



Observing Tucson And  
The Greater Arizona Community

# OBSERVER

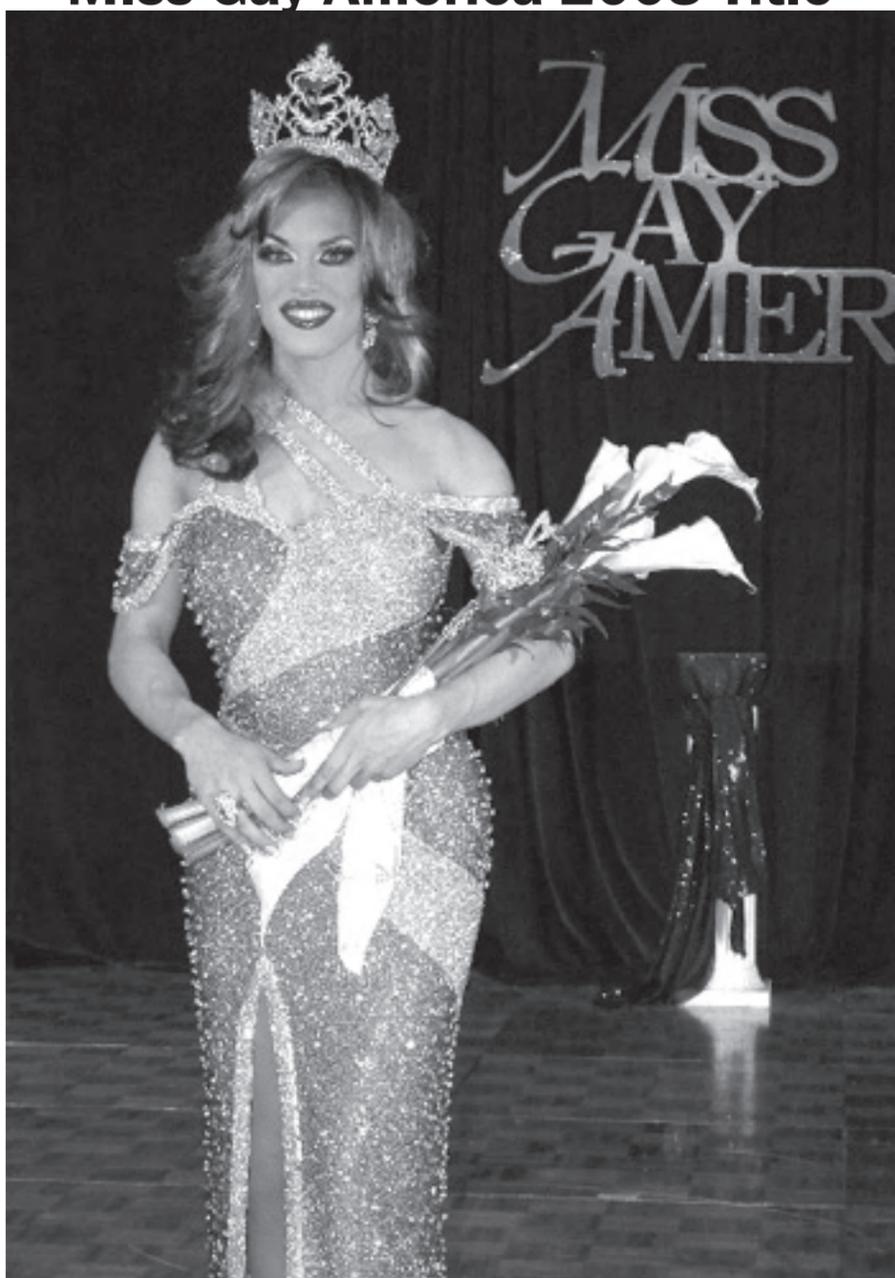
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WEEKLY OBSERVER

OCTOBER 24, 2007

ISSUE 1214

## Tucsonan Mikaila Kay Wins Miss Gay America 2008 Title



TUCSON - DRS Promotions has reason to be jubilant! On Sunday, October 21, Miss Gay Western States 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate 2007, Mikaila Kay, won the Miss Gay America 2008 title. It was a year ago that another Miss Gay Western States 2006, Lucious, won last year's Miss Gay America 2007. Danny Scott and Dale Eckstrom, co-promoters of DRS pageants, point with pride that they have had two of their Miss Gay Western States America Regional Pageant crowned Miss Gay America back-to-back. Only one other preliminary in the country

has had two back-to-back Miss Gay America's Crowned in the 37 years of the pageant.

This year's Miss Gay America Pageant was held in Memphis, Tennessee. To a packed auditorium Mikaila Kay faced the judges with flawless performances and took the crown away from some very talented performers. Our congratulations to Mikaila and to Scott and Dale for bringing the Miss Gay America back to Tucson for two years in a row!

## Stonewall Democrats Meeting October 29

TUCSON - On Monday, October 29, 6:30 p.m., the Southern Arizona Chapter of the Stonewall Democrats (SASD) will be holding their monthly meeting.

SASD is an organization for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Democrats and supporters. This group serves to inform and educate persons within the GLBT community regarding elected officials, candidates, and

issues of interest to that community. SASDThey also provide information and education to elected officials, candidates, and others regarding LGBT issues.

For more information, either E-mail: [sasdtucson@yahoo.com](mailto:sasdtucson@yahoo.com) or call Maurice Grossman, (520) 323-2293.

## ENDA Vote Delayed

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Democratic leaders announced they have decided to postpone a vote in the House of Representatives this week on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), H.R. 3685, reported the Washington Blade. The announcement came several hours after the White House issued a statement saying that senior advisers have recommended that President Bush veto the Gay rights measure if Congress were to pass it.

ENDA supporters were quick to say the postponement had nothing to do with the White House veto threat, but reports surfaced giving separate reasons why House Democratic leaders chose to put off a vote on the bill for at least one week.

Drew Hammill, press secretary for Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), issued a statement saying House Democratic leaders were working to "develop an accurate count" of the number of House members willing to vote for an amendment that would restore Transgender protections to ENDA.

"We do not anticipate that this process can be completed this week," Hammill said in his statement.

Hammill was referring to a decision by Gay Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisc), made with Pelosi's consent, to introduce an amendment restoring a trans inclusive provision to the bill that House Democratic leaders took out. The leadership said it chose to move ahead with a Gay-only version of the bill after it determined there were not enough votes to pass a trans inclusive bill.

Democratic strategists have said voting on the trans provision separately in the form of an amendment would allow supporters to move ahead with a Gay-only bill if the Baldwin amendment is defeated.

Other reports surfaced indicating Pelosi postponed a vote on ENDA to clear the House agenda this week for an immediate vote on a new version of legislation to expand the State Children's Health Insurance Program, known as SCHIP. President Bush vetoed the SCHIP bill earlier this month and supporters fell short of lining up enough votes to override the president's veto.

"We're hearing they plan to bring up SCHIP this week and this will displace ENDA and other bills," said one source familiar with ENDA, who asked not to be identified.

Hammill could not be immediately reached for comment on whether House leaders chose to place SCHIP on the House agenda ahead of ENDA.

If Congress passes ENDA, Bush's senior advisers would recommend that he veto the bill, according to the statement issued today by the White House.

The one-page statement, among other things, says provisions in ENDA

"purport to give federal statutory significance to same-sex marriage rights under state law," a development, according to the White House, that would conflict with the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act.

The statement represents the first time the White House has released an official position on the Gay rights measure, which calls for banning employment discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The bill was scheduled to come up for a vote in the House this week before House Democratic leaders postponed the vote.

Supporters of the bill have said its marriage-related provision is limited to banning employment discrimination based on marital status in states where same-sex couples cannot legally marry. Under the bill's marriage provision, employers could not require that a person be married or eligible to marry as a condition of employment except in Massachusetts, where same-sex couples can legally marry.

ENDA's marriage-related provision has mostly been overshadowed by a controversy within the Gay and Transgender community over whether the bill should include protection for Transgender persons. House Democratic leaders withdrew an earlier version of the bill that included trans protections after determining there were not enough votes to pass it.

A coalition of more than 300 Gay and Transgender groups on the national, state and local levels have called on Congress not to pass the current version, saying lawmakers should wait until enough support could be found to back Transgender protection before bringing it up for a vote.

Pelosi gave her consent to a request by Baldwin to introduce an amendment on the House floor to restore trans protections to the bill. The Baldwin amendment would open the way for an unprecedented, up or down vote on Transgender rights in the U.S. Congress.

The White House statement makes no mention of the Transgender issue.

"The bill raises concerns on constitutional and policy grounds, and if H.R. 3685 were presented to the president, his senior advisers would recommend that he veto the bill," the statement says.

The statement is considered by White House observers to be less forceful and definitive than other veto threats, in which the White House has said the president had already decided to veto a particular bill.

Most Gay activists and supporters of ENDA on Capitol Hill have said they expected the president to veto ENDA regardless of whether it included Transgender protections.

**Continued On Page Five**

# UPDATE

## Wingspan Hires Interim Executive Director



**Elizabeth Burden**

Board of Directors approved the selection of Elizabeth Burden as the Interim Executive Director.

Elizabeth Burden has worked with non-profit organizations, providing consulting services in the areas of organizational development, strategic planning, program planning, curriculum development, and facilitation for more than 15 years. Most recently Elizabeth served as the Executive Director of Pan Left Productions, a non-profit media collective in Tucson. She has worked for diverse for-profit and non-profit organizations, ranging from a commercial television station to a community newspaper, from an AIDS project to a public library. The common thread that runs through all her work is helping people to create positive environments, within organizations and in communities.

In her career in non-profits, Elizabeth has held two executive management positions: Director of Education and Training at the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, and Executive Director of Pan Left Productions. Elizabeth has extensive experience with media relations and marketing, grant writing and fund development, program planning and development, and staff and volunteer development. The Board is in the process of convening a committee and process to begin the search for a new Executive Director.

## SAGA Speakers Bureau Training, October 27

TUCSON - Wingspan's Southern Arizona Gender Alliance (SAGA) invites you to attend the SAGA speakers bureau training, Saturday, October 27, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at Wingspan's Anzaldua Room, 425 E. 7th Street

SAGA is in seeking Transgender and allied individuals to represent trans identities and concerns to a wide variety of audiences. We have dozens of speaking engagements per year, and that number is increasing steadily. SAGA maintains professional standards for all of our presenters; thus, we require this training for anyone volunteering to speak on behalf of SAGA or to participate on trans/LGBT panels through SAGA, Wingspan, and other venues. This training is also an excellent opportunity for ALLIES to learn more about training others on transgender issues. You do not need prior speaking experience, only the desire to learn.

To register, call Michael at (520) 624-1779, x117 or E-mail: [speakers@sagatucson.org](mailto:speakers@sagatucson.org).

## PFLAG Tucson

TUCSON - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) has numerous chapters of their organization across the country and in Arizona. One of those chapters is in Tucson.

PFLAG-Tucson, online at [pflagtucson.org](http://pflagtucson.org), promotes the health and well-being of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender persons, their families and friends through: Support, to cope with an adverse society; Education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights.

PFLAG -Tucson provides opportunity to dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identify, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity. Support meetings are held on the first Wednesday evening of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Ward VI City Council Offices at 3202 E. 1st Street. Please call PFLAG's help line ( 5 2 0 ) 3 6 0 - 3 7 9 5 .

## Man To Man Seminar October 27 - 28

TUCSON - You are invited to attend a two-day seminar providing education on sexuality and intimacy between men, October 27-28, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at SAAF, 375 S. Euclid. All men who have sex with men or are attracted to men, and are 18 or older are invited.

The Man-to-Man: Sexual Health Seminars [Rosser and Bocking, 1993] were developed as a new approach to HIV/STD prevention specifically to promote the individual and communal health of MSM. The 2-day seminars are designed to help participants clarify issues critical in their sexuality and to promote safer sex. Topics were sexual communication; components of sexual identity; sexual orientation in history, across cultures and across the life-span; stages of coming out; barriers to healthy sexuality, including abuse, neglect, heterosexism, and victimization and recovery from these; intimacy, dating, and relationships; responsible sexuality, including sexual attitudes, values, boundaries, and assertiveness; sexual expression functioning and dysfunction; HIV and STDs; safer sex, personal HIV risk assessment and sexual decision making; personal and community empowerment; gender nonconformity and transgender expression; sexuality in disability, illness, and aging; sexuality and spirituality; integration and sexual health.

The seminars had 4 key process components: Systematic desensitization which has been used successfully in medical school sex curricula and other adult sexual education (less sexually explicit topics and media are introduced first, more explicit topics being addressed later) [Rosser, Dwyer, Coleman, Miner, Metz, Robinson, and Bocking, 1995]. The five stages of Coleman's (1982) homosexual identity formation (pre-coming out, coming out, exploration, first relationships, and integration) were used as the curriculum outline to promote sexual identity maturation. Comprehensive sexual health education that addresses common challenges for MSM and promotes overall, long-term, healthy living. Research on cofactors of unsafe sex for MSM (e.g., drug and alcohol use, loneliness, and falling in love) [Rosser, 1991].

The seminars include multimedia presentations, presentations by health professionals, videos, panels, behavioral modeling, story-telling, assessments, exercises, and small-group discussions. To provide modeling and expert credibility, large-group presentations and small-group discussions are facilitated by MSM-identified health professionals. The seminar is innovative in that it applies a sexological methodology (the Sexual Attitude Reassessment (SAR) methodology) [Rosser et al., 1995; 1999], based on a model developed out of the community's experience [the "Coming Out" maturational model of Coleman (1982)], to promote long-term individual and communal sexual health, and in which empirically derived material addresses the contextual cofactors of HIV risk. This sexual health approach takes into account the pursuit of sexual fulfillment and satisfaction, intimacy, and affirmation of self and identity. The assumption is that if one is more sexually literate, comfortable, and competent, one is also more likely to develop successful long-term strategies to reduce risk in the real-life context of changing sexual circumstances.

For more information visit [azman2man.org](http://azman2man.org), or contact Cesar Egurrola at (520) 628-7223, E-mail: [cegurrola@saaf.org](mailto:cegurrola@saaf.org).

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



If you are interested in offering peer support to clients, educating on HIV/AIDS and more, contact Volunteer Resources at 628-7223 or [volcoord@saaf.org](mailto:volcoord@saaf.org)

**SAAF**  
Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation



P.O. BOX 50733,  
TUCSON, AZ 85703  
(520) 622-7176 (Voice)

Office Hours: 9a.m.-6p.m.  
Monday thru Friday

Office Closed Thursdays

Observer on the World Wide Web :  
[www.tucsonobserver.com](http://www.tucsonobserver.com)  
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EDITOR/PUBLISHER:

Bob Ellis

ARTS & GRAPHICS:

Gary Clark

MANAGING EDITOR:

Mark Kerr

Special Events Photos:

Bill Morrow

Hunter Johnson

Horoscope:

Charlene Lichtenstein

Contributing Columnists

MARK R. KERR - LEE THORN

\*

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Informing the Community  
**The Observer**

## Howl at the Moon



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1st stoplight west of Oracle  
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**Friday, October 26  
Line Dance Lessons  
With Amanda 7:30 p.m.**

**Saturday, Oct. 27  
LATINO & DANCE MUSIC  
WITH DJ SHORTY**

### TIHAN Update

Join TIHAN and our special musical guests for a benefit concert Sunday, November 11, 3:00 p.m. at Lutheran Church of the Foothills, 5102 N. Craycroft Road (Craycroft and Territory). Performances will include Tucson Arizona Mass Choir, Reveille, Desert Voices, and Marianne Dissard. An hors d'oeuvres reception following the concert is sponsored by Wild Oats Market, Rincon Market, Sunflower Market and Trader Joe's. Tickets are \$20. Children 12 and under are \$5. Tickets and concert information can be found by calling TIHAN at (520) 299-6647 or Lutheran Church of the Foothills at 299-5631. Please come celebrate TIHAN's work. Your donation to the concert will be doubled with matching funds provided by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. . . .

Ask a friend or bring yourself to the next Volunteer Orientation, November 8 at First Congregational United Church of Christ (1350 N. Arcadia Avenue, near Speedway and Swan) from 5:15 to 9:15 p.m. Attending an orientation is your first step on the rewarding journey of being a TIHAN volunteer. TIHAN's volunteers are needed, appreciated, and elevated. The cost is \$17.00, which covers snacks and printed materials. Please plan on attending one of the next orientations so you can join the Volunteer Team! Please call 299-6647 or E-mail Kim Talerico, Volunteer Coordinator, kim@tihan.org for additional information and to sign up to begin your volunteer journey. . . .

Every month, the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) distributes approximately 70 care packages of toiletry items to CarePartners (clients) living with HIV/AIDS. At this time the following items are especially needed for our care packages: toilet paper, paper towels, toothpaste, deodorant soap, gentle soap, hand and body lotion, and facial tissue. Items can be dropped off at the TIHAN office, 1011 N. Craycroft Rd.

(south of Speedway Blvd.), Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### ASUA Pride Alliance

TUCSON - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning and Straight Supportive (LGBTQA) students at the University of Arizona (UA) have a place and organization for their interests and needs, the ASUA Pride Alliance.

The ASUA Pride Alliance strives to maintain a resource center that offers a secure, supportive social and academic environment to LGBTQA individuals, as well as straight ally students and in the Tucson community. Further, the Pride Alliance is committed to fostering a safe environment in the surrounding community so that LGBTQA students can thrive.

There are two, Co-Directors of the Pride Alliance: Chase Sutton and Rosie Reid-Correa. Sutton is a sophomore at the University of Arizona studying Political Science and Psychology. He ultimately wants to attend law school with a focus on social justice. He is an RA at Skyview residence hall and the Pledge Educator in Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity. Reid-Correa is a Geological Engineering major who is very committed to social justice. She has been in various student leadership positions from LGBTQ Subcommittee Co-Chair of Diversity Initiatives, to Board Chair of the UA chapter of the Human Rights Campaign, as well as sitting on several steering and planning committees for programs and services at the university.

For more information, go online to [pride.asua.arizona.edu/Home.html](http://pride.asua.arizona.edu/Home.html).

### Goodbye And Gratitude Party For Cathy Busha / Front Porch Music, Nov. 2

TUCSON - Please join Wingspan in saying thanks, Friday, November 2, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. at Wingspan's back parking lot, 425 E. 7th Street, and so long to Cathy Busha as she heads over to the University of Arizona to her new position with the school. Wingspan will celebrate this occasion with a very special Front Porch Music as we welcome back our all-time favorite band Coyote Grace & Friends.

After nine years of leadership at Wingspan, Cathy Busha, Wingspan's Director of Programs, has accepted a position with the University of Arizona. Busha will continue to be a leader and spokesperson for the LGBTQ community through the newly created & ground-breaking position, Director of LGBTQ Affairs. During her time at Wingspan, Busha directly wrote and secured over 35 grants, including the first state and federal grant contracts Wingspan received. These grants facilitated Wingspan's growth from a budget of \$310,000 and a staff of three, to a team of 20 with a budget of \$1.1 million. Busha was part of the team that developed the Wingspan eWeekly and "Neighbors You Know" campaign, and was the catalyst behind the expansion of the Wingspan Domestic Violence Project into a full-service Anti-Violence Project.

Busha started at Wingspan as a youth group facilitator volunteer in 1998, and was hired later that year to work as an advocate for survivors of domestic violence. Busha was then promoted to coordinate the Anti-Violence Project, and was soon again promoted and served as the first ever Director of Programs at Wingspan, eventually developing and overseeing 10 critical community programs.

### Special Afternoon Of Music To Benefit TIHAN Nov. 11

TUCSON - November 11 Special Afternoon of Music to Benefit TIHAN. Join us for an afternoon of special music to support TIHAN! We are proud to announce that our annual Musical Potpourri concert this year will feature the Parisian blues of local favorite **Marianne Dissard** (a French songstress), the gospel sounds of the **Tucson Arizona Mass Choir**, and the rich diversity of **Desert Voices** and **Reveille**. This concert promises to be entertaining and fun, and a significant way to raise funds to support TIHAN's programs and services! This Sunday afternoon of music takes place on November 11 at 3pm. Tickets are \$20 (includes an hors d'oeuvres reception afterwards) and all proceeds benefit TIHAN (and all funds will be matched dollar-for-dollar by our friends at Thrivent Financial for Lutherans!). If you can't attend but want to give the gift of music to one of TIHAN's CarePartners living with HIV, purchase and donate a ticket. Tickets are on sale now by calling 299-6647, and you can order your tickets by credit card. Thanks to our host and event sponsor: Lutheran Church of the Foothills.

#### Informing The Community



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# J. K. Rowling Outcasts Hogwarts Character



NEW YORK CITY - Harry Potter fans, the rumors are true: Albus Dumbledore, master wizard and Headmaster of Hogwarts, is Gay. J.K. Rowling, author of the mega-selling fantasy series that ended last summer, outed the beloved character Friday night (October 19) while appearing before a full house at Carnegie Hall, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

past. And explicit scenes with Dumbledore already have appeared in fan fiction. Rowling told the audience that while working on the planned sixth Potter film, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," she spotted a reference in the script to a girl who once was of interest to Dumbledore. A note was duly passed to director David Yates, revealing the truth about her character. Rowling, finishing a brief "Open Book Tour" of the United States, her first tour here since 2000, also said that she regarded her Potter books as a "prolonged argument for tolerance" and urged her fans to "question authority." Not everyone likes her work, Rowling said, likely referring to Christian groups that have alleged the books promote witchcraft. Her news about Dumbledore, she said, will give them one more reason.

After reading briefly from the final book, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," she took questions from audience members. She was asked by one young fan whether Dumbledore finds "true love." "Dumbledore is Gay," the author responded to gasps and applause. She then explained that Dumbledore was smitten with rival Gellert Grindelwald, whom he defeated long ago in a battle between good and bad wizards. "Falling in love can blind us to an extent," Rowling said of Dumbledore's feelings, adding that Dumbledore was "horribly, terribly let down." Dumbledore's love, she observed, was his "great tragedy." "Oh, my god," Rowling concluded with a laugh, "the fan fiction."

Potter readers on fan sites and elsewhere on the Internet have speculated on the sexuality of Dumbledore, noting that he has no close relationship with women and a mysterious, troubled



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## Favorite Books Of The New Queerlennium

The GLBT Services Committee was established in 1997 to better serve southern Arizona's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender library users. It seeks to fulfill this mission by creating exciting programs such as GLBT author visits, and through participation at various outreach events such as OUToberFEST and Tucson's annual Pride Parade.

On a daily basis they review, order and make GLBT materials available for all PCPL users, regardless of age, location or sexual orientation.

The Pima County Public Library's (PCPL) GLBT Services Committee is dedicated to upholding the library's Mission Statement as well as the Library Users Bill of Rights for all of our customers.

PCPL is one of the few public libraries in the country to have an established GLBT Services Committee. It's an exciting time for GLBT-themed publishing.

More and more books reflecting the strength, experience and vision of GLBT people appear on the shelves of book stores and libraries. The Pima County Public Library's GLBT Services Committee are proud to offer our favorite recent books that are by and about GLBT people. We hope this offering inspires you to read one or more of these marvelous books

I'm the One that I Want by Margaret Cho (Ballentine Books). It's easy to love Margaret Cho. She'll tell everything, she's fat as the rest of us, a consummate fag hag, and she can make us laugh over things that ordinarily might make us cry. Cho tackles racism against Asians, body image problems, drug and alcohol abuse, her childhood filled with alienation, and the nightmare that her television series All-American Girl turned into, turning it all into highly quotable wit made all the more shocking and delicious when you realize her mother has read every word.

Born in 1968 in San Francisco, Cho paints a hilarious yet affectionate portrait of her Korean mother, with unforgettable stories

such as her mother's investigating the porn magazines in their bookstore on the infamous Polk Street Gay drag. Cho reveals the horror of church-camp summers and feeling invisible or downright disliked as a child, and the kinship and solace found from the drag queens who worked in her father's store. "Drag queens are strong because they have so much to fight against," writes Cho, "homophobia, sexism, pink eye." To support herself at the beginning of her comedy career, Cho worked at FAO Schwarz, sometimes moonlighting in phone sex. Occasionally the jobs would overlap, and she would find herself doing phone sex dressed as Raggedy Ann. This book is based on her hilarious one-woman off-Broadway show/movie, but is more painful in the print version. It doesn't have all the content of the stage show (the Bisexual stories are missing!), and it does have more of a therapy feel to it ("I hated myself, but now I've found my inner goddess, and you can too.") But there is new material too, and the book acts as a big loving Band-aid for all of us who have ever been told we are not good enough, smart enough, pretty enough or just not enough, period. (Terry Nordbrock)

It's Not Mean If It's True: More Trials from My Queer Life by Michael Thomas Ford (Los Angeles: Alyson). Ford is funny. Funny in the way that makes me giggle or laugh out loud ("I will not have as a friend anyone who really cares what Leonardo DiCaprio, Antonio Banderas, or Brendan Fraser are up to at any given moment"), but also funny in a way that I can relate to personally, as when he worries that "one day there will be a knock on the door and some official-looking person will announce in a loud voice that the jig is up and I have to go back to junior high with the other kids." He is sarcastic without being bitter, gleefully satiric without being depressing, and seamlessly mixes the personal with the political. Most of all he's just very funny. Highly recommended as a cure for the blues. (Chris Dashiell).

For more information, visit your local Pima County library or go online to [tpl.org/community/glb/index.cfm](http://tpl.org/community/glb/index.cfm).

## ENDA Vote Delayed

Continued from Page One

"H.R. 3685 is inconsistent with the right to the free exercise of religion as codified by Congress in the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA)," the White House statement on ENDA says.

It notes that the Religious Freedom Restoration Act bars the federal government from "substantially burdening the free exercise of religion except for compelling reasons" and only in the "least restrictive" means possible.

"H.R. 3685 does not meet this standard," the statement says. "For instance, schools that are owned by or directed toward a particular religion are exempted by the bill;" the statement says, "but those that emphasize religious principles broadly will find their religious liberties burdened by H.R. 3685," the statement says.

The statement says ENDA's authorization of federal civil damages against states or state entities over employment discrimination "may violate states' immunity under the 11th

Amendment to the U.S. Constitution."

Similar to criticism raised by opponents in Congress, the White House statement says language in the bill barring employment discrimination based on someone's "perceived" sexual orientation is "imprecise" and would "encourage burdensome litigation."

The White House statement says ENDA's marriage-related provision would conflict with the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA, which defines marriage as a union only between one man and one woman under federal law.

"The administration strongly opposes any attempt to weaken this law, which is vital to defending the sanctity of marriage," the statement says.

Supporters have said many state and local laws ban discrimination based on marital status and that the ENDA provision would not conflict with DOMA.

# Woody's

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Minimum of 10 contestants

Hosted by Ajia Simone

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## Hitting The Glass Ceiling

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - Heather C. works for a major biochemical firm in Northern California. Thanks to state law, she can't be fired for being Gay - indeed, she's the volunteer chair of her workplace's diversity committee - yet she's only selectively out at work, 365Gay.com reported. "It just doesn't feel safe," she said. "You don't know who's watching, judging you." Heather's partner, who works for the same company, is not out at all.

with one of two hats: one of them said "Texan and proud"; the other, "Gay and proud." The students didn't know which hat they were wearing, but they were instructed to apply for retail jobs. The researchers found something interesting: the Gay hat-wearing students were just as likely to be hired as the Texan-hat wearing students. There was no hiring discrimination (and in fact, the students were in a municipality that protects against Gay employment discrimination). But the interviewers were more hostile toward the Gay hat-wearing students and more likely to end the interview early.

Heather (she wishes to be identified by first name only) and her partner have seen what happens to people who come out at their workplace. About eight years ago, she says, a co-worker came out, and her supervisor "went ballistic, he was so mad," Heather said. A month later, the co-worker left the company.

Most students were able to tell which hat they were wearing from the treatment they received. What this study measured was not discrimination per se - but company culture. "The culture of an organization is really important," said Eden King, a researcher on the two hats study and now an assistant professor at George Mason University. "Formal policies are less of a predictor of Gay and Lesbian happiness at work than are informal measures, such as whether someone feels comfortable bringing a partner to a company event."

Things are better now, Heather said, but still are not great. Gay employees write anonymous letters to the Diversity Committee instead of volunteering to help or come to meetings. There is a rumor that there is a Gay vice president of the company somewhere in Europe - but otherwise, there are no out Gay executives. And she herself hasn't been promoted since she started coming out. Heather has hit the Gay glass ceiling.

She added, "Companies may institute formal policies just to get on the top 10 for diversity lists or whatever, but then they don't follow up. It's better to have the policies than not, but you've got to back them up with something."

When it comes to the workplace, Gay and Lesbian activists have focused mainly on ending overt and obvious harassment and discriminatory hiring, firing, and promotion practices. Over the past few weeks, a raw debate over including Transgenders in the Employment Non-Discrimination Act has rocketed GLBT workers into the headlines. The inclusive bill would protect workers from being discriminated against on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, but it seems unlikely to be passed.

Another place where the cultural Gay glass ceiling is obvious, says Robin Church, a professor at Ryerson University in human resources management, is in informal mentoring situations. "Mentoring relationships are critical components of career advancement for most people, especially informal mentoring relationships," Church said. "Protégés rise more quickly, are more productive, more successful, are promoted more, earn more. Research is solid on this."

Despite the absence of a federal law, however, Gays and Lesbians (and sometimes Transgenders) are slowly being protected city by city, state by state, and company by company. Twenty states protect Gay and Lesbian workers from discrimination, as do 140 municipalities and counties, 470 companies in the Fortune 500, and hundreds of other companies and non-profits. These policies are fairly well supported by the electorate; in a September poll, more than one half of the respondents supported equal rights in the workplace for Gays and Lesbians.

But in a study he presented in August, he noted that Gays and Lesbians - particularly Gays and Lesbians in hostile workplaces - are less likely to be mentored. Which means that they are less likely to rise in their careers. This is a factor of culture, and company culture is notoriously more difficult to change than company policy.

Most people see discrimination in hiring and firing as obviously wrong, and legislators, activists, and companies are working hard to end it, with popular support. Overt discrimination is not so much a glass ceiling as a thick cement slab. You can't cut through it without the help of a legal sledgehammer. Legislation is necessary. But anti-discrimination policies, though a necessary first step, are not enough.

However, since research and anecdotal evidence shows that employees who can be comfortably out in the workplace are happier and more productive, some companies are trying to change their cultures - and some are succeeding.

Take Clorox, which this year received a perfect 100 percent score on HRC's annual rating of GLBT-friendly workplaces. They weren't always that Gay-friendly. Just a few years ago, their score was in the high fifties. But changing mores and that low score from HRC prompted high level executives to take action.

"The word came from the CEO and cascaded on down," said Erby Foster, director of Diversity & Inclusion at The Clorox Company.

Cultural Gay glass ceilings can't be legislated away. In such a workplace, no one is calling Gays names or firing people who come out. Instead, there is a wage gap, or Gay people or denied plum assignments or don't get promoted - or coworkers are just not friendly.

Clorox reached out to Gay organizations and asked how they could better support Gay employees. Now, not only does the company have an anti-discrimination policy in place, but there are visible Gays and Lesbians at all levels, including a corporate officer who leads the company-sponsored GLBT resource group. Gay men and women throughout the company bring their partners to social events, and high-level straight executives come to Gay events to show support. And Clorox recruiters come to Gay events, like the Reaching Out MBA Conference. Foster says that

Gays and Lesbians in unsupportive (or openly hostile) workplaces are more likely to find themselves shut off from mentorship opportunities, are less likely to be promoted, and tend to have lower incomes than their straight counterparts. It is unhappiness through a thousand paper cuts.

In one ingenious study at Rice University, undergraduates were fitted

Continued Next Page



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# Hitting The Glass Ceiling

Continued from Page Six

Gay employees now tell him that they are proud to work at Clorox.

"Diversity is a business imperative, not just a human resources initiative," said Foster. "We want to grow this business, and to do that we need our employees to be as diverse as our consumers. Also, research says that people who are not out don't do their best work. It's not just a nice thing to do - it's critical for business growth."

Brian Richardson, for one, sees other companies with initiatives similar to Clorox, and he is optimistic that the companies who haven't started actively seeking out Gays and Lesbians soon will. "The biggest story is that business is changing," he said. "We tend to think of the world being run by these old school networks, professional sports, organized religion, the boardroom. And there's still homophobia - in professional sports, not a single player is out, even in the minor leagues. They wait until they retire. "But in business schools, which are basically the farm team, out students are starting to make names for themselves and then join companies. So eventually, we will get to higher and higher levels."

Richardson is a Haas School of Management student at Berkeley and one of seven c-chairs of the Reaching Out LGBT MBA Conference, being held this weekend in San Francisco. The

conference is bringing together 800 attendees from around the world, including MBA students and prospective students, top-level executives, and company recruiters. Companies represented at the career expo include Wall Street banks and investment firms like Lehman Brothers and Goldman Sachs; retail companies like Levi Strauss and Target; consumer goods companies like Proctor & Gamble and General Mills; and non profit organizations like the Gill Foundation and Dartmouth University. The available career expo space filled so quickly that Reaching Out needed to turn companies away.

Richardson is confident that openly Gay men and women in the boardroom will help change a company's culture, and from anecdotal evidence, that seems to be right. The biggest predictors of a safe company for Gays and Lesbians, in addition to anti-discrimination policies and domestic partner benefits, seems to be leadership at the top, straight allies, diversity education programs, and the encouragement to bring one's whole self to the office and one's partner to office functions. "Policies are only one part," Richardson said. "The other part is the implementation of policies. It takes leadership to set the stage and tone of any organization. There are a lot of companies interested in recruiting Gay MBA's - and someday, there will be no glass ceiling."

# Military Accidentally 'Recruits' On Gay Website

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Army, Navy, and Air Force advertised for new recruits on a Gay Web site until told of their error, [advocate.com](http://advocate.com) reported.

According to USA Today, the military recruiters were advertising on GLEE.com, a site for Gay and Lesbian professionals. However, the Pentagon's "don't ask, don't tell" policy prevents Gays and Lesbians from openly serving in any branch of the armed forces, so the recruiters have since pulled the ads.

Most of the military jobs posted were hard-to-fill positions requiring advanced training, although some ads sought to fill core combat slots at a time when the Iraq War has challenged recruiters to meet goals. They included:

Thousands of Navy openings for doctors, dentists, intelligence analysts, Arabic translators, and others.

Hundreds of Air Force jobs for optometrists, social workers, physician's assistants, and nurses.

Nearly 1,000 Army National Guard and active Army positions, including infantry and artillery.

The ads were placed through GLEE's parent company, New York-based Community Connect, as part of an alliance with jobs-listing giant Monster.com.

Steve Ralls of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, a Gay advocacy group, savored the irony of the military's errant recruiting pitches.

"The majority of GLEE's members would not be allowed to be as open in the military as they are online," he told USA Today, adding that Gays "have been drummed out of the armed forces simply for using sites like GLEE."

Since "don't ask, don't tell" was put in effect in 1993, 11,082 soldiers have been discharged at a huge cost, estimated by some to be \$363 million, to American taxpayers.

The screenshot shows the GLEE website interface. At the top, there are navigation links: "Login or Sign Up", "Notes", "IM", "My Account", and "Help". Below this is a header with the GLEE logo and tagline "GAY, LESBIAN, & EVERYONE ELSE." and "Professionals Jobs". There are also links for "Music Videos Photos", "Groups Chat News", and "Style Forums". A secondary navigation bar includes "JOBS", "BROWSE", "SEARCH", "CAREER SUMMARY", "MY JOBS", "COVER LETTER", and "RESUME". Below this are several sponsored ads, including "Real Estate Attorneys", "The Heaven of Investment", "Find an Attorney - Free", and "Lawyers - Get New Clients". The main content area is titled "COMPANY PROFILE" and "GLEE CAREERS in alliance with monster". It features a section for "ARMY RECRUITING COMMAND" with a "Back to Previous Page" link. Below that is a "JOB RESULTS" table:

Save	Job Title	Location	Posted	
<input type="checkbox"/>	JAG Corps Attorney	TX - Dallas	10/04/07	<a href="#">Apply</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Paralegal Specialist	DC - Washington/Metro	10/04/07	<a href="#">Apply</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	JAG Corps Attorney	CA - Los Angeles	10/04/07	<a href="#">Apply</a>

The advertisement for Sun Lighting.NET features a collage of various lighting fixtures, including pendant lights, chandeliers, and recessed lighting. A central image shows a modern kitchen with a large island and a chandelier. The text reads:

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# LGBT Group Urges Obama To Drop Anti-LGBT Singer

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A Gay rights group on Monday (October 21) urged Senator Barack Obama to cut ties with a gospel singer who it says spreads false information about homosexuality being a choice, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

Donnie McClurkin is among several gospel singers scheduled to raise money for the Illinois senator and Democratic presidential candidate at a concert in South Carolina this weekend (October 27-28). McClurkin has drawn attention from Gay rights activists for his views on homosexuality.

"I don't believe that it is the intention of God," McClurkin



Donnie McClurkin

said Monday in a telephone interview. "Sexuality, everything is a matter of choice."

McClurkin said he does not believe in discriminating against homosexuals. "What people do in their bedrooms and who they are as human beings are two different things," he said.

In a statement, Obama said he believes Gays and Lesbians are "our brothers and sisters" and should be afforded the same respect, dignity and rights granted all other citizens.

"I have consistently spoken directly to African-American religious leaders about the need to overcome the homophobia that persists in some parts our community so that we can confront issues like HIV/AIDS and broaden the reach of equal rights in this country," Obama said. "I strongly believe that African Americans and the LGBT community must stand together in the fight for equal rights. And so I strongly disagree with Reverend McClurkin's views and will continue to fight for these rights as president of the United States to ensure that America is a country that spreads tolerance instead of division."

The statement did not say whether McClurkin will still perform on the tour.

"We strongly urge Obama to part ways with this divisive preacher who is clearly singing a different tune than the stated message of the campaign," Wayne Besen, executive director of Truth Wins Out, said in a statement.

At a forum on Gay issues in August, Obama argued that civil unions for same-sex couples wouldn't be a "lesser thing" than marriage. Obama belongs to the United Church of Christ, which supports Gay marriage, but Obama has yet to go that far.

In a telephone interview Monday (October 21), Besen said he admired Obama, but wasn't ready to endorse him, especially considering McClurkin taking part in the campaign's "Embrace the Change" concert tour. "I think he'd be a great president. But I think it's going to drive away support from people who are on the fence such as myself," Besen said.

McClurkin is a Grammy Award winner who performed at the Republican National Convention in 2004. He told AP Radio in an interview that September that he was "once involved with those desires and those thoughts," which he attributed to being raped at 8 and 13.



Sen. Barack Obama

"That's what thrust me into it, and then God delivered me from that and gave me back who I really am and my true purpose," McClurkin said.



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# EDITORIAL

## Vote In The Tucson General Election !!!

On Tuesday, November 6, the City of Tucson will conduct their general election for Mayor and three Council seats for Ward 1, Ward 2 and Ward 4, as well as decide the fate of two ballot propositions, for which the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community must take part in and cast ballots.

Since being one of the first cities in the nation to enact an anti-discrimination ordinance;

Recognizing and supporting the LGBT community with various proclamations, Memorials in support, or opposing legislation on the state and federal levels;

Funding for AIDS Service and other LGBT support organizations;

Adopting of the first hate crimes law in the state; extending medical and dental benefits to the same-sex domestic partners and their families of city employees and creating the City of Tucson Commission on GLBT Issues which gives the community an official voice in city government:

Tucson's LGBT owes a big

thanks to the above-listed actions of the Tucson Mayor and Council has taken in regard to issues of concern and should return the favor by voting.

Early voting for this election has commenced with Friday, October 26 being the last day to submit a request for a mail-in ballot if one wishes to cast their vote in this manner.

After reviewing statements, voting records, past actions of note and endorsements (including Equality Arizona the statewide LGBT rights organization), the Observer is making the following recommendations for the four contests and two ballot propositions in the upcoming Tucson General Election.

Mayor - Bob Walkup. Ward 1 City Council - Regina Romero. Ward 2 City Council - Rodney Glassman. Ward 4 City Council - Shirley Scott. Proposition 100 - Mayor and Council Pay Raise - No. Proposition 200 - Water and Environmental Services - No.

Tucson's Mayor and Council election will take place Tuesday, November 6. For more information or to request an early ballot, either call (520) 791-4213 or go online to [tucsonaz.gov/clerks/ballotrequest.php](http://tucsonaz.gov/clerks/ballotrequest.php).

## SAAF UPDATE SOUTHERN ARIZONA AIDS FOUNDATION

I have to say I am happy to start as SAAF's new Executive Director for many reasons. It was certainly wonderful for me to be able to be here before AIDS WALK. Looking out at the thousands of people gathering in support of people living with HIV/AIDS and committing themselves to HIV prevention, I was amazed at the spectrum of ages represented. Tucsonans of every age are certainly committed to being compassionate and healthy!

My understanding of AIDS WALK in Tucson is that it began with the pre-merged agency, Tucson AIDS Project (TAP). The desire was to raise funds for the services needed for people living with HIV/AIDS and to promote HIV/AIDS awareness. (Sound familiar?) Craig Snow who I never had the pleasure of meeting was the Executive Director at the time. I understand his leadership encouraged and challenged Tucson to value all of its citizens.

Part of the power of AIDS WALK is the diversity of participants. The diversity is reflected in age, gender identification, occupation, sexual orientation, world views, political perspectives and in many other ways that we are distinguished from one another. AIDS WALK's theme was "Together ... Remember ... Support ... Prevent. This was what occurred: we stood together and walked.

Now that AIDS WALK 2007 is behind us, SAAF has another major event occurring in November: the Jerôme Beillard Festival for Life art and gift auction. The University of Arizona (UA) has been so wonderful that we are having this second largest fundraiser at the UA again. This will be the third year we have had Festival for Life at the Student Center Grand Ballroom. Mae Krueger, SAAF's Events Manager, assures me that the venue is fantastic.

It seems that the over 400 silent auction items can be displayed tastefully, giving the potential bidder an opportunity to view them more fully.

As I understand it, Festival for Life was started in 1988 by Jérôme Beillard, who was the Executive Director of People with AIDS Coalition of Tucson (PACT) and his partner, Robert Markley. PACT was another of the pre-merged AIDS service organizations that became SAAF. Before the merger and just before Jerome's death, the PACT Board voted to name the event in honor of Jérôme and his contributions to the community.

At Festival for Life, the third AIDS service organization to merge to become SAAF, the Shanti Foundation, has a legacy present also. It is the tradition of paper prayers. I am told that the tradition is taken from the Japanese practice of bringing pieces of artwork on strips of paper to the home of someone who is ill. It is meant to be a gift to inspire good health. At Festival for Life, paper prayers are available for purchase. Many unframed prayers are available and the numerous framed paper prayers are silent auction items. I have seen several of the prayers for this year's event and am overwhelmed at their beauty. Furthermore, there are at least 10 live auction items that will be present to tempt the event's attendees.

Join us for the Jérôme Beillard Festival for Life on November 18 from 4-7:00 p.m. at the UA Grand Ballroom. You can learn more about the event at [festivalforlife.org/](http://festivalforlife.org/). Tickets can be purchased by calling SAAF, (520) 628-7223.

SAAF continues this year to recognize its 10 years of service as a merged AIDS service organization with three roots going back to 1985 (TAP, Shanti, PACT). I am excited to be a part of this continuation of much needed services and programs for people living with HIV/AIDS and for HIV prevention.

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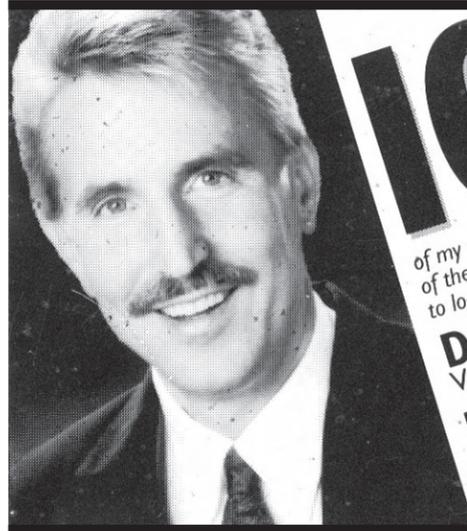
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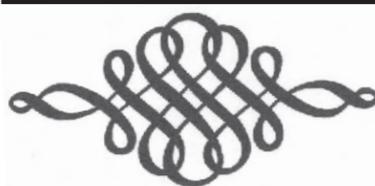
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Since 1989, I have been involved with services for people living with HIV/AIDS. This is an excellent opportunity for me to use the passion I have for the care of a healthier community and a compassionate and comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS - SAAF's mission. So long Texas, my new home is Tucson.

(Wendell Hicks is the new Executive Director, Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation.)



## T-Room Larry Gives Rambling TV Interview



Idaho Senator with his wife Suzanne At TV interview with Matt Lauer

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Idaho Sen. Larry Craig said he was entrapped in a sex sting at an airport men's room and was not aware of the bathroom's reputation as a spot to cruise for Gay sex. "Well, I certainly am now," Craig told NBC's Matt Lauer in an interview aired Tuesday night (October 16).

"Were you prior?" Lauer asked. "Not at all," Craig responded. "I go to bathrooms to use bathrooms." Craig said it was a "tough call" when he decided not to tell his wife or children about the arrest. "I didn't want to embarrass my wife, my kids, Idaho and my friends," Craig said. "I should have told my wife. I should have told my kids. And most importantly, I should have told counsel." Suzanne Craig said that when her husband told her the story was about to break, "I felt like the floor was falling out from under me. And I felt almost like I was going down a drain for a few moments."

Craig, a three-term Republican, pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct in August after he was accused of soliciting sex in a bathroom at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport in June. After the matter became public, Craig tried to withdraw his plea. But a judge in

Minnesota refused, saying Craig's plea "was accurate, voluntary and intelligent, and ... supported by the evidence." On Monday, Craig appealed that ruling to the Minnesota Court of Appeals. "I hoped it would go away," Craig said of his decision to plead guilty. "I wanted to avoid a media storm."

Craig, 62, says he is not Gay, and in the NBC interview, he and his wife said their marriage was based on love. Asked by Lauer whether theirs was a marriage of convenience to cover "a Gay lifestyle," Suzanne Craig responded, "I would never do that. ... That's almost like selling your soul for something." Suzanne Craig says she believes her husband is not Gay. "I honestly believe my husband has always been faithful to me in every way," she said. "I love this woman very, very much," Craig said in the interview, taped at the couple's home in suburban Eagle, Idaho. "And the day I found her I fell in love, deeply in love. And that's lasted - we're heading toward our 25th anniversary." Craig, who had initially said he planned to resign, reiterated that he will not leave his Senate seat until his term expires in January 2009. He has said he will not seek re-election. Craig said he will continue to pursue his legal options.

## Anti-Gay Policy To Cost Philly Scouts \$200,000

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania (Observer Update) - Refusing to disavow the Boy Scouts of America ban on Gays will cost its local branch \$200,000 a year if it wants to keep its headquarters in a building owned by the city, reported 365Gay.com. The Cradle of Liberty Council, the third-largest scouting group in the country has been battling with the city for more than three years over the anti-Gay policy which violates Philadelphia's human rights ordinance.

The group has made its headquarters on a half-acre owned by the city in the upscale Philadelphia Art Museum area since 1928, when the city council voted to allow the Scouts to use the property rent-free "in perpetuity." The Scouts pay for building upkeep. Fairmount Park Commission president Robert N.C. Nix said that the scouts have refused to compromise and the commission has informed the Cradle of Liberty Council it will have to pay full market value for use of the facility. If it is unwilling to pay, Nix said, the scouts would have to leave at the end of May.

Scouting officials say they will ask the city solicitor for details on the appraisals that yielded the \$200,000 figure. Jeff Jubelirer, a spokesperson for the Cradle of Liberty Council tells the Associated Press that the rent "would have to come from programs." "That's 30 new Cub Scout packs, or 800 needy kids going to our summer camp," Jubelirer said. "It's disappointing, and it's certainly a threat."

The Cradle of Liberty Council has about 64,000 members in Philadelphia and parts of Delaware and Montgomery Counties. The Boy Scouts of America's policy on Gay leaders was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2000. In 2003, the council in Philadelphia said it would adopt a nondiscrimination policy on Gays. However, weeks later the group dismissed an 18-year-old Scout who publicly acknowledged he was Gay. Since then the council has refused to reconsider the ban. City officials say it would be illegal to provide a taxpayer-owned property rent-free to a private organization that discriminates.

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**POLITICS 2007**

by Mark R. Kerr

**Q-Politics 2008:  
Representative Tom Tancredo**



Most people in the country rightfully missed the television craptacular, Sunday, October 21, sponsored by Fox News (one vowel away from what they do to the news) and featured eight, white male Republican presidential wanna-bees in yet another debate, held in a town in Florida named after a disease, Shingle Creek.

Hillary, homosexuals and 12-year-olds were the prime topics, as well as the topic of "who is the most conservative" candidate, resulting in the opening of many a "political zipper" during the 90-minute debate.

One of the eight taking part was Tom Tancredo, the homophobic, xenophobic, anti-immigration Member of Congress from Colorado's sixth Congressional District for four terms, noted for his immigrant baiting, hysterical opposition to people coming to America.

Tancredo's positions and voting record is one of the most, right-wing of the "gang of eight." He is anti-choice, anti-children, especially with the recent SCHIP legislation that he opposed, stat-

ing it would providing funding for health care for the children of illegal immigrants, intolerant of religions other than Christianity, when in 2005, he called for a nuclear bomb to be dropped on Mecca, Muslim's holiest city. Regarding security and fighting terrorism, Tancredo has stated that the U.S. should use "Jack Bauer methods," torture" for protection.

On issues of concern to the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) community, Tancredo scores a zero - the rating he received from the Human Rights Campaign in the previous 109<sup>th</sup> Congress. During this current session, the 110<sup>th</sup>, Tancredo voted against the hate-crimes bill that had passed the House earlier this year.

Tancredo opposes the proposed, federal employment non-discrimination legislation, that would protect the rights of workers from discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

In 2004 and 2006, Tancredo voted for legislation to add an amendment to the federal constitution prohibiting governmental and legal recognition of same-sex marriages, civil unions and domestic partnerships.

On adoptions by Gays and Lesbians, Tancredo has expressed his opposition, as well as voting to ban Gay and Lesbian adoptions in the District of Columbia in 1999.

Tancredo has received a zero rating from various AIDS organizations on his positions and votes on legislation concerning HIV/AIDS during his time in Congress.

"Don't ask, don't tell," the federal law prohibiting open Gays and Lesbians serving in the country's armed services would not change if Tancredo is elected President.

To get some of his right wing spin, Tancredo's campaign Web site is located at [teamtancredo.org](http://teamtancredo.org). For his positions, statements and actual voting record, go online to [vote-smart.org/bio.php?can\\_id=17030](http://vote-smart.org/bio.php?can_id=17030) or [ontheissues.org/Tom\\_Tancredo.htm](http://ontheissues.org/Tom_Tancredo.htm).

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## COMMENTARY . . .

### Support The Expansion Of The Federal Hate Crimes Law

By Barbara LaWall

Congress has passed (H.R. 1592 and the Kennedy Amendment to the Defense Department Authorization Measure) the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act. This act, if adopted, would provide Federal assistance to States, local jurisdictions, and Indian tribes to prosecute hate crimes and would provide recognition that persons targeted for hate crimes also include those based upon sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability.

One of the primary considerations of the County Attorney's Office in prosecuting crime is to do justice on behalf of victims who are harmed by criminals. When a family is burglarized, a woman sexually assaulted, a child abused, or a man is murdered, my office prosecutes the perpetrators and provides support and advocacy to the victims and their family members. We do so without regard to sexual orientation, gender identity or disability of the victim. We strive to ensure that those who threaten, endanger and harm others are sentenced to prison for an appropriate length of time.

When violent crimes are committed against individuals because they are members of a particular group, then the individual is not the only one who is victimized. Their families, friends, the community, and every member of the targeted group also suffers the

victimization.

Violent crime motivated by hate and bias devastates not just the intended victim, but it also savages the entire community sharing the traits that caused the victim to be selected.

For this reason, it is appropriate to extend federal hate crimes protections to Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and disabled individuals. It is also appropriate to impose longer prison sentences upon criminals convicted of hate crimes who target others because of their race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.

Both proposals would expand hate crimes protection to include sexual orientation, gender and disability. In addition, they also provide grants to state and local communities to combat violent crimes committed by juveniles, train law enforcement officers, and to assist in state and local investigations and prosecutions of bias motivated crimes. The problem of crimes motivated by bias is sufficiently serious, widespread, and interstate in nature as to warrant Federal assistance to States, local jurisdictions, and Indian tribes.

Please contact your Congressional Representatives and Senators and urge them to support this important piece of legislation.

(Barbara LaWall is the Pima County Attorney.)

### Guilty Plea In 'Curious George' Collaborator's Murder



Alan Shalleck

BOYNTON BEACH, Florida (Observer Update) One of two Gay men charged in the 2006 murder of Alan Shalleck, the collaborator of the "Curious George" books and TV series, has pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

"You will die in a prison cell," Circuit Judge Edward Garrison told Rex Ditto, 31. As part of a plea deal to avoid a death sentence, Ditto agreed to testify against his former boyfriend and co-accused Vincent Puglisi. Puglisi, 56, is scheduled to go on trial early next year.

Shalleck's body was found in February 2006 covered with garbage bags on the driveway of his mobile home in a Boynton Beach trailer park. An autopsy found that the 76 year old had been stabbed to death. There were more than 30 stab wound to the body and he had been struck more than 80 times with

a blunt instrument. The trailer home had been ransacked and jewelry and credit cars were missing. It was also discovered that money had been taken from Shalleck's savings account.

Tracing his final hours police determined he met his killers through a Gay sex listing service. Using Shalleck's phone records investigators were led to Ditto and Puglisi. Shalleck was the writer and director of more than 100 short episodes of Curious George, which aired on the Disney Channel, and co-wrote more than two dozen Curious George books with Margret Rey, who created the character with her husband, H.A. Rey, in 1939. Despite the success of the books and TV series Shalleck never became famous or rich out of "Curious George". He lived on his Social Security checks and made ends meet doing odd jobs.

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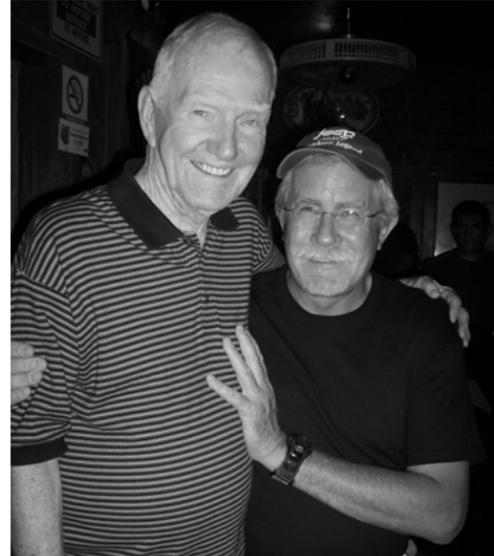
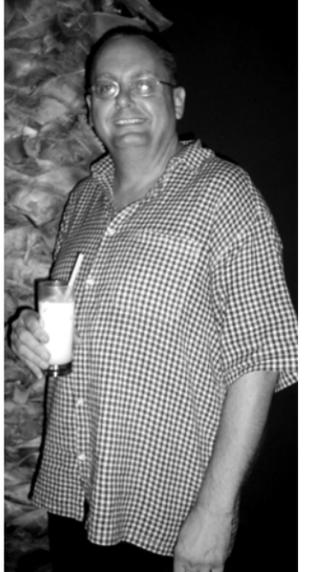
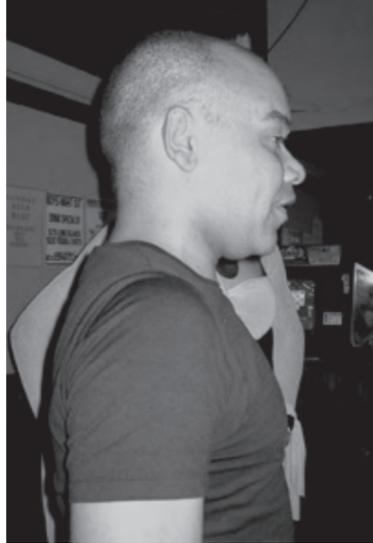
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# And A Gay Old Time Was Had By All



# Web Site Puts G/L Traveler In The Pink

PROVINCETOWN, Massachusetts - When most people plan their vacations they probably don't think about where they will feel welcome, comfortable and safe - just based on who they are, reported the Cape Cod Times. That isn't always the case for Gay travelers.

"Sometimes you take a vacation, you get there and people look at you sideways; it makes it a vacation that you didn't think it would be," says Stephen Mascilo of Provincetown. Mascilo, along with his husband, Trevor Pinker, are veteran travelers and innkeepers. They own the Oxford Inn in Provincetown and have spent a great deal of time traveling the globe. They moved to the United States from England 14 years ago and once owned the Beacon Light in Provincetown.

As experienced travelers, and as a Gay couple, they often searched for information about good places to journey. There was a service called "Out and About" in the 1990s that they say was the arbiter of Gay and Lesbian travel, but they found the reviews were sometimes outdated. Because of their own frustration in trying to find recent, accurate reviews of vacation destinations that were Gay-friendly, they decided to launch their own information resource. Two years ago, pinkchoice.com was born.

Pinkchoice is a Web site that hosts reviews of Gay travel locales and lodging, and destinations that are looking to be listed on the site as truly Gay-friendly. Some places aren't always as welcoming as they appear, so up-to-date information is vital. This past summer, for example, Jim Naugle, the mayor of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., said installing a single-occupancy restroom on a local beach could deter "homosexual activity."

England is also reviewing the way it has been promoting Gay travel. Where it once accentuated the more stereotypical sexy side of Gay travel, it is now focusing on more family-friendly activities and on the outdoorsy and historical aspects of the country. "We wanted to develop a site aimed at Gay and Lesbian travelers where they could write about their own experiences at various destinations," says Mascilo. They must have struck a chord.

Pinker says they are averaging about 800 hits a day on their site "When we started we listed about 15 properties," says Pinker. "Now we list over 1,100 sites in 200 locations."

There is no fee for joining the site. Recently reviewed properties were located in Provincetown; Saugatuck, Mich.; and Ogunquit, Maine. At the end of the calendar year, pinkchoice.com issues its Pink Choice Awards, based on the previous year's reviews. Pinker and Mascilo are careful about what makes it onto their Web site. They read each review and will even follow up on negative ones to make sure they're not written by someone with an ax to grind. "We're very conscious of how people could write things; we review every review that comes in," says Mascilo. "If there's a negative review, the innkeeper gets a notice - if they have a dispute they can get back to us. As innkeepers ourselves, we know what it's like - we want the reviews to be truthful."

Mascilo and Pinker have made their site user-friendly. There are four price bands so visitors can compare places within the same price range. For instance, you're not comparing an extravagant resort with a more modest bed-and-breakfast. Pinker and Mascilo often pepper their conversation with the term "the pink dollar," referring to the amount of money Gays and Lesbians spend in this country. And trend-trackers and businesses are taking notice. "The amount of Gay buying power has been estimated at \$600 billion spent in the U.S. each year," says Mascilo. "People in the Gay and Lesbian community tend to earn more than the average American; they vacation more, spend more and have more disposable income." So it's no surprise that businesses have come calling, looking for a piece of that very large pie. "The reason this site came about was because we wanted to create a vehicle where Gay travelers could get honest information about where they stay," says Mascilo. "People are going after the money - everyone is being Gay-friendly to get that pink dollar - but they are not always giving what was offered. We wanted to offer a way to help others to know where to go." And, he adds, "The site is growing because people are writing reviews. The more people write, the better the site, so please keep writing!"

# Elizabeth Dole's Senate Opponent Comes Out



Jim Neal

Republican Senatorial Committee in the 2006 elections. On Gay issues, Dole is consistently conservative: She has supported a constitutional amendment prohibiting same-sex marriage, and has expressed opposition to ENDA, the federal bill to extend workplace protections to Gay men and Lesbians. A Elon University poll recently put Dole's job approval rating at 50 percent. Unlike Dole, Neal appeared to affirm support for same-sex marriage, framing it as an issue of discrimination. "It's OK if churches want to unite same-sex couples," he said in the online conference. "It's OK if they don't. That's their constitutional right, which I support 100 percent. But when it comes to the government, I'm not in favor of any laws that discriminate against anyone for any reason."

Despite Dole's vulnerability, prominent North Carolina Democrats have declined to challenge her. The popular Gov. Mike Easley, Attorney General Roy Cooper and U.S. Rep. Brad Miller have all declined to throw their hats in the ring. Neal asserted his confidence that a Gay man could win in the South. "I'm not running this race to lose. I'm not running to make some social statement," he said in the conference. "I'm running to lead in the Senate for the voters in N.C. - something Sen. Dole has not done. When people meet me, they'll see beyond the labels and into my character." North Carolina's primary is Super Tuesday, Feb. 5. Neal's success may depend on whether the Republicans intend to make his sexuality an issue, says Pam Spaulding, a North Carolina resident and editor of the political LGBT-oriented blog Pamshouseblend.com. "The rural areas of this state are quite conservative and a negative campaign based on his sexuality will play well there," she told Gay.com. "The urban areas are more progressive and are likely to vote on the issues. It also depends on what kind of support he receives from the Democratic Party."

CHAPEL HILL, North Carolina - The sole Democratic challenger for Elizabeth Dole's U.S. Senate seat in North Carolina came out over the weekend in an online forum, Gay.com reported. Jim Neal, the head of a Chapel Hill corporate financial advisory firm, announced Oct. 4 he would seek the Democratic nomination, but he did not mention his sexual orientation at that time. Neal, 50, was previously married and has two sons.

On the progressive political blog BlueNC.com, Neal responded to a participant who said he heard that Neal is Gay. "I am indeed," Neal answered. "No secret and no big deal to me - I wouldn't be running if I didn't think otherwise." If successful in his bid to unseat first-term Sen. Elizabeth Dole, Neal would be the first openly Gay person in the U.S. Senate, though he would not be the only out officeholder from North Carolina. Lesbian state Sen. Julia Boseman was elected to the General Assembly in 2004.

Democratic insiders contend that Dole is vulnerable, due to her unwavering support of President Bush's policies and a poor showing by Republicans when she led the National

In response to one forum participant's warning that the right wing would be after him, Neal replied, "I'm a big boy. I can take it and I can dish it."

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The map shows a grid of streets in Tucson, Arizona. The vertical streets from left to right are: I-10 FREEWAY, ORACLE, STONE, SIXTH AVE, FOURTH AVE, FIRST AVE, MOUNTAIN, GRANT, CAMPBELL, TUCSON BLVD., COUNTRY CLUB, ALVERNON, SWAN, and CRAYCROFT. The horizontal streets from top to bottom are: PRINCE, FT. LOWELL, GLENN, SPEEDWAY, SIXTH ST., and BROADWAY. A grid of letters and numbers is overlaid on the map: 5 (top), 6 (left), 7 (left), 3 (left), 2 (left), D (left), E (bottom), A (top), B (top), F (middle), H (middle), G (right), and 8 (right). A large black sign with white text is placed over the bottom right portion of the map, reading: "TAKE YOUR I.D. TO THE BARS It's The Law!"

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# HOROSCOPES

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Sun enters Scorpio and creates a Grand Trine with Uranus and Mars. Whoops! Don't be surprised if your wildest and wooliest actions catapult you to the top of the heap. Uhhh just one question: Which heap?

**ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)**

Gay Rams shout it Out while the Sun moves and creates a grand trine. Your carefully guarded box of secrets will not only open and filter through the universe, you will find that it entices a certain perfect someone to make their move. Are you ready? Prepare yourself and your surroundings for a big home coming. Hmmm, overall, not a bad week!

**TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)**

Queer Bulls ache for companionship and can find a lot of it when the Sun dips into Scorpio and forms a grand trine. Large groups of important people are eating out of the palm of your hand. Bring moisturizer and a clear agenda. Set foundations for future discussions, especially with those who are difficult to reach or just plain difficult. Pile it on, you charmer you!

**GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)**

You can't put a price tag on professional success although you may try. Pink Twins are advised to keep their noses to the grindstone during the Sun, Mars, Uranus trine and let a few well placed folks know how hard you are working. (Uh, you ARE working hard?) Recognition is practically guaranteed and the rewards will be unimaginable. Okay, imagine away!

**CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)**

Gay Crabs strike an unusual pose with the Solar grand trine. The urge to go overboard in a big way can be too tempting to resist. But resist the urge and stick to more conservative enthusiasms. You don't want to squander your chances to make a good impression. Control your headlines before you are shifted to the gossip column or even ... oh don't ask!

**LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)**

Proud Lions prowl their lair in search of excitement. Will you phone it in or will it come to your door on its own? It is a fun and romantic time. Not only will you get a few surprises, you may become lovestruck. Rev up the passion with your lover. If you are on the bench, at very least formulate a game plan and huddle with a few wide receivers. Score in the end zone.

**VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)**

Gather the gang when the Sun moves and creates a grand trine. Queer Virgins deliver pearls of wisdom to pals and partners. All is right with the world! Use this all-too-brief sociable surge to establish a concord. Too too soon you can fall back into your all-too-usual habit of grabbing first and asking later. Of course, some folks prefer it that way.

**LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)**

Concentrate on job, career and money while the Sun makes a grand trine and orchestrates a monetary symphony just for you. Proud Libras become titans of industry as all hard work pays off big, big, big. Don't be shy and retiring; this is a rare opportunity to show the bosses what you can do. Ahem... So how many encores do you need?

**SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)**

The Sun in your sign plops all Gay Scorps squarely in the center of the universe. Anything you conjure now has its own special magic and allure. Use this energy wisely, pal; You are squatting in the epicenter of activity and can stand or tip over as you choose. It would be a shame to strut and fret your time on the stage and then be heard no more. Plan for a long run.

**SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)**

This can be the most affirming time ever. The solar grand trine helps to settle any outstanding personal, spiritual or family debt once and for all and enables you to take your life to an entirely new level. Attend to your personal needs in the context of your relationships to others but don't compromise on the vitally important things. Others will have to adjust, at least a little bit.

**CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)**

Pink Caps have more fans than they can manage now as the Sun changes signs and forms a grand trine. Not only can friendships blossom, potential partnerships can be formed or existing ones, strengthened. Carefully make your communication missives a direct hit. Can you harness this stampede of love and affection? Yeeha! Ride 'em cowboy!

**AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)**

The day to day job takes a refreshingly creative turn during the solar trine. Aqueerians must use this advantageous time to build on their past professional successes and get a leg up on the corporate ladder. You are especially fiscally minded and can find ways of rewarding all the worker ants in your midst. Don't accept crumbs; go for the big bucks... and the big buckeroos!!

**PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)**

Fun takes you to all corners of the world where you tryst and shout with new folks and new ideas. Expand and enrich your horizons, Guppie; it's a time for experimentation, speculation and squeezing those artistic juices to pulp. But know when enough is enough; Those who exceed their limits will be tossed out of respectable places with the rest of the trash. Ah typical!

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# Appeal Denied In Brandon Teena Murder

FALLS CITY, Nebraska (Observer Update) - A judge has turned down a motion for a new trial for one of the two men convicted in the 1993 murder of Trans teen Brandon Teena (pictured), 365Gay.com reported.

John Lotter is on death row for the murders of Teena and two others. The killings led to the award-winning 1999 film, "Boy's Don't Cry". Lotter applied for a new trial last month after Lotter's partner in the murders, Marvin Nissen, said he was the only attacker and that he had shot and stabbed all three. Nissen is serving a life sentence. During his trial Nissen blamed Lotter for carrying out the murders. Nissen at the time said he had stabbed Brandon but that Lotter fired all the shots that killed Brandon and the others. Nissen made the admission of full guilt last month in a sworn affidavit that was used in Lotter's motion for a new trial. The motion was opposed by state Attorney General Jon Bruning.

The December 31, 1993 killings galvanized Falls City, Brandon's hometown, and for the first time put a national spotlight on the plight of the Transgendered. Following the release of "Boy's Don't Cry" Trans people began to actively organize, leading to the first civil rights laws for trans citizens. Teena was a female to male pre-op Transsexual and had been living as a male for several years. In December, 1993 he went to County Sheriff Charles Laux and reported he had been raped by two men, John Lotter and Marvin Nissen, after they discovered he had been born female and still had female organs. Teena had been dating a female friend of Lotter's at the time. Laux refused to investigate. A week later Teena was murdered by the pair who also killed two people who witnessed the killing. Lotter and Nissen were eventually charged, tried, and sentenced, but not before the nation became gripped by the brutality of the case and the indifference of authorities. An appeal by Lotter was rejected by the Nebraska Court of Appeal in 2003.

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## FDA Warns Of Viagra Hearing Loss

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Viagra and other impotence drugs are about to bear new warnings that users may experience sudden hearing loss, 365Gay.com reported. It's not clear that the drugs truly trigger hearing loss, but the Food and Drug Administration decided Thursday (October 18) to add a warning about the possible risk after counting 29 reports of the problem since 1996 among users of this family of medicines.

The impotence drugs Viagra, Cialis and Levitra will bear the warnings. So will Revatio, a drug for pulmonary hypertension, which contains the same ingredient as Viagra. Viagra's label already mentioned hearing loss as a possibility, because a few cases were reported during initial testing of that drug. But given that hearing loss is a risk of advancing age and certain condi-

tions, such as diabetes and heart disease, that can lead to impotence, it wasn't clear if the link was real.

That still isn't clear, said FDA ear nose and throat specialist Dr. Robert Boucher. But in poring over FDA's database of possible drug reactions, what struck him was these 29 reports said the hearing loss occurred without hours to two days of taking one of the drugs. "We don't know enough to say that it's ironclad caused by the drugs, but we see enough to say we can't ignore it either," he said. The reports involve hearing loss in one ear, which in a third of cases was temporary. FDA urged patients who experience any hearing problems - loss or ringing in the ears - to promptly call their doctors and stop taking the impotence drugs.

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# DAILY BAR CALENDAR

## SUNDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-2am; \$2 Pitchers til 10pm and Rotating Shot Specials all night; Latino Explosion 9pm with DJ Hill. Beer Bust 5-10pm

COLORS - Open 10am - 10pm Champagne Brunch 10am - 2pm with choice of complimentary mimosa, Bloody Mary or Screwdriver included. Happy Hour 4-7pm \$3.50 Skyy Cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and well. Appetizers ½ price 4-6. Brunch served until 2pm. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

HOWL AT THE MOON - 10am. Starting 9/9. NFL package here. Wear an NFL team t-shirt or jersey and get 50¢ off your drink. Smirnoff Vodkas \$2.50 all day. Free Texas Hold-'Em Poker Tournaments at 3 and 6 pm. Play for points and prizes - no cash involved. \$1 chili dogs during game.

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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Places. Happy Hour pricing.

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7. \$3.50 Skyy Cocktails, \$2.75 well & domestics. Appetizers ½ price 4-6m. Full menu served until 10pm.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Happy Hour all day & night with \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Watch MNF here! \$1.00 hot dogs during game. Free Texas Hold-Em Poker tourney at 6 & 8:30, Play for points and prizes. No cash involved.

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 - Half-Price Happy Hour 3-8pm. Karaoke 8pm-12am with 2 for 1 drinks.

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7 \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and well and ½ price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Pitcher. \$2.50 well margaritas and tequila. 75¢ off call tequilas. Free Texas Hold-Em Poker for women only at 6:00 p.m. Play for points and prizes - no cash involved. Fabu Tuesdays with your hostess Chantelle Douglas as your hostess for a mid-week brek. Show starts at 9:30 p.m.

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 (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday every month \$2.00).

WOODY'S - Open Noon til 2am. Happy Hour Noon-8pm (excl spec events). Havana Night with Woody's own Specialty Mojitos, Caprioskas and Martinis.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. 50¢ off any Top Shelf Tequila until 8pm Dart Tourney at 9am. 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 Hill at 9pm! Rotating Shot Specials all night. Patio Bar opens @ 10:30pm.

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and ½ price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials. Every Wednesday is "Cabaret Open Mic Night". Sign up at 6:30 - Show starts at 7. MC: Cabaret Diva Liz McMahon. Music Director: Marilyn Harris.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Pitchers. \$5.00 Jager Bombs and Long Island Ice Tea. Free Texas Hold-'Em Poker Tournaments at 6 & 8:30 pm Play for points & Prizes. No cash involved.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, "Divalicious" 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

WOODY'S - Open Noon til 2am; Happy Hour Noon-8pm (excl Spec Events); Chili Dog Buffet 5-9pm; Underwear/Fetish/Leather Party 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. Dart Tourney 8pm.

## 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 now ts at 10pm with Tori Steele, China Colliins and guests. \$2 Pitchers and Rotating Shot Specials. Followed by DJ Hill til 2am.

COLORS - Open 4pm-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and Well and ½ price appetizers. Full menu served until 10. Nightly dinner specials..

HOWL AT THE MOON - Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Pitcher. Mexican Beers \$2.50 all lday, all night. Karaoke starts at 8:30 p.m.

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

## 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 Hill at 9pm. Rotating Shot Specials all night! Patio Bar opens at 10:30pm

COLORS - Open 4pm-midnight. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and Well and ½ price appetizers. Finlandia martinis \$5.50 open to close! Full menu served until 10. "Hot Jazz, Cool Martinis" with Susan Artemis & Craig Faltn 6:30 to 9:30. "Guys & Dolls" drag show hosted by Lucinda Holliday at 10pm. Nightly dinner specials. Drink specials during the drag show.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Pitcher. \$2.50 Smirnoff Ice. Triple Black, Green Apple and Raspberry Twisters. Free Country dance lessons at 7:30p.m. DJ Pat plays the best of contemporary and classic country 8:30 to close..

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

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio open 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 - \$2.00 U-Call-Its til 11pm. Saturday night dance party with DJ Hill 9pm. Patio Bar opens at 10:30pm.

COLORS - Open 4pm-10pm, Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and Well, ½ price appetizers 4-6. Pianist/Vocalist Marilyn Harris 6:30-9:30. Full menu served until 10. Nightly dinner specials.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 11am. Happy Hour 11-8pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. \$4.50 cheeseburger & fries. \$2.50 Captain Morgan or Malibu Rum all day, all night. Check our calendar for the Saturday Night Special Entertainment.

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

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26

HOWL AT THE MOON - Line dance lessons with Amaanda 7:30 p.m.

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27

HOWL AT THE MOON - Latino and dance music with DJ Shorty.

WOODY'S - Halloween Party. Costume Contest 11pm - 1<sup>st</sup> Prize \$150; 2<sup>nd</sup> \$75. Minimum of 10 contestants. Hosted by Ajia Simone.

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30

HOWL AT THE MOON - Glamour Doll show hosted by Chantelle Douglas with special guest Venecia Bonita 7:30 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 31

IBT's - Halloween Party 9:00 p.m. to Closing. Throw on a little make-up and join the party for IBT's annual party. Drag Show, Drink specials, costume contest. Music by DJ Q.

VENTURE-N - Halloween Party 9:00 p.m. to close. Drink Specials and Costume Contest.

WOODYS - Costume Party/Contest at 11pm. 1<sup>st</sup> Prize \$200; 2<sup>nd</sup> \$100; 3<sup>rd</sup> \$50. Minimum of 10 contestants. Hosted by Ajia Simone.

YARD DOG - Halloween Contest at 10:00 p.m. Winner gets ticket to Las Vegas

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4

HOWL AT THE MOON - Couples dance lessons with Amanda 7:30 p.m.

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3

HOWL AT THE MOON - Fundraiser for AGRA - Arizona Gay Rodeo Association. Pussy LeHoot is your hostess for the evening.

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

HOWL AT THE MOON - The Roast and Toast of Lucinda Holliday. 7:00 p.m. SHARP. Tickets \$30 each. Limited tickets available. Ticket info - Lucindaholiday@aol.com or 520-250-8003.

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9

HOWL AT THE MOON - Line Dance lessons with Libby 7:30 p.m.

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10

HOWL T THE MOON - Fundraiser for 1st Annual GLBT Bowling Tournament.

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11

HOWL AT THE MOON - Miss Carousel Newcomers Pageant - TIHAN Benefit.

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16

HOWL AT THE MOON - couples Dance Lessons with Amanda 7:30 p.m.

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# NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

**TUCSON KNIGHT OWLS (T.K.O)** Openly invites new members to our monthly meetings which occur on the first Saturday of every month at 12:00 pm., followed by a beer bust from 2pm to 6pm., at our home bar the Yard Dog saloon.

**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. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Tucson.

#### YOUNG AND GAY?

GLBT Youth 23 and under, meet every Saturday in Tucson for sharing, support and information. Meetings are held at 425 E. 7th Street from 3 to 4:30 pm. You are not alone. For more info call Wingspan, 624-1779.

The **TUCSON Chapter of PRIME TIMERS WORLDWIDE** invites Gay or Bisexual men and their admirers to join and share Prime Timers fellowship. We welcome mature men (and admirers) who wish to become involved with planned and future Prime Timers (TPT) activities. Meetings luncheons and dinners are held monthly. For dates, times and information call 298-6727, leave name and phone number. [Tucsonpt@primetimersww.org](mailto:Tucsonpt@primetimersww.org)

**TUCSON 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 325\_2111 7am-7pm M-F - 9am-5pm weekend and holidays.

**AIDS HOTLINE - 326-AIDS.** Hours M-F, 9:00 am to 10:00 pm. Information, counseling, HIV-related services, Tucson.

**GAY OR BI-SEXUAL MEN** in relationships with women. Need friends you can talk to? Weekly support group meets Wednesdays 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Licensed psychologist facilitator. Call 745-6977 in Tucson for more information. Strictly confidential.

**WINGSPAN - Tucson's Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Community Center,** 425 E. 7th St., offers support groups / info line / social events / library / meeting space. Volunteer Opportunities. Board meetings every 2nd Thursday (open to all), 6:00 p.m. Information 624-1779.

**GREATER PHOENIX GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (GPGLCC)** P.O. BOX 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2097. E-mail: [webmaster@gpglcc.org](mailto:webmaster@gpglcc.org) or call (602)225-8444.

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

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

**IINNER 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.btop.com](http://www.btop.com) All are welcome to our general meetings/potlucks on the 2nd Friday of every month, at 3202 E. 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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](http://www.desertvoices.org), or call (520)791-9662 for information about upcoming concerts or how to join.

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

**AA Meeting with HIV/AIDS focus,** Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., Wingspan Annex, 425 E. 7<sup>th</sup> 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](http://teamarizona.org)

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

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

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

**TUCSON PRIDE, INC.** (Formerly Tucson Lesbian and Gay Alliance - TLGA) meets on the second 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](http://www.tucsonpride.com)

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

**TUCSON INTERFAITH HIV/AIDS NETWORK (TIHAN),** a coalition of faith communities committed to a compassionate response to HIV/AIDS, provides HIV education in congregational settings, volunteer 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.

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

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

**SOUTHERN ARIZONA GENDER ALLIANCE (SAGA).** The Southwest's largest transgender and gender-diversity advocacy organization. Speakers and panelists available. General meetings monthly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Mondays at 7pm; Dezerz Girlz (MTF Support) meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays at 7pm; Dezerz Boyz (FTM Support) meets 3<sup>rd</sup> 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).

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

**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](http://www.lctucson.org) write: LC, 7014 E. Golf Links Road, PMB 212, Tucson, AZ 85730.

**REVELLE MEN'S CHORUS** rehearses Thursday evenings 7-10pm at the Historic Y, corner of University Blvd. And 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at Desert Dominion, 3843 E. 37<sup>th</sup> Street, Tucson, AZ. (Map available at [www.desertdominion.org](http://www.desertdominion.org)) For those who are kinky or just curious. No fee, contributions are appreciated, but not required.

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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays, 7-9pm. Potluck dinner. Donation.

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



## Around The Nation

MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin - A Wisconsin law that bars the state from paying for gender reassignment surgery for prison inmates violates the U.S. Constitution a federal judge was told, 365Gay.com reported. Lambda Legal and the ACLU are suing the state on behalf of five Transgender women incarcerated in Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin law, passed in 2006, bars access to hormone therapy or sex reassignment surgery for prison inmates and others in state custody. Previously prison doctors were allowed to determine proper treatment for Transgender inmates. The new law strips them of that power. The court has allowed Transgender prisoners to continue receiving treatment while the case is being heard. Lambda and the ACLU argue that the law is a violation of the federal Constitution's guarantee of equal protection - the right to have the same access and be treated equally by the law. . . .

WORCESTER, Massachusetts (Observer Update) - The former leader of a Catholic group advocating a constitutional ban on Gay marriage in Massachusetts has been found not guilty of assault and civil rights violations stemming from a demonstration last December.

Larry Cirignano, 50, who at the time was the head of Catholic Citizenship, was alleged to have attacked a woman taking part in a counter demonstration at an anti-Gay rally in front of Worcester City Hall last December 16. Sarah Loy, 27, was part of a group who stood near the front of the rally where Cirignano was speaking. Loy was carrying a sign reading "No discrimination in the Constitution". Cirignano reportedly had just finished leading the Pledge of Allegiance when he spotted Loy and her sign. Police allege that he left the podium and tackled Loy to the ground. "You need to get out. You need to get out of here right now," he reportedly told her as her head was pushed into the concrete sidewalk. Several other witnesses, including a reporter for the Worcester Telegram, corroborated Loy's account. But a woman who was not

connected to either demonstration and just happened to be at city hall that day with her daughter testified that Loy tripped over her daughter's shoe. The jury deliberated 7 hours before reaching a verdict.

Cirignano several weeks after the incident left Catholic Citizenship to lead a similar anti-Gay marriage group nationally and now lives outside Washington DC. The Worcester rally was one of several Catholic Citizenship helped organize to pressure lawmakers to approve the proposed amendment. It was later rejected by lawmakers. . . .

ATLANTA, Georgia - Police are searching for a drive by shooter who fired on a group people on their way to a popular Atlanta Gay club, 365Gay.com reported. Witnesses say the group of about five had stopped at a convenience store on their way to Wet Bar early Friday morning (October 19) when a man entered the store and began yelling Gay epithets at the group. He then left the store, got into his vehicle, and drove off. As the group made its way to the nearby club the car approached them. A window was rolled down and the man began firing. Two people were slightly wounded. The others were unhurt. Wet Bar was hosting the closing party for the Out on Film film festival at the time.

It is not the first time patrons of an Atlanta Gay club have been attacked. Four people were injured when a pipe bomb went off near the doorway of Otherside Lounge in February 21, 1997. The bombing occurred about 9:30 pm, just as the club was beginning to fill up. After patrons were evacuated from the club, investigators discovered and detonated a second bomb that had been hung in shrubs overlooking the parking lot. Serial bomber Eric Rudolph is serving time in prison for the attack and bombings at two abortion clinics and the 1996 bombing at the Atlanta Olympics.

## Conservative Groups Target Calif. Students Rights Act

SACRAMENTO, California (Observer Update) - Socially conservative groups have begun a petition drive to repeal legislation that would protect California students from bias, 365Gay.com reported. The Student Civil Rights Act was signed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. It would protect students from harassment and bullying in public schools by making sure teachers and school administrators understand their responsibilities to protect youth.

Students, under the legislation, would be protected on the basis of gender, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation. It also requires the state to ensure teachers and school administrators fully understand their responsibilities to protect youth. The measures are similar to legislation rejected last year by Schwarzenegger who at the time said it was vague and potentially confusing and was redundant because California's education code already prohibits discrimination in schools.

Opponents of the legislation lashed out at Schwarzenegger for signing the bill this month. The groups behind the petition drive are the same as those who fought and lost an attempt in the state Supreme Court to overturn California's domestic partner law. They have filed the schools act petition with the state Attorney General's office which must give it a title and summary. Once it

is given a title, the petitioners will have 150 days to circulate petitions and collect 433,971 valid voter signatures in order to qualify the referendum for the ballot. "It is ironic that an organization that alleges to promote 'family values' has chosen to fight a law that will protect all California youth based on religion, race, nationality and gender, not just sexual orientation," said Equality California Executive Director Geoff Kors. "In a desperate attempt to deny full equality to people - and in this case, youth - who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender, right wing extremists continue to wage a misguided attack on the Student Civil Rights Act."

Supporters of the repeal referendum argue the legislation would force schools to allow boys to use girls' washrooms or run for homecoming queen. "They are using fear-based tactics and deceptive propaganda to repeal legislation that has already received the approval of the Legislature and Gov. Schwarzenegger," said Kors. The legislation is slated to go into effect January 1. If the petitioners get enough signatures to force the issue onto the ballot implementation would be delayed. The act was one of several pro-Gay bills signed by the governor after vetoing legislation that would have allowed Gay and Lesbian couples in the state to marry. One of those bills, the Safe Place to Learn Act, requires the Department of Education to monitor the way schools adhere to the state's anti-

## Across The Q Globe

SINGAPORE (Observer Update) - The country's Parliament on Tuesday (October 23) passed a sweeping revision of its penal law, eliminating sodomy as a crime for heterosexual couples but leaving in place provisions that could send Gays to jail.

It was the first revision of the city state's penal code in 22-years and LGBT activists mounted an intensive campaign to have sodomy laws, dating back to British rule, repealed. Under the law anyone engaging in same-sex sodomy could face two years in prison, although police say no one has been charged in recent times. . . .

AVON, England - A fire chief said "hysterical homophobia" was to blame for the criticism he had received after disciplining four firefighters. Avon Fire & Rescue Service boss Kevin Pearson fined the officers £1,000 each for being in the public cruising area.

At the time it was reported the officers were in trouble for shining a light at men having sex. Pearson told a meeting of the fire authority the incident had been "reported inaccurately" in the media. He denied claims his men had witnessed sexual activity on Bristol's Downs. The chief fire officer said the firefighters had "no operational reason" for being there at that time of night and had all accepted they had brought the service into disrepute. . . .

VATICAN CITY (Observer Update) - A high-profile Vatican cleric suspended after he was shown on television making advances to a young man allegedly had a list of homosexual priests and bishops in the Roman Catholic Church's governing body.

Father Tommaso Stenico had "a detailed dossier" of all the homosexual clerics at Vatican "with a list of names and circumstances implicating a certain number of priests and even bishops working at the Curia", Ignazio Ingrao, reporter for the conservative news weekly said. Stenico also sent his superior Cardinal Claudio Hummes a report denouncing the moral degradation within the Curia, which could make the Vatican "tremble", Ingrao said. According to Panorama, Stenico, who also worked for a Catholic television station Telepace and owns a white BMW car, also drew up the list out of resentment at having waited so long to be named a bishop. . . .

SYDNEY, Australia - Labour Party Leader Kevin Rudd has angered members of the Gay community by saying he is opposed to homosexual marriage and refusing to be drawn on the question of Gay couples adopting children.

"When it comes to the Marriage Act, that is the responsibility of the Federal Parliament," Mr Rudd said. "And the Marriage Act relates to a union between a man and a woman, and that remains Labor policy as it has been into the past and as it will remain into the future. Australian Coalition for Equality spokesman Rodney Croome said the community was disappointed by Mr Rudd's comments. Croome said that partners in same-sex relationships would continue to be second-class citizens while they were denied the right to marry. "It's disappointing that Kevin Rudd is not willing to reconsider this issue given that the most recent polling shows almost 60 per cent of Australians support same-sex marriage," Croome said.

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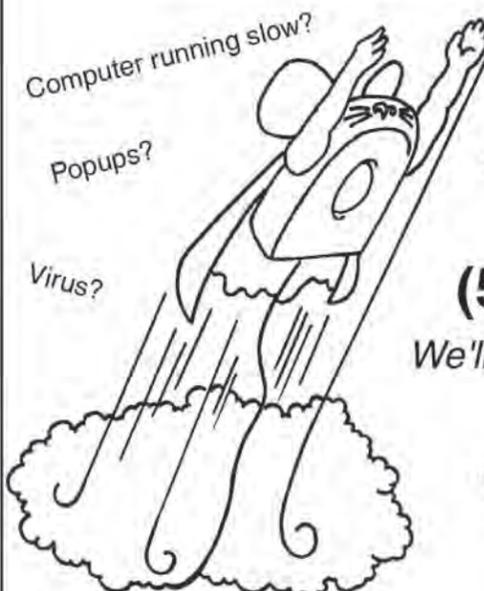
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bias laws The governor also signed a bill that bans discrimination in government services based on sexual orientation and gender identity. And he signed legislation that provides safeguards to protect LGBT youth from abuse and mistreatment in California's Department of Juvenile Justice facilities. Earlier this year, Schwarzenegger signed legislation allowing same-sex couples to have a common surname and a bill making it easier for couples to file state income tax.

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