



Observing Tucson And  
The Greater Arizona Community

**BSESERVER**

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WEEKLY OBSERVER

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## Cameroon Frees Men Imprisoned For Being Gay



Nine men freed from a Cameroon prison after being arrested during a raid in a Gay bar in 2005 are shown above with magistrate Judge Tonye.

YAOUNDE - Nine men imprisoned for a year on suspicion of being Gay were freed Friday by a judge in Yaounde, the capital, after ruling the government had offered no proof any of the men had committed a crime, 365Gay.com reported. They were the last of 11 men arrested during a June 2005 raid on a Gay bar. They had been in prison since then awaiting trial. The other two men were released in March.

The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission which had been fighting for the release of the prisoners said it was notified of the court ruling Friday morning. "While nothing can return to these men the year of their lives spent locked in a cell, we are hopeful that rule of law and respect for human dignity are re-emerging as basic principles of human rights in Cameroon," said Cary Alan Johnson, IGLHRC's Senior Coordinator for Africa.

"I'm told that the trial lasted less than ten minutes, with no

witnesses being called by the prosecution. Judge Tonye, the magistrate overseeing the trial, stated that since there was no proof offered he declared the men innocent of all charges. After hearing the verdict, several of the men began to cry, knowing their ordeal was about to end," Johnson said in a statement.

If convicted the men would have been sentenced up to five years in prison, on top of the year they had already served. In a separate case two men in January were each to a year in prison after admitting to police that they had sex. The pair had been imprisoned for several months awaiting trial. Two men were recently arrested in an Internet dating sting, but then released, and four Lesbian women are reportedly in police custody. Last month elementary and secondary schools in Cameroon began expelling students believed to be Gay or Lesbian. At least 30 students have been expelled from schools in the financial center of Douala.

## Court Upholds 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

BOSTON - A federal court in Massachusetts ruled Monday (Apr. 24) against 12 Gay and Lesbian veterans who challenged the constitutionality of the military's "don't ask, don't tell" ban on openly Gay personnel, reported the PlanetOut Network. In a 40-page decision, U.S. District Judge George A. O'Toole Jr. granted the government's request to dismiss the lawsuit filed in December 2004.

The case, Cook vs. Rumsfeld, was the first major attack on the "don't ask" policy after the Supreme Court's 2003 ruling in Lawrence vs. Texas. The Gay and Lesbian plaintiffs had hoped that the landmark 2003 ruling, which

struck down sodomy laws and upheld Gays' privacy rights, would help their cause. The Lawrence decision also overturned the high court's 1986 Bowers vs. Hardwick decision, which had been used in previous court rulings to uphold the military's ban.

"We continue to believe the military's ban is un-American and unconstitutional," said C. Dixon Osburn, executive director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, which represented the plaintiffs. "There is no reason Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Americans should be prohibited from

Continued on Page Three

## Anti-Gay T-Shirt Ban Upheld

SAN FRANCISCO - A suburban San Diego teenager who was barred from wearing a T-shirt with anti-Gay rhetoric to class lost a bid to have his high school's dress code suspended Thursday (Apr. 20) after a federal appeals court ruled the school could restrict what students wear to prevent disruptions, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

The ruling by the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals addressed only the narrow issue of whether the dress code should be unenforced pending the outcome of the student's lawsuit.

A majority of judges said, however, that Tyler Chase Harper was unlikely to prevail on claims that the Poway Unified School District violated his First Amendment rights to freedom of speech and religion for keeping him out of class when he wore a shirt with the message "homosexuality is shameful."

Tyler Chase Harper sued the Poway Unified School District in San Diego federal court after the principal at Poway High School refused to let the student attend class wearing a T-shirt scrawled with the message "homosexuality is shameful."

Harper was a sophomore at Poway High in 2004 when he wore the T-shirt the day after a group called the Gay-Straight Alliance held a "Day of Silence" to protest intolerance of Gays and Lesbians. The year before, the campus was disrupted by protests and conflicts between students over the Day of Silence.

After Harper refused to take off the T-shirt, Poway High School's principal kept Harper out of class and assigned him to do homework in a conference room for the rest of the day. He was not suspended from school.

The three-judge appeals court panel said "the school is permitted to prohibit Harper's conduct...if it can demonstrate that the restriction was necessary to prevent either the violation of the rights of other students or substantial disruption of school activities."

The opinion, written by Judge Stephen Reinhardt and joined by Judge Sydney Thomas for a 2-1 ruling, didn't decide the merits of the student's lawsuit, which will be heard in federal court in San Diego.

Judge Alex Kozinski wrote a blistering dissent, arguing that the high school had in effect authorized a heated debate over sexual orientation when it allowed the "Day of Silence."

"Harper's T-shirt was not an out-of-the-blue affront to fellow stu-

dents who were minding their own business," Kozinski wrote. "Rather, Harper wore his T-shirt in response to the Day of Silence, a political activity that was sponsored or at the very least tolerated by school authorities."

Jack Sleeth, a school district attorney, said that the 9th Circuit ruling supports the district's prohibition against T-shirts with messages that are offensive to some.

"When it violates the rights of other, then it can be prohibited," Sleeth said. "It is that simple of an issue."

Robert Tyler, an attorney for Harper, said he may wait until the main case is decided before determining if further appeals are necessary.

"Mr. Harper's speech was censored," Tyler said. "There wasn't any disruption, but there was concern that it was politically incorrect."

## Administration Agrees To Turn Over All Documents On LGBT Spy Operation

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Faced with a federal lawsuit after refusing to turn over a number of documents related to spying on LGBT organizations the Pentagon and the Justice Department have agreed to comply with freedom of information requests about the operation, 365Gay.com reported.

Last December media reports said that the Pentagon has been spying on "suspicious" meetings by civilian groups, including student groups opposed to the military's "don't ask, don't tell."

The reports said that the Pentagon had spied on New York University law school's LGBT advocacy group OUTlaw and Gay groups at the State University of New York at Albany and William Patterson College in New Jersey.

In February, the DoD acknowledged in a letter to the Senate Armed Services Committee that it had 'inappropriately' collected information on protestors but did not name any of the organizations.

That same month the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network and about a dozen other LGBT groups filed a lawsuit to obtain information related to the government's domestic spy program when the Pentagon turned down a Freedom of Information Act request.

U.S. District Judge Rosemary M. Collyer directed both sides to

Continued on Page Thirteen

# UPDATE

## Desert Voices 'A Many Gendered Thing' April 29-30

TUCSON - Desert Voices, Tucson's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Straight chorus, will explore and celebrate the rich spectrum of gender definition in their upcoming concert, A Many-Gendered Fling on Saturday, April 29 at 7:30 pm and Sunday, April 30 at 2pm at the Dunbar Auditorium at the corner of Second Street and Main Avenue in Tucson.

Gender, at first glance, seems so fixed and absolute. We are either female or we are male. Choose a box. Gender assignment comes at birth and we are stuck with the doctor's decision. We are one or the other. Or are we? Come hear Desert Voices sing out about gender definition. From the classic choral works of Aaron Copland to the original new sound of local rock star Namoli Brennet, this is a show you won't want to miss!

Don't wait! Tickets are going fast! \$15 in advance \$18 at the door when available and \$12 for students and seniors. To purchase tickets please contact our office at (520) 791-9662 today or visit us on the web at [desertvoices.org](http://desertvoices.org).

## AGRA 2007 Poster Contest Underway

PHOENIX - Arizona's Gay Rodeo Association (AGRA) poster contest for their 2007 Road Runner Regional Rodeo (RRRR) is underway.

In a statement, AGRA announced the rules for the contest: All Entries must be 17" x 22" finished size with the only lettering being "2007 Road Runner Regional Rodeo." Exception to the size will be made for computer generated artwork on a CD or zip disk provided with a printed copy of the poster design. Artist's name and phone number must be printed in the upper right-hand corner on the back of the poster.

Submissions received with the artist's name on the front of the poster will be disqualified. The winning design and artwork become the property of AGRA. All other entries will be destroyed within two (2) weeks following the judging unless arrangements are made by the artist to pick them up or to be returned at the artist's expense. The artist of the winning entry will receive a \$200 cash prize from AGRA. The contest is open both to AGRA members and non-members.

The deadline for entries, is 5:00 p.m. Saturday, May 13. Entries received after this date/time will not be considered. Mail entries to: AGRA

RRRR 2007 Poster Contest, POB 40465, Phoenix, AZ 85067. For more information, contact Ron Trusley, AGRA Rodeo Director, (602) 510-9671, or Gary Hatterman, AGRA President, (602) 284-3285, or the AGRA office, (602) 265-8166.

## Treasures For TIHAN May 6

TUCSON - "Treasures for TIHAN," will take place Saturday, May 6, 6:30 p.m., Hotel Arizona, 181 W. Broadway.

The auction raises much needed funds which go to support the programs and services of TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network).

Tickets for the event are \$50 (\$23 is tax-deductible), and can be purchased by calling (520) 299-6647 or online at [tihan.org](http://tihan.org). Raffle tickets are just \$5 each, or 5 for \$20), which gives those attending TIHAN's biggest annual event, more chances to win some of the fabulous items donated for the evening of fine food, entertainment and auction, all for TIHAN and help those living with, and affected by HIV/AIDS.

## Community Forum On Domestic Partner Benefits Arizona State Employees, May 16

TUCSON - A community forum, sponsored by UA OUTReach, in collaboration with Wingspan, will be held at Wingspan, 425 E. 7<sup>th</sup> St., Tuesday, May 16, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., to discuss domestic partner benefits for Arizona state employees.

Among the topics of discussion will be forming a coalition of LGBT and straight Arizona employees (and their partners) who work at state organizations, such as the state universities, the Arizona Department of Corrections, the Arizona Department of Health Services, Arizona Department of Economic Security, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

For more information about the forum, E-mail [OUTReach](mailto:OUTReach@out@email.arizona.edu) at: [out@email.arizona.edu](mailto:out@email.arizona.edu).

## CARD ADS IN THE RESOURCE SECTION OF THE OBSERVER GET RESULTS

## Evening Of Music & Friends, May 4

TUCSON - The LGBT&S Alliance Fund presents their third annual Evening of Music & Friends on Thursday, May 4, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Chuck George from KOLD-TV will emcee the evening's program, featuring the music of Arthur Migliazza, Vocal Ease, Alvaro Mendizabal and Curt Beall. According to organizers, the minimum contribution is \$65.00 per person with proceeds from this evening of music support the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona's (CFSA) Alliance Fund's grant programs. The Alliance Fund, organizers said, has awarded nearly \$300,000 in Tucson grants since 2000.

A light buffet and beverages will be served, and valet parking is available. Organizers said that they will be accepting the contributions (either cash or checks made out to CFSA) at the door since this event is being held at a private residence. Call Luis Ortega, (520) 971-7143 or Randy Soderstrom, (520) 471-0966 for directions, or for more information.

## Volunteers Start Receiving Therapeutic HIV Vaccine

ATLANTA - Researchers at four participating universities are signing up volunteers to take part in an experimental HIV vaccine trial during its initial phase, reported the Associated Press on [advocate.com](http://advocate.com). St. Louis University, Vanderbilt University, the University of Maryland, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham will enroll 12 participants in the Phase I trial, in which uninfected, healthy volunteers are given low doses to check the vaccine's safety and participants' immune response, said Don Hildebrand, CEO of GeoVax, a biotechnology firm that licensed the vaccine.

A Phase II trial, involving 36 people given a higher dose, is expected to start in a few months. Should these trials prove successful, said Hildebrand, future trials will be conducted to determine if the vaccine prevents HIV from progressing to an AIDS diagnosis. The GeoVax vaccine was developed by a team led by Harriet Robinson of Emory University's Yerkes National Primate Research Center. Work on the vaccine began in 1997. It proved effective in rhesus macaques, protecting 22 of 23 vaccinated monkeys from AIDS for more than 3.5 years.

The vaccine is given in four doses over the course of approximately two months. The first two doses include fragments of HIV DNA that prime the volunteer's immune response system. The following doses contain an altered poxvirus designed to boost the immune system, said Hildebrand. In 2003 and 2004, the DNA component of the GeoVax vaccine was tested in 30 HIV-negative participants in Birmingham, Ala., San Francisco, and Seattle, and it proved safe, Hildebrand said. The new trials are testing both components, he explained.

According to the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, the GeoVax product is one of more than 30 HIV vaccines currently in early stages of human clinical trials in about two dozen countries. Merck's vaccine, which builds immunity using a modified cold virus, is one of the furthest along. Some 3,000 people are being enrolled in Phase II trials of the Merck vaccine.

Calling all responsible  
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SAAF

Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation



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Informing the Community

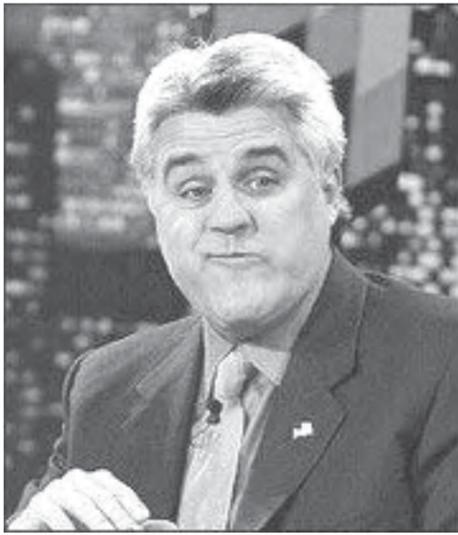
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Jay Leno

Advocate.com reported that Jeff Whitty, the Gay author of the hit Broadway play Avenue Q, grew tired of hearing Jay Leno's tired Gay jokes. So he decided to let the host of NBC's Tonight Show know exactly why those jokes are in poor taste. What follows is a letter he sent to Leno this past week:

Dear Mr. Leno,

My name is Jeff Whitty. I live in New York City. I'm a playwright and the author of Avenue Q, which is a musical currently running on Broadway. I've been watching your show a bit, and I'd like to make an observation:

When you think of Gay people, it's funny. They're funny folks. They wear leather. They like Judy Garland. They like disco music. They're sort of like Stepin Fetchit as channeled by Richard Simmons.

Gay people, to you, are great material.

Mr. Leno, let me share with you my view of Gay people:

**COMMENTARY . . . by Jeff Whitty**

**You've Got To Cut It Out, Jay**

When I think of Gay people, I think of the Gay news anchor who took a tire iron to the head several times when he was vacationing in St. Martin. I think of my friend who was visiting Hamburger Mary's, a Gay restaurant in Las Vegas, when a bigot threw a smoke bomb filled with toxic chemicals into the restaurant, leaving the staff and Gay clientele coughing, puking, and running in terror. I think of visiting my Gay friends at their house in the country, sitting outside for dinner, and hearing, within hundreds of feet of where we sat, taunting voices yelling "Faggots!" I think of hugging my boyfriend goodbye for the day on 8th Avenue in Manhattan and being mocked and taunted by passing high school students.

When I think of Gay people, I think of suicide. I think of a countless list of people who took their own lives because the world was so toxically hostile to them. Because of the deathly climate of the closet, we will never be able to count them. You think Gay people are great material. I think of a silent holocaust that continues to this day. I think of a silent holocaust that is perpetuated by people like you, who seek to minimize us and make fun of us and who I suspect really, fundamentally wish we would just go away.

When I think of Gay people, I think of a brave group that has made tremendous contributions to society, in arts, letters, science, philosophy, and politics. I think of some of the most hilarious people I know. I think of a group that has served as a cultural guardian for an ungrateful and

ignorant America.

I think of a group of people who have undergone a brave act of inventing themselves. Every single out-of-the-closet Gay person has had to say, "I am not part of mainstream society." Mr. Leno, that takes bigger balls than stepping out in front of TV-watching America every night. I daresay I suspect it takes bigger balls to come out of the closet than anything you have ever done in your life.

I know you know Gay people, Mr. Leno. Are they just jokes to you, to be snickered at behind their backs? Despite the angry tenor of my letter, I suspect you're a better man than that. I don't bother writing letters to the "God Hates Fags" people, or Donald Wildmon, or the pope. But I think you can do better. I know it's The Tonight Show, not a White House press conference, but you reach a lot of people.

I caught your show when you had a tired mockery of Brokeback Mountain, involving something about a horse done up in what you consider a "Gay" way. Man, that's dated. I turned the television off and felt pretty fucking depressed. And now I understand your Gay-baiting jokes have continued.

Mr. Leno, I have a sense of humor. It's my livelihood. And being Gay has many hilarious aspects to it—none of which, I suspect, you understand. I'm tired of people like you. When I think of Gay people, I think of centuries of suffering. I think of really, really good people who've been

gravely mistreated for a long time now.

You've got to cut it out, Jay.

Sincerely,  
Jeff Whitty  
New York, N.Y.



Jeff Whitty

**'Don't Ask, Don't Tell**

**Continued from Page One**

Osburn said. "The men and women in this lawsuit represent the best of our armed forces. They are patriotic, dedicated veterans. America should welcome their contributions and honor their commitment to our country."

Collectively, the 12 plaintiffs have earned more than five dozen awards, medals and commendations in their years of military service, according to the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. The group has "fought long and hard" to be reinstated in the military, said Steve Ralls, the legal network's spokesman. "I don't anticipate that their fight has ended with this decision," Ralls said.

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**2-7 PM Beer Bust**  
**5-9 PM Sirloin or Chicken Burger**  
**9 til Close Karaoke with Michael D.**  
**Didn't Get Enough Karaoke**  
**Come Back Monday Nite 9 PM For More**  
**Friday May 5th**  
**Mark Your Calendars for Tucson's**  
**Best Cinco de Mayo "Fiesta" Party**  
**Saturday May 13th**  
**Join Us for Our First Surprise Party**

# UPDATE

## 19th Annual Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Extravaganza Sunday, May 7 At Woody's

TUCSON - The 19th Annual Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Extravaganza and Benefit Auction will take place Sunday, May 7 at Woody's Bar, 3710 N. Oracle.

Proceeds from the annual event, funds raised by the wrestlers, grappling in Jell-O, as well as the raffle and auction, go to the programs and services of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF), which help all those living with, an affected by HIV/AIDS.

Tickets for this year's Jell-O Wrestling Raffle, only \$1 each, are on sale now at Woody's, and SAAF, 375 S. Euclid Ave. This year's amazing prize is a one-week stay in the luxurious Pueblo Bonito Condominiums in Mazatlan, Mexico for the week of Nov. 20-27, plus \$250 in cash. Go to [jello-wrestling.org](http://jello-wrestling.org) and click on Raffle to view the resort and its many amenities. For only a dollar, you have a chance to trade in that dry turkey dinner surrounded by relatives for a relaxing week long stay in a luxury suite listening to the sound of waterfalls and enjoying fine cuisine served on an outdoor terrace. Talk about more holiday bang for the holiday buck! The drawing will take place at Woody's.

Interested in wrestling and raising funds? Organizers said that



Reno Gannon

there are still some openings for individual wrestlers or teams of wrestlers to get involved and make a difference in the community while having a ton of fun. Tickets are \$6 in advance, \$10 at the door. You can visit the Jell-O Wrestling website to get more information on the entire event, view auction items, or connect to the Pueblo Bonito Mazatlan website! Call Mae at SAAF, (520) 628-7223. E-mail: [events@saaf.org](mailto:events@saaf.org), for more information.



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# Fifty Religious Leaders Sign Petition Supporting Amendment Banning Same-Sex Marriage To U.S. Constitution

WASHINGTON, April 23 – About 50 prominent religious leaders, including seven Roman Catholic cardinals and about a half-dozen archbishops, have signed a petition in support of a constitutional amendment blocking same-sex marriage, reported the New York Times. Organizers of the petition said it was in part an effort to revive the groundswell of opposition to same-sex marriage that helped bring many conservative voters to the polls in some pivotal states in 2004. The signers include many influential evangelical Protestants, a few rabbis and an official of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

But both the organizers and Gay rights groups said what was striking about the petition was the direct involvement by high-ranking Roman Catholic officials, including 16 bishops. Although the church has long opposed same-sex unions, and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops had previously endorsed the idea of a constitutional amendment banning such unions, it was evangelical Protestants who generally led the charge when the amendment was debated in 2004.

"The personal involvement of bishops and cardinals is significantly greater this time than in 2004," said Patrick Korten, a spokesman for the Knights of Columbus, a lay Catholic group.

The Catholic bishops and many of the other religious leaders involved have pledged to distribute postcards for their congregants to send to their senators urging support for the amendment. The Knights of Columbus is distributing 10 million postcards to Catholic

churches.

The petition drive was organized in part by Prof. Robert P. George of Princeton, a Catholic scholar with close ties to evangelical Protestant groups. Aides to three Republican senators – Bill Frist of Tennessee, the Republican leader; Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania; and Sam Brownback of Kansas – were also involved, organizers said.

Archbishop John J. Myers of Newark said that at a meeting in Washington in February, the Senate aides recommended the idea of a postcard campaign, recalling the success of a similar effort that the bishops organized in support of a ban on so-called partial-birth abortion.

"We think the American people are on our side on this, and we want the Senate to know it," the archbishop said.

The campaign comes as many in the Republican Party are increasingly worried that their core supporters may stay away from the polls this year because they are demoralized by the war in Iraq and other matters. Senate Republican leaders have scheduled a vote on the proposed amendment in June, partly as a means of rallying conservatives.

No one expects the measure to pass this year. But drives to amend state constitutions to ban same sex-marriage proved powerful incentives to turning out conservative voters in Ohio and elsewhere in 2004. At least two states with contested Senate races – Tennessee and Pennsylvania, where Mr. Santorum is seeking re-election against a Democrat who also opposes abortion rights – are debating constitutional bans on same-sex marriage this year.

But Ohio and other pivotal states have already amended their constitutions, and at least one poll suggests that the public's negative response to the first same-sex marriages is cooling. A Pew Research poll in March found that 51 percent of the public opposed legalizing same-sex marriage, down from 63 percent in February 2004.

Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign, a Gay advocacy group, said supporters of the amendment were out of touch. "We have a war raging in Iraq, we have a Gulf Coast that needs to be rebuilt, we have an economy barely hanging on," he said. "The last thing America wants is this Republican-controlled Congress spending time writing discrimination into the Constitution."

Matt Daniels, founder of the Alliance for Marriage, an umbrella group that supports the proposed amendment, said the religious leaders represented "huge numbers" of people. His group has set up a Web site, religiouscoalitionformarriage.org, which includes the petition, pew handouts and suggested notes for sermons.

Organizers said the petition had brought together cardinals from both the left and right sides of the United States bishops' conference, including the liberal Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles and the conservative Cardinal Francis George of Chicago, as well as Cardinals Edward M. Egan of New York, Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington, William H. Keeler of Baltimore and Sean Patrick O'Malley of Boston.

The prominent conservative

Protestant figures included leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention, the largest Protestant denomination, as well as the president of conservative Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and a handful of Episcopal bishops.

Other signers included James C. Dobson of Focus on the Family; the evangelist D. James Kennedy; Bishop Charles E. Blake of the historically black Church of God in Christ; the Rev. Samuel Rodriguez Jr., president of the National Hispanic Association of Evangelicals; Rabbi Tzvi Hersh Weinreb of the Orthodox Union; and officials of the Orthodox Church in America.



A Letter to the Community:

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the promoters, contestants, and sponsors of the Miss Gay Western States America pageant. Congratulations to Luscious, who was received the crown as the new Miss Gay Western States America, as well as to our local contestants Janee Starr and Veronica Halliwell who represented Tucson and Southern Arizona very well!

I also owe a debt of gratitude to DRS Promotions, Danny Scott and Daniel Eckstrom, and to MCs Ajia Simone and Barbra Seville for a great show and for dedicating a performance to TIHAN that raised \$426 to support our programs and services. We are grateful to you, and to everyone in the audience who contributed to that performance. On behalf of all of us at TIHAN, we thank you!

Scott Blades  
Executive Director  
Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN)

## VENTURE-N

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### Cinco de Mayo

## WEEKEND EXTRAVAGANZA

DRINK SPECIALS ALL WEEKEND

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**Friday, May 5**

**MAMACITA CHARLES' TACO BAR – 5 pm til ?**

**PINATA BREAK – 7 pm**

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**Saturday, May 6**

**\$2 Bloody Marys & Screws – 9 am - 1 pm**

**MAMACITA CHARLES feeds you again -- 5 pm**

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**Sunday, May 7**

**\$2 Bloody Marys & Screws – 10 am - 2 pm**

5 pm - 7 pm

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## States Spar Over Federal HIV/AIDS Funds

WASHINGTON, D.C. - AIDS started as a big-city epidemic infecting mostly Gay white men, and now it's prevalent in the South and among minorities. Yet the federal law that helps the neediest patients has not kept up with that evolution, reported the Associated Press on the PlanetOut Network. By some measures, AIDS patients in California and the Northeast get more money per capita than those in the South, where activists are lobbying for a bigger share.

With hundreds of millions of dollars at stake, Congress is attempting for the first time since 2000 to amend the Ryan White CARE Act of 1990. It is named for the Indiana teenager who died that year after contracting AIDS from treatments for hemophilia. "We haven't seen the money shifting with the epidemic. I don't believe a person should be punished because of where they live geographically, and that's what's happening," said Kathie Hiers, head of AIDS Alabama, a nonprofit group that provides housing and other services to HIV/AIDS patients.

Dollar disparities between cities and rural areas have been exaggerated, counters Phil Curtis of AIDS Project Los Angeles. To Curtis, "This remains largely an urban epidemic."

The federal law sends about \$2 billion a year to local and state programs that give health care, drugs and other aid to the uninsured or those needing help on top of Medicaid or private insurance. These services reach more than 500,000 people per year, making it the largest federal program specifically for people with HIV.

"It's served as a lifeline to so many people with HIV who would not have gotten services elsewhere," said Jennifer Kates, HIV policy director at the Kaiser Family Foundation.

The law gives money to states as well as to 51 "eligible metropolitan areas" with concentrations of AIDS patients. A study by congressional investigators last year found that states with eligible metropolitan areas get the most money because some patients essentially are double-counted — once to calculate the eligible metropolitan area and again in statewide totals. Congress is seeking a way to distribute money more fairly without suddenly depriving any one area of dollars. The House Energy and Commerce Committee, which handles health issues, plans a hearing Thursday on reauthorizing the Ryan White act. Depending on how the law is changed, California and New York stand to lose about \$20 million each; Southern states could gain millions. Activists from the big states are hoping lawmakers will find a way to add money for all parts of the country.

"I think the issue is how do we get those areas of the country up to a level that they can offer the same resources, without diminishing the resources available in the most impacted areas of the United States," said Michael Montgomery, chief of California's Office of AIDS. There are more than 1 million people in the U.S. with HIV/AIDS, and they are living longer because of improved drug regimens. New York and California are home to the most AIDS patients. When the disease is measured by cases per 100,000 residents, California is no longer in the top 10. Several Southern states move into the top rank, including Louisiana and Georgia. Also, minorities account for a growing proportion of

AIDS cases. Nearly 50 percent of new AIDS patients are black, compared with 30 percent who are white and 20 percent who are Hispanic, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Congressional investigators found that the way money is distributed has led to great disparities in per-patient spending. For example, in 2004 a patient in California got \$5,264, compared with \$3,657 for a patient in Alabama.

"New York and San Francisco get all the funding," said Richard Williams, 32, an HIV-positive resident of Birmingham, Ala., who uses Ryan White funds to help pay for his medications. "Birmingham's a little city and we hardly get anything. That's not fair."

Activists and lawmakers in California and the Northeast say that analysis ignores factors such as quality of care and cost of living, and it does not measure all the grants made under the law.

"Big cities have more cases," said Richard Eastman, 52, of Los Angeles, who was diagnosed with HIV in 1994. "Sure, maybe some little town in Biloxi, Miss., or something might have 50 or 100 cases, but Los Angeles has 57,000 people in the system that we know about."

## Lesbian/Gay Families Growing Study Says

NEW YORK - The number of Gay and Lesbian families across the country is growing at a fast pace a new study finds, reported 365Gay.com.

The survey, by Syracuse University's S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications for OpusComm Group an LGBT marketing company, shows that 53 percent of female respondents were in relationships and 42 percent of males are partnered with the largest proportion of those who are coupled have been together between 4 - 7 years. The study also found 21 percent of Lesbians and 5 percent of Gay men currently have a child living at home. In addition two thirds of Lesbian households said they plan on adding children to their family in the next three years while only a third of male couples plan on raising children. The new statistics are in marked contrast to a similar study in 2002 that found only 15 percent of Lesbians and 5 percent of Gay men intended to have children. Newhouse began studying LGBT families in 2001. This year's survey involved some 7,500 people.

In another surprise the new survey discovered that 97 percent of respondents said they "out" with more females than males being "out" to their families, friends and at work. The survey found a large percentage of Gays are employed by one or another level of government - 12 percent of males and 15 percent of females. Fifty-seven percent of the men said they live in cities, while only 45 percent of the women live in municipalities. The survey also found that the majority of those questioned said they are Democrats - 67% of males and 72% of females said they are registered as Democrats. When it comes to voting for a candidate 77 percent of respondents feel legal recognition of same-sex marriage for tax, estate and insurance purposes extremely important in making their choice.

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# College Lets Expelled Gay Student Return

WILLIAMSBURG - LGBT advocates rallied Wednesday (Apr. 19) near the University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg, Ky., after the school said it would allow a Gay student it expelled over his sexuality to finish his coursework and receive final grades, reported the PlanetOut Network.

Jason Johnson, a 20-year-old sophomore, was expelled April 6 after discussing his sexual orientation on Myspace.com. The dean's list student suddenly received all F's on his transcript when he was expelled. "This will preserve my academic record," he told the Lexington Herald-Leader. After finishing the semester, Johnson plans to transfer to Eastern Kentucky University.

In a deal brokered by his attorney, Johnson agrees not to sue the University of the Cumberlands for damages, but retains his right to file complaints with the U.S. Department of Education and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, which accredits the school. Johnson's lawyer, Don Waggener, said Johnson intends to do so. Jamie Jordan, Cumberlands' lawyer, told the Associated Press, "We're comfortable the university hasn't done anything in violation of Department of Education regulations or SACS requirements."

The Kentucky Fairness Alliance and Kentucky Collegiate Coal-

ition rallied to celebrate the decision and to demand that the school change its policies against LGBT students. As Christina Gilgor, the executive director of the Kentucky Fairness Alliance, was leaving the rally, she described the school's decision as "a bit grudging and not very graceful." "The fact that they were going to give him all F's, I think, really reflects the mean-spiritedness with which they were approaching the whole situation," Gilgor said. "They've made a decision to do the right thing, and we're pleased about that. Ultimately, we want the school to change its policies about expelling students over their sexuality."

Gilgor estimated that about 60 students from six Kentucky universities participated in Wednesday's rally; Johnson did not attend. "His boyfriend, Zach, was there and expressed how grateful they are for the support from the community and said Jason would have been there if he could have been," Gilgor told the PlanetOut Network.

Two anti-Gay students from the private Baptist-affiliated school attended the rally, the Louisville Courier-Journal reported. "Hopefully I can sow the seed, share the Gospel. It is the key to everlasting life, man," said freshman Josh Dillman, 19, who told the paper he agreed with the school's decision to expel Johnson.

# LGBT Candidate's Wins Help Seal Italian PM Victory



Paris Mayor Bertrand Delanoë

SAN FRANCISCO - Bertrand Delanoë, the Gay mayor of Paris, arrived Wednesday (Apr. 19) in San Francisco for a three-day visit marking the 10th anniversary of the sister-city relationship between the two cities, reported the PlanetOut Network.

While same-sex marriage is not on his San Francisco agenda, it's expected to come up. Two years ago, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom created a national controversy by allowing nearly 4,000 same-sex couples to marry. Delanoë has used his position to advocate for same-sex marriage. He spoke out angrily when train and bus officials would not display posters of same-sex couples kissing.

Delanoë's agenda includes meetings with city officials on issues of homelessness, discrimination and

business interests regarding digital media, the San Francisco Chronicle reported. He will attend the opening of the San Francisco International Film Festival at the Castro Theatre, located in the heart of the city's LGBT community.

Courtney Joslin, senior staff attorney for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, headquartered in San Francisco, said, "The growing numbers of openly LGBT elected officials is a testament to the tremendous progress our community has made both in this country and around the world."

Delanoë came out as Gay before he was elected mayor in 2001. The next year, a man who said he didn't like homosexuals or politicians stabbed Delanoë in the stomach. Delanoë returned to work a few weeks later.

"We're thrilled to have him here," Terence Kissack, executive director of San Francisco's GLBT Historical Society, told the San Francisco Chronicle. "It gives one a little bit of pride . . . that the mayor of a major city is Gay."

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**POLITICS 2006**  
by Mark R. Kerr

**Get In Practice, Vote Early Or By Mail**

For the 24.7%, according to the Tucson City Clerk 2005 election canvass, of registered Tucsonans who bothered to vote at the polls, Nov. 8, 2005 election, for three City Council seats as well as the several questions, congratulations, you participated in the last democratic election to be held in Tucson, Pima County and Arizona that used polling places under the old election rules. So for those 30,919 who traipsed to their precinct to cast a ballot, savor that moment, remember it fondly since it is now history, thanks to Proposition 200 - the new law of the land!

identification will not be turned away because they don't have either ID, or it is not "current" (issued after Oct. 1, 1996) under Proposition 200 - the new law of land! Those lucky people get to cast a provisional ballot, but wait, there's more!

Under Proposition 200, those people who cast provisional ballots will have three days, until May 19, to go to one of the 22 sites that the Pima County Recorder's, and Pima County Election's departments will have open across the county to show valid identification, either a current ID mentioned prior, or two other forms of identification from one of the following list: A utility bill, Bank or Credit Union statement dated 90 days prior to the election, valid Arizona vehicle registration or insurance card, Indian Census Card, property tax statement of the voter's residence, Tribal enrollment card (or other form of ID), any "official election material" bearing the voter's name and address, or other valid local, state or federal government issued ID, so that their ballot will be counted. Lists of the addresses of these locations will be provided, on election day.

As previously reported in this column and publication, the primary purpose of Proposition 200, the initiative appearing on the 2004 ballot, was to keep illegal immigrants from getting any services or assistance from the state government. Also in Proposition 200 were provisions changing the rules on how people can register to vote as well as casting a ballot at their polling place, creating a modern poll tax. After legal challenges, Proposition 200 was upheld in court so until another initiative similar, or successful legal challenge, it is in effect and voting at your polling place is a whole new ball game.

Another question to those individuals who will or perhaps want to cast a ballot at their precinct polling location, are you prepared to go through all this? Probably not and thus the covert implication of Proposition 200, the modern poll tax, is now in effect, ensuring that certain segments of the population don't, or won't bother voting.

In Pima County, the first election under the rules of Proposition 200 will take place May 16, with the County Bond Election in which voters will consider four bond proposals, two dealing with transportation and two dealing with Kino Hospital.

Proposition 200's rules pertaining to voting and casting ballots at the polling place was drafted by the Republican Arizona Secretary of State, Jan Brewer, a proponent of the proposition who made no attempt during the campaign to hide her bias or even act neutral as person's who held that office, had in prior elections.

All voters in Pima County will be receiving a yellow card in the mail, from the Recorder's Office, (in English and Spanish), to inform them of what will be needed if they so choose to go to their precinct to cast a ballot. In addition, there will also be public service announcements on television and radio, as well as advertisements in print for this upcoming election. Since it only deals with measly bond measures, scheduled to ensure a low turnout, usually 10% or under, averaging previous bond elections, as well as the usual, inane, last minute, half-assed coverage by the local, corporate media gives for trivial matters, as casting a ballot, whose running for office or those questions appearing on the ballot as well, those yellow cards all of us will receive in the mail, as well as the advertising will probably be ignored since people are more interested in American Idol than American democracy.

As previously reported though, proponents of Proposition 200, failed to draft provisions dealing with voting early or voting by mail so the old rules still apply in these two cases. So why then should voters care about the May 16 election? Since it is the first election in Pima County, held under the guidelines of Proposition 200, they should get into the practice of either voting early or casting their ballot by mail to get into practice for the upcoming primary election in September as well as the general election in November.

This holds especially true for Pima County's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered (GLBT) community, as well as those living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. With the potential of the proposed Protect Marriage Arizona amendment, which may appear on the November ballot, as well as many important races for the offices up for consideration, from the local to the federal levels, everyone must be ready, prepared and make sure they have cast their vote because there will be a lot riding in this upcoming election and we must ensure that we speak with a loud voice to be heard, accomplishing this at the ballot box, despite the new hurdles put up to thwart the democratic process in Pima County and Arizona.

So a question, to those few individuals in Pima County, who will cast a ballot in the May 16 bond election at their polling place, do you have an Arizona driver license, or local, state or federal government ID or Tribal enrollment card, that has your picture, as well as your current, address and city that you must now present at the polls to cast a ballot? Were these issued on or before Oct. 1, 1996? If not, have you taken the time to get any of those updated? Probably not.

Unlike other areas of Arizona, voters who don't have the "proper"

To request a vote by mail ballot in Pima County, call (520) 740-4330, or go online to recorder.co.pima.az.us/earlyreq.html. Casting your ballot early can be accomplished, now through May 12, at either the County Recorder's Office, 110 N. Church or the eastside office, located at 6920 E. Broadway, Suite D, for Oro Valley residents, at 11000 N. La Canada Dr., at the Oro Valley Town Hall - Town Clerk's Office. For more information on voting early, call (520) 740-4350, or go online to recorder.co.pima.az.us/.

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# St. Maarten Police Hunting 'At Least' Three More In Gay Tourist Attack

PHILIPSBURG - Authorities on the Dutch island resort of St. Maarten said Thursday they are hunting for at least three more men in the brutal beating of two Gay American tourists, and one of the victims tells 365Gay.com he's concerned there may never be a conviction, reported 365Gay.com. One man already is in custody, and another has been investigated and released.

Chief Prosecutor Taco Stein also said on Thursday (Apr. 20) that investigators are close to identifying a car used in the attack on New York residents Richard Jefferson and his friend Ryan Smith. Jefferson, a senior producer for the CBS Nightly News and a producer-researcher for 48 Hours were attacked as they left a popular bar in Phillipsburg after an altercation a group of men earlier in the night inside the club earlier this month.

Stein said that Smith was hit by the car to knock him down. Four men jumped out of the car and at least one started beating him with a tire iron. They then began beating Jefferson. Both victims sustained serious head wounds and were rushed to a local hospital. Once their conditions were stabilized CBS had them airlifted to a hospital in Miami. Smith remains in hospital with neurological damage. He is suffering aphasia and unable to speak properly. Jefferson had a metal plate inserted in his skull.

"I'm glad that Stein has taken over the investigation," Jefferson told 365Gay.com. In addition to capturing the assailants Jefferson said that he hopes Stein also gets to the bottom of the poor police response. He said that

police ignored a call for help from the club and that when he personally called police from the hospital no officer came to take a report. On the weekend he met with other American tourists and the spouses of U.S. medical students in St. Maarten. "I heard horror stories about police indifference," he said. Jefferson said he is concerned that even if all of the attackers are caught there will be a conviction unless witnesses come forward. "People are scared," he said.

News coverage in St Maarten of the attack on Smith and Jefferson has been mixed. The Herald newspaper has been following the case and raising questions about the investigation, but an editorial in Today accused the Gay community of turning homophobia "into a dirty word." The editorial then goes on to suggest Smith and Jefferson were responsible for the beatings. The editorial then goes on to denounce "American laws that are being spread around the world." "This is a sorry case and we hope the police find the attackers. But it is made much worse when silly homosexuals use their power in the New York media to trash a friendly island for a one of a kind incident. The homosexual community should be ashamed."

# Business Journal Criticizes Kentucky Governor For Nixing G/L Protections

LEXINGTON - A prominent business journal in Kentucky has come out against Republican governor Ernie Fletcher's recent elimination of anti-discrimination workplace protections for Gays and Lesbians, reported advocate.com. In an editorial that appeared in Friday's edition, Tom Martin, editor in chief of Business Lexington, lambasted Fletcher's action (Apr. 21), saying that the governor has "undermined" the ability of Lexington, Louisville, and other Kentucky cities to attract new business, ranging from industry conventions to companies thinking about relocating.

"Governor Fletcher may or may not be pandering to the most extreme social and religious conservatives among his voter base. That's a political matter," Martin wrote. "Our concern is for the well-being of our business community. And in any case, either way, this policy sends Kentucky stumbling backward, even as the nation and the world have moved on." He added: "With the stroke of a pen, Governor Fletcher has undermined the efforts of our urban centers, which have local



Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher

antidiscrimination statutes shielding Gays and Lesbians, to present themselves to prospective new businesses and residents as progressive and fair-minded."

Lexington's 1999 Fairness Ordinance included sexual orientation and gender identity as a protected class in the city's policy against discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations. Other areas of the state have similar protections. In the editorial, Martin pointed out that after Cincinnati, Ohio, passed an anti-Gay charter amendment in 1994, the city lost \$46 million or more in convention business, as several firms that had considered having their conventions there decided to go elsewhere. "Under the watch of Gov. Ernie Fletcher, the state of Kentucky now harms corporate recruiting," he wrote.



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## Takei Treks To Equality Ride's Aid



'Mr. Sulu', George Takei

The 33 activists are traveling by bus to 19 U.S. with religion-based policies against homosexuality. They were locked out of school buildings when they arrived at North Central, which is owned and operated by the Assemblies of God. After sitting in front of the doors for most of the afternoon, the Soulforce riders and supporters rallied at a park across the street when Takei, who came out as Gay last year, stopped by.

The 68-year-old actor said the activists' "equality trek" shares themes with those of the starship Enterprise. "They have shown courage and character in showing that most people of faith are not extreme reactionaries who oppose equal rights," he said. Tour organizer Jacob Reitan, 24, said the colleges they are visiting "equate homosexuality with sickness and sin. It's time to have a conversation instead of defaming our humanity." Nate Ruch, executive director of university relations at North Central, said that the riders declined an offer to have a third party mediate a discussion. Takei was in town to speak at a Gay Pride event at the University of Minnesota.

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MINNEAPOLIS - Mr. Sulu beamed down to lend support to young LGBT activists who tried to visit a private Christian university, reported the PlanetOut Network. George Takei, who played the helmsman in three "Star Trek" TV seasons and six movies, made a surprise appearance Monday after a busload of Soulforce Equality Riders tried to talk about faith and Gay rights with students at North Central University in downtown Minneapolis.

## Plea Deal In Military Porn Case

RALEIGH - The first of three soldiers at Fort Bragg charged after allegedly appearing on a Gay porn Web site has accepted a plea bargain with the military, reported 365Gay.com. Pfc. Richard Ashley, a members of the elite 82nd Airborne, will appear before a military judge to finalize the agreement.

month pay and restriction to base for 45 days. Once their sentences are complete they will be discharged from the military.

The other two other soldiers, Pfc. Wesley K. Mitten and Pvt. Kagen B. Mullen, are scheduled to stand trial in May. Officials at Fort Bragg have declined to say if plea deals have been offered in those cases. All three were charged with sodomy, pandering and engaging in sex acts over the Internet for money. In addition, Mullen was charged with adultery.

The military-themed Web site continues to operate. It does not appear to make any direct reference to the 82nd Airborne or Fort Bragg. The registered owner of the Web site's domain name lists an address in Fayetteville, the city that adjoins Fort Bragg. Earlier this year when the charges were first laid against the soldiers Maj. Todd Vician, a Defense Department spokesman in Washington, told the Associated Press the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy states that "homosexual orientation alone is not a bar to service, but homosexual conduct is incompatible with military service." "We define homosexual conduct as homosexual acts or verbal or nonverbal communication that a member is homosexual," Vician said.

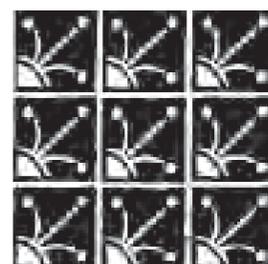
Four other soldiers charged with lesser crimes involving their participation in the Web site have already received sentences that included reduction of rank, forfeiture of a half

## Life Sentence Reinstated For Gay Man's Killer

SPRINGFIELD - The Illinois supreme court has reinstated a life sentence for a man convicted in the 1988 decapitation of a 23-year-old Gay man from Murphysboro, reported the Associated Press on advocate.com. The court on Thursday (Apr. 20) reversed a fifth district appellate court's decision to reduce Richard C. Nitz's sentence to 60 years.

ordered the appellate court in 2004 to determine if a jury would have found beyond a reasonable doubt that the murder "was accompanied by brutal and heinous behavior indicative of wanton cruelty." In reaching its opinion, the appellate court relied on documents from the second trial that contained statements from a juror who said she doubted Nitz's guilt and reluctantly voted to convict because she thought he would be eligible for a more lenient sentence. But the supreme court said in its opinion that while the testimony doesn't support wanton cruelty because Miley already was dead when he was decapitated, it is "cold-blooded to sever and conceal a victim's head." "While it does not indicate wanton cruelty, it does indicate brutality," the opinion said. "Thus, the evidence supports a finding that the defendant's crime was, at the least, brutal."

"It has been a long 18-year battle with Mr. Nitz," said Williamson County state's attorney Charles Garnati. "He will spend the rest of his days and die in prison, which is where he belongs." Authorities have said Nitz beat Michael Miley unconscious with a baseball bat in Williamson County and then drove him to a remote area in Union County where he shot Miley in the head before decapitating him. Miley's body was found Apr. 6, 1988. Nitz initially was sentenced to death for the murder, but he appealed his 1996 conviction and was granted a new trial. That trial ended with his conviction on one of three counts of first-degree murder. He was acquitted on the two other counts. Authorities have said the attack was motivated by Nitz's hatred of Gay people.



The Illinois supreme court

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## Melissa Etheridge's Partner Expecting Twins



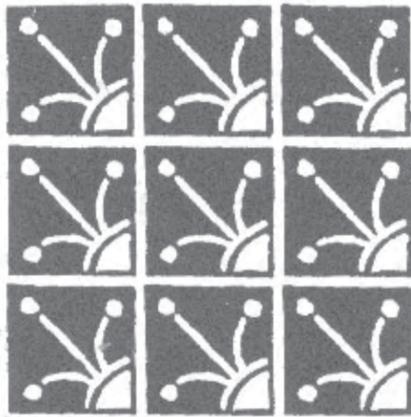
**Melissa Etheridge and partner Tammy Lynn Michaels**

NEW YORK — Melissa Etheridge's partner, Tammy Lynn Michaels, is pregnant with twins, the couple has announced on the singer's Web site, reported the PlanetOut Network. "We are thrilled to announce that Tammy is pregnant, and expecting our twins sometime around this fall," they said in a statement. "To answer the obvious question: we used an anonymous donor from a (sperm) bank."

Etheridge, 44, and Michaels, 31, held a commitment ceremony in 2003. The Grammy-winning singer has two children from her relationship with former partner Julie Cypher, daughter Bailey Jean and son Beckett. Cypher had the children through artificial insemination using a sperm donation from rock legend David Crosby.

In the announcement, posted Monday (Apr. 17), Etheridge and Michaels said: "The twins will be a

joyful addition to our loving home. We are a blessed family." Etheridge was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2004, but is now cancer-free. She last released a greatest hits album titled "The Road Less Traveled." Michaels starred on the 2005 NBC comedy "Committed" and has appeared on Showtime's "The L Word."



## Pro-Gay Story Causes Flap At Mass. School

LEXINGTON - A school that has been the target of anti-Gay complaints is feeling the heat again, with a Lexington, Mass., mother grumbling to the Joseph Estabrook Elementary School board after her 7-year-old was read a story called "King & King," reported the PlanetOut Network. The second-grader's teacher read the book as part of a class lesson on marriage. The book is about a prince who has a wide variety of princesses to choose from to marry, but in the end picks a prince to be his spouse instead. The book ends with a kiss between the princes.

After reading this book to the children, the teacher talked about how it was legal for Gay couples to get married in their state and went on to explain how some kids have two mommies and others have two daddies. The angry parent, Robin Wirthlin, told the school board that her son should not have been exposed to discussions about Gay people at such a young age. "My son is only 7 years old," Wirthlin told the Boston Globe. "By presenting this kind of issue at such a young age, they're trying to indoctrinate our children. They're intentionally presenting this as a norm, and it's not a value that our

family supports." The Globe said Wirthlin has sought the help of the anti-Gay Parents' Rights Coalition, which seeks legislation that, among other things, would require written parental approval for homosexuality to be discussed in schools.

Last year, another parent with a similar sentiment was charged with trespassing at the school and banned from school property. His anger stemmed from a book his son brought home from the school library called "Who's in a Family?" The book focuses on a wide variety of families, including those headed by Lesbian and Gay parents, in addition to couples of mixed race and parents who are divorced.

School superintendent Paul Ash defended the teacher's use of "King & King" and emphasized the importance of the lesson about marriage for Gay couples. "We couldn't run a public school system if every parent who feels some topic is objectionable to them for moral or religious reasons decides their child should be removed," Ash told the Globe. "Lexington is committed to teaching children about the world they live in, and in Massachusetts same-sex marriage is legal."

## LGBT Nepalese Join Protest Against King

KATMANDU - Demonstrators protesting the absolute rule of Nepal's King Gyanendra were joined Wednesday (Apr. 19) by members of the country's only LGBT civil rights organization, reported 365Gay.com. The daily protests entered their second week on Wednesday and the country was shut down by a national strike. The protestors are calling for national elections to a free parliament.

Four protestors were shot dead by police in the capital during Wednesday's protest. It is not known if any of those killed were members of the LGBT Blue Diamond Society. Gays, Lesbians and transsexuals have been under increased pressure over the past few years. But the situation has become violent following the king's takeover of the government with the aid of the military.

Human Rights Watch raised an international alarm in January after groups of Transgendered women, called metis, in two separate incidents were attacked by police and the military. Human Rights Watch says the situation has gotten increasingly

worse. Last month police rounded up 26 metis. According to the Blue Diamond Society they were taken to the Hanuman Dhoka central police station in Kathmandu where they have been held without being allowed to contact anyone. Blue Diamond also said that people working in the areas of HIV prevention are regularly harassed by police.

Nepal was one of several countries named in a State Department report on human rights violators that was released last month. In 2004 Police in Katmandu rushed a peaceful demonstration of Gays seeking equal rights beating the protestors and dispersing the crowd. The demonstration, in front of the Himalayan nation's Parliament, the Singha Durbar, had been organized by Blue Diamond. The protestors had gathered to submit a petition to the Prime Minister calling for an end to laws against Gay sex and for civil rights. Members of the group wore black arm bands with other demonstrators symbolizing the "black reign of the king."



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# NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

## Tucson As City-State

by Lee Thorn

The conventional local wisdom of the last few decades has been that the political possibilities for Tucson are severely limited by the enormous power of the developers. Whether it's fair to blame the developers or not, the political possibilities have certainly seemed limited. Take a look at the new budget and you'll be struck by the absolute absence of interesting ideas. It's all cops, firefighters and roads – necessary and boring.

What would it take to revitalize city government? I'm not sure where the spark could come from, but the growing ineffectiveness and indifference of the federal government to the welfare of the average citizen might well provide the tinder. Could the yawning federal void on issues like health care, minimum wage, immigration, etc. create an irresistible fuel source?

There have been times in history when city governments were the most important governments. Think of the city-states of ancient Greece, places like Athens and Sparta. With our federal government in the pocket of corporate America and the average American twisting in the wind, why shouldn't cities step into the vacuum?

To take that step cities would have to start doing bold things that would appeal to the 75% of Tucsonans who don't think voting in a mayoral election is worth their time or effort. The big obvious thing would be to have a huge municipal minimum wage, but the most obvious and most important thing is not necessarily the first thing that happens in processes of radical social change. More likely the start would be something wildly popular that no city had ever thought of before. A few quirky but popular things, if they worked, would begin to change people's idea of what city government could be.

I'm going to make a wild and crazy suggestion as a discussion starter: How about passing a city ordinance limiting the price that gas stations could charge for their products within the city limits? I know this sounds extreme, but at some point the ordinary citizen is going to tire of being robbed by the oil barons who are too much in bed with the feds to ever be meaningfully regulated from that quarter.

You might ask, "Would it even be legal for a city to limit the price of a commodity?" I don't see why not. New York City limited the amounts that could be charged for rents in its rent control programs. What's the conceptual difference between limiting how much a landlord can charge for their product and limiting what a gas station owner can charge for theirs?

Doing something this drastic would cause serious opposition as well as unintended consequences. When New York started rent control the landlords had fits, buildings were abandoned and turmoil reigned. As for as I know, New York still have rent controls.

If Tucson said that gas sold within the city could cost no

more than 80% of the national average, what would happen? Would all the Tucson gas stations close? Would oil companies refuse to supply them? In one form or another there would surely be a ruckus, but would we rather have a ruckus whose outcome is unpredictable or would we prefer to continue being robbed at the pump with no hope of political relief in sight?

On a theoretical level, if the city can regulate rents and the price of gas, why can't it regulate the price of lettuce? I'd argue that the city could regulate the price of lettuce if there were a citywide problem with the price of lettuce that couldn't be corrected by normal market forces. If you believe the system is broken, you're probably ready to experiment. If you're ready to experiment, you've got to be prepared for both successes and failures.

Maybe we're destined for a political landscape of the future with a few hundred city-states that are obsessively concerned with meeting the cradle-to-grave needs of ALL their citizens and a federal government whose main job is preventing the city-states from going to war with one another. There'd be a lot of room outside the city-states for rugged individualists like Dick Cheney to go "hunting" on farms where he could select the birds he was going to shoot and then have them released from cages right in front of him on his command. This country owes a lot to rugged individualists; we sure don't want to lose them.

[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.]

## Administration Agrees To Turn Over All Documents On LGBT Spy Operation

Continued from Page One

attempt to mediate the issue before going to trial. The Defense and Justice Departments capitulated Thursday and agreed to turn over all relevant information.

Under the agreement, signed off on by Collyer, the Defense Intelligence Agency must turn over its documents by April 27, Defense by May 4 and Justice by May 11.

"We anticipate the government's full compliance with Judge Collyer's order and we insist the government refrain from any future surveillance," SLDN spokesperson Steve Ralls told 365Gay.com.

"Private citizens exercising their constitutional freedom of free speech are not a terror threat, but everyone's freedom is threatened when our government implements Orweillian policies that peep through key holes and watch our every move."

Both SLDN and the administration were ordered to return to court this summer to ensure that the terms of the agreement had been met.

Earlier this month the Department of Defense admitted that it had spied on groups opposed to "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."



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# Non Bar Calendar

### Wednesday, April 26

**Men's Social Network** Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Canasta! Hosted by Merlin at 207-5336. MSN Canasta is played every Wednesday at 7pm, but check back here for the host du soir. If you are a nervous first timer, you will find printed rules of play, and guys eager to get you up and in the action as you learn the game!

### Thursday, April 27

**Men's Social Network** Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Coffee Night on Fabulous 4th Avenue at Rainbow Planet, the Premier Central Tucson GLBT owned and operated purveyor of stimulating caffeine enhanced beverages, delicious comestibles, WIFI energy, and safe social intercourse. Just show up to join in this no host cavalcade of queer conversation.

### Friday, April 28

**Men's Social Network** (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed: It's a social experiment! 10:00 a.m. Join Tom and the Sunrise Scientists for a Bagel Brunch and the second installment of his 2 hour Lecture series from Einstein's Relativity and the Quantum Revolution: Modern Physics for Non-Scientists. Monthly 2-hour meetings will finish this 12 hour course in 6 months. Please contact Tom at 744-9036 for reservations and directions.

Tucson Prime Timers, Cocktails, 5:30 p.m., Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

### Saturday, April 29

**Men's Social Network** Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Shuffle over for Floating Pinochle every Saturday of the month except for first Saturday Monthly Pot Luck. New recruits are always welcome and beginners are tutored to develop their gay serial killer instincts! Phone host Steve at 644-2076 for location, driving directions, and info.

### Sunday, April 30

**Men's Social Network** Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:00p.m. Thom hosts Dinner Out at one of Tucson's Ultra-Fabulous Buffets. Price is usually under \$10 bucks. For reservations and directions, please contact Thom at 623-2941, or e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com by the Event Sunday at Noon to facilitate reservations. There is nothing like a buffet with men to find everything you have been craving!

Tucson Prime Timers, Brunch, Noon, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

### Monday, May 1

Tucson Prime Timers, Lunch, The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

### Friday, May 5.

Tucson Prime Timers, Cocktails - 5:30 - 7:00, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

### Sunday, May 7

Tucson Prime Timers, Brunch - Noon, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

### Monday, May 8.

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

### Friday, May 12.

Tucson Prime Timers, Cocktails - 5:30 PM, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

### Saturday, May 13.

Tucson Prime Timers, Business Meeting - 11 AM, Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St.

### Sunday, May 14

Tucson Prime Timers, Brunch - Noon, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

### Monday, May 15.

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

### Friday, May 19.

Tucson Prime Timers, Cocktails - 5:30 PM, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

### May 19, 20, & 21

Reveille: Gay Men's Chorus of Tucson/PRIDE Concert, University of Arizona / Steve Eller Dance Theater on University Mall. 8:00 p.m.

### Sunday, May 21

Tucson Prime Timers, Brunch - Noon, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

### Monday, May 22.

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

### Tuesday, May 23

Tucson Prime Timers, Lunch - 1 PM, Golden Corral, 4380 E. 22nd St.

### Friday, May 26.

Tucson Prime Timers, Cocktails - 5:30 PM, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

### Sunday, May 28.

Tucson Prime Timers, Brunch - Noon, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

## 75 G/L Methodist Clergy Petition Church

CHICAGO - In an open letter 75 United Methodist LGBT clergy, most of them not out until now, are calling on the denomination to abolish a ban on "practicing homosexuals" from the clergy, reported 365Gay.com. While reaffirming their commitment to continue serving the denomination the 75 reminded United Methodists that "you are the church that opened our minds and hearts to God's irrevocable call into ministry."

Serving the church at every level, they "have embodied God's presence in worship and in your lives, blessing your marriages, responding to midnight calls, holding your hands, wiping your tears, and laying your precious loved ones to rest," the letter said. The letter was made public a week before the UMC Judicial Council meets in Kansas City. The clergy members called on the council to reverse a ruling last year that ordered the reinstatement of a Virginia pastor who had been fired after he refused to allow a Gay man to join his parish.

The 75 also expressed their support for Beth Stroud, a UMC pastor who was defrocked after coming out to her congregation and saying she was in a committed relationship with another woman. "For 35 years the UMC has been on a slow but steady course to exclude LGBT people from the life of the church as a whole," Rev. Troy Plummer, a minister based in Chicago said quoting from the letter.

"Many in our denomination support this dismembering of Christ's Body. Yet even while our sister Beth Stroud was stripped of her ordination credentials, hundreds of LGBT clergy continue to serve the church faithfully at every level of leadership." The council's rulings have led to widespread criticism within the denomination.

Although the Judicial Council has the final word on church law, the denomination's Council of Bishops issued a unanimous declaration that homosexuality is not a barrier to church membership and that the church's rules "implore families and churches not to reject or condemn Lesbian and Gay members and friends." Last November the pastor of the biggest Methodist church in Minnesota held a service to apologize to Gays and Lesbians for homophobia in the denomination. The Methodist denomination has been wrestling with the issue of homosexuality since 1972, when it declared homosexuality "incompatible with Christian teaching." Since that time, church legislation has been passed preventing the ordination of "self-avowed, practicing homosexuals."

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# HOROSCOPES

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**TAURUS (APR. 21 - MAY 21)**  
Sun in your own sign signifies new beginnings, new people and a new perspective on life. This means that you should not rest on your laurels nor should you rely on the usual tricks of the trade to just get by. Just "getting by" will simply not do. Stretch yourself, queer Bull. Get out of your box and go where you have never gone before. No, not Scranton.

**ARIES (MAR. 21 - APR. 20)**  
What is it that motivates Gay Rams now? I think it must be money, money, money. The secret to happiness is management of your load. Careful planning will bring its rewards but thriftiness will not scratch your itch. There are a few little expensive trinkets that you simply must have. Sun in Taurus has you checking out assorted bottom lines. Anyone we know?

**GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)**  
A light shines in your closet and reveals a load of dust and assorted grimy garbage. Clean it out pink Twin. Your secrets are posted on the front page and anything you try to hide will be revealed to the immediate world. Good. Sun in Taurus provides a reason for living. There is a spring in your step and a warmth in your spirit. Or is it just the fajita you had for lunch?

**CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)**  
Don't be surprised if you draw a crowd when the Sun enters Taurus. Pink Crabs are suddenly thrust into the epicenter of the social swirl where they happily take charge. You become the lifeblood of any event and have some great ideas as to how to bring various people together. Friends just can't get enough of you. Family however is another thing.

**LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)**  
Proud Lions are corporately inclined. Keep a watchful eye on corporate politics - you can discern any distant rumblings and make it work in your favor. If you are not currently in charge, you are given an opportunity to show senior staff what you can do. Strut your stuff upon the stage. Be sure that it is not a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury and signifying nothing.

**VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)**  
If you are not planning a nice relaxing vacation now, you should be. Sun in Taurus highlights anything that gets you away from the usual and enables you to spread your influence globally. It can be by cruising the internet or just cruising, on the ocean. Queer Virgins will benefit from some time away from the bee hive. How about some vodka stingers by the sea?

**LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)**  
Scratch an itch and focus on what really turns you on while the Sun basks in Taurus. Gay Libras feel sexy, sultry and even a bit mischievous. Don't be shy. You manage to find a few co-conspirators to enable you in your assorted sorted pursuits. So allow your friskiness full reign. You simply cannot be tied down. Unless of course that is your "thing."

**SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)**  
Sun in Taurus strongly suggests that you make your big move. Proud Scorps may be hanging on the sidelines, watching all the action and waiting for the right time. Well the time is now. You can make some powerful connections to others and form strong relationships. For those comfortably settled in, use this time to strengthen the ties that bind. Maybe tie the knot? Ouch!

**SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)**  
Spring is in the air! So let's start thinking about summer and swimsuit season. Take a good sidelong look in the mirror and see if you are ready for your close-up. Hmm. Sun in Taurus gives you the impetus to get into better shape and revitalize your overall health and fitness. Gay Archers can also tackle any detailed project and clear their desks of work. Oh goodie.

**CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)**  
This is no time to be serious and pouty. Enjoy life, a flirty romance or a wilde artistic diversion. The party finds you and you must be ready to participate. Sun in Taurus unleashes your "fun" side and encourages all pink Caps to take a creative leap or two. Does a cabaret act involving a can opener, mouse ears and a jar of pickles count?

**AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)**  
Serious consideration should be paid to any domestic issue. Aqueerians feel in the middle of a tornado that blows their feelings, possessions and assorted plans into the far winds. This is the week to gain control and place things back in order. And maybe not in the exact same order. Don't recreate old patterns. Break free, be yourself and dance the dance. No, not disco.

**PISCES (FEB. 20 - MAR. 20)**  
Speak from the heart, let others know how you feel and expect some wonderful responses. That should be your mantra this week, Guppie. You are eloquent for a change and have a lot of "asks". Ask away! Before you know it your cockles are warmed and your persona is very cool. Life is a bowl of cherries. Gee, do they really like bowling?

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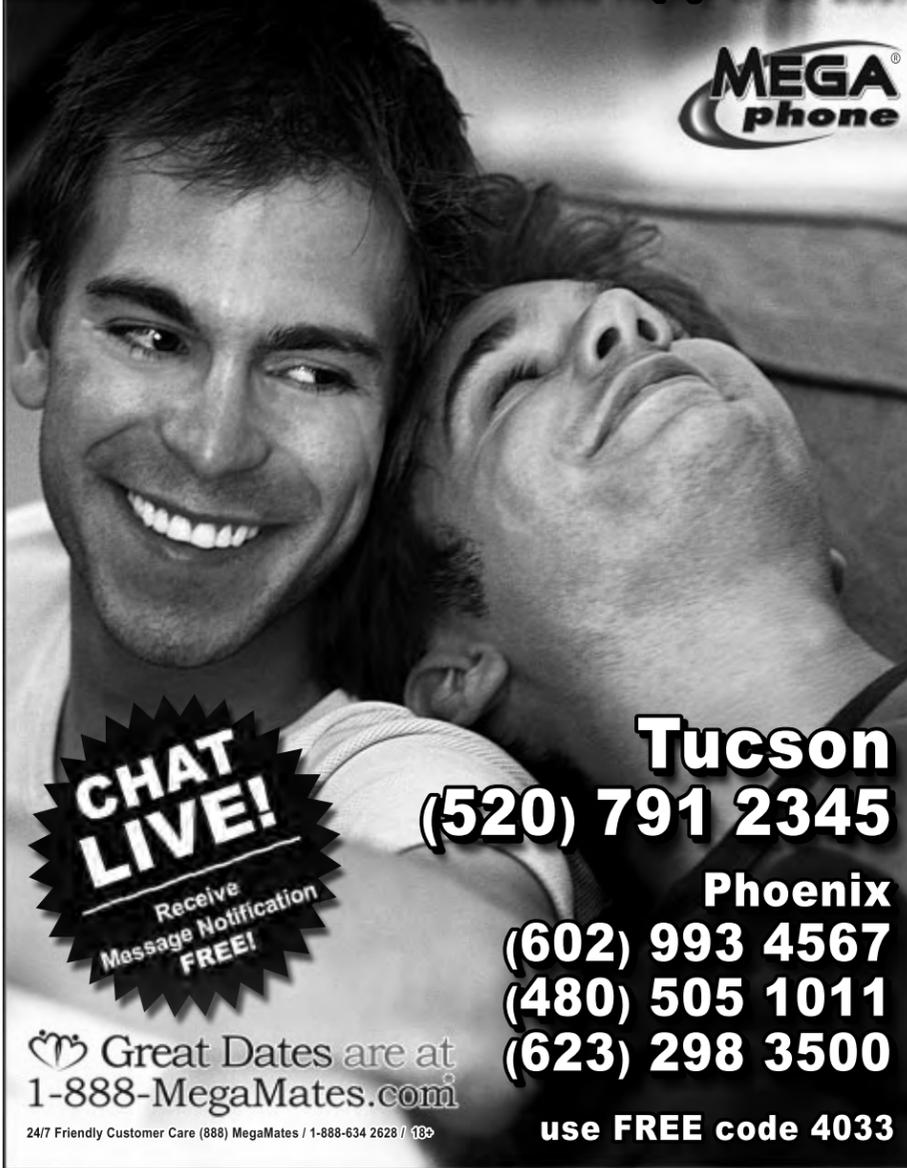
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### HOUSING/FOR RENT

2-BEDROOM SINGLE-WIDE with add-on room for rent. It is available May 1<sup>st</sup> at \$600/mo. For more information call 883-2753. Located Southwest of Tucson. 1135

TEMPORARY HOUSING. Nice for quiet, "cat loving" student or professional persons. Includes 2 months rent and utilities. Walking distance to UofA. \$350/mo. April 25 - June 22. Ideal situation for someone who loves cat companions and who is honest and respectful of using one's home. Call 670-8743 1134.

FOR RENT - 2BR/2BA in desirable 'Lost Barrio' warehouse/shopping district. "The Look", charm, cool comfort and privacy. Downtown. UofA mile. \$850/mo. Adobe Prop. 325-6971

### SERVICES

YBARRA CATERING. Catering for all occasions Specializing in authentic Mexican Food. Phone 982-5627 or 981-1034. ybarracatering@aim.com Gay owned and operated. 1134.

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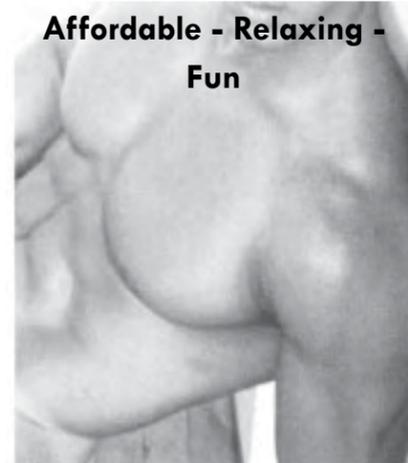
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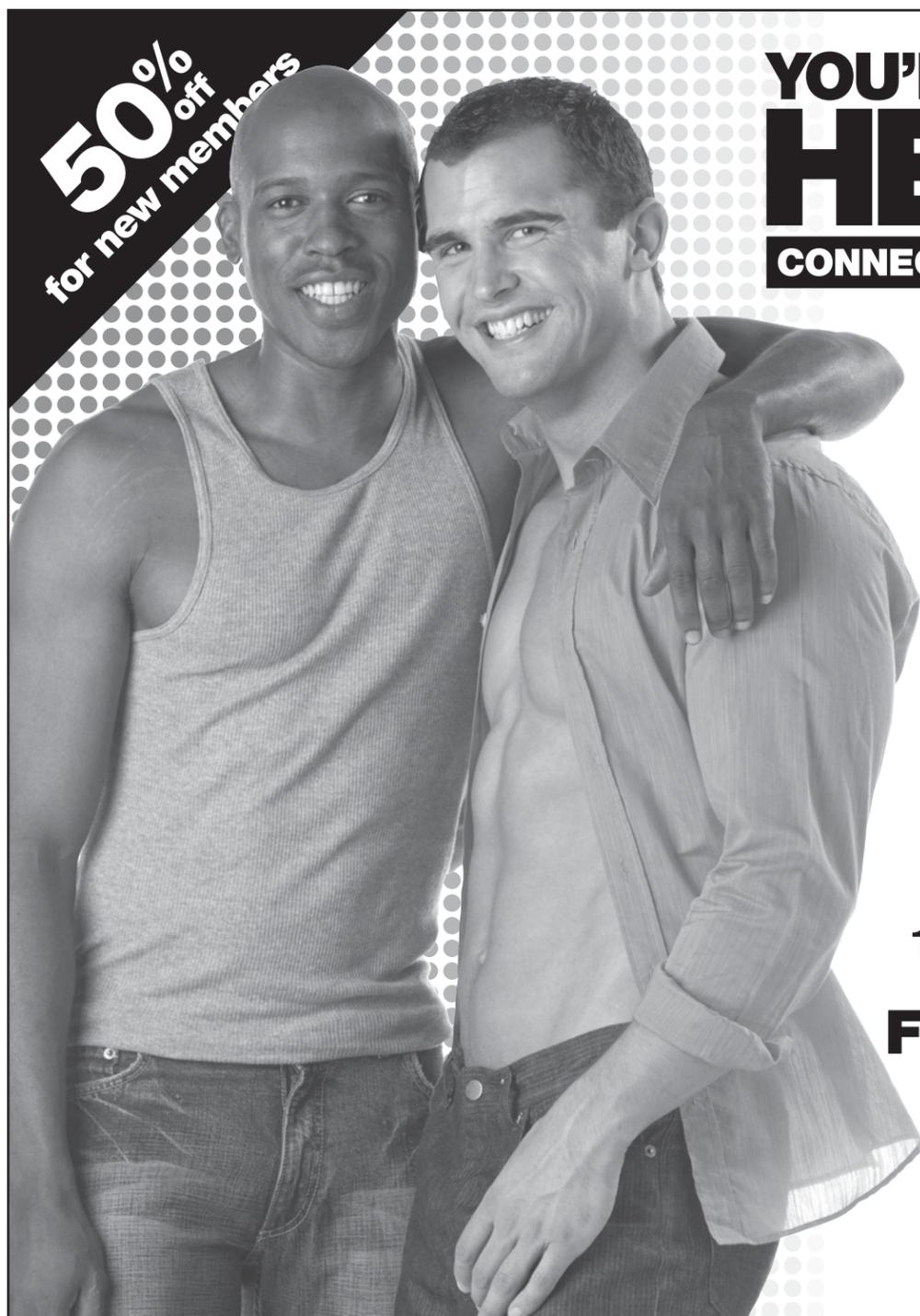
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OVER?



# DAILY BAR CALENDAR

## sunday

**COLORS** - Open 11am - 11pm Champagne Brunch 11am - 2pm with choice of complimentary mimosa, Bloody Mary or Screwdriver. Happy Hour 4-7pm \$3 Skyy Cocktails, \$2.50 Domestic and well. 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 Bar open 2pm-close. Yard games on the grass. Beer Bust 16oz \$1 2-7pm. \$2.50 Sirloin or Chicken Burgers w/sides 5-9pm. Karaoke with Michael D. 9pm-close. DJ Jeff on the Patio 9pm. 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. 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, \$2.50 Domestic and Well. 1<sup>st</sup> 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, \$2.50 Domestic Well. 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, \$2.50 Domestic & Well. Full menu served 4-10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

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

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

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

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

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

## friday

**COLORS** - Open 4pm-1am. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3 Skyy cocktails, \$2.50 Domestic and Well. 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. 2-Step Lessons at 7:30 with Amanda on the 1st & 3rd Fridays. 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, 9pm Hot Dance with DJ Mike Lopez outside on the patio and DJ Raynman spinning club music inside. 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, \$2.50 Domestic and Well 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.

## Arts & Entertainment

### Now playing thru April 29

"All My Sons" presented by the Pima Community College Theatre Arts Department. Arthur Miller's classic drama set in post-World War II America. 7:30 p.m. Thursdays thru Saturdays. 2:00 p.m. Sundays. PCC Center for the Arts, 2202 W. Anklam Road. Tickets \$5 - \$10. Info: 206-6986.

### Now playing thru April 30

"Black Coffee" at Live Theatre Workshop. 327-4242 5317 E. Speedway. 7:30 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays 3:00 p.m. Sundays. \$13 - \$16.

### Now playing thru May 6

"Tuesdays With Morrie" Arizona Theatre Company. Temple of Music and Art. 622-2823.

### Now playing thru May 27

Gaslight Theatre presents "The Three Musketeers", at 7010 E. Broadway. Show times are 7:00 p.m. Tuesdays - Thursdays; 7:00 and 9:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 3:00 and 7:00 p.m. Sundays. 886-9428. \$15.95 general admission.

### April 20 Thru April 30

90<sup>th</sup> Annual Pima County Fair. Fair Grounds Houghton Road South of I-10. Adults \$7.00. Each day packed with all kinds of entertainment. Check

## Arts and Entertainment

their website at [www.pima-countyfair.com](http://www.pima-countyfair.com) or call (520)762-FAIR.

### April 20 Thru April 30

Borderlands Theater presents "Conjunto" at Leo Rich Theatre (Tucson Convention Center 260 S. Church Ave.). Reservations (520)882-7406

### May 4

Desert Diamond Casino, I-19 & Pima Mine Road, Exit 80 (7 minutes South of Tucson). Presenting Cheap Trick. TicketMaster 321-1000

### May 9 - 14

"Les Misérables" The world's most popular musical playing at Tucson Music Hall. Ticketmaster or TCC Ticket Office. 321-1000.

### May 11

Desert Diamond Casino, I-19 & Pima Mine Road, Exit 80 (7 minutes South of Tucson). Presenting The Go Go's. TicketMaster 321-1000.

### May 12

Desert Diamond Casino, I-19 & Pima Mine Road, Exit 80 (7 minutes South of Tucson). Presenting Tanya Tucker. TicketMaster 321-1000.

## BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

**WOODY'S** - ER Underwear Nite. We provide your hospital gown, you provide the underwear. Shot specials provided by your Dr. Bartenders.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 30

**IBT'S** - CD Release Party with DJ Mike Lopez Featuring the hottest in dance-rock, new wave and electro-pop, 50 CDs given away!!! Drink specials \$1.00 pint Bud & Bud Light or \$1.50 Pucker Shots.

### FRIDAY, MAY 5

**HOWL AT THE MOON** - Cinco de Mayo Party!!! \$2.00 Mexican Beers. Two-Step lessons with Amanda 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Then DJ Michelle is playing Triple C - Country, Cumbias, and Corridos..

**IBT's** - Cinco de Mayo happy hour til' 8:00 p.m. All day \$3.00 Corona or Pacifico. Taco Bar 4:00 p.m. DJ Raymond spinning on the dance floor 9:00 p.m. and DJ Mike Lopes spinning on the Patio featuring "I'm A Sexy Bitch Night" 10:00 p.m.

**VENTURE-N** - Cinco de Mayo Weekend extravaganza starts tonight with Mamacita Charles' Taco Bar 5:00 p.m. til ????. Piñata Break at 7:00 p.m.

**YARD DOG** - "Cinco de Mayo" Blow-Out Party and Patio re-opening

### SATURDAY, MAY 6

**VENTURE-N** Cinco de Mayo Weekend extravaganza continues with \$2.00 Bloody Marys and Screws from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Mamacita Charles feeds you again at 5:00 p.m.

**YARD DOG** - "Cinco de Mayo" Blow-Out Party and Patio re-opening

### SUNDAY, MAY 7

**VENTURE-N** - Cinco de Mayo Weekend extravaganza winds up today with \$2.00 Bloody Marys and Screws from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. and then from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.- Mariachis!!! Burgers and more!!!

**YARD DOG** - "Cinco de Mayo" Blow-Out Party and Patio re-opening

### SATURDAY, MAY 13

**HOWL AT THE MOON** - TMI is back playing your favorite classic rock hits from the 70s & 80s. Show starts at 8:00 p.m. \$5.00 Cover. This is a great band. Don't miss them!



# 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 298-6727, leave name and phone number. [Tucsonpt@primetimersww.org](mailto: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](mailto:webmaster@gpglcc.org) or call (602)225-8444.

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

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

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

**BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO** - a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, Call the Bears Hotline (520)790-5775 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 of visit our website at [www.botop.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://AAPSP.org) or e-mail: [AAPSP@aol.com](mailto: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](http://www.lctucson.org) write: LC, 7014 E. Golf Links Road, PMB 212, Tucson, AZ 85730.

**REVEILLE GAY MEN'S CHORUS** rehearses Wednesdays 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

**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/](http://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](http://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

The new **MAN TO MAN INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY** is meeting about honoring the spiritual side of ourselves. It is the men's social/erotic group that offers passionate friendships, fun activities, and real tantric sex education. Call Marc 881-4582 in advance Check it out. We meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 7-9pm. Potluck dinner. Donation.



# In Their Own Words America In Good Hands



**George The Decider**



**Dick The Napper**

"I'm the decider, and I decide what's best. And what's best is for Don Rumsfeld to remain as the secretary of defense. . . . I say I listen to all voices but mine's the final decision and Don Rumsfeld is doing a fine job. . . ." - Dubya during a White House scripted press conference gone wild - Apr. 18, 2006. So when will Don be fired after that remark, just ask Michael "Drownie" Brown, the then head of FEMA, who got the same words of confidence after his inept bungling overseeing federal efforts during Hurricane Katrina, which struck Aug. 29, 2005, and was canned a few days later.

In the actions speak louder than words department, the real leader, Dickie Cheney, snoozing during an Apr. 20, White House, Oval Office meeting between Dubya and Chinese President Hu Jintao.

## Giuliani Cozies Up To Anti-LGBT Leaders

NEW YORK - There are signs that former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani may be trying to distance himself from his reputation for supporting abortion rights and Gay equality as he eyes a possible run for the Republican presidential nomination in 2008. In a 1999 Interview with CNN's Inside Politics, then-mayor Giuliani said, "I'm pro-choice. I'm pro-Gay rights," reported advocate.com.



**Rudy Giuliani**

But as the midterm election draws near and Giuliani gets closer to what many believe will be a shot at the presidency, the former mayor is campaigning for some very antichoice, anti-Gay rights GOP candidates. Some political experts say he's "mending fences." On Tuesday (Apr. 18), Giuliani appeared at a rally for U.S. senator Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania, a vocal opponent of Gay rights, who has said that states should regulate homosexuality "the same as they regulate human sexual contact with animals." Giuliani said of Santorum, "In any age you don't have many leaders. Senator Santorum is one of them."

The New York Times reports that Giuliani will head to Iowa later this month to campaign for U.S. representative and gubernatorial candidate Jim Nussle. Nussle is also an opponent of Gay rights, having voted for the federal constitutional ban on same-sex marriage in 2004 and a ban on adoptions by Gays in Washington, D.C., in 1999.

Iowa is also home of the first national presidential caucus—and one of the first stops for most presidential candidates. Former Christian Coalition leader Ralph Reed announced that Giuliani would headline a fundraiser in May for Reed's campaign for lieutenant governor of Georgia.

## Theater Owner Meets With LGBT Students

SALT LAKE CITY - Larry Miller, the Utah theater owner who pulled Brokeback Mountain from his theaters last January, met with about 30 Gay and Lesbian students at the University of Utah who enlightened him about what it's like to be Gay. According to the Salt Lake Tribune, students told Miller about the difficulties of coming out and the fear of being physically harmed. The discussion appeared to change Miller's previously unwavering stance on his decision to pull the movie.

wrong that they have to live in that fear," Miller said.

Students were very positive about the meeting. Charles Milne, coordinator of the university's LGBT Campus Resource Center: "I felt like he cared about what we had to say. I wouldn't say we changed his mind, but I think he did come away with ideas he had to process."

"Now, I understand how something I said inadvertently made them feel demeaned as individuals. Maybe their well-being trumps my beliefs, my rights to express myself...In 2006, it's

**10%**  
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