1) in an effort to dismiss the case against 60-year-old pastor Lonnie Latham, arrested in January on a misdemeanor charge of "offering to engage in an act of lewdness" with an undercover police officer. Latham invited the officer up to his Oklahoma City motel room for oral sex but did not offer money for the act, according to the police report.

"The Supreme Court [via the Lawrence v. Texas decision] had made it crystal clear that when it comes to their sex lives, consenting adults are free to do whatever they

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please in private," said Joann Bell, executive director of the ACLU of Oklahoma. "It is not a crime merely to invite someone to have completely lawful sex. If it were otherwise, every bar in the state may as well shut its doors."

Latham could face a year in jail and a fine of up to \$2,500 if convicted. After being released from jail on a \$500 bond January 4, Latham made to reporters the now seemingly contradictory statement of "I was set up. I was in the area pastoring to police."

Following his arrest, Latham resigned as senior pastor from South

Tulsa Baptist Church. According to the Associated Press, Latham has spoken out against same-sex marriage and in support of a directive urging the Southern Baptist Convention's 42,000 churches to befriend Gays and Lesbians and try to convince them they can become straight "if they accept Jesus Christ as their savior and reject their sinful, destructive lifestyle."





States Eye Picketing At Soldiers' Funerals

COLUMBUS - States are rushing to limit when and where people may protest at funerals all because of a small fundamentalist Kansas church whose members picket soldiers' burials, arguing that Americans are dying for a country that harbors homosexuals, reported the Associated Press.

During the 1990s, the Westboro Baptist Church of Topeka, Kan., went around picketing the funerals of AIDS victims with protest signs that read, "God Hates Fags." But politicians began paying more attention recently when church members started showing up at the burials of soldiers and Marines killed in Afghanistan and Iraq. Legislation is being considered in at least 14 states, and several of the bills moving quickly, with backing from legislative leaders and governors. If they pass, the bills could set up a clash between privacy and free speech rights, and court challenges are almost certain.

"We're not proposing to silence the speech of the Westboro Baptist Church, as offensive as most of us find that," said Kansas Senate Majority Leader Derek Schmidt, a Republican. Instead, he said, he is trying to achieve a balance that respects "the rights of families to bury their dead in peace."

The church has about 75 members, most of them belonging to the extended family of Westboro Baptist's pastor, the Rev. Fred Phelps. The church is an independent congregation that preaches a literal reading of the Bible. Shirley Phelps-Roper, Phelps' daughter and an attorney for the church, said states cannot interfere with their message that the soldiers were struck down by God because they were fighting for a country that harbors homosexuals and adulterers. Lawmakers are "trying to introduce something that will make them feel better about the holes we're punching in the facade they live under," Phelps-Roper said. "If they pass a law that gets in our way, they will be violating the Constitution, and we will sue them for that."

Among the states considering such measures: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin. Some of the bills specify noisy, disruptive behavior or signs with "fighting words," as in Wisconsin. Some bar protests within

one or two hours before or after a funeral starts; others specify distances ranging from 10 car lengths to five blocks away; some include both.

Violations can bring fines of a few hundred dollars, up to 30 days in jail, or more. Wisconsin is calling for fines of up to \$10,000; one of five Oklahoma bills would set a one-year jail sentence. Missouri's bill was named for Army Spc. Edward Lee Myers, 21, whose wife went to his funeral an hour early to try to avoid protesters. They were already across the road, holding signs that read "God Hates Fags" and "God Made IEDs," a reference to roadside bombs. Her 5-year-old son kept asking why "mean people" were outside, undercover agents were in the church, and she worried that angry relatives might start a fight. "I couldn't even pay my last respects because of everything that was going on," Jean Myers said.

Legislation against funeral protests was also introduced in West Virginia last month after a small knot of protesters from Westboro Baptist demonstrated outside a memorial for the 12 men killed in the Sago Mine disaster. The protesters held signs reading, "Thank God for Dead Miners," "God Hates Your Tears" and "Miners in Hell," arguing that the miners' deaths were a sign of God's wrath at America for tolerating gays. "It's just inhuman for a group that says it's coming in the name of the Lord to protest a funeral," said state Delegate Jeff Eldridge, a co-sponsor of the West Virginia bill.

If such restrictions are challenged, the courts will probably look to rulings on laws governing abortion protests, constitutional scholars said. The U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Florida ban on peaceful picketing within 300 feet of an abortion clinic, but allowed restrictions on behavior that impedes access to a clinic. However, the courts have allowed restrictions on picketing in front of doctors' houses, saying privacy trumps free speech. The question is whether a church, funeral home or cemetery is considered private or public during a ceremony, said Eugene Volokh, a law professor at the University of California at Los Angeles.

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What Makes Our Town Tick?

Calabazamusic@yahoo.com

By Jerry D

Censorship Revisited

Hello readers! Way back in 1967, television was still dealing with the boundaries it was going to set regarding what can and can not be said on the air. One of the best examples of the test on this medium occurred on Sunday nights.

Ed Sullivan was the most watched television show of its time. The endless names of celebrities that graced the stage each week could fill any museum. Sullivan was a pioneer in every sense of media and knew that his audience was broad in its range of wants. Sullivan invited to his stage in 1967 a band of youths from England that was taking the rock world by storm. The only issue with the Rolling Stones appearing on the show that week was a line from the hit song they were going to perform. Shortly before going on the air, Mick Jagger agreed to change one word on the Stone's hit "Let's Spend the Night Together." The CBS censors felt that suggesting spending the "night" was a little to risqué, so they asked Jagger to change it to "some time" together. Jagger altered the lyric, but not without gesturing to the camera for those who knew the true lyric in a cynical manner.

It looks, as things have not changed in the last 36 years. I was prepared for a memorable performance at this year's Super Bowl game. Out came the Rolling Stones, older, but just as kick ass as they were all those years ago. The song their medley started with only evokes deja vu by the end.

Many sport teams have adopted "Start Me Up" as a musical number for fan and athlete to prepare for any game. At the end of the song, there is a line that reads, "You make a dead man come." As I sang along with my television, I found myself being the only one audible when the word "come" approached the song. Could it be a technical error? Could the satellite have lost a signal? Why was that word removed from the soundtrack of the band's performance? Too many questions raced, but I just let it go, not thinking much of it till the next morning's news reached my computer.

It seems the Rolling Stones allowed, agreed and accepted the censorship of the word, along with the editing of the word "cock," meant of

course in double meaning, from another song in the medley. Both were performed with no cynical look into the camera either. Needless to say, it was something that brought me back to my keyboard for the moment you are reading now. None of the words censored, either back in 1967 or last week, can be considered curse words in any dialect. They were simply suggestive in the lyric for a sexual content. Censorship has not changed in all those years it seems. Of course the power of the dollar is probably the biggest curse of all, as once again rock's bad boys have heeded to the ruler of the taskmaster.

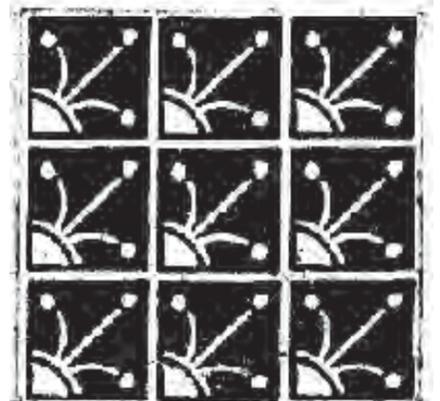
In case you are wondering, the game was pretty good for a change. Maybe I will see the day when the half time show is just as enjoyable without any controversy or anger inducing stupidity. Long live free speech, even if we have to blank out the words that some might find offensive. Have a great week!



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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

Our Criminal President

by Lee Thorn

When President Bush recently bragged that he'd been spying on Americans without warrants, when he claimed that it was somehow legal for him to do so, and when he went on to say that he was going to keep on doing so, I assumed that he'd be impeached and perhaps tarred and feathered and run out of town on a rail. I was wrong. The general response to Bush's criminal outrages has been some mild grumbling. I'll hypothesize about the tepid response momentarily, but first I want to explain the magnitude of the crimes.

It's not just that Bush is violating the plain language of various laws and abrogating the Constitution; he's also violating the basic philosophic underpinnings of the American Republic. Stated simply, our government is based on the phrase, "power corrupts." We've got lots of mechanisms—federalism, separate branches of government, checks and balances—that limit the concentration of power as a means of limiting the possibilities for corruption. In asserting absolute power and saying essentially (I paraphrase), "I can tap any damn phone I want to any damn time I want to and keep it all secret forever," the president is not only trashing laws and our Constitution, he's trashing the bedrock of American political philosophy.

In trying to grasp how he's getting away with it I guess the biggest factor is our deficient system of public education. You can go from kindergarten through to a bachelor's degree in this country without acquiring any significant knowledge of law, history or political philosophy. That being the case, I'd guess that nine out of ten Americans have no idea of the seriousness of our current Constitutional crisis. This general ignorance allows the media to routinely misrepresent the issues involved. The bogus media formulation that I hear every day runs something like this: "Are Americans willing to sacrifice some of their privacy for greater security?"

First, the "some" is misleading. The president doesn't recognize any limitation on his spying, so instead of "some" one should say "any amount that the president wants." More importantly, there is no evidence that Americans get greater security by having the president circumvent the

legal means which have been established to accomplish the spying he claims to be interested in. An accurate formulation would be, "Are Americans willing to give up their privacy for no demonstrable increase in their security?"

If public ignorance explains why the media CAN get away with basically shilling for the president, that still doesn't explain why they should WANT to shill for him. One obvious reason is that the media are subject to his regulation. A less obvious reason is that the media may actually fear the social instability that could result from calling a Constitutional crisis a Constitutional crisis. I have heard exactly one legal scholar on television state the simple fact that the president's warrantless spying is "a crime," and that was on C-SPAN.

But there's an even better motive for media complicity: If the president has the right to spy on anyone and he never has to report his spying to anyone, why wouldn't he spy on his media critics? Why not try to dig up a little dirt on them? If you were a conservative reporter like Lou Dobbs who slammed the president almost every night, would you assume that the NSA wasn't tapping your phone? And finally we come to our fearless politicians. When you have a public that doesn't have the education to know what's going on and a press that's actively shilling for the president, what kind of politician would it take to stand up and say that the president is committing crimes and is trying to fundamentally alter our form of government?

Where is this all going? My guess is that it's not going away. My hopeful guess is that the Republic will be rescued by an unlikely band of professional Constitutional scholars who will not be able to remain silent and pretend to admire the emperor's new clothes. The legal experts of the networks are hiding in the bushes. Let's see what the legal experts from our institutions of higher learning can do.

[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.]

COMMENTARY . . .

by Kevin Cathcart

Lambda Legal voiced very serious concerns about the track record of now – Justice Samuel Alito and therefore opposed his nomination.

With this confirmation, the Supreme Court likely will shift to the right and become a less welcoming forum for many kinds of civil rights claims.

However, it is important for us to remember that the court still contains a majority of justices who ruled in favor of liberty and equality for gay people in Lambda Legal's two recent Supreme Court successes that are the foundation for much of our community's progress, Lawrence v. Texas and Romer v. Evans, and those cases remain the law of the land.

In Lambda Legal's more than 30 years litigating on behalf of the LGBT and HIV communities, we repeatedly have demonstrated our capacity to win even before conservative courts. We also have seen much

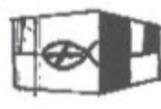
progress in state courts on numerous fronts, including parenting and relationship rights cases. Though there is much to be concerned about, our Supreme Court victories remain good law and we will continue to win in state and federal courts on behalf of the LGBT community and people with HIV.

The confirmation of Justice Alito is being much celebrated by those who oppose equality and fairness for all Americans. But at Lambda Legal we firmly believe that time is on the side of continued legal progress for LGBT people. This is a movement for equality and there are bound to be ups and downs. Nonetheless, we know how to move forward steadily and surely, and we will continue to do so.

[Kevin Cathcart is the Executive Director of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.]



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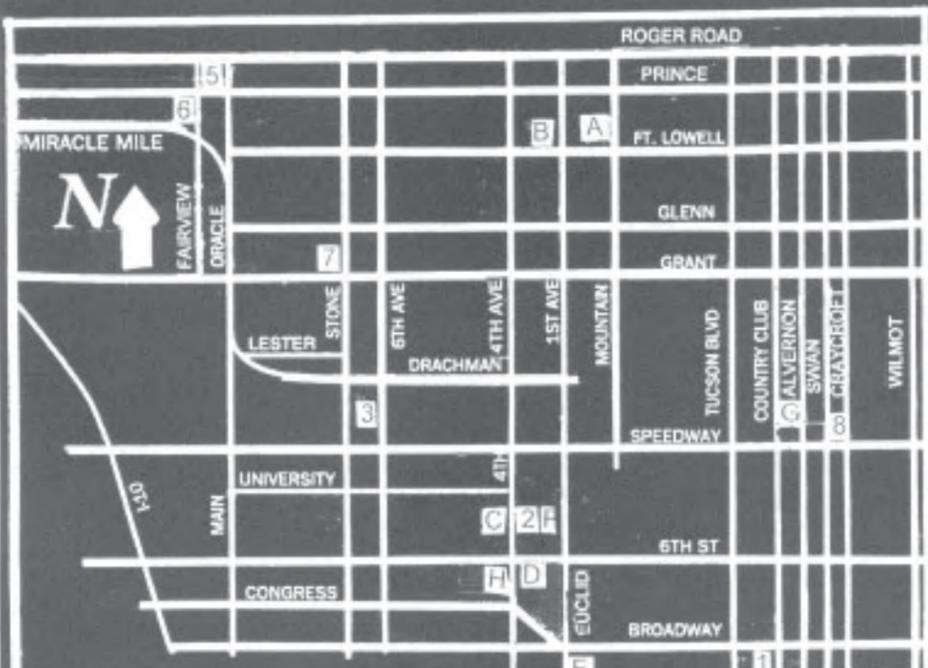
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Wednesday, February 8

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, February 9

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, February 10

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, February 11

Water of Life MCC presents "Gala 2006" - Silent Auction, Hors d'Oeuvres, Delicious Desserts, Live Entertainment and Door Prizes. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Live entertainment begins at 7:15 p.m. Concert by Desert Voices featuring jazz artist Susan Artemis. MCC is located at 3269 N. Mountain Avenue. Tickets are now on sale - \$25.00. For more information call 292-8151.

Non Bar Calendar

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.

Monday, February 13

Tucson Prime Timers Lunch - 1:00 pm, Guadalajara Grill, 915 W. Prince Rd.

Tuesday, February 14

#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. Perry 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 Perry at 321-4387.

Wednesday, February 15

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, February 16

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, February 17

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00p.m. Join Lloyd as he hosts Pizza Night. For just \$5.00, come and enjoy a night of Pizza and good conversation. For reservations and directions, please call Lloyd at 792-8537. Please reserve your spot by noon on Thursday, February 16th.

Saturday, February 18

#1 Join Jack & Mike 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 Mike & Jack at 881-5733.

#2 Men's Social Network (open to men

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

Tucson Prime Timers Lunch/Business Meeting - Noon, Hometown Buffet, 5101 N. Oracle Rd.

Sunday, February 19

4:00 to 6:00 p.m. The Men's Massage Group is a great way to men and have clean, safe erotic fun. Non- Sexual. Call Marc in advance at 881-4582 for information and to sign up. We have been doing this group for 15 years. Small fee.

Monday, February 20

#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 after putting out the Newsletter for the MSN Premiere of "Puppetry of the Penis", this film will instruct you on foreskin origami. For reservations and directions, please call Arlan at 323-7414.

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

Tuesday, February 21

#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; the classic "Arsenic and Old Lace". For details and directions, please call Karol at 744-9017.

Wednesday, February 22

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

Thursday, February 23

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, February 24

Tucson Prime Timers , Lunch - 1:00 pm, The Lotus Garden, Speedway & Sonoita (NW corner)

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, February 25

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

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Tuesday	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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HOROSCOPES

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What is it that sends our hearts aflutter? What is it that makes us so farklemp? Venus, the planet of love, redirects and finally sends our wayward love missives in the right direction. Ready, aim, fire!

ARIES (MAR. 21 - APR. 20)
Those cold steely glances around the office suddenly heat up to a melting point with direct Venus. Proud Rams find themselves on the executive dining room menu. Enjoy all the attention and adoration. Be sure to make good use of your time in the spotlight to step up a rung on the corporate ladder. Professionally you can do no wrong. Socially, well that is another matter.

TAURUS (APR. 21 - MAY 21)
Trolling in cyberspace or travelling far afield for your jollies begins to pay off in terms of recognition and encouragement. Spread your cheer to all corners of the earth either through travel or collaborative study. You will learn a thing or three in your efforts. Queer Bulls become international sensations. Either that or your cell phone is buzzing.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
Pink Twins ooze sexiness and can attract pretty much anyone they desire. What a nice turn of events! Spread your oil and heat it up while Venus redirects. You start cooking and can fry more than a few eggs at the same time. But don't be solely self satisfying. You will soon realize that a good give and take is more satisfying than a take, take, take. Well at least this week.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
Dormant partnerships get a zap of energy when Venus redirects. Seek to either improve current tete a tetes or find new more exciting ones. Communication improves and any lingering arguments are settled to the happiness of both sides. So take all types of relationships to new levels of trust. Feel the love, pink Crab. It is warm and mushy err well sometimes anyway.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)
If the water cooler talk heats up to a rapid boil you know that it is the influence of Venus weaving its magic in your workplace. Proud Lions become the charmers of the office and everyone wants to make you blissfully happy. Grab those lucky breaks and ask for anything that you have secretly coveted. Well, I would stop at the nude personal assistant.

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)
Queer Virgins know how to have fun. Well at least this week. You are the spark of the social circuit so get connected and see who you zap. Your presence is demanded at every A list event. As long as you are increasing your stock value, get involved in projects that creatively tickle your Gay muse. Start with a feather and a bowl of whipped cream. Is that a cherry on top?

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)
If your domestic surroundings are beginning to look a little worn, use the week to spruce 'em and goose 'em up. Proud Libras are inspired to turn their drab homes into pink palaces. But don't stop there. Beautify and harmonize your family situation too. Open up lines of communication, build bridges and repair frayed wires. Hello, anyone Out there?

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)
Even the most banal Gay Scorps manage to cream their way into others hearts. Words of love now leap effortlessly from your lips. And you can also be very charming in your day to day chatter. So what are you waiting for? Since you know what to say and when to say it, say it already! Turn on the heat, pour on your spicy sauce and see who gets eaten. Who indeed!

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)
You are very generous with your creativity and often freely give away your best tricks of the trade. And yet, there are times when you can and should cash in on your great and forward thinking ideas. Now is one of those rare and precious times, Gay Archer. Give some thought to quantifying your happiness. All that glitters may not be gold but gold can certainly keep you shining.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)
Who turns from ugly duckling into a swan? Let's guess who when Venus redirects. Pink Caps sparkle with charisma and become adored centers of attention. Look the part and spread your good cheer in new gardens. Make good use of time before the winds shift. Start new projects and plant your seeds for future opportunities. Do I see something sprouting?

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)
A bright light is suddenly turned on in your dark hidden corners. Aqueerians may be startled at how much debris and dust has built up. A new broom sweeps clean when Venus redirects. Open up your closet and cross the threshold, air out your dirty laundry and lose your excess baggage. You have a karmic wax build up that needs to be scrapped, buffed and shined.

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MAR. 20)
Compadres have a way of getting into your act and good thing too. Guppies are not usually loners and ache to be in the epicenter of the social swirl. This is the week to plan as many playdates as your dance card can carry. Become a celestial body around which all lesser orbs circle. Who knows who is lurking among the hoi poloi? It could be your next boi toy.

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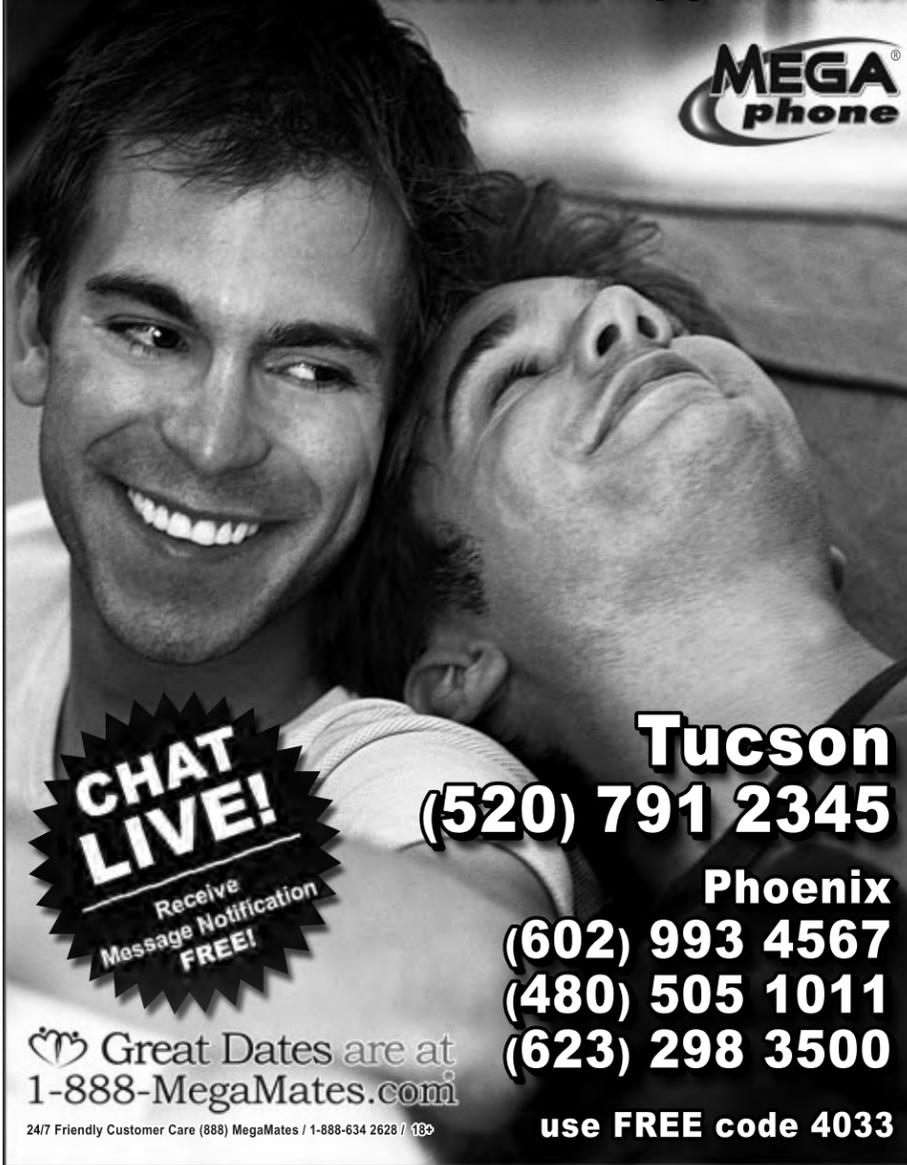
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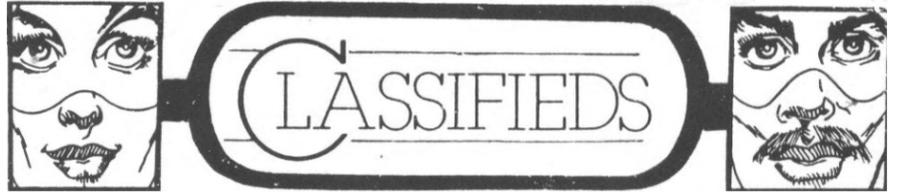
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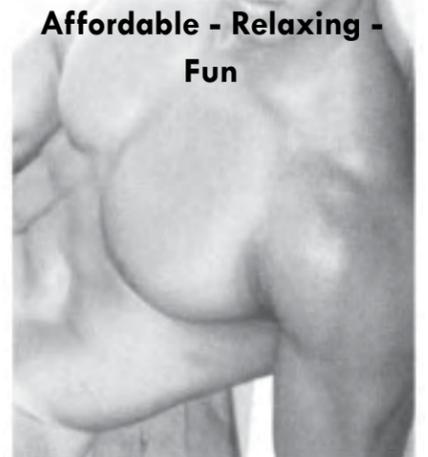
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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

sunday

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

HOWL AT THE MOON -Open at 11am. Kitchen open until 9pm. Watch the NFL here! \$1.00 Jumbo Hot Dogs, \$2 Chili Dogs. \$2 Smirnoff Sundays. 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. 1st Tuesday of month "Dinner & Movie" sponsored by GMHP. All other Tuesdays "Dinner and a Concert" shown on 52" projection system. Full menus served until 10pm.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. Tequila Tuesday: \$2.00 well margaritas, 50¢ off call tequilas. Karaoke with Debbie from 8 - midnight

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

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

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

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

wednesday

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$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 p.m. 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 Tournery 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.

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Informing The Community



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

VENTURE-N - Aquarian Party! 60s-70s Retro Party. Get out your tie-dye shirts and platform shoes. Give-aways and specials and more!

WOODY'S - UofA Tailgate Parties in the new Patio Theater with big screen. 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10

VENTURE-N - Happy Birthday, Fuzzy

WOODY'S - 6:30 p.m. Winter Olympic Opening Ceremonies on Woody's new Patio Theater Mega Screen. Budweiser giant Jenga Party 9:30 p.m. February birthday? Celebrate here tonight at 10 p.m. Balloons, Cake, Champagne.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11

HOWL AT THE MOON - Senior's Valentine Dance. 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Sponsored by Wingspan.

VENTURE-N - Beer Bust 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. Come meet Gilbert

WOODY'S The Red and Wild Party and fund raiser for EON Youth Center. Hosted by the Imperial Court of Arizona.

YARD DOG - Dog of the Month Club

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

YARD DOG - Welcome 'Tucson United In Leather'. Beer Bust at 3:00 p.m. Burgers and Dogs. Bootblack.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

YARD DOG - Celebrate Valentine's Day at the big Red Party. Wear your red! More later.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

WOODY'S - Tailgate Party in the new Patio Theater with the Big Screen 7:30 p.m.

FRI.-SAT.-SUN. FEB. 17-18-19

YARD DOG - 5th ANNIVERSARY PARTY!!!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

HOWL AT THE MOON - Singles Mingle - Watch for more information!!!

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

WOODY'S - "Tucson's biggest Mardi Gras Party" - mark your calendars.

Ending the violence.

Wingspan launches the Anti-Violence Project – a community initiative to assist lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender victims of discrimination, domestic violence, sexual assault and hate crimes.

Call the Anti-Violence Project 24-Hour Crisis Line at 624-0348, or toll-free 1-800-553-9387.



Southern Arizona's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center

www.wingspan.org

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.

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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, and reading from Buddhist spiritual text and discussion. Bring a friend and a pillow or cushion. Takes place every Sunday from 10:00 - 11:30am at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St.. Contact Maurice Grossman for more info. 323-2293.

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.



Gay Actor In Christian Film Stirs Flap



Chad Allen

NEW YORK - "End of the Spear," a movie that depicts the slaying of Protestant missionaries in South America, is provoking a side debate among some religious conservatives because lead actor Chad Allen has advocated for Gay causes, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. "Spear" tells the true story of bush pilot Nate Saint, played by Allen, and four colleagues who were killed 50 years ago by jungle tribesmen in Ecuador whom they wanted to evangelize. The film opened at No. 10 in U.S. box office rankings, and was 14th last weekend, beating features in wider release including "King Kong."

Protests about Allen originated with sharperiron.org, the Web site of the Rev. Jason Janz, a self-described fundamentalist and assistant pastor of Red Rocks Baptist Church in Lakewood, Colo. Janz cited the Allen fans' Web site, TV interviews and articles from Gay magazines to complain that the actor is not just homosexual but an activist who advocates same-sex marriages and adoptions, produces Gay films and has starred in a stage play about a Gay Jesus figure.

"What were they thinking?" demanded the Rev. R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Janz posted a corrected version of his protest

statement after speaking with the independent film's producer, Every Tribe Entertainment. The Christian-oriented company, based in Oklahoma City, prepares inspirational fare for general commercial release.

Janz originally charged that Every Tribe purposely cast Allen as Saint despite his viewpoints and lifestyle. But he now says Every Tribe only learned those things after Allen had been offered the part, and the company decided it would be wrong to renege on the commitment. Jim Hanon, director of the movie, confirmed in an interview that Every Tribe learned the information about Allen a week after the commitment was made in 2004.

Hanon, an evangelical Protestant, said: "We don't endorse Chad's lifestyle. We disagree with him on homosexuality, and we knew some in our audience would be sensitive to it. But we decided to proceed." Hanon said if the company had known about Allen beforehand "he probably would not have been offered the role." A prepared statement from Every Tribe tells inquirers that the only thing it's promoting is "what it can mean to live what the Bible says is true" and "we cannot single out the personal choices of one of the cast for scrutiny."

Focus on the Family, a Colorado-based evangelical organization that strongly opposes same-sex relationships, endorsed "End of the Spear" on its media review site though it knew about Allen's activities. Bob Waliszewski said his Focus Web site assesses the content of entertainment offerings "rather than the skeletons in the closet of every actor, producer, cameraman. We just don't go there." What matters, he said, is that "it's a wonderful story. It's well done."

The Allen flap went unnoticed in the review from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which recommended "Spear" for adults only due to violence. It far preferred Every Tribe's documentary video about the martyrdoms, "Beyond the Gates of Splendor."

Gay Teen Speaks Out Against 'Lover In Action'

MEMPHIS - A Gay teen who says he was forced into an anti-Gay treatment program told his story to a Memphis television station.

Seventeen-year-old D.J. Butler walks the streets of Memphis free. That wasn't the case last October after his parents found out he was Gay. "They were treating me like they didn't want me anymore," Butler said. "I ran away. They ended up finding me, and put me in handcuffs, and taking me to Memphis."

Butler said his parents forced him to take part in the Love in Actions Refuge program aimed at teens. The program is designed to teach teens to resist Gay feelings. "They would tell me that the things I was feeling were false, that you need to put them into something else, not into the Gay lifestyle," Butler said. "Put them towards women or something that was Christian like, God like."

Love in Action says their program is welcoming and loving, but Butler said it was just the opposite. "I was told that God loves me but he only loves me when I'm straight, not Gay,"

he said. Butler is the latest person to speak out against Love In Action. Charges have been levied that the program is dispensing drugs and providing therapy without a license.

Love In Action attorney Nate Kelloun denied those allegations. "There are countless testimonies from people who say they are so grateful they went through the program," Kelloun said. "I think love in action stands on its own merits."

Butler, who's now estranged from his parents, left the program after four weeks.



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