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The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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WEEKLY OBSERVER

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ISSUE 1178

Domestic Partner Ruling Causes Alarm

DETROIT, Michigan - A Michigan appeals court ruling that prohibits public universities as well as state and local governments from providing health insurance to partners of Gay employees has alarmed Gay rights advocates nationwide, reported the Associated Press on advocate.com. They fear the decision could encourage similar rulings in 17 other states whose bans on same-sex marriage could be interpreted to prohibit domestic partner benefits for same-sex couples.

Michigan became the first state to rule that public employers cannot offer health benefits if the benefits are based on treating same-sex relationships similar to marriage. "It really is just a matter of time before we start seeing wholesale litigation in this area," said Carrie Evans, state legislative director for the Human Rights Campaign, a Gay rights group in Washington, D.C.

In Alaska, the only other state to rule on the benefits given to same-sex partners of public employees, the courts ruled the other way, saying it was unconstitutional to deny them. More than 20 other states have yet to decide how their same-sex marriage bans apply to same-sex partner benefits.

Dennis Patrick, a professor at Eastern Michigan University, worries that Michigan's ruling will strip his partner's health insurance. The couple have adopted four foster children, one with a developmental disability, and Tom Patrick works part-time so he can care for them. "If he has to go back to work full-time, that hurts our family. Or we have to pay for health benefits out of pocket, which hurts our family," Dennis Patrick said. "To me, that either demonstrates a lack of understanding of how this can affect our family or other families, or it's just mean and cruel." He is one of 21 plaintiffs who sued the state. They will appeal to the state supreme court.

Twenty-seven states have passed constitutional bans on same-sex marriage, mostly since 2004, in response to same-sex marriages being performed in Massachusetts. Eighteen of them, including Michigan, have broader amendments that also prohibit the recognition of civil unions or same-sex partnerships. Still, Michigan's appeals court decision caught some by surprise. "This is pretty unprecedented," said Jeffery Montgomery, executive director of the Triangle Foundation, a Gay rights group in Michigan. "It just seems like such a needless slam on Gay and Lesbian families. The health and livelihood of their families is at stake in this ruling."

Conservatives, however, are lauding the decision and say the amendment's wording was clear. "Since two thirds of all the marriage amendments are more similar to Michigan's language, who's to say that the Michigan decision won't be the prevailing precedent in the future?" said Gary Glenn, the president of the American Family Association of Michigan, who helped write that state's measure.

At least 375 university and government employees in Michigan could be affected by the ruling, according to a survey of public employers by the Associated Press. Numbers weren't available for two school districts and two community colleges. Up to 20 public universities, community colleges, school districts, and local governments in Michigan have same-sex benefits policies. Universities, which employ most of those affected, argue that not being able to offer the benefits would hurt recruitment of faculty and staff.

"A great public university, especially at this time in Michigan, must be inclusive, competitive, and welcoming," Michigan State president Lou Anna Simon said.

Other states are examining the reach of their same-sex marriage bans. The Ohio supreme court is considering whether the state's amendment prevents domestic-violence charges against unmarried people. A county judge threw out an Ohio lawmaker's lawsuit challenging Miami University's same-sex partner benefits policy, saying he had no legal standing to sue. But the issue could crop up again.

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Rice Pressed On Fired Linguists

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Condoleezza Rice got a grilling Wednesday (Feb. 7) when she bemoaned "the foreign language deficit that we have" and how much the government needs Farsi and Arabic speakers during an appearance on Capitol Hill, 365Gay.com reported. Rice was appearing before the House Foreign Affairs Committee justifying the State Department's proposed budget increases.

After she complained several times that the department was facing a problem finding translators an exasperated Rep. Gary Ackerman (D-NY) asked why the department had not hired any of the translators fired by the Pentagon because they are Gay and Lesbian. Under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" more than two dozen Arabic translators have been dropped since the war in Iraq began.

"It seems that the Defense Department has a 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' when it comes to homosexuals. You don't have such a prohibition in your agency, do you?" Ackerman asked Rice. "No, we do not," Rice replied. "Well, it seems that the military has gone around and fired a whole bunch of people who speak foreign languages - Farsi and Arabic, etc.," Ackerman told her.

The Congressman said that they had already been trained at government expense and had passed security tests. "For some reason, the military seems more afraid of Gay people than they are against terrorists, but they're very brave with the terrorists," Ackerman said. "If the terrorists ever got a hold of this information, they'd get a platoon of Lesbians to chase us out of Baghdad."

The remark drew some smiles from fellow members of the panel, but Rice was stone faced.

He then asked directly why the State Department had not looked at the fired Gay linguists. "Can we marry up those two - or maybe that's the wrong word - can we have some kind of union of those two issues?" Ackerman asked.

"Congressman Ackerman, I'm not aware of the availability of people, but I certainly will look [at] what we are doing right now," Rice replied, adding that the department had increased staff in many critical areas but needs additional people at higher levels. "But maybe you might find some of those competent people among those who are recently unemployed." "We'll look at it," is all Ackerman could get Rice to commit to.

"Secretary Rice would have no trouble finding Gay linguists," said Sharon Alexander, deputy director of policy for Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. "In fact, our government could go a long way in addressing the shortage of language expertise by doing just as Congressman Ackerman suggests. SLDN would be happy to introduce Secretary Rice to our many clients who speak Arabic but have been dismissed because of the ban," said Alexander.

FDA To Review New Class Of HIV/AIDS Drugs

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A Food and Drug Administration panel in April will review a Pfizer HIV therapy that, if approved, would be the first in a new class of drugs to treat the virus that causes AIDS, reported 365Gay.com.

The FDA said Thursday (Feb. 8) its antiviral drugs advisory committee will meet April 24 to assess the safety and effectiveness of Pfizer's maraviroc, according to documents posted to the agency's Web site. FDA is not required to follow the guidance of its outside experts, though it often does. Maraviroc is part of a class of drugs called CCR5 antagonists, which block HIV from entering white blood cells through a pathway present in the majority of patients who carry the virus. Roughly 1 million people in the U.S. are HIV positive, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Pfizer plans to offer the drug alongside a test developed by Monogram Biosciences Inc. that gauges whether patients are likely to respond to the treatment. A twice-a-day pill, maraviroc will primarily be marketed to patients who have developed a resistance to other HIV drugs.

Most companies pursuing the
Continued on Page Five

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY TO ALL OF OUR OBSERVER READERS



UPDATE

Reward Raised In Scottsdale Hate Crime

SCOTTSDALE - PFLAG-Phoenix (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), recently donated an additional \$1,000, to the Phoenix Police Department's Silent Witness Program, for information leading to the arrest and conviction, of the men responsible for an assault on two Gay men, outside a Scottsdale restaurant. The reward in this case is now up to \$12,000.

David Pape, President of PFLAG-Phoenix commented, "PFLAG wants to bring the public's attention back to this alleged hate crime, as it still hasn't been solved." On the evening of Dec. 17, 2006, Mr. Jean Rolland and Mr. Andrew Frost were coming out of Frasher's Steakhouse, located at 2122 N. Scottsdale Road, at approximately 8:00 p.m., when they were viciously attacked by up to seven men. Both men were injured but Frost, 19 years old, required staples and stitches to close wounds on his head and face.

The Scottsdale Police Department has been following-up on leads in the case but PFLAG wants anyone with information, to step forward and tell the police what they know. If you don't want your identity known, you can call the Silent Witness hotline at 480-WITNESS. If your information leads to the arrest and conviction of the men involved in the assault you will receive \$12,000 dollars from the Silent Witness Program.

According to Pape "this is every parent's, family member's, or friend's worst nightmare, to have person you love, or care about who happens to be Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, or Transgender, injured or killed just because of who they are." "When will people realize that sexual orientation isn't a matter of choice? The medical and psychiatric communities have known this since 1975. This was the year the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from its list of mental and emotional disorders. Here we are 34 years later and people are still injuring and killing people out of hate and ignorance," Pape said.

10th Annual 'Treasurers For Tihan' Update

TUCSON - The tenth annual "Treasures for TIHAN," the signature fundraising event for the programs and services of TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network), is coming up on Saturday, Apr. 28, and will take place at the Westin La Paloma.

If you can help by donating or soliciting items for their auction—trips, antiques, jewelry, rugs, gift certificates, unique gift items, and collectibles of value (over \$50 in

value, please), please contact Scott at scott@tihan.org.

TIHAN has a lot of volunteer needs so to help or for more information, go online to tihan.org or call the office, (520) 299-6647.

Desert Voices Auction & Cabaret Feb. 17

TUCSON - Come enjoy Desert Voices (DV) annual silent auction fundraiser/cabaret, featuring champagne, wine, beer, hors d'oeuvres and shopping, Saturday, Feb. 17, 6:00 p.m. at the Historic Y Theatre (University and 5th Ave.)

The entertainment will feature soloists and small groups from the chorus, including DV's "Andrews Sisters Trio," as well as the full Desert Voices chorus singing the hits of the era.

A radio play looking in on the Wilsons, a typical Tucson family dealing with life, rationing, and shortages in 1943 in the Old Pueblo will be performed.

Live auctions and raffles will round out the evening. The cost is \$30 per person (no discounts) with \$20 tax deductible. For ticket information, call the DV box office, (520) 791-9662 or contact your favorite chorus member. Tickets may also be purchased at Antigone's on 4th Avenue. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door the evening of the performance.

GLBT Commission Meeting Feb. 20

TUCSON - The City of Tucson Commission on GLBT Issues will be holding their monthly meeting, Tuesday, Feb. 20, 5:30 PM at the EOO Conference Room, 100 N. Stone, first floor.

Meetings are open to the public and there will be a call to the audience at each meeting. Agendas for the meeting are posted each month at both the City Hall and at the Wingspan Community Center a day or more before the monthly meeting of the commission. The Tucson Commission on GLBT Issues complies with open meeting laws. Under the open meeting laws, the Commission cannot discuss or take other action on a matter raised at a meeting, unless that matter is on the posted agenda for discussion or action. However, you may raise a matter to the Commission, and may request follow up attention from the Commission, including placement on a future agenda or follow up action from a subcommittee of the commission.

For more information, call the Tucson City Clerk's office, (520) 791-4213.

Les Pierce To Be Honored

TUCSON - For her tireless work to defeat Proposition 107 and dedication and volunteerism to Wingspan, Les Pierce is this year's winner of the LGBT Corazón de Justicia award by Derechos Humanos.

Pierce will be honored at the Derechos Humanos Corazón de Justicia Awards Dinner, Friday, Feb. 23, at the Dunbar Cultural Center, 325 W. 2nd St.

If you would like to attend the dinner to help honor Les and support the vital work of Derechos Humanos, please call Kat at Derechos Humanos, (520) 770-1373 to order tickets.

Fifth Annual Gene Moore Scholarships

TUCSON - It's the time of year for PFLAG -Tucson's 5th Annual Gene Moore Scholarships, and this year PFLAG will award seven \$1,000 scholarships. PFLAG encourages all LGBT students to apply who are currently high school seniors headed for college, undergraduates, or graduate students. PFLAG typically receives fewer than 20 applications for its scholarships, which increases the likelihood of winning one.

Applicants can download application forms at pflagtucson.org/scholarship. If people are unable to obtain the forms this way, they can call PFLAG, (520) 360-3795 or e-mail PFLAG at pflagtuc@pflagtucson.org, and they will sent to them. The application consists of (1) personal information, (2) an essay about the applicant's plan for higher education, community activities, and why PFLAG should award a scholarship to them, (3) two letters of recommendation (at least one from a non-family member), and (4) a copy of the student's admission acceptance letter or, if a current student, a copy of the student's most recent grade report.

The application must be post-marked by Mar. 31, and sent to PFLAG -Tucson, P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740-6264.

'Thank GLAAD It's Friday' Feb. 16

SCOTTSDALE - Join Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation president Neil Giuliano and the Phoenix Host Committee for GLAAD's first-ever Absolut Vodka's "Thank GLAAD It's Friday" on Friday, Feb. 16, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., at B.S. West, 7125 E. 5th Avenue.

Tickets are \$35 and include a one-year GLAAD membership.

For tickets and more information visit glaad.org/TGIFPHOENIX or contact Janelle Eagle at eagle@glaad.org

Desert Coyotes League Standings

TUCSON (ON) - The standings for Tucson's LGBT and straight supportive bowling league after the second trimester (Won-Lost):

RaPaDa 51-19, Boobs with Balls 45-25, Puffy Bones 45-25, Monster Balls 45-25, Totally off the Wall 43-27, Headpin Hussies 38-32, Hi Balls 36-34, UGOTABKIDN 34-36, FKD 33-37, Pin Busters 12-16, Pin Ups 28-42, Scratch Patch 28-42, Lois Lanes, 27-43, BarBitchUettes 25-45.

The Desert Coyotes bowl every Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. at Santa Cruz Lanes, 3665 S. 16th Ave.

How can I help?

You can make a difference by volunteering with the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation!

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375 South Euclid Avenue.

Contact Lisa Carter at 628-7223 or lcarter@saaf.org
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COMMENTARY . . .

By Jason Cianciotto

Last night (Feb. 6) I enjoyed what I truly think was a divinely inspired coincidence.

On the same day that disgraced former head of the National Evangelical Association Ted Haggard announced the "success" of his three weeks of "conversion therapy," an episode of Boston Legal, one of my favorite television sitcoms, focused on a judge who paid \$40,000 to attend a program that promised to cure his S-SAD, or "same-sex attraction disorder."

For the fictional judge, the program failed and he sued the conversion therapy provider for first taking his money and then blaming him for the fact that the program didn't work.

During the "trial," an attorney (played by Emmy-winning James Spader) representing the judge responded sarcastically to a question from the presiding judge about why in the world anyone would seek out conversion therapy in the first place:

We're talking about homosexuality, your honor. It's life threatening. If God doesn't get you for it, the skinheads will; If the skinheads don't, the Republicans will; And if the Republicans don't, the Southern Democrats will; And if they don't, my God it'll be left up to Florida!

I admit that you may need to be a fan of the show to understand why I found that so funny. But my point is that this was an amazing case of art imitating life in more ways than one.

Consider the "character" of Ted Haggard, and by character I mean the public persona he developed as he

climbed his way to the top of the Evangelical right-wing food chain. Here's a man who built a career on presenting himself as an example of the religious right's anti-Gay "family values" while hiding from what I've come to think of as the "great equalizer" among all people: sex.

Time and again, this great equalizer is used by Boston Legal to humble and humiliate rich and powerful attorneys, judges and politicians in the same way it has knocked numerous religious right leaders off their pedestals in real life.

But as Matt Foreman pointed out in his statement [1] about Haggard's newly announced status, he is "doing what all these preachers do when they get caught with their pants down — they make themselves the victims of a personal failing" and they reinvent themselves.

Thus Haggard has announced that he and his wife plan to pursue master's degrees in psychology via online courses and are moving their family to an undisclosed state in the Midwest.

How long do you think it will be before Haggard hangs out a shingle on the front door of his home and starts bringing in the bucks with his own conversion therapy program?

Unfortunately, this is where the art from last night's episode of Boston Legal stops imitating life. At the end of the show, James Spader's character presents a wonderfully written closing argument condemning anti-Gay sentiment as the final acceptable form of discrimination, convincing the jury to rule in favor of his client and producing the happy ending Americans have come to expect from their entertainment.

Ted Haggard: 'Complete Heterosexual' or 'Complete Poopycock'?

However, there is rarely a happy ending for the real people convinced — or forced, in the case of some youth and children — to attend conversion therapy programs. The research Sean Cahill and I summarized when writing Youth in the Crosshairs: The Third Wave of Ex-Gay Activism [2] consistently shows that these programs not only don't work, they often lead to a lifetime of negative health consequences including depression, spiritual isolation and even suicide.

Rest assured, we haven't heard the last from Haggard, who I

suspect will not heed the advice of those who oversaw his "reconciliation" to avoid working in the ministry in the future.

When he does re-emerge from his undisclosed location in the Midwest, the Task Force will be there to remind him that his three-week program to become "completely heterosexual" is, as another of my favorite characters on Boston Legal frequently says, "complete poopycock."

(Jason Cianciotto is the Research Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute.)

U.S. Rides Bigotry Median, Study Finds

ULSTER, Northern Ireland - Northern Ireland is "the hate capital of the West," according to new university research, with an astonishing 44 percent of its citizens proving disturbingly homophobic, reported Gay.com U.K. The research from the University of Ulster, to be published in the economics journal Kyklos, said that Northern Ireland leads Western nations in its animosity toward Gays and immigrants, while the United States is almost exactly in the middle, bigotry-wise, of 23 nations studied.

Vani Boroah, professor of applied economics at Ulster and John Mangan, professor of economics at the University of Queensland, collaborated in the study, which surveyed 32,000 people across 19 European countries, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States. The Human Rights and Values survey asked respondents what they thought of minority groups — and how they would feel about having members of certain groups as their neighbors.

The five groups included members of another races, immi-

grants or foreign workers, Muslims, Jews and homosexuals. An astonishing 44 percent of the 1,000 respondents in Northern Ireland said they didn't want members of even one of the five groups as their neighbors. The bigotry proportion of Northern Ireland was followed closely by Greece with 43 percent. The lowest proportion occurred in Sweden, with 13 percent.

Homophobia was by far the main source of bigotry in most western countries: More than 80 percent of bigoted people in Northern Ireland and Canada, and 75 percent of bigots in Austria, the United States, Great Britain, Ireland and Italy wouldn't want Gays or Lesbians as neighbors. In Scandinavian countries the main target of hostility turned toward Muslims. Seventy-four percent of bigoted Danes, 68 percent of bigoted Swedes and 63 percent of bigoted Icelanders did not want Muslims as neighbors.

The study also came up with the following conclusions: Women are less likely to be bigoted than men. There is evidence that financial dissatisfaction might also be a source of bigotry. Students were less likely to be bigots than non-students.



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Final Weekend To See 'The Full Monty' - Get Your Tickets Now!



Some of the cast of the Onstage Production of the Musical "The Full Monty"

TUCSON - Tucson has been hit with the local Onstage Production of the musical, "The Full Monty" - featuring a huge cast, and six guys that go 'all the way'. This show is fun, fast paced, and selling quickly. The final performances for the hit Broadway musical are this Friday, Feb. 16 at 8:00 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 17 at 8:00 p.m. and two performances Sunday, Feb. 18 at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. All performances are on the Main Stage of the Temple of Music and Art, 330 South Scott Avenue, in downtown Tucson.

plenty of laughs and lots of good feelings. Tons of heart, and even a few tears. In short, we get a delicious evening at the theater", Kathy Allen's review in the Arizona Daily Star exclaimed.

Tickets are \$25 and \$30, reserved seating, and are available by calling the Temple Box office during their business hours. There will be tickets at the door if the performance is not sold out. The box office line is 622-2823.

The Full Monty is ..."a heartfelt, silly musical...six Tucson actors take it off, take it all off, in Arizona Onstage Productions' charming production....It's about desperation, resourcefulness, deep love. And loads of courage. We get

So the buzz is out - this weekend is your last chance come down and see one of the final performances - the cast of 23; and hear the kickin' singing and the band and be prepared to laugh a lot. See you there!

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G/L Couples Gaining Rights In Columbia

BOGOTA, Columbia - Same-sex couples in Colombia are beginning to gain recognition. The South American country's Constitutional Court has ruled that Gay and Lesbian couples must have the same property rights as opposite-sex couples, 365Gay.com reported. The court struck down the definition of cohabitating couples as "men and women" in a 1990 law that allowed unmarried couples property rights including joint ownership of land and rights when one partner died. The court said the law must be gender neutral.

Under the law same-sex couples who wanted to share their property had had to create a business, put the property in the company name, and list the domestic partners as joint shareholders in the company. But, even that did not always guarantee that in the case of death of one of the partners the shared

possessions would go to the surviving one. In its ruling the court carefully noted the decision did not automatically permit civil unions. That issue is currently before the Colombian Parliament. A bill is under consideration that would allow same-sex couples to register as partners and receive most of the rights of marriage. Nevertheless, the ruling is seen by Gay activists as a major step forward, and could affect as many as 100,000 same-sex couples. Still, they point out that Colombia needs more than mere laws for equality to take hold in the country. "Laws are not enough, an important cultural shift is needed... for discrimination to end," said Marcela Sanchez of the LGBT civil rights group Colombia Diversa. The Catholic Church which is opposing the civil unions bill called the court ruling "anti-family."



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Adoption Survey Gives G/L Parents High Grades

NEW YORK CITY - Adoptive parents invest more time and financial resources in their children than biological parents, according to a new national study challenging arguments that have been used to oppose same-sex marriage and Gay adoption, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. The study, published in the American Sociological Review, found that couples who adopt spend more money on their children and invest more time on such activities as reading to them, eating together and talking with them about their problems.

"One of the reasons adoptive parents invest more is that they really want children, and they go to extraordinary means to have them," Indiana University sociologist Brian Powell, one of the study's three co-authors, said in a telephone interview. "Adoptive parents face a culture where, to many other people, adoption is not real parenthood," Powell said. "What they're trying to do is compensate. ... They recognize the barriers they face, and it sets the stage for them to be better parents."

Powell and his colleagues examined data from 13,000 households with first-graders in the family. The data was part of a detailed survey called the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education and other agencies. The researchers said 161 families in the survey were headed by two adoptive parents, and they rated better overall than families with biological parents on an array of criteria - including helping with homework, parental involvement in school, exposure to cultural activities and family attendance at religious services. The only category in which adoptive parents fared worse was the frequency of talking with parents of other children.

The researchers noted that adoptive couples, in general, were older and wealthier than biological

parents, but said the adoptive parents still had an advantage - albeit smaller - when the data was reanalyzed to account for income inequality. In particular, the researchers said, adoptive parents had a pronounced edge over single-parent and stepparent families. The researchers said their findings call into question the long-standing argument that children are best off with their biological parents. Such arguments were included in state Supreme Court rulings last year in New York and Washington that upheld laws against same-sex marriage. The researchers said Gay and Lesbian parents may react to discrimination by taking extra, compensatory steps to promote their children's welfare. "Ironically, the same social context that creates struggles for these alternative families may also set the stage for them to excel in some measures of parenting," the study concluded.

An opponent of same-sex marriage, Peter Sprigg of the conservative Family Research Council, noted that the study focused on male/female adoptive couples, not on same-sex couples, and he questioned whether it shed any new light on adoptive parenting by Gays. Sprigg, the research council's vice president for policy, said he warmly supports adoption, but believes it is best undertaken by married, heterosexual couples.

Adam Pertman, executive director of the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute, welcomed the study's findings, but cautioned against possibly exaggerated interpretations of it. "It's an affirmation that there are all sorts of families that are good for kids," he said. "Adoptive parents aren't less good or better. They just bring different benefits to the table. In terms of how families are formed, it should be a level playing field."

FDA To Review New Class Of HIV/AIDS Drugs

Continued from Page One

HIV market are also developing HIV drugs that serve as a second line of defense against the disease, says CIBC World Markets Corp. analyst Brian Abrahams. "The current first-line treatments are so effective and so well-entrenched that most of the drugs being developed now are for treatment-resistant patients, since manufacturers see that as the faster path to market," Abrahams said.

While Pfizer's clinical trials of Maraviroc have progressed smoothly, similar products being developed by rival companies have raised safety issues. In 2005, British drug maker GlaxoSmithKline plc said it decided to scrap its drug aplaviroc after signs of liver damage appeared in some patients. Schering-Plough Corp. is continuing in mid-stage trials of a similar drug after reporting several patients developed lymphomas, a form of cancer.

The FDA news on Pfizer's drug came on the same day as a leading AIDS organization said it is banning the company's sales representatives from its treatment centers. The AIDS Healthcare Foundation issued a statement Thursday saying it believes the company's "questionable marketing" of Viagra, its erectile-dysfunction drug, en-

courages recreational use of the medication, which helps spread HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. Last month the group filed a lawsuit against Pfizer, alleging its advertisements for Viagra are "false and misleading." Pfizer has denied the allegations about the marketing of its blockbuster drug. The company had \$860 million in U.S. Viagra sales in 2005, according to IMS Health Inc.

Domestic Partner

Continued from Page One

Three Lesbian couples have sued to force New Mexico to provide health insurance to partners of state retirees. University of Wisconsin officials have said that the state's amendment makes it unlikely the legislature will add health insurance benefits for domestic partners.

Monte Stewart, president of the Utah-based national organization Marriage Law Foundation, which opposes same-sex marriage, said the benefits issue is likely to stay in state courts for now because advocates don't want the U.S. Supreme Court stripping rights from the Gay community. "It'll depend on the language of each amendment itself, and how broadly or narrowly the amendment should be construed," Stewart said.



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COMMENTARY . . .

Enough About Mary

By Kevin Cathcart

There's no doubt about it: Mary Cheney will soon be one of the most renowned Ggay parents in America. First there was the fanfare over her pregnancy announcement, and people could not resist pointing out the hypocrisy of the vice president's daughter who had worked vigorously for the Bush-Cheney reelection campaign with its anti-Gay-family platform while all along she was pining to start her own "nontraditional" family?

Then Mary was forced to come out again. This time she felt compelled to defend her father's right not to respond publicly to reporters or to conservative extremists who have condemned her pregnancy — and to defend her right to have this child. On this last point, we couldn't agree more.

"Every piece of remotely responsible research that has been done in the last 20 years on this issue has shown there is no difference between children who are raised by same-sex parents and children who are raised by opposite-sex parents," she told the audience gathered for a panel at Barnard College. "What matters is that children are raised in a stable, loving environment."

But the press, bloggers and information pushers picked up on an earlier comment she'd made about her baby not being a political statement, which shifted the public commentary back to her own political hypocrisy and to her father's belligerence with reporters. Before long, the entire point about same-sex couples raising children was largely forgotten.

That's what bothers me most about the whole Mary thing. When was the last time Gay parenting became the subject of national discussion? When was the last time we had a real opportunity to show the country that yes, Gay and Lesbian people are having children, and that we need to make sure our children are protected? These protections become increasingly important for people without rich parents or political connections, whatever ideological stripe they bear.

At Lambda Legal, we hear from people all over the country who have experienced difficulty in their efforts to become parents. Whether it's the financial burden of creating numerous legal documents that "prove" parental rights or barriers in the adoption or conception process, Gay and Lesbian parents are forced to jump through bureaucratic hoops that other people couldn't imagine. And those are the best circumstances, when there's no outright discrimination. Remember there are still states that prohibit Gay people from adopting and many more that don't recognize second-parent adoptions, prohibiting many Gay people from legal relationships with the children they're raising.

We're filing papers in our case on behalf of Lupita Benitez, who was denied insemination services at a California clinic because she is a Lesbian. Her former doctors are conservative Christians who claimed their religious beliefs gave them the right to withhold care. Well into the process, Benitez was forced to look elsewhere to complete the procedure, at great financial cost and personal devastation.

Meanwhile in Florida, we're representing a Gay man who after finding a surrogate mother was refused treatment at a fertility clinic. The clinic erroneously claimed that the Food and Drug Association guidelines on anonymous sperm donations, which suggest refusing donations from



men who have had sex with men in the past five years, prevented it from performing the procedure, even though our client is hardly anonymous.

In another recent parenting case, we defended a Lesbian couple in Indiana who had fostered a child since she was one day old, but when they tried to adopt her several months later a judge ordered the state to find a married man and woman to adopt the child. We prevailed, scoring a solid precedent for Indiana's joint adoption, and the couple got to keep their child.

These are just a few examples of the kind of discrimination Gay and Lesbian would-be parents face every day. They may not be the offspring of the vice president or have the kind of political baggage that makes great headlines, but their families are no less important. So for the time being, let's say enough about Mary and hear more about all of those parents who are providing "stable, loving environments" for their children.

(Kevin Cathcart is Lambda Legal's Executive Director.)

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Alaska To Spend \$1.2 Million To Poll Public On DP Benefits

JUNEAU, Alaska - A plebiscite pushed through by Republican lawmakers in Alaska that would ask voters their opinion on amending the Alaska constitution to prevent the same-sex domestic partners of state workers from receiving health benefits will cost four times the estimated cost of the benefits, 365Gay.com reported.

In 2005 the state Supreme Court ruled the state must establish benefits to same-sex partners of its employees in response to an action filed by the American Civil Liberties Union and nine Alaska couples. The high court ruled that because the state constitution has been amended to bar same-sex marriage, denying Gay and Lesbian couples insurance rights extended to married couples deprives them of equal protection guaranteed under the Alaska Constitution. For the next year the legislature delayed implementing the court ruling. In Dec. 2006, the court chastised lawmakers for and said the benefits must be available on the Jan. 1, 2007 deadline it originally set.

In one of his last acts as governor Frank Murkowski in November called the legislature into special session to approve a benefits package worked out by the Department of Administration to comply with the court order declaring the lack of

health and pension benefits violated the Alaska constitution. But rather than approving the plan the House and Senate passed legislation prohibiting the Alaska Commissioner of Administration for implementing the court ruling. Both houses then voted to endorse a move putting the issue to a statewide plebiscite, asking voters if a constitutional amendment barring Gay benefits should go on the 2008 ballot. Shortly before the January 1 deadline the new governor, Sarah Palin, vetoed the bill that would have blocked the state from giving the benefits and the plan kicked in at the first of the year. But Palin has endorsed the referendum. But the vote would be nonbinding, and even if voters said they thought there should be a constitutional amendment banning the benefits, the measure would then have to be approved by the legislature and then go to the people. An attempt this week by minority Democrats to put off the vote failed and Republicans have set an April 3 date for a special election just for the nonbinding referendum.

Currently 55 state workers have been registered for the domestic partner benefits plan and another applications from another 22 are pending. The cost of seeking the electorate's opinion: \$1.2 million. The cost of providing the benefits to 77 workers' partners: an estimated \$313,562 a year.

New National Latino LGBT Group Forms

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A new national organization for LGBT Latino(a)s has formed and announced its board of directors, reported the Washington [D.C.] Blade. The group's first meeting is tentatively planned for April.

Unid@s board member Pedro Julio Serrano describes the organization as a grassroots, national advocacy group that will function as a liaison between resource providers and local organizations. "Unid@s means 'everybody together,'" Serrano said. "We use the 'at' symbol because when you want it to refer to females you use 'unidas' and males, 'unidos.' We use 'unid@s' to show our diversity, unity and inclusivity."

He said that the organization will not offer direct programming at first because the board does not want to overstep work being done by other

Latino agencies at the local level. Serrano, who is also on the communications team for the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, said the Task Force will work with Unid@s to help with movement and capacity building as well as technical assistance. The Gill Foundation has provided seed money to help the organization get started. "We know they know their communities and can do programming that is more focused on what their communities need," Serrano said. "We want to support their work." They will be working with other groups to focus on human rights issues of importance to Gay Latinos, including immigration and racial and economic justice. He said Latinos are caught in the double bind of being discriminated against because of race and sexual orientation. We would like to work toward creating a more just society for all, especially Latinos," he said

Study: Vitamin D Protects Against Cancer

NEW YORK CITY - People with the highest levels of a form of vitamin D in their blood have the lowest risk of breast cancer, according to a study in the Journal of Steroid Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, reported advocate.com. "And the breast cancer rates dropped as the blood levels of 25-hydroxyvitamin D increased," study coauthor Cedric Garland said in a release. Garland went on to say that risk of breast cancer could be halved by taking 2,000 international units of vitamin D3 daily and spending 10 to 15 minutes a day in the sun.

A related study, published online by the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, found the same form of vitamin D could prevent colorectal cancer. A daily intake of 2,000 IU of vitamin D3 reduces the incidence of the disease by two thirds, said coauthor Edward D. Gorham in the same release. "This would be best achieved with a combination of diet, supplements, and 10 to 15 minutes per day in the sun."

Vitamin D3 is available through diet, supplements and exposure of the skin to sunlight, or ultraviolet B. Researchers emphasized the importance of limiting sun exposure so the skin doesn't tan or burn. Typical fair-skinned Caucasians who spend 10 to 15 minutes in the midday sun will photosynthesize adequate vitamin D. Darker-skinned individuals may require as much as 25 minutes.



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Lesbian Radio Show Host Announces Baby Due In July

NEW YORK CITY - Lesbian radio show host Romaine Patterson has revealed on the air that she and her partner are having a baby. Patterson, cohost of the Derek & Romaine Show on Sirius Satellite Radio's OutQ stream, will carry the baby, due in July, advocate.com reported.

Patterson's mother accidentally spilled the beans during an on-air press conference before Patterson could announce the news herself. Patterson's partner, Iris, joined the broadcast to share the news. The pair chose to use a sperm bank to "father" the baby. "We saw a few pictures of how the donors look now, but we mainly saw pictures of them when they were babies or children," Patterson said. "We had a lot of criteria. We wanted a very smart child."

Patterson, who was 17 weeks' pregnant at the time of the press conference, said she will take her maternity leave in July and that pregnancy issues are already beginning to take their toll. "I have cravings all the time, and I get cravings even during the show," she said. "Prenatal vitamins make you constipated!" She and Iris plan to deliver the child at an undisclosed hospital in New York. Patterson warned Iris that she will carry the next baby they have together.



Romaine Patterson

Canada Issues Temporary Ban On Deporting Gay Nicaraguan

TORONTO, Ontario - The federal government has stepped in allowing a Gay Nicaraguan fearing abuse if he is deported to remain in Canada, at least temporarily, 365Gay.com reported. Alvaro Orozco, 21, was facing deportation after an immigration board adjudicator did not believe he was openly Gay when he fled his native Nicaragua at the age of 12.

Honduran boy he met along the way swam across the Rio Grande. Orozco told the paper he nearly drowned in the crossing and was saved by the other teen, but when they arrived in the US he was arrested by U.S. immigration officials and spent a year in a Houston detention center. He was released when he agreed to return to Nicaragua. At the time he was just 14. Instead of returning home he ran northward, finally making into Canada and Toronto.

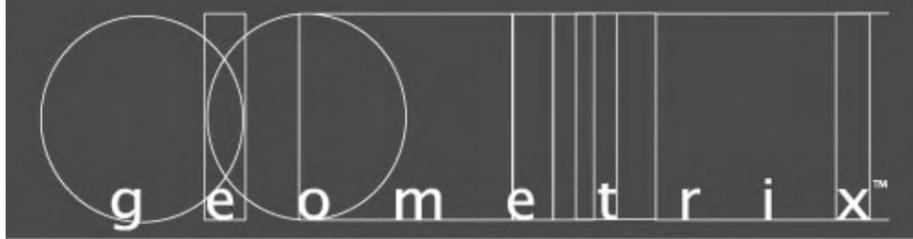
Following outrage by LGBT activists and immigration groups the federal Justice Department stepped in and issued a directive allowing Orozco to remain in the country for two months so that he can file a new application for refugee status on the basis of humanitarian and compassionate grounds. Orozco fled Nicaragua when he was 13 and says he was taunted and beaten by his father from an early age. He said he fears he will be imprisoned or killed if he is returned to Nicaragua.

But Immigration and Refugee Board member Deborah Lamont, the IRB member who heard Orozco's case, said he was rejected because he was not sexually active during his teen years, and had not been clear about his sexuality he fled Nicaragua. Lamont refused his refugee claim and ordered him deported. El-Farouk Khaki, Orozco's attorney, had filed for an emergency stay in the deportation order. The federal government seldom intervenes in immigration cases and that it became involved in this case shows a growing alarm at the situation in Nicaragua. From 2002 to 2006, 228 Nicaraguans sought asylum in Canada but only 35 were accepted. Since the government does not make the nature of claims public it is not known how many of those were Gay.

In 1992 Nicaragua amended its penal code to make sodomy a criminal offense. An Amnesty International report last year said the law is so vague it could be used to imprison people campaigning for LGBT civil rights or providing safe-sex and HIV/AIDS information to Gays. Orozco told the Globe and Mail that he fled the country just before his 13th birthday, hitchhiking through Central America and Mexico. He said he and a



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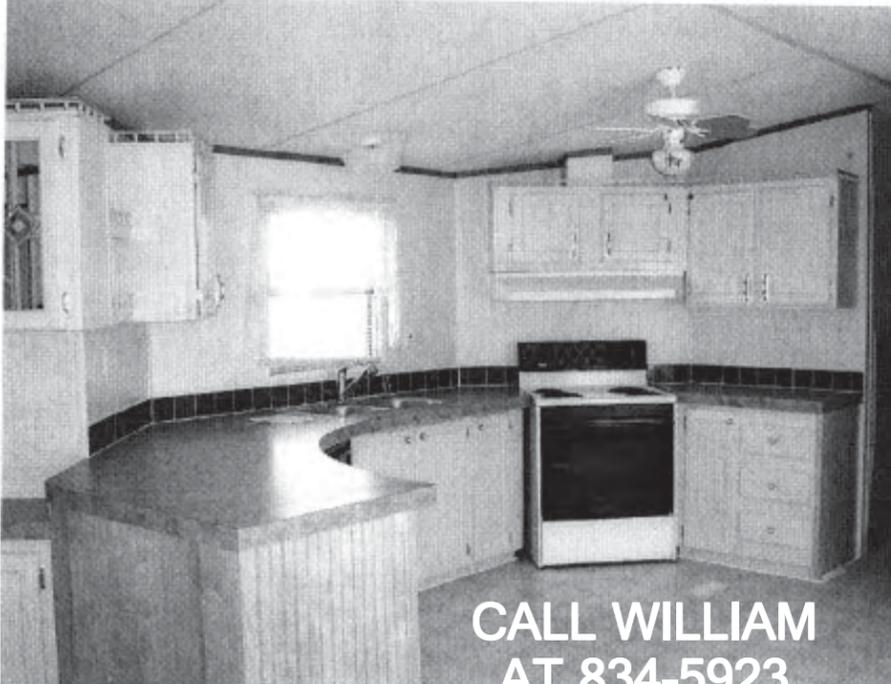
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POLITICS 2007

by Mark R. Kerr

Article 4, Part 1, Section 1

A total of 1,522 bills, resolutions, memorials and mandates have been introduced in this first session of 48th Arizona Legislature, currently meeting in Phoenix at the Capitol.

Of these, ridiculous measures, naming seven of the many filed, offered primarily by Republicans, such as:

Banning judges from hearing lawsuits about any subjects pertaining to "God";

Creating an Arizona Homeland Security Force (but with no homosexuals) to deal with terrorism in the Grand Canyon State;

Increasing legislators salaries and instituting cost of living raises, since according to the bill's sponsor, who offered this, was to relieve the "burden" of voters of deciding, at the ballot box, whether they should get a raise for their "work";

Attempting to add a state constitutional amendment to define "marriage";

Signing a sworn affidavit that when you report your car as stolen, that it really was;

Establishing a DNA database of all individuals who are brought into a police station for whatever reason; and,

Inserting religion, Christianity, into all aspects of state government, will get the opportunity to see the legislative "light of day" through (sole) committee assignment and hearings.

Meanwhile, other measures, such as:

Proper funding for schools;

Expanding the state health insurance (care) program to cover everyone;

Protecting the environment;

Keeping politics and religion of the workplace; and,

Expanding the state's bias crimes statutes to cover misdemeanor offenses, naming several of those filed, mostly by Democratic legislators, will sit on the proverbial "shelf" gathering dust, yet again through multiple committee assignment and refusal of consideration by committee chairs to even give a bill a hearing.

Only one measure of note to the Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender

community, HB 2352, the Arizona Employment Non-Discrimination Act is scheduled to be considered Wed., Feb. 14 by the House Commerce Committee but since it had been assigned to two committees, the other being the House Government Committee, and being this week (ending Feb. 17) will be the last to hear bills in their respective chambers, the chances for success of HB 2352 are nil in its current form.

Republicans at the Legislature have been grouching about the one power the people of Arizona still have, written into the constitution (Article 4, Section 1, Part 1) at the time of inception into the union, Feb. 14, 1912, as the 48th state - the power of the initiative, referendum and recall, especially after the Nov. 2006 general election ballot which had 19 proposals, and have drafted measures to restrict these rights of the people.

From raising the requirements on the numbers and locations of signatures needed, restricting the amount of funding and for whom could donate, allowing legislators the opportunity to "correct" voter approved initiatives and referendums, prohibiting measures having petitions unless previously considered by the legislature three years prior to stating on the ballot the signatures gathered for a respective measure were collected by volunteers, paid circulators or both, GOP sponsored bills are getting through the legislative process.

Arizonans approved an initiative, the Voter Protection Act in 1998, to ensure that voter-approved laws would be protected from Legislative interference such as what is currently ongoing in Phoenix. According to Paul Bender, an Arizona State University state constitutional law, who said in an interview with another publication, that the framers of the Arizona Constitution would have approved of that because they intended to put the little guy's interests over big-money interests. "There are trade-offs here," Bender continued on about the Voter Protection Act and direct democracy. "But the framers opted for the people's power over Legislative prerogatives."

Republicans who have controlled both chambers of the Arizona Legislature for the past several years, don't listen to the will of the people, only the will of their few, special interests, thus citizens have had to utilize their power of the petition to enact measures as the Voter Protection Act, a state minimum wage, clean elections financing and a holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King to name a few.

A constitution is a document that expands rights to all people, not restricting rights of a segment of the population or creating a class society in the state as the voter's clearly showed in the Nov. 2006 general election. Article 4, Part 1, Section 1 must not be "corrected," "fixed" or otherwise.




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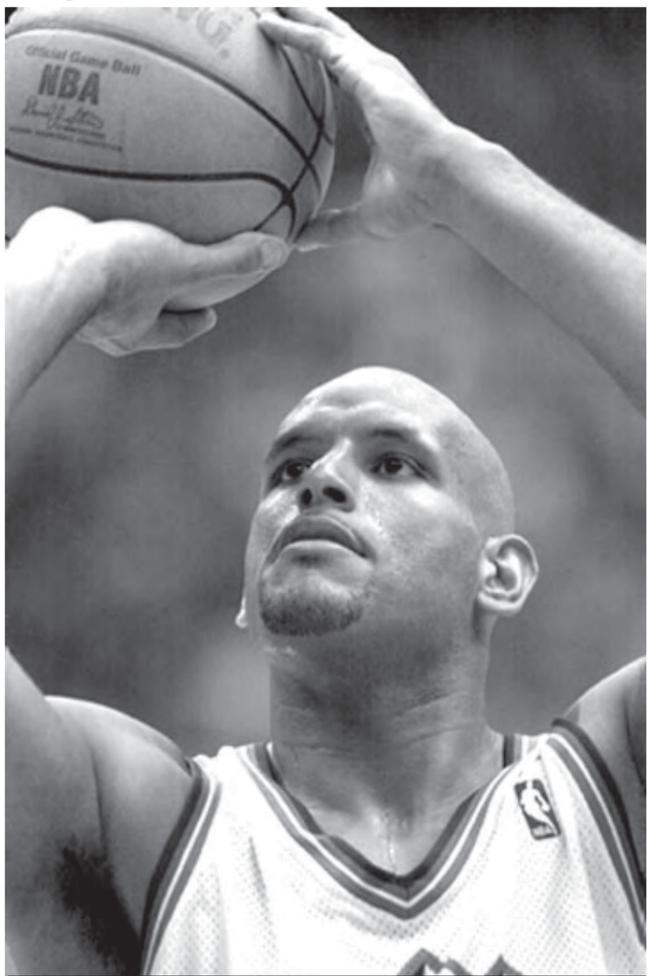
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Former NBA Player Comes Out; Reaction From Players, Coaches Mainly Positive; Named As HRC National Coming Out Spokesperson

NEW YORK CITY - John Amaechi, a former player with the Orlando Jazz and Orlando Magic, has become the first NBA player to come out as Gay, reported the Associated Press on 3 6 5 G a y . c o m . Amaechi announced publicly for the first time that he is Gay on an episode of ESPN's "Outside The Lines." His book, published by ESPN Books, "Man In The Middle," in which he chronicles his NBA career and directly addresses the travails of being a closeted professional athlete, was released.



Former NBA Player John Amaechi

Doc Rivers heard whispers about John Amaechi's sexuality when they were both in Orlando. But here's what the former Magic coach knew for sure: Amaechi was a good scorer, a decent rebounder, a little bit of a defensive liability and "a fantastic kid." "He's better than a good kid; he's a fantastic kid," Rivers said after learning that Amaechi acknowledged he is Gay. "John Amaechi, when I was coaching him, was a great kid. He did as much charity work as anybody in our city, and he's still doing it. That's what I wish we focused on. Unfortunately, we're talking about his sexual orientation, which I couldn't care a flying flip about."

Rivers was a rookie head coach when he took over the Magic in 1999-00, a team that finished .500 despite starting four undrafted players. Amaechi was one of them, and Rivers was chosen as the NBA's coach of the year. "He was great for me, he was great for the team," Rivers said. "That was one of the stronger locker rooms I ever had." Although teammates may have suspected Amaechi is Gay, no one treated him any differently because of it, Rivers said. As for the coach: "It was none of my business." "It was brought up to me and you look and say, 'So what? Can he rebound? Can he shoot? Can he defend?'" Rivers said before joking about Amaechi's defensive shortcomings. "But with everything else, he was great."

Rivers acknowledged that an active player would probably face harassment from teammates or fans, an assumption that probably keeps many from coming out. "It was difficult for people to watch Jackie Robinson, and they got used to it. They started watching him and started cheering for him," Rivers said. "It would be difficult for fans if the guy couldn't play. That's what's difficult to me, nothing else should matter." But it's inside the locker room that the Gay athlete could face his toughest challenge. Although players are used to being jeered by fans, the prospect of being rejected by his teammates is at least as likely to be the reason that no active player in a men's professional team sport has come out.

Rivers said that teammates tease each other for all kinds of reasons, and it's likely sexual preference would soon become one of them. "We're all insensitive at times," he said. "There's no taboo subject in the locker room. I think if he would have come out, they would have got on him jokingly. They would have held no punches and they would have made fun of him just like they make fun of guys here. But that's the locker room,

and that's not going to change. And I actually think that when guys do come out, when that day happens, it will make it easier. I can't wait until it's not an issue."

The way Miami center Shaquille O'Neal sees it, the locker room mentality could also work for a Gay player by rallying his teammates to his defense. "If he was on my team, I guess I would have to protect him from the outsiders," O'Neal said. "I'm not homophobic or anything. ... I'm not the type who judges people. I wish him well."

Rivers said that if Amaechi had come to him, player to coach, ready to go public, he would have encouraged him to do so. "I think when you're brave enough to make that statement, or any statement, and you're ready to come out about anything, then you should do it," Rivers said. "You have to understand there will be a backlash. At least there's going to be a discussion, but I would tell them to do it. I would tell him to keep scoring, keep rebounding and do it. I don't know if we'll see that anytime soon. But it wouldn't bother me at all."

Amaechi also has been named a national spokesperson for a project aimed at helping LGBT people come out and live openly Gay. "John is making becoming the first NBA player to ever come out and talk about his life and experiences as an athlete and a Gay man," said Human Right Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "In sharing his story, our great hope is that John will pave the way for more GLBT and straight athletes to openly support fairness and respect on and off the playing field."

"I believe very strongly in the responsibility of people with power and influence to be role models," Amaechi said. "Living more openly in the later years of my NBA career was one of the things that radically changed my life. It made me happier. I want to spread my influence in the same way that I was able to because I had a basketball in my hand. I hope now to have perhaps a different lectern to stand behind but with an equally important message."

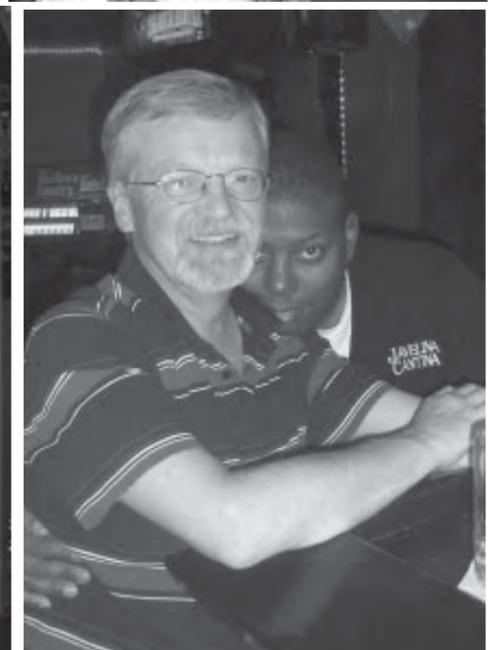
Continued on Page Fifteen

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AND A FUN TIME WAS HAD BY ALL...



NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

Oxford on Britain

by Lee Thorn

Like most Americans I know a lot about Britain, but I've never known how all my little pieces of British knowledge were supposed to fit together. I knew, for example, that there were Tudors and Stuarts, but I didn't know which bunch came first. I knew that at least one king got his head chopped off, but I never understood why.

I decided to remedy my ignorance with Kenneth O. Morgan's *THE OXFORD HISTORY OF BRITAIN*, a book that the *SUNDAY TIMES* called, "without doubt, the standard one-volume history of Britain." The version of this opus that I read was last revised in 1993. Its text runs to 663 pages.

The book was written by ten scholars, each doing a section on his specialty. Their writing styles could be described as "serviceable," but I wasn't primarily looking for style. My biggest disappointment was the feeling that the scholars were sanitizing their history and sometimes even being sappy about it. I came away thinking that a much better book might have been written by ten scholars specializing in the same areas and all having nationalities other than British.

In perfect conformity with the British stereotype, there was hardly any sex in the book. The most memorable exception was this: "In 1618, the king's latent homosexuality gave way to a passionate affair with a young courtier...who rose within a few years to become duke of Buckingham...(352)" Gotta love the quaintness and meaninglessness of "latent homosexuality gave way." On the sappy side, the book ends with, "In the later twentieth century, as in times of greater pomp, power, and prosperity in the past, the values of being British could still be affirmed and sustained. So might they be again, in centuries yet to unfold. (663)" Coming from a scholar, this cloying hogwash is just plain embarrassing.

I learned a lot from the book, e.g. that it didn't take Marx and Engels to explain to workers that they were being exploited by the ownership class. They've known it for hundreds of years. Their problem has been, and remains, the inability to find a few economic issues around which to rally. For some reason it's always been easier to get people excited enough to organize around religious issues than it has been to get them together on matter of bread and butter.

I've always wondered why Britain was able to achieve universal health care and other "welfare state" benefits soon after World War II while we in the United States, her ally in the war, are still going without them over fifty years later. The book argues that the welfare state grew out of the concept of "fair shares," which in turn grew out of the shared wartime experience: "The ration books, gas masks, identity cards, and other wartime controls afflicted the people equally and implied a mood of 'fair shares'." So did the communal suffering during the blitz. (627) If the relatively short period of bombing of the blitz resulted in a half century of universal health care, I'd say the British got a pretty good deal.

I had never realized the extent to which major British industries and institutions were brought into public ownership after World War II. Coal, railways, road transport, civil aviation, gas, electricity, cable and wireless, and the Bank of England, fully 20 percent of the nation's industry was taken into the public sector.

Amazingly, the book's twentieth century expert, when he contemplates the economic woes that beset Britain in the second half of the century, doesn't tumble to the possibility that nationalizing 20% of the economy may have caused some problems. At one point he blithely says, "Remote groups of corporate private capitalists were replaced by remote groups of corporate public bureaucrats. (635)" Guess what: capitalists are good at generating wealth - bureaucrats aren't. It's downright spooky that a modern historian wouldn't know that. I trust we all remember Concord. After the British government gave up on it, a capitalist offered to buy it from them. Figuring that they'd already been sufficiently embarrassed, they turned him down.

Now that I finally have the general outline of British history in mind, I'll try to find someone who writes it as well as Lytton Strachey wrote British biography. I'll keep you posted, but don't hold your breath.

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

View From The Rock

Happy Valentine's Day! Did you know that the word of God encourages us to focus on whatever is excellent? (see Philippians 4)

The word of God also promises to show us the most excellent way. What is the most excellent way? It is the way of love. 1 John 4:16 tells us that, "God is love." 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 describes the characteristics of love: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." Verse 8 goes on to tell us that "Love never fails." God will not fail

you.

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Haggard Allegedly Going Down 'Straight & Narrow Path'

DENVER, Colorado - Disgraced megaminister Ted Haggard, who resigned as pastor of New Life Church in Colorado Springs and as leader of a national evangelical group after it was revealed he had been blowing male sex worker Mike Jones for several years, has been pronounced "completely heterosexual" by Reverend Ted Ralph, one of a panel of ministers overseeing his three weeks of "intensive counseling," reported Gay City News.

"That's the quickest therapy I've ever heard of," Jones told Blogactive.com. "It's hard for me to imagine someone who is performing oral sex and saying that he is 'straight.'"

While Haggard's overseers say that they have been assured that Jones was his only sex with a man and no others have come forward, Jones told the Web site that he knows of two other men who have had sex with Haggard, but are not revealing themselves for "fear of losing their jobs."

Matt Foreman of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force said, "Haggard should be seeking forgiveness for the way he used the Bible to bash Gay people, the way he warped and damaged young people in his 'Jesus Camps,' the way he shamelessly mixed religion and politics for political gain, and for defaming Mike Jones."

Gays Find Silver Lining In Pastor Verdict

ATLANTA, Georgia - Despite a ruling by an the Evangelical Lutheran Church ecclesiastic court that an openly Gay Atlanta pastor who told his bishop that he is in a same-sex relationship be removed from the clergy the panel that made up the court calls the policy barring clergy in Gay relationships discriminatory and possibly a violation of the church's own constitution, reported 365Gay.com

The Rev. Bradley E. Schmeling, who had the support of parishioners at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Atlanta, learned his fate Thursday (Feb. 8). Schmeling says that he never kept his sexuality a secret and made it clear when he came to the diocese six years ago that he opposed a ban on non celibate Gay clergy.

In August he informed Bishop Ronald B. Warren that he was in a committed relationship with another man. Warren immediately began proceedings against Schmeling. Schmeling said that he met Darin Easler when they were both Lutheran pastors. Easler moved to the Gay-welcoming United Church of Christ but Schmeling stayed at St. John's.

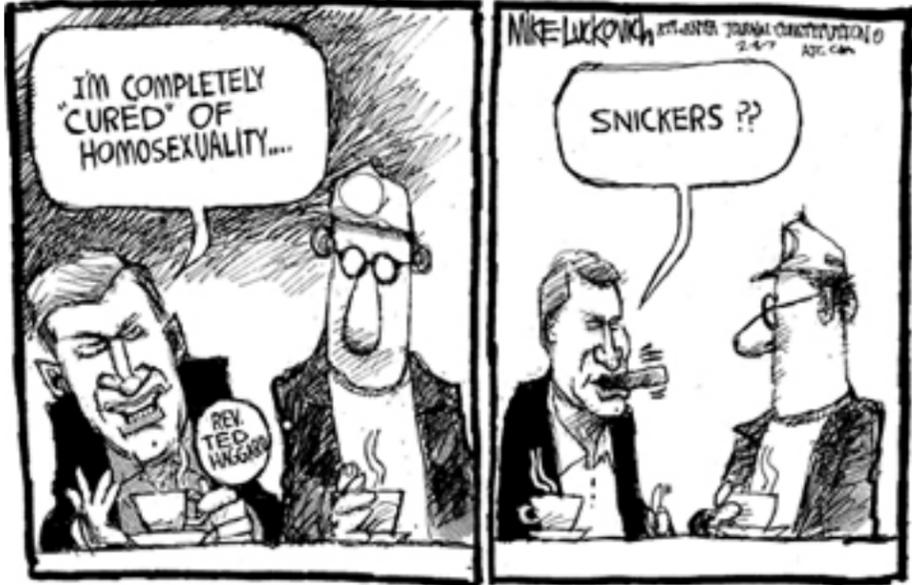
Schmeling appeared last month a 12-member ecclesiastic court. The public was not allowed to attend and all concerned are sworn to secrecy until a decision was released. Schmeling's congregation stood behind him and held daily prayer vigils as the trial continued. In its ruling the panel said that its ruling against Schmeling would not go into effect until August - after the Churchwide Assembly. In the ruling the court said ELCA's disciplinary policy is not contained in the ELCA

Constitution, but in the document Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline.

The committee expressed near-unanimous concern that the policy against pastors in same-gender relationships "may very well violate the constitution and bylaws of this church" and it recommended that the Assembly - the denomination's highest legislative body - "remove the language that specifically precludes practicing homosexuals from service as ordained ministers of this church" and "remove the specific prohibition against homosexual sexual relationships." The committee also recommended that the denomination take steps to immediately reinstate clergy that resigned or were expelled from their churches for entering into committed same-sex relationships. The panel also noted in its ruling that St. John's had flourished under Schmeling and the congregation had grown.

"We are encouraged by this decision that Pastor Brad's leadership and ministry should be affirmed and the discriminatory policy overturned," said Human Rights Campaign Religion and Faith Program Director Harry Knox. "It would be tragically irresponsible to rob the St. John's family of their loving pastor and his proven ability to grow this outstanding ministry because of a bad policy that needs to change."

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Non Bar Calendar

Wednesday, February 14th

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Canasta hosted by Marvin. 745-0304. MSN Canasta is played every Wednesday at 7pm, but check back here for the specific host.

Thursday, February 15th

#1Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. No host Coffee Night at Rainbow Planet on fabulous 4th Avenue.

#2Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Triangle Tribe-A Men's Circle. According to a recent study, very few people have as many close friends as they would like. Are you as connected with other men as you want to be? Do you get the support you need for issues in your life? Do you wish you had more meaningful friendships and relationships with other men? Join like-minded men at Wingspan to share feelings, thoughts and ideas in a safe, respectful space. For the same experience with both straight and gay men, join us at the regular Circle of Men meetings. Call Tom at 591-2828 for dates and times.

#3 CALL LLOYD TO RESERVE FOR PIZZA NIGHT BY NOON TOMORROW...792-8537.

Friday, February 16th

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Pizza Night! Call Lloyd for directions at 792-8537! Did you phone in your reservation earlier this month to help plan ordering and preparation? Excellent! Get ready for great company, plus delicious salad, yummy desert, and 4 choices of pizza for only \$5.

Valentine's Social sponsored by TIHAN and COPE at the El Pueblo Activity Center, 101 W. Irvington Road, Bldg. #6. 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. RSVP: Glenn Wisch/COPE, 798-1772 ext. 33

Saturday, February 17th

#1 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 8:30a.m. Join Robert for a morning of Volleyball. This is played for fun, and you'll get to know some nice guys as you play. Two great ways to work on your game! For details and directions, please call Robert at 400-1376.

#2 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. Phone host Steve at 644-2076 for location, driving directions, and info.

Sunday, February 18th

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:00p.m. Thom and/or Ken host Dinner Out at one of Tucson's Ultra-Fabulous Buffets. For reservations and directions, contact Thom 623-2941, e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com, or Ken at 294-6606. Please contact Thom or Ken by Sunday at Noon to facilitate reservations. Price is usually under \$10. Check the Yahoo on-line calendar for the scheduled place. The venue is rotated to include all parts of town, and may occasionally be held at a full-service menu restaurant.

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

Monday, February 19th

#1 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:30p.m. Eastside Gay Men's Book Club! Dinner and discussion on an agreed-upon work of gay fiction. Contact Stephen at 546-4047 or e-mail: sjreidy@raytheon.com.

#2Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Newsletter Night! Join Arlan and crew to help get the MSN newsletter in the mail, plus find out next month's events. This month the movie is A TOUCH OF PINK. Munchies and soft drinks provided. Contact Arlan: 323-7414.

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

Tuesday, February 20th

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Hand and Foot with Peter. Call for info and directions: 881-8276. Please call ahead to assist your host in planning the evening.

Wednesday, February 21st

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Canasta hosted by

Jack at 887-3736. MSN Canasta is played every Wednesday at 7pm, but check back here for the specific host.

Thursday, February 22nd

#1Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. No host Coffee Night at Rainbow Planet on fabulous 4th Avenue.

#2Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Triangle Tribe-A Men's Circle. According to a recent study, very few people have as many close friends as they would like. Are you as connected with other men as you want to be? Do you get the support you need for issues in your life? Do you wish you had more meaningful friendships and relationships with other men? Join like-minded men at Wingspan to share feelings, thoughts and ideas in a safe, respectful space. For the same experience with both straight and gay men, join us at the regular Circle of Men meetings. Call Tom at 591-2828 for dates and times.

Friday, February 23rd

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00 p.m. Merlin and Lee host a word for word fun evening of Scrabble. If you don't know how to play, they will be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please contact Merlin and Lee at 207-5336. If you're loquacious, erudite, or a wordsmith; this man's game just may be a triple word score for you!

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

Saturday, February 24th

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 MSN Monthly Pot Luck. Contact Marvin at 745-0304.

Sunday, February 25th

#1Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:00p.m. Thom and/or Ken host Dinner Out at one of Tucson's Ultra-Fabulous Buffets. For reservations and directions, contact Thom 623-2941, e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com, or Ken at 294-6606. Please contact Thom or Ken by Sunday at Noon to facilitate reservations. Price is usually under \$10. Check the Yahoo on-line calendar for the scheduled place. The venue is rotated to include all parts of town, and may occasionally be held at a full-service menu restaurant.

#2Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:00p.m. Oscar Night with Marvin and Steve. Call 745-0304.

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

Monday, February 26th

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Join Karol for Hearts by phoning to reserve your place at this limited seating event. Contact 744-9017.

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

Tuesday, February 27th

#1Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. An evening of Bridge with Willie. Please call 297-8756

Arts and Entertainment

Now Playing thru February 18

Arizona Onstage Productions present "The Full Monty" at the Temple of Music and Art Mainstage, 330 S. Scott Ave. downtown. 270-3332 or 882-6574

Now Playing Thru February 25

"Plaza Suite" Top Hat Theatre presents Neil Simon's classic at 3110 E. Ft. Lowell Road. 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 3:00p.m. Sundays. Tickets \$15-\$17. 326-6800.

Now Playing thru March 18

"Steel Magnolias" by the Live Theatre Workshop 5317 E. Speedway. 327-4242.

March 3 & 4

Arizona Opera presents "The Beauty and the Beast" at Tucson Music Hall, 260 S. Church. 293-4336

March 3 thru April 14

Arizona Theatre Company (ATC) presents "Molly Delicious" by Craig Wright at the Temple of Music and Art, 330 S. Scott Ave. 622-2823

March 6 thru April 15

Arizona Theatre Company (ATC) presents "I Am My Own" by Doug Wright at the Temple of Music and Art, 330 S. Scott Ave. 622-2823

March 10

Arizona Onstage Productions present "Heart And Music II" at the Temple of Music and Art Main stage, 330 S. Scott Ave. downtown. 270-3332 or 882-6574

March 20 thru April 8

Invisible Theatre production "Letters To Sala" at the Invisible Theatre, 1400 N. First Ave. 882-9721

March 20 - 25

A Nederland Presentation: Broadway In Tucson "Rent". 1-866-821-2929 or online broadwayintucson.com

March 22 thru April 29

Live Theatre Workshop presents "Holy Spirit On Grand Avenue" By Toni Press-Coffman. 327-4242.

April 17 - 22

A Nederland Presentation: Broadway In Tucson "Dirty Rotten Scoundrel". 1-866-821-2929 or online broadwayintucson.com

May 15 - 20

A Nederland Presentation: Broadway In Tucson Edward Albee's "Who's Afraid Of Virginia Wolf, starring Kathleen Turner and Bill Irwin. 1-866-821-2929 or online broadwayintucson.com

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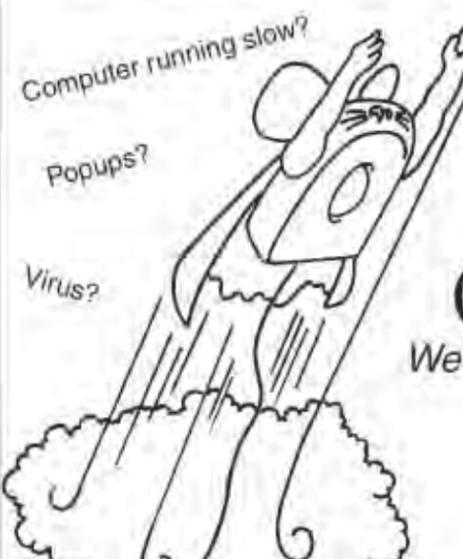
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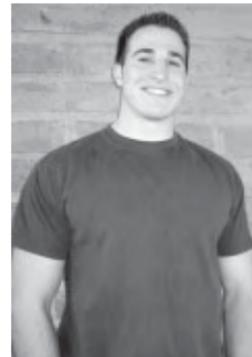
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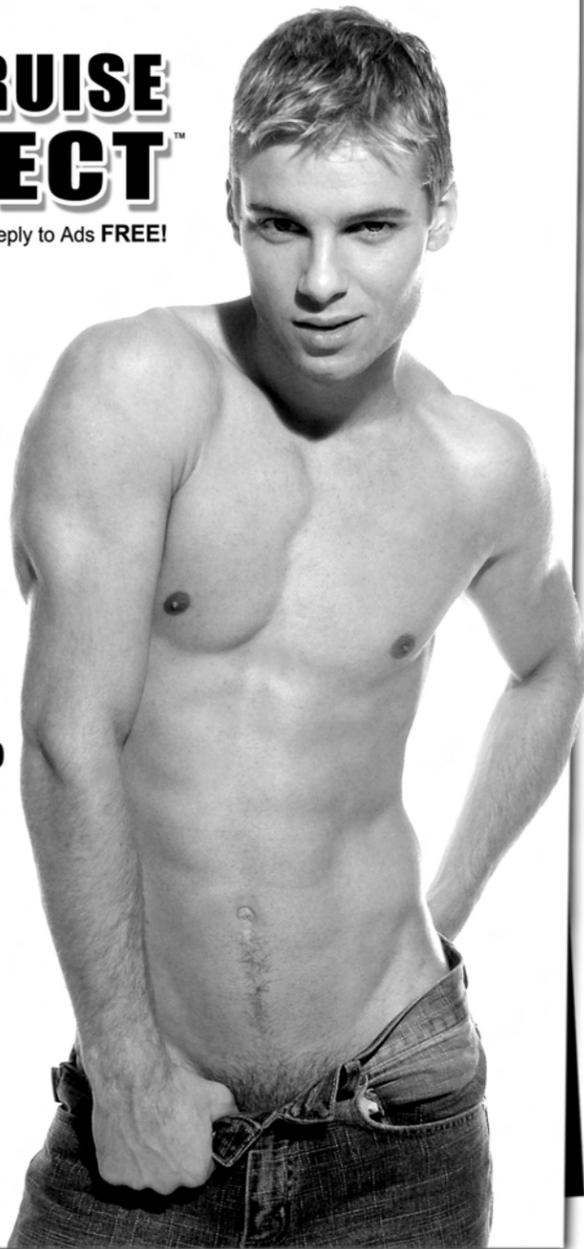
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IKEA's New Gay Family Ads Draw Fire From Conservatives

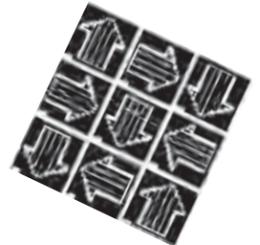
NEW YORK CITY - A new ad from furniture giant IKEA, showing two Gay dads and their daughter, has prompted a scathing response from the anti-Gay family lobbying group The American Family Association (AFA). The AFA has accused the Swedish furniture retailer of trying to force a liberal, "homosexuality-affirming" world view on U.S. consumers, reports OneNewsNow.com on gfn.com. The religious lobbying group, who claim to promote "traditional family values," say IKEA routinely promotes Gay lifestyles. Since 1994, the Swedish-based home furnishings company has created 22 ads in print and on-air commercials that feature Gay individuals.

The company's newest commercial features several families, including a Gay male couple relaxing on the floor with their young daughter. As they lean back against their IKEA sofa, a voiceover concludes: "Why shouldn't sofas come in flavors, like families?" AFA spokesman Randy Sharp is outraged at the suggestion that Gay people should be counted as a "family." "IKEA produces dozens of pro-homosexual ads that they air on Swedish TV. If they're going to run ads in this country, at least make those ads reflect the values of our society," Sharp told OneNewsNow.com. "Two men and a child do not make a family," said the anti-Gay lobbyist.

"Here's the thing: they are a family, whether Donald Wildmon likes it or not," notes Ed Brayton, a freelance writer and businessman, and co-founder of Michigan Citizens

for Science. "There are several hundred thousand of families just like it in the United States, and millions more of them around the world," writes Brayton on ScienceBlogs.com. "Do they magically stop being a family because a few bigots in Mississippi don't like the way the parents in those families have sex?" IKEA currently has 250 stores in 34 countries. They opened their first store in the U.S. in 1985, and now have 29.

**A man who
doesn't
advertise
is like one
who winks in
the dark:
he knows
he's doing it,
but nobody
else does.**

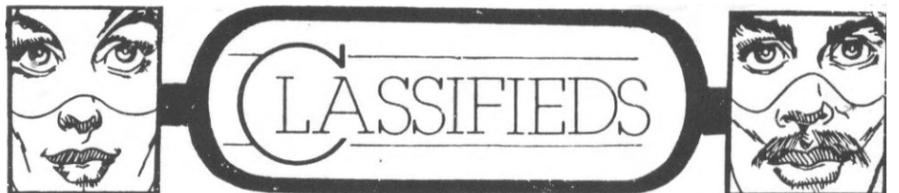


SYPHILIS IS BACK! & HIV NEVER LEFT!

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

**Sexually Transmitted
Disease
Clinic Schedule**
Theresa Lee Health Center
332 S. Freeway
Tucson, AZ 85745
(520) 624-8272

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



**CLASSIFIED ADS ARE 25¢ PER WORD, \$5.00 MINIMUM
CLASSIFIED ADS WILL NOT BE TAKEN BY PHONE**

HOUSING/FOR RENT

APARTMENTS, singles, all furnished. NEVER OFFERED. (Co-op Planned). 20 mountain acres adjacent Park; City Views. Less than 1/2 hr. to UofA. Hot tub, pool table, Satellite TV. P.O. Box 85592, Tucson 85754 1178

"NEW HOME" RENTAL: CENTRAL. Ice House Lofts Neighborhood, Broadway / Euclid. Barrio-style 3 bedroom / 2 bath. \$900.mo. Call 808-9055 1178

REAL ESTATE

STAR VALLEY RANCH! New w/ upgrades. 3B/2B 1320sf. Vaulted Ceilings, Maple cabinets, upgraded appliances, ceramic tile. The community includes parks, walking trails, a dog park, etc. Call Dan, Liberty Properties & Assoc. (502)808-9055. MLS#2643742 1178

MOVE-IN READY. 3B/2B 1409sf. Fully upgraded, newer home! Enjoyable landscaped Patio Yard. Great mountain and sunset views. Call Dan, Liberty Properties & Assoc. (520)808-9055 MLS# 20702409. 1178

SERVICES

ALTERATIONS AND REPAIRS Let me keep your clothes fitting properly and in good repair. Experienced - Economical - Prompt. Merle Hudson, (520)888-7264 in Tucson. 1200

MASSAGE

KNEADING TENSE SORE MUSCLES in relaxing central location. Nurturing, stress relief body rub. Affordable. 326-8226. 1176.

END BACK PAIN - The back solution - Finest in massage and bodywork. Relax, Release, Rejuvenate. Abe, 294-4810. 17 years experience. 1172..

Various **BODY TREATMENTS** - Massage, Body Rubs and More... Thorough - Anytime Ric 520-981-1141 1211

QUALITY THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE. Real Tantric sensual stimulating energy. Strong hands leave you ecstatically alive. Not rub down at cheap prices. An exceptional experience for 25 years. Call Marc - 881-4582, appts: 8AM - 8PM 1184

INTUITIVE BODY WORK DESIGNED TO AROUSE YOUR MOST SACRED SENSES. Swedish, Sports, Body Electric, Tantric and more. \$45 in, \$60 out. Afternoons & evenings. Christopher 631-8509. 1181

RELAX WITH A FULL BODY MASSAGE FOR MEN in a private studio on the West Side. Call Ralph, 548-1544 1175.



DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-2am; \$2 Pitchers til 10pm and Rotating Shot Specials all night; Latin Music with live DJ at 9:30pm. Get ready!!! L Word Season 4 begins Jan. 7th at 8pm!

COLORS - Open 11m - 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 performed by Dickie Steed during Brunch (11:30-2:30)

HOLLYWOOD - Open 5:00pm. Happy Hour 5-7pm \$1.75 well, domestic bottles and draft.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 10am. \$2.50 Smirnoff Vodkas all day. Free Texas Hold-Em Poker Tournaments at 4:00, and 7:00 pm. Play for points and prizes - no cash involved.

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. Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events); Brunch 11:30am-2:30pm; Back Pocket Patio Bar 2pm til 2am. Beer Bust 2-7pm; Bar-B-Que 5-9pm; Karaoke with Michael D. 9p.m.; DJ Jeff in the Back Pocket 9pm; Drag Bingo every other Sunday 8-9pm Watch for special events.

YARD DOG - Open 10am - 2am. Patio Bar opens at 7pm.

MONDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-10pm; Drink what you want with ½ priced Happy Hour. Poke-Her Monday! Free card lessons 5pm. Free Texas Hold-em Tourney at 6pm; Prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd Places. Happy Hour pricing & Free Food

COLORS - Closed on Mondays.

HOLLYWOOD - Open 5pm. Happy Hour 5pm to 7pm. \$1.75 well, domestic bottles, draft.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour all day & night with \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Kitchen closed. \$3 taco & tostada bar 4-8 pm. GLBT Movie Nite with shows at 6 & 8 pm,. Free pool all day.

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 Martinis 4-8pm..

WOODY'S - Open Noon til 2am. Happy Hour Noon-8pm (excl spec events) Karaoke with Michael D. 9pm

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. 50¢ off any Top Shelf Rum until 8pm. Beer Bust 4-8pm. Patio Bar opens 7pm

TUESDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-10pm; Drink What You Want with ½ priced Happy Hour. Monthly Wine Tasting on 2nd Tuesday of every month at 5:30pm. Please RSVP by the first Monday of the Month. Wine bottles will be for sale after the tasting at a special discounted price.

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7 \$3 Skyy cocktails, \$2.50 Domestic and well. Nightly dinner specials.

HOLLYWOOD - Open 5pm. Happy Hour 5pm to 7pm. \$1.75 well, domestic bottles, draft. Karaoke 8pm-12am.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Kitchen open 4-9pm. Free Texas Hold-Em Poker for women only at 6:30 p.m. Play for points and prizes - no cash involved. Tequila Nite with \$2.50 well tequila & margaritas, 75¢ off call tequilas.

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

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio 7pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Spaghetti Nite (2nd Tuesday every month \$2.00).

WOODY'S - Open Noon til 2am. Happy Hour Noon-8pm (excl spec events) 80s Nite with Alex 8-close

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am.50¢ off any Top Shelf Tequila until 8pm Beer Bust 4-8pm. Patio Bar Opens 7pm.

WEDNESDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-2am; Drink what You Want with ½ priced Happy Hour 3-8pm; 18 to Party, 21 to Drink! 18 & Over Night w/DJ Shorty at 9:30pm! Rotating Shot Specials all night.

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3 Skyy cocktails, \$2.50 Domestic and well. Full menu served 4-10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

HOLLYWOOD - Open 5pm. Happy Hour 5pm to 7pm. \$1.75 well, domestic bottles, draft. Movie Night. First show 6pm, Second show 8pm with movie theatre popcorn and hot dogs.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, Kitchen open 4 - 9 pm. Free Pool all day and night. Free Texas Hold-Em Poker Tournament at 6:30 pm for Women Only and open tournaments at 7 and 10. Play for points & prizes - no cash involved. Great way to learn the game or sharpen your skills.

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 9am. Patio 7pm. Free Pool til 4pm. \$2.75 Cuervo Margaritas 4-8pm

WEDNESDAY CALENDAR CONTINUED

WOODY'S - Open Noon til 2am; Happy Hour Noon-8pm (Excl Spec Events); Chili Dog Buffet 5-9pm; Underwear/Fetish/Leather Party with Alex and Blake 9-close - \$1 off all drinks for those who participate (50¢ off draught/schnapps) Back Pocket Patio Bar open 9pm-close.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am.50¢ off any Top Shelf Vodka until 8pm Beer Bust 4-8pm. Patio Bar Opens 7pm.

THURSDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-2am; Drink What You Want with ½ priced Happy Hour 3-8pm; 'Thirsty Thursday' with Tori Steele & Friends! Drag show starts at 9:30pm with Tori Steele, Janee Starr, Diana Flair and weekly special guests. \$2 Pitchers and Rotating Shot Specials. Followed by a new Surprise guest DJ!

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3 Skyy cocktails, \$2.50 Domestic and Well. Full menu served 4-10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

HOLLYWOOD - Open 5pm. Happy Hour 5pm to 7pm. \$1.75 well, domestic bottles, draft. Stand-up Comedy Night - open mike 8-10p.m. Register 7pm. Prizes for winners.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Kitchen open 4 - 9 pm. Karaoke with Rosemary at 8:30pm. \$2.50 Mexican Beers all night, \$1.00 Jello shots.

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 7pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Pool Tourney 7pm. \$3 entry. Special prices for players. Steak Nite (3rd Thursday during summer). Bring your own or get it here \$6.00.

WOODY'S - Open Noon-2am; Happy Hour Noon-8pm (excl Spec Events); Free Pool all day. Nacho Chip Buffet 5-9pm; \$1 PBRs Longnecks and \$2 Tecate Longnecks; Back Pocket Bar open 8-close.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am.50¢ off any Top Shelf Bourbon til 8pm. Beer Bust 4-8pm. Patio Bar opens 7pm.

FRIDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-2am; Drink What You Want with ½ priced Happy Hour 3-8pm; Rotating weeks Latin or Hip Hop Music with DJ Shorty at 9:30pm. Rotating Shot Specials all night!

COLORS - Open 4pm-1am. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3 Skyy cocktails, \$2.50 Domestic and Well. Full menu served 4-10pm. Nightly Dinner Specials. 6:30-9:30pm. "Hot Jazz, Cool Martinis" with Susan Artemis and Craig Faltin. 10pm "Guys & Dolls" hosted by Lucinda Holliday. 21 and over.

HOLLYWOOD - Open 5pm. Happy Hour 5pm to 7pm. \$1.75 well, domestic bottles, draft. Two for One 9pm - 12am. With midnight specials.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Kitchen open 4 - 9 pm. \$4.50 Fried Chicken dinner with fries and slaw. Free Two-Step lessons with Amanda every other Friday. Call 293-7339 for schedule. DJ Pat plays the best of contemporary and classic country 8:30 to close. Kitchen open 9 pm - midnight serving late night munchies menu.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, 9pm Hot Dance with DJ Mike Lopez outside on the patio and DJ Rayman spinning club music inside. 9pm-2am.

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio open 7pm. Free Pool til 4pm.

WOODY'S - Open Noon-2am; Happy Hour Noon-8pm (excl spec events); Martini Happy Hour 5-8pm-\$1 off all call Martinis; Back Pocket Patio Bar open 8-close. DJ Jeff in the Back Pocket 9-close; Watch for special events.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am.50¢ off any Top Shelf Gin until 8pm. Beer Bust 4-8pm. Patio Bar Opens 7pm

SATURDAY

THE BIZ - \$1 Draught Beers until 10pm & \$4 Finlandia Vodka Red Bull drinks until 11pm; Dance Party with DJ Shorty at 9:30 mixing it up and playing what you want to hear!

COLORS - Open 4pm-11pm, Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3 Skyy cocktails, \$2.50 Domestic and Well. Full menu served 4-10pm. Nightly dinner specials. "Pacific Breeze" performs 7-10pm.

HOLLYWOOD - Open 5pm. Happy Hour 5pm to 7pm. \$1.75 well, domestic bottles, draft.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open 11:00am. Happy Hour 11am-8pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Kitchen open 11am-9pm. \$2.50 Capt. Morgan or Mailbu. Cheeseburger & Fries Special for \$4.50 all day. Best burgers around. Learn to plau Texas Hold-Em Poker Lessons at noon with a friendly game to follow - no money involved. DJ playing dance mix or check our ad for special events. Kitchen open 9pm to midnight serving late night munchies menu.

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.

WOODY'S - Open 10am-2am; Happy Hour 10am-8pm (excl spec events); Steak/Fish Dinner in the Back Pocket 5-9pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar open 5-close. Live Jazz with Arthur Migliazza in the Back Pocket 6-9pm; DJ Jeff in the Back Pocket 9-close. Watch for special events.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. Beer Bust 4-8pm. \$1.25 glass, \$2.25 pitcher. Patio Bar Opens 7pm.

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

WOODY'S - Valentine'S Day Red Party starts at 8 pm.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

VENTURE-N - Aquarian Birthday - Mardi Gras Party 6:00 pm. Hot hors d'Oeuvres. 7 pm Drink specialss. Party favors all evening.

FRI. - SAT.-SUN., FEB. 16-17-18

YARD DOG 6TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY. All weekend. Join the celebration.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

COLORS - Guy's and Dolls Show at 10:00 p.m. hosted by Lucinda Holliday. Special guests Deora Le Blanc and Cameron Knight. Come early to assure seating.

WOODY'S - Delta Lamda Phi Red Party 10 pm to Closing.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

HOWL AT THE MOON- It's Knokache's birthdy. Join the celebration - Tex-Mex band La Nueva Onda starting at 9 pm. No cover. Wear your Mardi Gras mask.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

WOODY'S - "Boys Gone Wild" Mardi Gras Party sponsored by Bud Light 8 pm to close.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

COLORS - Guy's and Dolls Show at 10:00 p.m. hosted by Lucinda Holliday. Special guest COLORS - Guy's and Dolls Show at 10:00 p.m. hosted by Lucinda Holliday. Special guest Adrienne Alexander. Come early to assure seating.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

HOWL AT THE MOON- Big evening here starting off with Miss Cosmopolitan Pageant from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Then the IDOLS celebrity impersonators show starts at 10 pm. Madonna, Michael Jackson, Reba, Cher, and more. Hosted by Lucinda Holliday. \$5.00 cover.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

HOWL AT THE MOON- It's Oscar Night! Predict the winners with Buzztime network. Play movie trivia before the show. Make a night of it! \$2.00 champagne, \$2.50 mimosas, and \$3.00 house wines.

WOODY'S - Ajia Simone will be doing a show in ther Back Pocket Bar at 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2

COLORS - Guy's and Dolls Show at 10:00 p.m. hosted by Lucinda Holliday. Special guest Barbra Seville. Come early to assure seating.

SATURDAY, MARCH 3

HOWL AT THE MOON- NCC Entertainer of the Year Pageant Show. Special guest performances as well as the contestants vying for the title. 9pm. \$5.00 cover.

WOODY'S - Promo Party with Jose' Cuervo 10:30 p.m. featuring Cuervo's new flavored Tequilas.

FRIDAY, MARCH 9

COLORS - Guy's and Dolls Show at 10:00 p.m. hosted by Lucinda Holliday. Special guest Miss Gay Arizona America Makayla Kay. Come early to assure seating.

FRIDAY, MARCH 16

COLORS - Guy's and Dolls Show at 10:00 p.m. hosted by Lucinda Holliday. Special guests Miss Gay Tucson America Jessica Deveraux and Miss Gay America 1998 Maya Montana. Come early to assure seating.

WOODY'S - March Birthday Party with free Cake and Champagne for those celebrating their Birthday here. Register early with the bartenders.

SATURDAY, MARCH 17

HOWL AT THE MOON- Royalty Show! All nine performers will be former Miss Gay Tucson title holders. This will be one hell of a show—plan now to attend! \$5.00 cover

WOODY'S - St. Patrick's Day Green Party with drink and food specials.

SUNDAY, MARCH 18

WOODY'S - Rock, Paper and Scissors Contest sponsored by Bud Light 11:00 p.m. - Midnight. Winners go on to compete in City, State nd eventually National competitions in Las Vegas. Bud Light Bottles will be \$2.50 during competition.

FRIDAY, MARCH 23

WOODY'S - Delta Lambda Fraternity 18 and Over Party - 20:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.

NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

TUCSON KNIGHT OWLS - (T.K.O)
We are a non profit social club that is open to every one. T.K.O. contributes to the fellowship and support of the community, and openly invites new members. Monthly meetings occur on the first Saturday of every month at 12:30 pm., followed by a beer bust from 2pm to 6pm., at our home bar the Yard Dog saloon. You will experience fun, food, and friends, because we're family caring about people. Please come and join us!

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.**

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

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@gpplcc.org or call (602)225-8444.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

T-SQUARES Lesbian and Gay Square Dance Club, dances Tuesdays. from 6:30-9 p.m. at Cornerstone Fellowship Social Hall, 2902 N. Geronimo (Northwest of 1st Ave. and Glenn). No experience, no partner required! For more info contact David at 325-6739, or visit www.azgaydance.org

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

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

LESBIAN/GAY WRITERS: Workshop at 7:00 p.m. third Wednesday of every month. Read and critique current projects. Network and support. For info call 325-4737.

DESERT VOICES, Tucson's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Straight Chorus, has been singing songs of pride, hope and laughter for 16 seasons. Check out our website at www.desertvoices.org, or call (520)791-9662 for information about upcoming concerts or how to join.

Join the **LESBIAN & GAY PUBLIC AWARENESS PROJECT.** In Tucson write Awareness Project, 3661 N. Campbell Ave. #365, Tucson, AZ 85719.

AA Meeting with HIV/AIDS focus, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., Wingspan Annex, 425 E. 7th Street. 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, contact **TEAM ARIZONA** at their website: teamarizona.org

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

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

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GLBT, Tucson's Gay and Lesbian business networking group holds regular meetings the third Thursday of every month. Call 615-6436 for more info. www.tucsonglbtchamber.org

TUCSON PRIDE, INC. (Formerly Tucson Lesbian and Gay Alliance - TLGA) meets on the second Wednesday at 845 S. Craycroft Road at 6pm. Tucson Pride events: Pride Week, Gay West and

Pride Weekend. Inquiries about support groups and individual needs should be directed to Wingspan and other local agencies listed here. For more information call 622-3200 or visit the TPI website at www.tucsonpride.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GLSEN - Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network meets first Thursday of every month at 4:30pm at Wingspan, 425 E.7th Street. 743-4800.

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

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

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

REVEILLE GAY MEN'S CHORUS rehearses Thursday evenings 7-10pm at the Historic Y, corner of University Blvd. And 5th Ave. Join us!! Call 304-1758 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 10-11:30AM at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St. Donations accepted. 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.

MEN'S HIKING CLUB - A peer-run MEN's outdoor club for hiking, biking, camping, boating etc, is now up and running in the Tucson area. To join, go to SAGE-Tucson-subscribe@yahoo.com. See you on the trails.

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, AZ. (Map available at www.desertdominion.org) For those who are kinky or just curious. No fee, contributions are appreciated, but not required.

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.

BROTHERS OF THE COMPASSIONATE WAY. Pagan spiritual group for gay, bisexual, transgendered men. Box 41623, Tucson, AZ 85717.

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Call 622-2823 for tickets**

S.F. Police Officers Accused Of Abusing Gay Man Won't Face Discipline

SAN FRANCISCO - Three San Francisco police officers accused of verbally abusing and assaulting a Gay man they caught urinating in the street will not face possible discipline because the department missed the deadline to take action, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. At a meeting Wednesday (Feb. 7), police commissioners expressed frustration at the department's delay while approving an \$83,000 tentative settlement of the man's civil rights lawsuit over the 2004 incident.

"You are talking about a hate crime. It's just a tragedy that the department is unable to do anything about it because it dropped the ball so early on," Commissioner Joe Veronese said, referring to the expired one-year statute of limitations for disciplinary action.

Andrew Marconi, of Sacramento, said in the lawsuit that three officers confronted him at 2:15 a.m. on Mar. 7, 2004, as he urinated outside a San Francisco nightclub. Two of them began using anti Gay slurs against him, he said. "You peeing on my streets? Do you think we want your AIDS-infected pee on our streets?" Sgt. Jason Fox asked Marconi, according to the lawsuit.

The man was forced to kneel down into his urine, and Fox slammed his head into a wall and used his hair to clean the urine off the wall, the suit said. Fox and Officer Simon Chan then stripped off Marconi's shirt, used it to mop up the remaining waste, and threatened him with more violence if he was ever caught urinating in public again, it said. The alleged abuse only stopped when Marconi's friend, an off-duty Stockton police officer, walked up and showed his badge, prompting the officers to leave.

Fox and Chan both denied any abuse in court documents, and Fox claimed Marconi was drunk that night. The third officer at the scene, who did not engage in the alleged abuse, said in the documents that he saw no wrongdoing. The city attorney has said there was no evidence to support Marconi's claims.

The case never was investigated for possible disciplinary action because Marconi failed to notify the Office of Citizen Complaints, the civilian police watchdog agency. Following its own investigation, the office would have forwarded its findings to the police chief and commission for further action, but none of that ever happened. The settlement still must go before the city's Board of Supervisors for approval.



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