Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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Ambassador Criticized For Taking Partner To Ball

BUCHAREST, Romania - The Family Research Council (FRC), a conservative group that opposes Gay rights, has charged that the openly Gay U.S. ambassador to Romania has offended employees of the American embassy in Bucharest as well as citizens of Romania by "flaunting" his relationship with his same-sex partner.

An article appearing on the FRC's Internet site said an American embassy worker who recently spoke with FRC alleged that several embassy employees and their families have expressed concern about Ambassador Michael Guest's "living arrangement." At least one embassy employee and his spouse "will no longer bring their children to embassy social events because they do not want them exposed to the examples set by Guest and his 'partner,'" the article said. The article did not identify the embassy worker, reported the Washington Blade.

President Bush nominated Guest for the ambassador job last June. The U.S. Senate voted unanimously to approve the nomination.

Guest, a career U.S. Foreign Service officer, departed for Romania in September after Secretary of State Colin Powell acknowledged Guest's partner, school teacher Alex Nevarez, during a ceremony in which Powell administered the oath of office to Guest. Nevarez has joined Guest in Bucharest and is living with him in the embassy's residential quarters.

A spokesperson for the U.S. State Department in Washington said the department has no knowledge of any problems associated with Guest.

"I have not seen any reports on this," said spokesperson Frederick Jones. "We are not aware of any complaints."

A spokesperson for the Romanian Embassy in Washington said Romanian officials, press commentators, and political leaders have praised Guest for his knowledge of and interest in Romania and Eastern European affairs.

"This is not an issue," said Romanian Embassy spokesperson Geta Juverdeanu. "He is judged on his professional qualities, which are considered the best."

Although Guest was a member of a Gay employees group at the State Department, his sexual orientation did not surface publicly until his swearing-in ceremony.

Several anti-Gay groups, including the FRC, criticized Bush for nominating Guest for an ambassadorial post, saying Guest would likely try to use his position to advance the "homosexual agenda." Guest has said he would not interject Gay issues into his job. But the FRC article said "his mere presence in Bucharest is already having that effect."

The FRC article said some U.S. embassy workers were upset when Guest and Nevarez "escorted one another as a couple at the embassy's annual Marine Corps Ball, a highly formal event."

"It's causing me to have to compromise the values I raise my family by," the article quoted the unnamed embassy worker as saying.

Jones, the State Department spokesperson, said the contingent of U.S. Marine Corp guards assigned to all U.S. embassies overseas sponsors the annual Marine Balls as fund raisers for various charities. He said attendance is not mandatory and that the event is for adult embassy employees and their adult guests.

"All embassy employees are entitled to their own opinions," Jones said. "To the best of my knowledge, there have been no complaints lodged against Ambassador Guest. The State Department has no complaints against this ambassador."

Juverdeanu said Guest stood at Powell's side in Bucharest in early December as Powell joined foreign ministers from nearly 50 European countries who attended a conference of the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe.

"Ambassador Guest is very highly approved in Romania by the government and by the media," Juverdeanu said. "We feel what is important is how well you are doing your job, not your personal life."

Pro-Gay Surgeon General Retires

WASHINGTON, DC - Surgeon General David Satcher will end his four-year term this week. Often at odds with both the Clinton and Bush administrations, Satcher has been consistently outspoken in his belief in equality.

He's said Americans should learn to accept Gays and Lesbians for who they are. He's said there's no evidence that teaching teens sexual abstinence by itself is effective. He's praised programs that give drug addicts clean needles to shoot up.

Although his views were often met with censure from all quarters of the White House, Satcher says he leaves with a thorough understanding of where science ends and politics begins.

"When you say drug addiction is a medical problem, the public health science is overwhelming. Does that mean the Congress is going to act that way when it pass-

CONTINUED ON PAGE ELEVEN

Powell's AIDS Prevention Message Angers Right

WASHINGTON, DC - Secretary of State Colin Powell deeply angered some the White House's most ideologically conservative allies, when he strongly advocated condom use to prevent the spread of AIDS.

In an interview with MTV, Powell said too many people in the United States and abroad are not dealing honestly with the issue. "It is important that the whole international community come together to speak candidly about it," he said.

"Forget about taboos, forget about conservative ideas with respect to what you should tell young people about," Powell continued. "It's the lives of young people that are put at risk by unsafe sex. And, therefore," he told his young audience, "protect yourself."

Powell's remarks, aired last night on MTV and scheduled for rebroadcast internationally, are consistent with U.S. support of international AIDS prevention programs. But they differ sharply with views advocated by the president and other conservatives in the administration.

The Washington Post quotes Ken Connor of the Family Research Council as saying Powell's remarks were "reckless and irresponsible" and a "slap in the face" to the president's core constituency.

Tom Coburn, new chairman of Bush's advisory commission on AIDS has said that condoms give teenagers a "false sense of security," and has repeated the White House mantra that abstinence is the only sure-fire AIDS prevention strategy.

When confronted with the release of the Surgeon General's report which said there was no proof abstinence only education was an effective HIV prevention method, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said: "The president continues to believe that abstinence and abstinence education is the most effective way to prevent AIDS, to prevent unwanted pregnancy."

The MTV program put Powell in Washington before a live studio audience linked by satellite with audiences assembled in six other countries. The unscripted exchange touched on various aspects of U.S. foreign policy before 19-year-old Daniela Satori posed the following question:

"As a young Catholic woman," she said through an interpreter, "I would like to know from the secretary of state what he thinks of the Catholic position on condoms, which are prohibited, and therefore condemns anyone who might be exposed to this virus."

"I certainly respect the view of the Holy Father and the Catholic Church," Powell replied. "In my own judgment, condoms are a way to prevent infection," he said. "Therefore, I not only support their use, I encourage their use among people who are sexually active and need to protect themselves."

Lesbian Mom Will Appeal To Supreme Court

MONTGOMERY, AL - A Lesbian mother trying to get custody of her three children will ask the U.S. Supreme Court to reverse last week's Alabama supreme court decision awarding the children to their father.

The nine-member state supreme court ruled unanimously in favor of a Birmingham man and against his ex-wife, who lives with her Gay partner in Southern California. The Alabama supreme court reversed a lower court decision that had awarded custody to the mother. The parents weren't named in court documents to protect the identity of their teenage children.

Birmingham attorney Wendy Crew, who represents the mother, said that she will ask the U.S. Supreme Court to consider an appeal because the case represents a conflict between two states' laws. "The state of California has legitimized my client's relationship," Crews said in reference to her client's registered domestic partnership, which is legal in California. "Judge [Roy] Moore has said her relationship is criminal. You've got a horrible conflict of law here. Judge Moore is failing to give full faith and credit to California law," Crew said.

The Alabama supreme court's main decision did not mention the domestic partnership, but the chief justice's concurring opinion did. Moore wrote that the mother's homosexuality makes her an unfit parent and that homosexuality is "abhorrent, immoral, detestable, a crime against nature, and a violation of the laws of nature."

Meanwhile, an Alabama state representative said that he will file an ethics complaint against Moore over his ruling. Rep. Alvin Holmes said language in Moore's 35-page opinion that claims all homosexuals are inherently evil violates the state judicial ethics canon and that Moore should be removed from office. "The statutes of Alabama, the constitution of Alabama, and the Constitution of the United States do not designate blacks, Hispanics, gays, Jews, lesbians, Asians, Muslims, or others as evil," Holmes said. "It's almost inconceivable the chief justice of the state would take a position like that."

UPDATE

Treasures For TIHAN February 23

TUCSON - The excitement is building for the "Treasures for TIHAN" benefit auction, Saturday February 23, 5:30 p.m. at The Radisson Hotel Tucson City Center, 181 West Broadway Road.

"Treasures for TIHAN" consists of both a silent and live auction, and is the largest fund raising event for the programs and services provided by TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network).

The festivities begin with the silent auction, a dinner buffet, a no host bar, and musical entertainment by Brad Holland of Tunesmythe.

The silent auction will be followed by a live auction at 7:15 p.m. Back by popular demand will be auctioneer extraordinaire Dan Haslam, imported from San Diego to share his great humor and skills. Over 200 silent and live auction items will be available, including paintings, ceramics, textiles, jewelry, sculpture, resort stays, unique gift items, furniture, and gift certificates for fine dining and a variety of services (massage, hair salons, theater, trips and travel) from Tucson's most outstanding artists and businesses.

Tickets for "Treasures for TIHAN" are on sale now -- $30 in advance / $35 at the door -- through the TIHAN office, (520) 299-6647, and may be billed to your credit card.

TLGA Announces Logo Contest

TUCSON - The Tucson Lesbian/Gay Alliance announced their annual logo contest for OUToberFEST '02, with the theme, "PRIDE: It's Not Just A Gay Thing."

According to organizers, entries must be received no later than April 12th and must include OUToberFEST '02 and "PRIDE: It's Not Just A Gay Thing" in the proposed artwork.

Entrants may use as many colors as he or she wishes. Please keep in mind that the winning logo will be used in a variety of ways including b/w advertising, color advertising, posters, programs, etc. All entries becomes the property of the Tucson Lesbian & Gay Alliance. The winning entrant will receive a check for $100.00! So put on your creative hats and develop stunning designs for Tucson's OUToberFEST '02.

Mail entries to: Tucson Lesbian & Gay Alliance, P.O. Box 40301, Tucson, AZ 85717-0301.

For further questions or to make arrangements to deliver your entry please call the PRIDELine, (520) 622-3200.

AIDS Candlelight Memorial Update

TUCSON - Tucson will be participating in the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial on Sunday, May 19. Wingspan, the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) and the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) will be working in collaboration to restructure and carry out the event this year.

Organizers hope to create a meaningful and memorable tribute to loved ones and family members we have lost to AIDS while redoubling our commitment to finding a cure.

A planning committee is being formed that will design and implement the event in Tucson. While the event will be coordinated by staff members from all three agencies, the planning and implementation will be driven by the energy of volunteers and community members. If you would like to be involved in the planning, please come to the first planning committee meeting that will be held on Tuesday, February 26, 5:30 p.m. at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. (one block west of 4th Ave., across the street from Muse).

Forum On LGBT Homeless Youth

TUCSON - A forum on LGBT homeless youth will be held 7:00 p.m., Thursday, February 28, at Wingspan, 300 E. Sixth Street.

The needs of homeless youth who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender are often overlooked. National population estimates of LGBT homeless youth vary but generally range from 20-40% of homeless youth, making them over-represented among this population. Sadly, LGBT homeless youth are usually not homeless by choice, but rather are no longer welcome within their homes. In addition to obstacles faced by all homeless youth, LGBT youth face additional problems, including higher rates of suicide, survival sex, social isolation, violence and harassment at home and at school, inability to talk with service providers about sexual orientation, and fear of shelters.

The forum will feature a panel discussion of a newly-released report entitled Out On Their Own: A Preliminary Assessment of Needs and Services for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Homeless Youth.

Gay Actor George Nader Dies At 80

WOODLAND HILLS, CA - Actor George Nader, whose muscular good looks made him a beefcake star in more than 50 films, died of pneumonia at the age of 80, reported the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

Nader, who was an heir of his friend Rock Hudson's estate, died at the Motion Picture Country Home near Woodland Hills, Calif.

In 1954, Nader won a Golden Globe award as the most promising new actor. He starred in "Six Bridges to Cross" with Tony Curtis, "Lady Godiva" with Maureen O'Hara and "Sins of Jezebel" with Paulette Goddard.

He also appeared in such cult science-fiction films as "Robot Monster" and "The Human Duplicators."

In the 1960s, Hollywood gossip swirled about Nader and Rock Hudson being romantically involved. Nader was in fact involved with Hudson's secretary, Mark Miller, who became Nader's longtime partner.

Nader came out of the closet in 1986, according to the Advocate.

He retired from acting in 1974, and wrote a science-fiction novel, "Chrome," that featured a love story between Gay robots. It was published in 1978. With Miller, he also wrote the forthcoming "The Perils of Paul," a novel about Gays in Hollywood.

Nader is survived by Miller and three cousins.

Dog Mauling Trial Begins

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - In opening statements in the criminal dog-mauling trial in Los Angeles, the prosecutor argued that the dogs' owners had been warned about their dangerous pets, which fatally attacked lacrosse coach Diane Whipple last year.

Promising to present at least 30 examples of such warnings, San Francisco Assistant District Attorney Jim Hammer also told jurors that one of the presa canario dogs owned by the defendants, Robert Noel and Marjorie Knoller, had bit off part of Noel's finger, the Associated Press reported.

Hammer also noted that one of the dogs had previously bitten Whipple on the hand.

Jurors were shown photos of Whipple's injuries from the attack, which occurred in the hallway of her San Francisco apartment building on Jan. 26, 2001. Whipple's domestic partner, Sharon Smith, reportedly left the courtroom when the photos were displayed, reported the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

Nedra Ruiz, defense attorney for Knoller, countered by saying that her client was not accustomed to violent behavior from the dogs, AP reported, and that she threw herself on Whipple to protect her.

Both Noel and Knoller are charged with involuntary manslaughter and owning a mischievous animal that killed a human being. Knoller, who was walking the dogs at the time of the attack, is also charged with second-degree murder. Both dogs have since been destroyed.

The trial was moved from San Francisco to Los Angeles because of extensive publicity about the case.

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Play Safe!

Writing History To Executive Order

By Richard Reeves

WASHINGTON, DC - With a stroke of the pen on Nov. 1, President Bush stabbed history in the back and blocked Americans' right to know how presidents (and vice presidents) have made decisions. Executive Order 13223 ended more than 30 years of increasing openness in government.

From now on, scholars, journalists and any other citizens will have to show a demonstrated, specific "need to know" in requesting documents from the Reagan, Clinton and two Bush presidencies, and all others to come. And if someone asks to see records never made public during a presidency but deposited in the National Archives by a former president, the requester will now have to receive the permission of both the former president and the current one.

My response was to send President Bush a couple of books on recent presidencies, along with a note saying they might become valuable artifacts because his order could prevent writers from doing similar research without approval from two presidents. I also attached a letter from his father to me explaining how important it is to document presidential decision-making.

Archival research is grinding work. It takes years of perseverance to follow the paper trail documenting how the nation goes to war or raises taxes, or how presidents choose their staffs. But the search becomes worthwhile when you see John F. Kennedy's initials on a memo talking of the possibility of a Berlin wall weeks before the Communists put it up, or when you find Richard Nixon asking Henry Kissinger in a note, "Is it possible we were wrong from the start in Vietnam?"

There are rules upon rules about which presidential papers become available and when and some of them defy all reason. For more than 25 years, an inscription by the Irish writer Brendan Behan to President Kennedy was withheld from researchers by the National Archives and Records Administration, apparently because it was written on a copy of Evergreen Review, a literary magazine considered racy in those days. But the complicated rules have been changing in the direction of more access since the Freedom of Information Act became law on July 4, 1966.

From 1981, when the Presidential Records Act went into effect, until Mr. Bush issued his order, a citizen could request to review some presidential papers five years after the end of a presidency, or ask for all but the most sensitive records after 12 years. Ronald Reagan's records were the first to become available under the 12-year rule, except that they did not become available, because the Bush administration chose to review the policy for the past nine months.

That review resulted in the recent order. The White House reassured me that you can still go to court if an administration denies you access to archived information. Right. If you have years and tens of thousands of dollars to spare to take your case to the federal courts.

The White House argues that premature disclosure of decision memos and the like could stifle dialogue among presidential advisers. The administration's second reason - to make the process more "orderly" - is simply ludicrous. It is hard to see how double presidential oversight will speed things up, unless the idea is to just say no.

And I think that is the idea. There may be Reagan-era records that could be embarrassing to some men and women now back in power with the second Bush administration.

Perhaps even more pertinent, they may not want to spend their retirements, 12 years after George W. Bush leaves office, defending the wartime decisions they are making now.

Margulies, The Record, New Jersey

[Editor's Note: On January 3rd, 8,000 pages of the Reagan papers were released at the Reagan Library in California. 60,000 pages remain to be reviewed by President Bush.]

[Reprinted from The New York Times November 16, 2001 - Courtesy of the National Coalition Against Censorship.]

California AIDS Cases Hit 15-Year Low

LOS ANGELES, CA - The number of reported AIDS cases in California fell to a 15-year low in 2001, but health officials aren't exactly rejoicing, according to a Los Angeles Times report.

Data released by the state's Department of Health Services showed 4,227 new cases of AIDS reported in 2001, down 11.2 percent from 2000, reported the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

Officials credit the decrease to the success of protease inhibitors and other drugs, which have been able to keep many HIV-positive people from developing full-blown AIDS for 10 years or more.

Recent studies have shown, however, that HIV infections rates are on the rise in cities like Los Angeles and San Francisco, especially among young, Gay and Bisexual men of color. HIV infections jumped to 1,122 last year from 499 in 1997 in San Francisco, for example, with more than 800 of those cases involving men who had sex with men.

"It's a very tricky balance to maintain," Gunther Freehill of the Los Angeles County Office of AIDS Programs and

CONTINUED ON PAGE SIXTEEN

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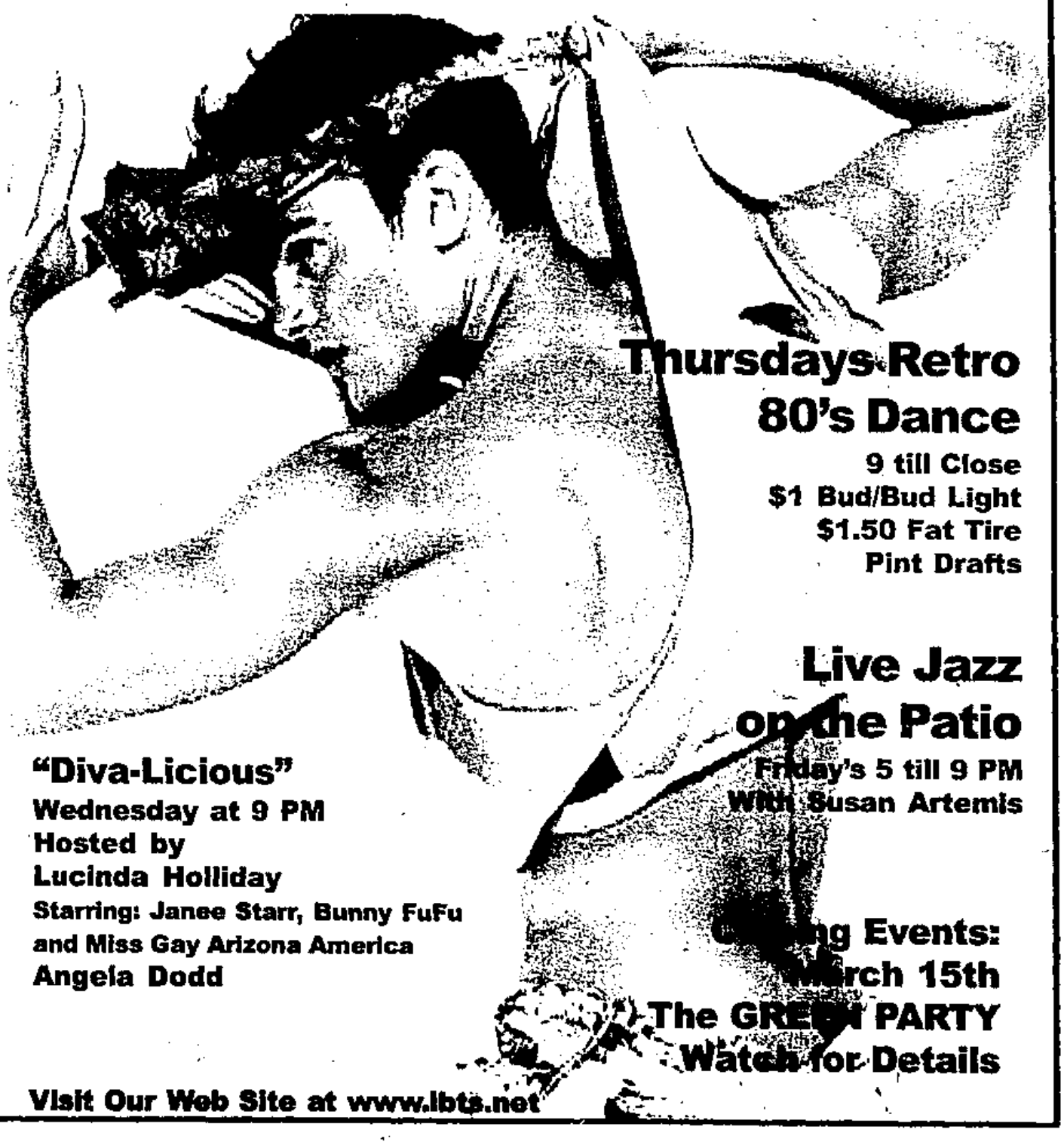

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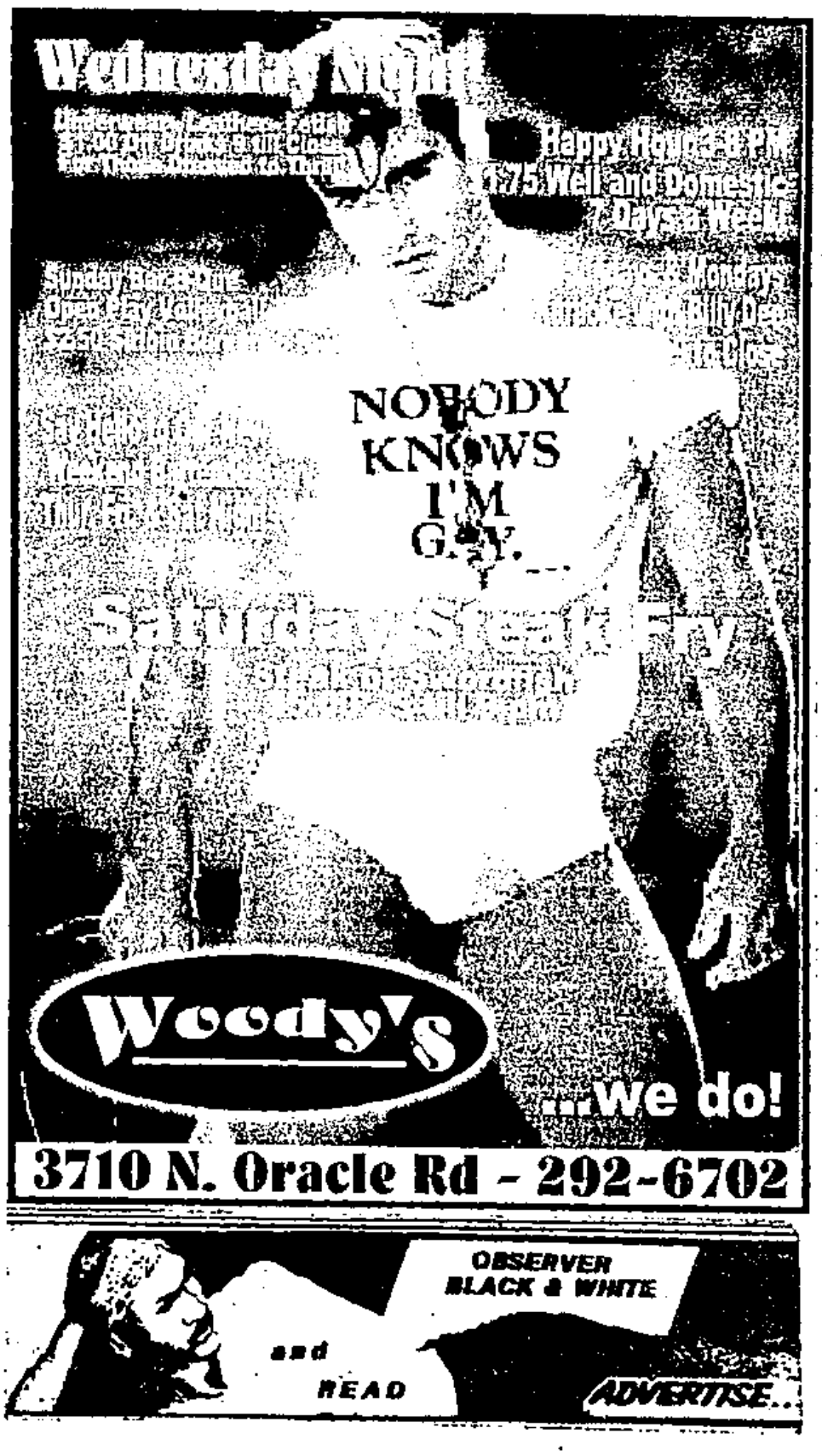

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EDITOR:

On a daily basis, I read the New York Times. Ironically, Tucson is mentioned at least once a week with some articles including photographs and short biographies of those that have made a change in their world with even the smallest of action. It gives me great pleasure to be a Tucsonan, however what is going on in other cities of any size paints the picture of Gays and Lesbians being ostracized, discriminated against and they fight for basic rights even in this Millennium. Just like us.

On a weekly basis, I read the "local" Observer. You guys are great. Thank you for bringing a broad spectrum of information to Tucsonans and many parts of the Southwest. Your article covering the recent local investigation of the assault on a Gay man by a Tucson Fire employee is paired with a Washington, DC discrimination issue (November 28, 2001). It has nothing to do with Tucson not having serious issues, what with bashings, shouting out of cars at individuals who are different then they.

Obviously we (Tucsonans) are doing something right and your publication brings the bigger picture and could enlightened those who think the planet revolves around Tucson's watering holes and bookstores. To them serious Gay Hate Crimes are elsewhere. Well, they are here too. I know there are those who are only looking for Mr. Right-Now and they would not be interested what is happening to those who life elsewhere.

If one is angry that GLBT groups are sometimes "silent" and the TLGA is ineffective, let them get their feet wet They don't want to get involved because groups deal with politics, even if their Mission Statement says they are nonpolitical. Why don't they ask to attend meetings of different groups and find out what it takes to get a common voice? We don't all have the same psychological makeup nor do we all agree on every issue. Politics comes in when individuals in the same group disagree but with discussion, thinking, listening and then maybe even compromise work in the community goes forward.

I am proud of being a Gay man who can march with most any group the puts together ideas on how to make GLBT's lives safer and honorable. Being seen working in and for the community and at times speaking out is an extremely powerful method of opening "other's" eyes and opportunity for discourse. That is why Lesbian, Gay, Transgendered, and others come together in groups. The power derived from having more than one or two together can grow into an enormous force. The commonality may stop at sexual preference but hope is there and only with dialogue from differing backgrounds and experience can a group be effective. We need to support those who feel the need to be in a "cause," whatever it may be.

I applaud those who get off the sofa and leave their homes to meet weekly or whenever to brainstorm and focus on humanity (like yours and mine); They look for ways to better our lives wherever we live. These are our unsung heroes. Standing tall for a group of people they may not understand, yet they know that the smallest step forward is a great victory.

Marcus Becker
Tucson, AZ

EDITOR:

I was reading a recent copy of your news magazine and I couldn't help but wonder "what planet" Jack B. Stockslager is from.

It is morons like this that will be the end of this country and the freedoms we know today. It is morons like this that will sit back and wonder "what happened" when these radical terrorist nuts continue to murder and maime innocent American's.

It is morons like this that will continue to take their freedoms for granted and curse and hiss at our military for providing HIM the freedoms he enjoys today.....Geesh!!!

Jack Stevens
Tucson, AZ

EDITOR:

President Bush and right-wing congressional Republicans are arrogantly trying any trick of scheme that they can get away with to rapidly deplete the federal budget surplus by the 2004 elections. They want a useless, unnecessary missile defense shield, tax rebates and many other wasteful spending ideas that only benefit the rich and powerful. They really don't want to see any of the budget surplus used to help the poor, elderly, homeless, emigrants or minorities.

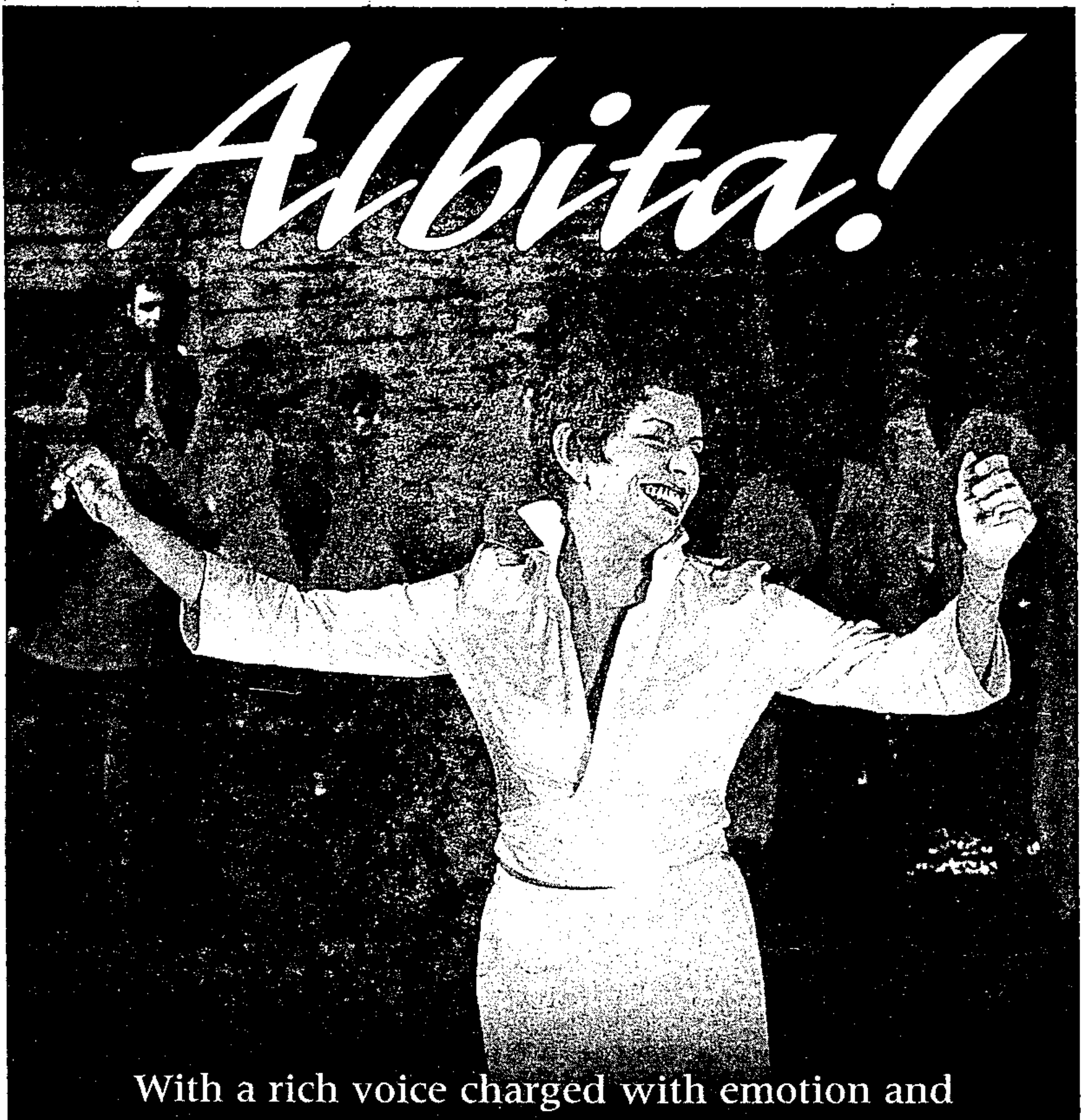
Bush and congressional Republicans are arrogantly pushing and forcing education vouchers, Independent Retirement Accounts (IRA's), the privatization of federal government services, less work place, product, environmental safety regulations, etc., upon us. They really want to cripple or destroy public education, Social Security, affirmative action, government services, vital safety regulations, etc. This is part of their overall economic and political agenda that is clearly designed to hurt and get even with the poor, elderly, homeless, emigrants and minorities.

Bush and Republicans are pushing a hateful, prejudiced agenda that is being candy-coated with patriotic flag waving, God, family values, morality and decency arguments. Since the presidential election of Ronald Reagan, Americans have slowly become more accepting of this Jerry Falwell/Pat Robertson false Christianity which really is mockery, blasphemy and heresy. A real Christian move-is not rife with hate, prejudice, (scary conspiracy theory) lies, devilish behavior and arrogant hypocrisy.

Recently, the Christian Coalition settled a class action "Jim Crow-style racial discrimination" and harassment lawsuit with fourteen (former) black employees. Robertson supposedly resigned from the Christian Coalition and politics three weeks before this settlement to devote more time to his Virginia Beach-based broadcast ministry and university. Robertson and those of his ilk remain silent about this settlement because they really don't want to do or say anything controversial in their defense that might wake up and anger most Americans and minorities. They desperately need to keep those token black and other minority faces sitting and involved in white evangelical fundamentalist churches and vice versa for now. They don't want to hurt their chances of getting a pro-Bush, right-wing, Republican in the next congressional elections in November of this year.

David Raffield
Houston, TX

Albita!



With a rich voice charged with emotion and spiced with a blend of salsa and conga, Albita Rodríguez revives the rustic music form *punto guajiro* and speaks to a Cuba between visions and revolutions.

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Thurs., Feb. 21, 2002
8:00-11:00pm

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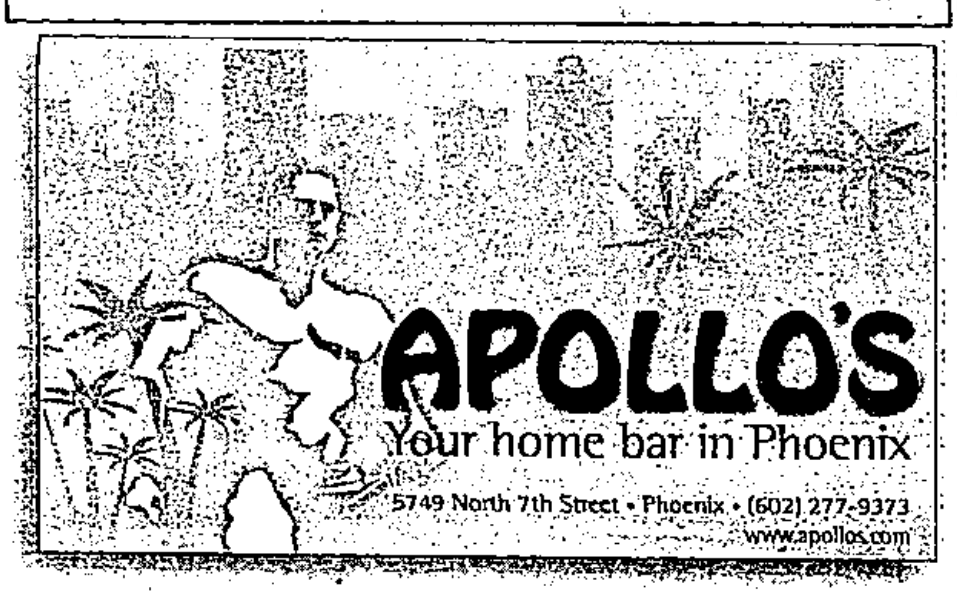
GMHP Gay Men's Health Project

Gay Men's Health Project is a collaborative effort of Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF), Pima County Health Dept., and Wingspan



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POLITICS 2002
by Mark R. Kerr

"We're Not Fooled'

In an February 4 editorial, the scribes at the Arizona Daily Star attempted to fool the reader with the piece, entitled "Public Service," for which they wrote that Morris Udall and Barry Goldwater viewed their political careers as fulfilling a duty in serving their country, and that they were diligent, conscientious and served Arizona and the national well.

Even with the pleasantries the opening paragraph of this masterpiece ends with the following: "It would have been foolish and idiotic had they been prevented from seeking reelection by a law that imposed term limits," implying that they wouldn't have been able to serve due to Arizona's law, approved by the voters, limiting lawmakers to four consecutive terms.

Small problem, Arizona's initiative didn't cover elected federal posts, such as both chambers of the U.S. Congress, since the only way persons can be limited in the number of terms they can serve is through a constitutional amendment, for which a court ruling reinforced that fact in 1991 when the original initiative was challenged and lest we forget the 22nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, limiting the number of terms a person can serve as President, something the Star failed to mention in their editorial, nothing new for Tucson's morning daily rag, and the recent vote on an important bill showed the Star's policy on matters of concern: "If there isn't a cheesy picture to put on the front to attract the fools, er readers, then play it down."

Case in point, campaign finance reform, when the Star played down the many polls showing the overwhelming support for measures such as McCain-Feingold or Shays-Meehan, the Senate and House bills that would reform how money can be given to political campaigns, from President to Congress.

Did the Star play up the fact about the Republican amendments to derail the Shays-Meehan measure and that Congressman Jim Kolbe, R-CD 5, voted for all the GOP amendments and against the bill itself and ask for a statement on why he voted the way he did? Need I say more? Remember the article about Arizona's Hate Crimes Law covering misdemeanors, which appeared in the Star, that this reporter wrote about last week? Another article, same results. ...

State Rep. Marion McClure, R-District 9, responded to this reporter's E-mail about HB 2301 and HB 2309, which these two bills, if approved by the Arizona Legislature and signed into law, would set up a statewide domestic partner registry, and would cover rights dealing with hospital visitation, power of attorney in making medical decisions, wills, probate and insurance.

In an E-mail sent almost three weeks prior, McClure responded that she could not support the bills despite the fact that McClure had signed on as a cosponsor to HB 2309 and had even attended the Arizona Human Rights Fund lobby day luncheon. So was it really just for the barbecue that was served?

COMMENTARY

The Sex Habits Of Priests

By Paul S. Lotsof

If you've been following the headlines lately, you know that the Roman Catholic Diocese of Tucson has agreed to a high dollar settlement to be paid to some men who were mistreated by priests. Many of these incidents took place decades go and two of the clergy who committed these acts are now of unknown whereabouts. One is believed to be in heaven but that is far from certain. Clearly there is a Gay elements to this story.

I'm reminded of an incident that took place about fifteen years ago at a Tucson pornography store that was located on South Alvernon. The place was a very popular Gay hangout, especially after the bars closed. Late one night I overheard a young man announcing that night was his final fling as a person who was openly Gay. He wanted to have as much fun as possible because the very next day he was going to enter a seminary and ultimately become a priest.

A couple of those passed through my mind as I listened to all this: First, it ought to be some sort of sin for a cute young guy like that to be taken out of circulation; he could bring joy to many fellow queers. Second, I wondered how long he'd last as a priest. Surely he must know that engaging in homosexual conduct was sinful in the eyes of the church that he was about to serve. How seriously did he take his religion? There seemed to be a contradiction.

A broader question is what makes the priesthood attractive to Gay men? Probably the answer is that it gives them an excuse for having no interest in women and never getting married. The problem is that sex is a powerful drive that is very difficult to repress and sometimes such efforts fail miserably. One possible solution would be for the church to do away with the celibacy requirement, but that isn't likely to happen soon.

Conspicuously missing from the news reports is any definitive indication as to what the sinful priests did to their alleged victims. The worst thing I can imagine that is the least bit likely is that the priests asked the boys to perform oral sex. Or maybe the priests played the active role. A better guess would be that there were some things that got touched that shouldn't have been. But would that emotionally scar the boy for the rest of his life? Perhaps the most damage occurred when the parents found out and had chicken-fits. Maybe the reaction on the part of the parents caused more guilt feelings than anything the priests had done. Maybe the homophobic parents should have been named as co-defendants in the lawsuit.

Perhaps the best question is how payment of large sums of cash will undo whatever damage the priests might have done. Is the church conceding that cash will undo acts of sin? Will a whole lot of money cause the Lord to wipe away the guilt feelings?

CONTINUED ON PAGE ELEVEN

[redacted]

THE CLASS OF 2004

[Editor's Note: Out of the hundreds of e-mails received monthly at the Observer office, many are very humorous and many are thought provoking and many are informative, and that's not counting the obscene ones or those that are sent for the reason e-mail was started - to get information. At any rate, since we need to keep our sense of humor, we will begin relaying those that are funny, and thought provoking but not those that are obscene. Enjoy!]

Just in case you weren't feeling too old today, this will certainly change things. Each year the staff at Beloit College in Wisconsin puts together a list to try to give the Faculty a sense of the mind set of this year's incoming freshmen.

Here is this year's list:

(1) The people who are starting college this fall across the nation were born in 1982.

(2) They have no meaningful recollection of the Reagan Era and probably did not know he had ever been shot.

(3) They were prepubescent when the Persian Gulf War was waged. Black Monday, 1987 is as significant to them as the Great Depression.

(4) There has been only one Pope.

(5) They were 11 when the Soviet Union broke apart and do not remember the Cold War.

(6) They are too young to remember the space shuttle blowing up.

(7) Tiananmen Square means nothing to them.

(8) Atari predates them, as do vinyl albums.

(9) The expression "You sound like a broken record" means nothing to them. They have never owned a record player.

(10) They have likely never played Pac Man and have never heard of Pong.

(11) They may have never heard of an 8 track.

(12) The Compact Disc was introduced when they were 1 year old.

(13) As far as they know, stamps have always cost about 33 cents.

(14) They have always had an answering machine.

(15) Most have never seen a TV set with only 13 channels, nor have they seen a black and white TV.

(16) They have always had cable.

(17) There have always been VCRs, but they have no idea what BETA was.

(18) They cannot fathom not having a remote control.

(19) They don't know what a cloth baby diaper is, or know about the "Help me, I've fallen and I can't get up" commercial.

Feeling old Yet? There's more:

(20) They were born the year that Walkmen were introduced by Sony.

(21) Roller skating has always meant in- line for them.

(22) Jay Leno has always been on the Tonight Show.

(23) They have no idea when or why Jordache jeans were cool.

(24) Popcorn has always been cooked in the microwave.

(25) They have never seen Larry Bird play.

(26) They never took a swim and thought about Jaws.

(27) The Vietnam War is as ancient history to them as W.W.I, W.W.II and the Civil War.

(28) They have no idea that Americans were ever held hostage in Iran.

(29) They can't imagine what hard contact lenses are.

(30) They don't know who Mork was or where he was from.

(31) They never heard: "Where's the beef?", "I'd walk a mile for a Camel," or "de plane, boss, de plane!".

(32) They do not care who shot J.R. and have no idea who J.R. was.

(33) The Titanic was found? They thought we always knew.

(34) Michael Jackson has always been white.

(35) Kansas, Chicago, Boston, America, and Alabama are places, not rock bands.

(36) McDonald's never came in Styrofoam containers.

(37) They don't have a clue how to use a typewriter.

(38) There has always been e-mail.

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WHAT A BREATH OF FRESH AIR LOOKS LIKE

NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

by Lee Thorn

'Productions and Reproductions'

Is Tucson big enough to support a theatrical production company? We've got The Invisible Theatre and the Arizona Theatre Company and the theatre departments of The University of Arizona and Pima Community College, but they don't function primarily as theatre production companies; they mostly function as theatre reproduction companies. They seldom produce original works, and when they do there's usually a hook or a gimmick that makes the work seem familiar even though it's new.

The Invisible Theatre recently did an original play called SKETCHES, described in their publicity as a "behind-the-scenes feast of great movie lore and delicious stories (involving) Hollywood's most famous costume designer, Edith Head." Here was original work, a "world premiere" to use the ridiculous phrase of Hollywood hype, but for anyone who might be terrified of the unknown, it promised the familiarity of Hollywood, Miss Head and "above all glamour.. glamour in the most glamorous place in the world..."

The question is, are we, the potential audience, actually all that terrified of the unknown or is that just a myth? One of the major fixtures of the Tucson theatrical scene claims (in an anonymous note) that "audiences. ..are more willing to see plays they have heard of than ones they haven't."

If that's true, why wouldn't it hold for other art forms? Suppose there were two identical art museums standing next to each other, one with a sign saying, "Now showing, reproductions of Van Gogh," the other with a sign saying, "Now showing, original paintings by Joe Blow, an artist you'd never heard of. Perhaps the theatre devotees would flock into the museum of reproductions, but anyone at all interested in painting would flock to Joe Blow.

Traditionally, not just in self-deprecating Tucson, but anywhere untouched by an ocean, the cards are stacked against original theatrical works. You don't have identical theaters standing next to each other, one doing original works, the other reproductions. You have outfits like the Arizona Theatre Company paying professional wages to professional theatre people doing reproductions versus outfits like Old Pueblo Playwrights doing staged readings of original works and paying nobody. For you non-theatre buffs, a staged reading is to a full professional production as making out for ten minutes in a car with all your clothes on is to a three-day orgy in Bangkok.

My anonymous local theatrical fixture goes on to tell me that "Larger cities like New York and LA have more success with originating works because of a broader diversity in ages and cultures and arts-support level." C'mon! Tucson is half a million of the most diverse folks in the world. The only thing we have in common is our inability to drive cars.

Shakespeare, Marlowe, Kidd and others put on some pretty original stuff in London around 1600. How many people lived in London town back then? How diverse was the population? And don't say they didn't have TV to compete with. They had public executions and bearbaiting, bears and dogs tearing each other apart in living and dying color, mostly red.

What New York and LA have that we don't are organizations willing to spend the money to professionally stage original work. It's not that we lack population, or even that we lack money; we lack a theatrical tradition of producing original works and we lack the guts to start such a tradition. These lacks will persists as long as we keep telling ourselves that half a million people make a small town.

A theatre PRODUCTION company needs an egomaniacal Art Director who sincerely believes that he knows more about theatre than the public does. He aims to give the public experiences they have had before, so he can't be too concerned with what they want. A theatre PRODUCTION company needs a long-term financial commitment, several million bucks, before anything else. If somebody can find the money, it wouldn't be hard to find the egomaniac.

[Thorn welcomes comments, suggestions for future columns, and tips local skullduggery that ought to be exposed. Write to Box 85571, Tucson, AZ 85754.]

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In 2001, AHRF members of Southern Arizona raised approximately $8,000 at last years event. Along with the grant money from the Southern Arizona Community Foundation, AHRF was able to hire a part-time staff person to increase political participation in the Tucson area. This year, we need to raise at least $10,000 continue the staff support. In addition, AHRF is able to provide candidate endorsements and voter guides for our Tucson members.

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HOROSCOPES

BY C. LICHTENSTEIN

It's time to change gears friends as the Sun moves from practical Aqueerius to romantic Pisces. Where are you headed? Scrutinize your atlas and go where your heart leads you; Next month Pluto retrogrades and picks your life's goals apart on a dissecting tray. Will they withstand the scrutiny?

ARIES
MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

Your imagination is on fire; will you fall into it or carefully walk on the hot coals? Don't blame the Sun in moody Pisces for your wild and woolly dreams, proud Ram. The fact of the matter is that sometimes your brain is like a roach motel - thoughts get in but they can't get out. Keep your conspiracy theories to yourself until the Sun moves on. Then laugh about 'em.

TAURUS
APRIL 21 - MAY 21

Cocky queer Bulls seem to say all the right things when the Sun enters Pisces. The planets heat up your power of persuasion so why not use this considerable advantage for something more impactful than water cooler talk. Isn't it about time that you joined the rainbow fight? Write a manifesto and, with the help of aggressive Mars in Aries, push it into the public conscience.

GEMINI
MAY 22 - JUNE 21

The combination of the glorious Sun in Pisces coupled with the oomph of Mars in Aries puts a twinkle in your corporate star. Gay Twins should use this planetary political push to solidify their professional stock and make bonafide advances in their long term goals. If not, you may find yourself sorting the mail for yet another a**hole in pinstripes. How many sugars in that coffee?

CANCER
JUNE 22 - JULY 23

The impossible seems possible with the Sun in optimistic and intuitive Pisces. Pink Crabs sometimes have a fear of open spaces, preferring to camp in the safety and security of their hard shells. There is nothing wrong with camp darling, but it's far better to camp out in the wide open spaces of the far reaching world; campfires tend to make a house too smokey.

LEO
JULY 24 - AUGUST 23

Are you usually all roar and no action? Not now when feisty Sun enters romantic Pisces. Proud Lions demonstrate why they are called the royals of the jungle. Strut your considerable stuff and drink deeply from the well to satisfy your thirst. The Sun excites the fervor of Venus to create a no-holds-barred sexual spurt. Just don't spurt it all at once.

VIRGO
AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23

Even Cinderella had a date for the big ball. Why shouldn't you? Gay Virgins are in for a treat when the Sun moves into Pisces. Relationships heat up which can mean a recharging or revamping of current partnerships or finding a completely new face to wake up to each morning. The secret is to know who you are looking for. If it's Gary Condit, take a break and try again.

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23

The moral of the story is never put off until tomorrow what you can snap your fingers and do today. But when the Sun shifts from detailed Aqueerius to foggy Pisces, the temptation may be to defer all unpleasant tasks until some time in the distant future. Bad idea, proud Libra; these miserable things have a tendency to pile up quickly and will bury you.

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22

The Sun in dreamy Pisces infuses hard-edged Gay Scorps with a sense of dramatic artistic sublime. Use this expansive creativity to do what needs to be done. Whether that means settling a few scores to even the playing field or gathering in disparate groups to reach an accord, you have the unique combination of intense Scorp practicality and soft Piscean humanity. Go for it.

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22

You are the holder of a dream deferred and can't wait any longer. The powerful Sun in Pisces creates all sorts of personal rumblings in otherwise sedate pink Archers. You may not want to be caught dead in the place where you've always dreamed or prayed you would be at this point in your life. Revise and review cousin. Come clean with yourself and your family.

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20

When there's nothing left to say on a subject, lavender Caps will now manage to say one more thing. Thankfully, with the splendid Sun in mystical Pisces, everything you say is a gem. In fact, this watery energy gives you a certain spirituality and holiness which attracts fanatical followers. Use your power of communication for goodness and not for selling the Taliban.

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19

The question is whether life makes sense... and dollars. Now, with the Sun in Pisces you must begin to mesh your personal values with your pursuit of happiness. Believe it or not, sometimes these two things are not in harmony. Money cannot buy love and affirmation although it can buy tawdry tricks and expensive champagne. Ah, but will you respect you in the morning?

PISCES
FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20

The Sun in your own sign signifies new beginnings, new folks and a new proud you. Guppies are advised to improve themselves internally and externally during this happy birthday period. It's high time for a change, commencing with your appearance. Yes, it is possible to improve on perfection, sweetheart; Those wedgies and puce pantaloons should be shelved.

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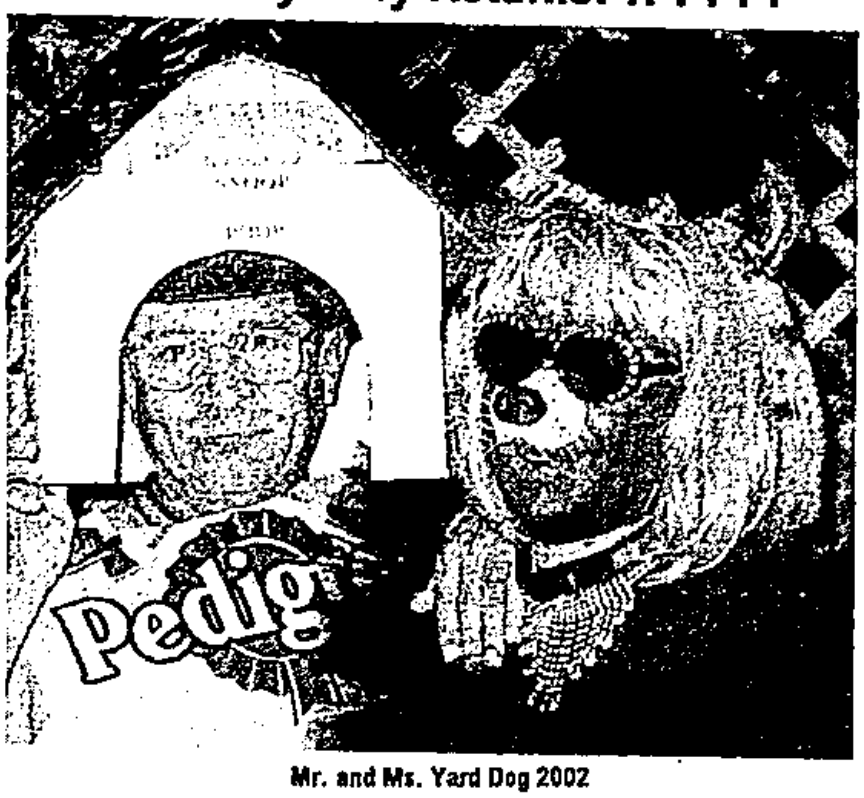

Mr. and Ms. Yard Dog 2002

Well, Hi Tucson! I just arrived by way of one of those box cars and made my normal trip around this Old Pueblo. First stop was the Graduate - were the hell did it go? The guy who answered the door, I thought should have been the Graduate, did not seem to know anything about it, and he was not even cute enough for me to make a pass at.

In my travels I heard of a new bar, the "Yard Dog". Being free, I headed over to take a look. Arriving by cab, the first thing I saw was a dog on the front of the building. I thought, 'what the hell kind of bar can this be if they use a DOG as their logo?'

When I walked in I was not sure what was going on but there was a lot of noise (happy style), coming from behind a tinsel-striped curtain. The bar was decorated in one of my favorite styles, TRASH-Y.

My next shock was the bartender (?) who was dressed as Yokohama Momma. Now, this was one scarey sight. Thank goodness she was relieved and next up was one dressed as a Chinese bus boy, chop sticks in his hair and all!

Then, over in the corner was this candelabra with Madam Trisha reading palms. That was one place I stayed away from because there have always been people who wanted to read more than my palms.

I just knew I had found the Graduate, or one similar, and was on my way to having a fun day. To my surprise this bartender was making all those foo-foo drinks, and people were drinking them as I would a Bud, one right after another.

When I discovered the bar had a patio, I went to check it out. Behind the patio bar was Chop Sing. Outside that Owl bunch (T.K.O. I'd met the last time I was in town, were serving sandwiches.)

But the biggest shock of the day was when I saw a couple dressed Oriental style sitting outside at one of the tables. I was told their names were "Eight Ball & Cue Ball." Later a new club in town (E.L.L.) was serving din-din, London Broil style.

I kept hearing about a Mr. & Ms. dog contest was going to be staged. I wondered how many dogs are there going to be on this little patio, and who will be manning the pooper scooper? Much to my happy surprise it was contestants dressed up as either Mr or Ms Yard Dog 2002. The winning Ms.Yard Dog was dressed as a French Poodle, and the winning Mr. Yard Dog was dressed, well, his hat was a dog house, so you name it.

To say that this was one of the most entertaining days I have had in Tucson is a understatement, and if the rest of Tucson has parties such as this, I just may have to return more often. I do have to say, that my partner, Juicy, is no longer is traveling with me! Claims retardment (oops. I mean retirement).

I will not be taking as many notes as before, but then, you never know. See you all.

Lucy (aka. Juicy Lucy)

Pro-Gay Surgeon General Retires

Continued from Page One

es legislation? People are much more comfortable putting drug addicts in jail, in prison, than they are in funding programs for treatment," he said in an interview this week.

Satcher says he's proud of taking on politically tough issues like sex, and emotionally tough issues like suicide and mental health.

It's easy to be honest, he says, when the science is clear. It's much harder when it isn't. When a White House spokesman denounced Satcher's report on sexual health, he figured that just comes with the territory.

"The surgeon general has to be prepared to be beat up from the podium of the White House," said Satcher.

Commentary

Continued from Page Six

Still another question is how the church will go about making sure that such incidents don't occur again. What is the church's policy on Gay clerics? Don't ask, don't tell? Will there soon be a mass purging of Gay clergy from the Catholic Church? Maybe in the near future, we'll be seeing some smiling new faces in our adult bookstores. We can pray.

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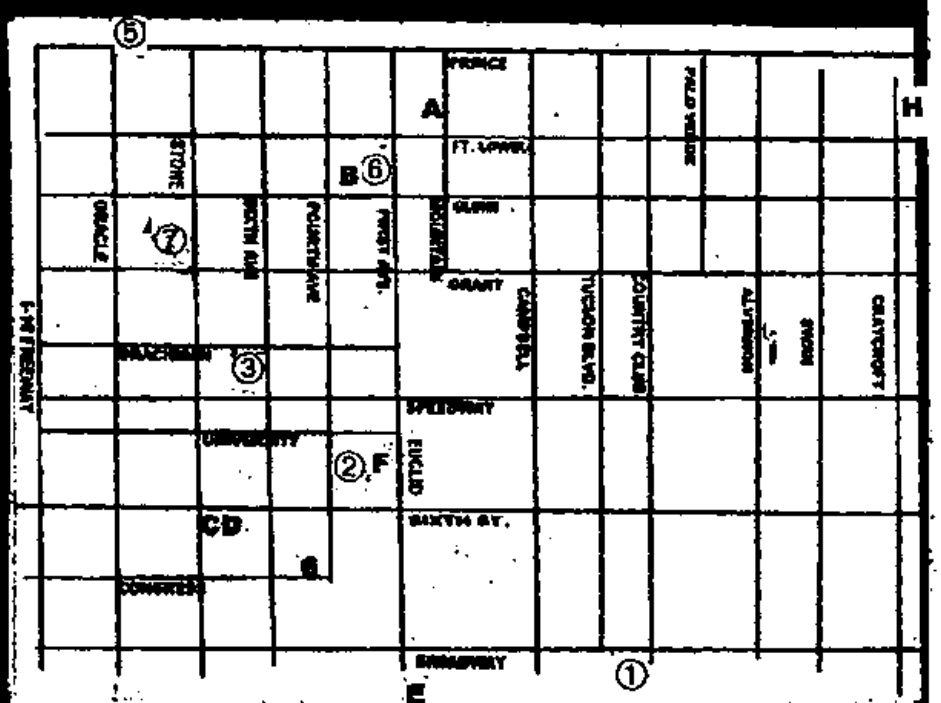

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Dear Dr. X:

I live with my partner who I think is depressed- he lost his job for the second time this year (due to lay offs not being fired) He tells me he can't fathom the thought of looking for another job because he will just have a belligerent attitude toward his new employer. I cannot financially and emotionally support him for long, but can't imagine kicking him out. I want to get him help, but have no idea where to start.

Signed,
In A Bad Mood

Dear In A Bad Mood:

Wow! You need to have a serious sit down talk with your partner and explain to him what you have written to me.

A few things you need to remember is we are in the middle of a recession and lay-offs are happening everywhere. You need to be sympathetic but confident to show your partner you do understand what's happening with him. You seem to care for your partner a lot. When he sees your concern and your support, hopefully he will change his attitude. I also want you to think of yourself, it's one of those win-lose situations.

It's not right for you to go into debt trying to financially support you and your partner. You might suggest to him to get an "in the meantime" job. This is a job that you're not going to make a career out of but rather a financial helper and a time filler, while he looks for a new job. It will help bring in some money and also get him out of the house. I don't think he 's depressed but rather, he's reacting to his current situation. Sitting at home watching TV, unshaven, un-showered and wearing the same clothes for days will only help make the situation worse. Know your boundaries, help your boyfriend and know your limits. Good Luck.

Dear Dr. X:

In my youth I had quite a bit of work done on my body (tattoos). Now that I'm older they don't seem as cool as they once did. Can tats be removed? How much does it cost and where can I have it done? I would like to see my natural skin color again. Think that's possible?

Signed,
Inkless

Dear Inkless:

You can have them removed but it is a long and expensive process. Tattoos are removed with lasers. A laser beam is focused on the tattoo and it breaks up the ink particles without harming the skin (a small percentage of people do experience scarring and/or skin discoloration.) After the ink is broken up your body's immune system carries away the ink residue. A series of visits every 4-6 weeks may be needed to remove them completely. It could take anywhere from 4-10 sessions for complete results.

As for cost since tattoo removal is considered cosmetic surgery it's not usually covered by your health insurance. Be prepared to dish out between $150-$600 per visit. On a side note "homemade" tats are easier to remove. So the few you got in jail will be easier to remove then the professional ones you have. Also keep in mind that yellow and green are the hardest colors to remove. A cheaper option is to have your old tat covered with a new one. If removal is still an option you can contact the American Academy of Dermatology at 1-888-462-DERM OR www.aad.org for a doctor or artist in your area.

[Have a question for Dr. X? Contact him at GMHPoutreach@SAAF.Org or www.gmhp.org or SAAF, 375 S. Euclid, Tucson, AZ 85719, Attn: Dr. X.]

SPORTS

DESERT COYOTES LEAGUE STANDINGS

	W	L
Erratica 6	46	17
Free Your Balls	44	19
Gay Divorcees	43	20
2 PP's & A HooHoo	43	20
Mamas Boys	35	28
Big Ballers	33	30
One Is-Two Ain't	32	31
Bernadette's Peter	29	34
Hardwhere?	29	34
Even-Stevens	26	37
Tres Amigos	24	39
Beat Around The Bush	24	39
Sleaze Bearz	22	41
Gutter Snipes	11	52

SEASON ACHIEVEMENTS

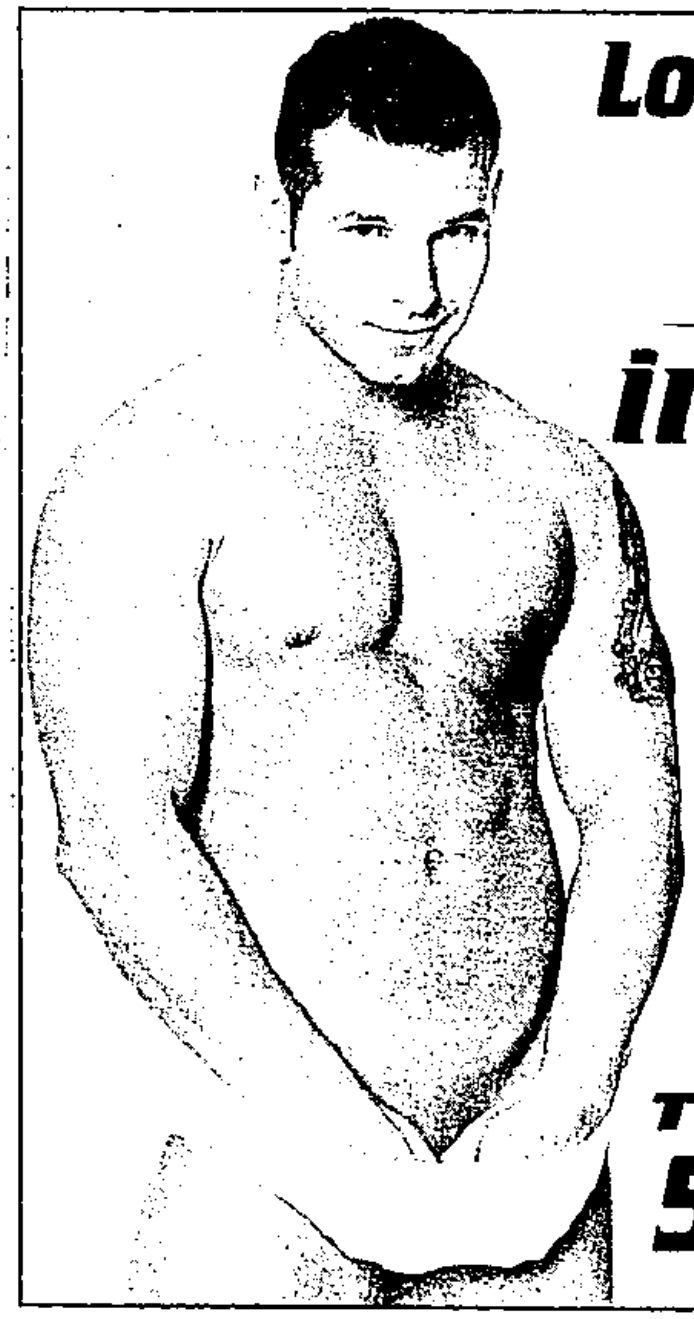
High Average: Bernadette's Peter, 585; Heather H., 173; Erick J., 218.

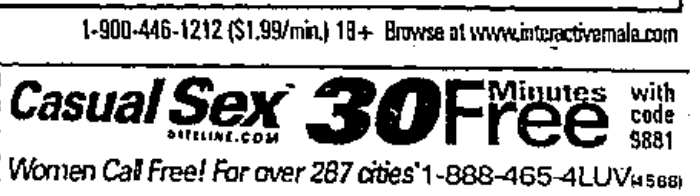
High Series Scratch: Bernadette's Peter, 1955; Erick J., 731; Heather H., 656.

High Game Scratch: Bernadette's Peter, 725; Keith D., 289; Heather H., 279.

High Series Handicap: Bernadette's Peter, 2162; Dave F., 799; Heather H., 806.

High Game Handicap: Bernadette's Peter, 798; Heather H., 329; Jack S., 307.





Non-Bar Calendar

Groups / Clubs / Organizations

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Tucson Prime Timers Tour & Lunch - 11:00 a.m. International Wildlife Museum, 4800 W. Gates Pass Rd. 5 Miles W. of I-10 Phone : 622-1835

Tucson Prime Timers Video Night - 7:00 p.m. A non pornographic movie with a Gay theme will be shown. Phone: 740-0620 - David Eyde

7:00 p.m. Beer Coffee at Coffee Etc., 2830 N. Campbell Ave. Coffee, food, conversation and Beers. Anyone is welcome. For more information call 520-790-5775 or on the web at www.botop.com

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join us as we get out our monthly 10-page newsletter. It simple, and you get a chance to meet new guys as we assemble the newsletter. The work goes quickly, and is usually done with 45 minutes. For reservations and directions, please call Jerry at 690-9565.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 8:00 p.m. Join us for the MSN Premiere of the "The Trio", a German comedy drama about a father and daughter con artists, and how a third party makes changes. For reservations and directions, please call Lee at 690-9565.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21

8:00 p.m. Tantra Video hosted byTantric Men's Group. Have more passion in your life and improve relationships. Call Marc at 881-4582 for info.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. The boys are back in town! Join us for more of the new season of "Queer As Folk". For reservations and directions, please call Bill at 546-7539.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. Bill will host Pinochle & Pizza Night beginning with a chance to share some pizza and meet and greet the other players over pizza ($5), followed by Pinochle at 7:00 p.m. For more information, please call Bill at 297-3589.

Tucson Prime Timers Lunch - 1:00 p.m. Ageve Restaurant - Desert Diamond Casino I-19 Exit 80, East side of Interstate. Phone: 622-1835

5th Annual "Treasures For TIHAN" live and silent auction at the Radisson Tucson in the Starlight Ballroom in City Center, 181 West Broadway. Featuring fine art from locally and nationally recognized artists; jewelry, rugs, unique gift items and more. Buffet beginning at 5:30 p.m. No host bar and entertainment. Tickets $30 in advance, $35 at the door. For more information call 299-6647.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Tucson Prime Timers Food & Drinks - 5:00 p.m. Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd. No of Oracle Rd. Phone: 622-1835

Tucson Prime Timers Seniorrap - 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St., South side of 6th St. between N. Stone Ave. & 4th Ave. David Eyde will facilitate an open discussion group of gay senior men's concerns. All Welcome. Phone: 740-0620 - David Eyde.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY25

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. The Triangle Tribe is a support group that helps you deal with yourself and your relationships with others. For directions and reservations, please call Tom at 318-1650.

Tucson Prime Timers Lunch - 1:00 p.m. The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave., South of Grant Rd. Phone: 622-1835

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Joe for an evening out at Rainbow Planet. This is a chance to have a cup of coffee and chat with the men of MSN. For directions or more info, please call Joe at 886-1536.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Michael hosts Bridge Night. If you're a beginner or an old pro, join the guys for a fun, relaxed night of Bridge. For reservations, please call Michael at 326-3555.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Tucson Prime Timers Video Night - 7:00 p.m. A non pornographic movie with a Gay theme will be shown. Phone: 740-0620 - David Eyde

7:00 p.m. Beer Coffee at Coffee Etc., 2830 N. Campbell Ave. Coffee, food, conversation and Beers. Anyone is welcome. For more information call 520-790-5775 or on the web at www.botop.com

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Jerry and Lee for Lunch Out at Ruby Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. For reservations and directions, please call Lee at 690-9565.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28

8:00 p.m. Tantra Video hosted by Tantric Men's Group. Have more passion in your life and improve relationships. Call Marc at 881-4582 for info

FRI.-SAT.-SUN., MARCH 8-9-10

38TH Annual Alliance Book Sale 2002. At the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson, in Goddard Hall at 4831 E. 22nd Street (just East of Swan). The Alliance is a senior organization of the UU church. A large selection of paperback and hardback novels, non-fiction books of all kinds, reference, cookbooks, travel and biographies, languages, science, health, history, sociology, religion, ;philosophy, (psychology, literature, mysteries, plus magazines, tapes, CDS, records and miscellaneous. Friday and Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

BAR CALENDAR

OF UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

IBT'S -"Diva-Licious" show starring, from Phoenix, Barbra Seville with Chane Jordan, Adrienne Alexander, Tiliana Oberon and Lady Ashley.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23

YARD DOG SALOON - A Happy Birthday Party starting at 3:00 p.m. for Little Jimmy. Any excuse for a party at this bar for a different breed!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24

IBT'S - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. It's Dennis and Mike's Recovery Bar. $1.50 Bloodys, Screws or Mimosas. 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. Karaoke on the Patio with Billy Dee. 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. Benefit Bar-B-Que / Beer Bust for the Gay Men's Health Project (GMHP). 8:30 p.m. A special benefit show for GMHP with an all-star cast featuring Bunny FuFu, Lady Ashley, Miss Saigon and Veronica Hallwell.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

IBT'S - "Dive-Licious" Show hosted by Lucinda Holliday and featuring Janee Starr, Angela Dodd and Bunny FuFu.

FRI-SAT-SUN, MARCH 1-2-3

It's a Grand Opening for Jake's. Watch for more details next week!

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

SeniorRap from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. An open discussion group addressing the interests and needs of senior LGBTs. All genders are welcome.

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

SeniorRap from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. An open discussion group addressing the interests and needs of senior LGBTs. All genders are welcome.

The Arts

PLAYING THRU FEB. 24

Arizona Repertory Theatre of the University of Arizona presents "The Threepenny Opera" by Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill. Directed by guest artist Robert Walker. Prostitutes, pimps, venal police and pick-pockets; the beauty of the Threepenny Opera is that it doesn't offer a little crime, there's a lot. Brecht's classical musical is a 20th cdentury masterpiece with the help of composer Kurt Weill. Evening shows 7:30 p.m. (13-16 & 19-23). Matinees at 1:30 p.m. (17-23-24). Morroney Theatre, Box Office 621-1162.

PLAYING THRU MARCH 17

Live Theatre's production of Arthur Miller's 'All My Sons' is directed by James Mitchell Gooden, artistic director of Live Theatre Workshop. Show times are Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and a Sunday matinee at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are $13.00 with discount tickets at $11.50 available for students, seniors, military and groups. There will be two preview performances Feb. 15 and 16 with tickets for these performances at $8.00. Call 327-4242 for ticket reservations or more information.

SATURDAY, FEB. 23

Uapresents Albita! With a rich voice charged with emotion spiced with a blend of salsa and conga, Albita Rodriguez revives the rustic music form *punto guajiro* and speaks to a Cuba between visions and revolutions. 8:00 p.m. UA Centennial Hall. Box Office 621-3341.

FRI-SAT-SUN, MARCH 1-2-3

UApresents the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater this weekend at Centennial Hall. Instilled with the majestic spirit and vision of legendary choreographer and founder Alvin Ailey, this premier dance company constantly reinvents the paradigm of performance with a heroic combination of soulful movement and flawless technique. With passion and artistry that approach perfection, the renowned company returns to Tucson for just three performances. Box Office 621-3341.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

UApresents Newport Jazz 2002: Jazz Today. 7:30 at Centennial Hall. Terence Blanchard, Joe Lovano, Cedar Walton, Howard Alden, Justo Almario, Idris Muhammad and Peter Washington feature some of the best contemporary, traditional and latin jazz. Box Office, 621-3341.

Daily Bar Calendar

Monday

AINT NOBODY'S BIZ - Beer Bust 5-10, $1.25 pitchers. Latin Music with DJ Hill 8:30 to close. Shot specials all night.

IBT's - 10am-6pm $1.50 Bloodys, Screws or Mimosas. Benefit B-B-Q and Beer Bust for community organizations 5:30-6pm. Karaoke with Billy Dee on the patio 4:30-7:30. 8:30 shows or special events or Hi energy dancing. (Call for details). All drink specials not available during special events.

JAKE'S - Open 11am daily, Well 1.75.

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio open 3pm. Daily special til 7pm. Patio Beer bust 3-7. Burger Bar-B-Que 5-7. (Donation only).

WOODY'S - Open 11am. $1.50 Bloody Marys, screwdrivers, Mimosas; $@well or domestic beer 11-4. Happy Hour 4-9pm $1.75 well or domestic beer Patio Bar open 5-close. Pick-up Volleyball games 5-7. $2.50 sirloin burger or chicken 5-9pm. Karaoke with Billy Dee 9pm

YARD DOG - Open Sundays 10am - 1am. Bloody Marys or Screwdrivers $1.75 from 10am - 1pm. 50¢ off any Rum 1pm-7pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Monday

AINT NOBODY'S BIZ - Happy Hour Two-For-One 2-7. Football Madness $1.75. 75¢ drafts 6 to close. No Cover.

IBT's - 9am-4pm, $2.00 domestic beer and well. Happy Hour $1.75 well and domestic beer 4-9pm. 9pm, "Ajia Saya" nite. $1 off all drinks (except draft beer/shots) for those who do as Ajia says. DJ Raymman plays house music 9pm to close. All drink specials not available during special events.

JAKE'S - Open 11am daily, Well $1.75.

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio 5pm. Daily specials til 7pm

WOODY'S - Open Noon. $2 well or domestic beer til 4pm. Happy Hour 4-9pm, $1.75 well or domestic Karaoke w/Billy Dee 9pm to close.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Scotch until 7pm Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Tuesday

AINT NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour Two-For-One 2-7pm. Pool tourney 7:30pm. $3 entry, pot matched. $1.50 longnecks for pool players. $2 Bottle Bud products. 8-close. Country music with DJs. 8:30-1

IBT's - 9am-4pm, $2.00 domestic beer & well. Happy Hour$1.75 well & domestic beer 4-9pm. Tee's & Tattoo Nite, wear an IBT's T-shirt or IBT tattoo get happy hour prices 9 to close, or buy an IBT's T-shirt for $5 and get a complimentary drink. House Hi-Nergy Dance 9pm to close w/DJ-Q

JAKE'S - Open 11am daily, Well $1.75.

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio 5pm. Daily specials til 7pm.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. $2 well or domestic til 4pm. Happy Hour 4-9pm. $1.75 well or domestic. Tropical drink specials 8 to close. $3 zombies, Jungle Juice, Mai Tai's .

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am 50¢ off any Tequila until 7pm Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Wednesday

AINT NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour 2-4-1 from 2-7. Beer Bash $1.25 Pitchers Bud/Bud Light 8-close. Dance music 9-close.

IBT's - 9am to 4pm, $2.00 domestic beer & well. Happy Hour $1.75 well & domestics 4-9pm. 9pm "Diva-Licious" show w/Lucinda Holliday and guests. HiNRG Dancing with DJ-Q. All drink specials not available during special events.

JAKE'S - Open 11am daily. Well $1.75.

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio Bar open at 3pm. Daily special til 7pm. Patio Beer Bust 3-7pm.

WOODY'S - Open 11am $2 well or domestic beer. Til 4pm. Happy Hour 4-9pm. $1.75 well or domestics. Patio Bar opens 5pm. Steak & Fish Fry 5-9pm Filet Mignon or Swordfish with dimmings & roll $5.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. Beer Bust 3-7pm. 75¢ glass, $2.25 pitcher. 50¢ off any Rum 1pm to 7pm. Kennel open 5pm

Thursday

AINT NOBODY'S BIZNESS -Karaoke w/Stephanie 8-close. $2 Kamikazees and $1 Hot Sex.

IBT's - 9am-4pm $2.00 domestic beer and well. Happy Hour$1.75 Well & domestic 4-8. Retro 80s Dance w/Jonathan Hi NRG dancing 9-1 All drink specials not available during special events.

JAKE'S - Open 11am daily, Well $1.75. Dance Room open 9pm-1am. Latino Night.

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio open 5pm. Deli special til 7pm. Pool Tournament 7pm. 3 entry. (Special prizes for players).

WOODY'S - Open Noon. $2 well or domestic beer til 4pm. Happy Hour 4-9pm $1.75 well or domestics.. Trivia Thursday 8pm-close plus 50¢ off all Big Ass drinks. . Top score on NTN per game wins special prizes. Volley-ball Court is Open. See bartender.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am.50¢ off any Bourbon til 7pm Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Friday

AINT NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour Two-For-One 2-7. Free food at 5:30pm. Dance music 8:30-1 w/DJ Hill. Drink specials all night.

IBT's - 9am-4pm $2.00 domestic beer and well. Happy Hour $1.75 well & domestic beer 4-10. Live Jazz on the patio with the Susan 6-9pm. Patio Bar 5-1pm. Dance Party with DJ Raymman 9 to 1. All drink specials not available during special events.

JAKE'S - Open 11am daily, Well $1.75. Dance Room open 9pm - 1am. Country Music Nite

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio open 5pm. Daily special til 7pm. Happy Hour Buffet 5-7pm.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. $2 well or domestic beer til 4pm. Happy Hour 4-9pm. $1.75 well or domestics. Martini Party - Well Martini's $2.00 all day. Call Martinis $3 from 4pm to close. Volleyball Court is Open. Patio Bar Open 7pm - midnight.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am.50¢ off any Gin until 7pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Saturday

AINT NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Open at 2pm. Pool Tournament 6:30pm $3 entry. Pot matched. $2 pitchers for pool players. Dance music w/DJ Hill 8:30-close.

IBT's - 9am-4pm $2.00 domestic beer and well. Happy Hour $1.75 well & domestic beer 4-10pm. Dance Party 9-1 w/DJ-Q. All drink specials not available during special events.

JAKE'S - Open 11am daily, Well $1.75. Dance Room open 9pm - 1am. House Dance Nite

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio Bar open at 3pm. Daily special til 7pm. Patio Beer Bust 3-7pm.

WOODY'S - Open 11am $2 well or domestic beer. Til 4pm. Happy Hour 4-9pm. $1.75 well or domestics. Patio Bar opens 5pm. Steak & Fish Fry 5-9pm Filet Mignon or Swordfish with dimmings & roll $5.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. Beer Bust 3-7pm. 75¢ glass, $2.25 pitcher. 50¢ off any Rum 1pm to 7pm. Kennel open 5pm

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CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE .25 PER WORD $5.00 MINIMUM

CLASSIFIED ADS MUST BE MAILED NO PHONE ADS

NOTICES

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 298-8647.

LESBIAN/GAY/BI-SEXUAL OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS. Saturdays 1 to 2pm new location Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. Contacts 325-8678 or 327-4293.

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 791-7678.

GRACE GROUP - CATHOLIC GAY/LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP meets every 2nd and 4th Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the Madonna Hall at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, 1436 N. Campbell across from University Hospital. For more info. Call Ernie Sleight 721-2003.

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 792-4607, Ext.398

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

OUTLOUD! Tucson's premiere Local Lesbian and Gay Radio Show, broadcast every Wednesday at 6:03 pm on 91.3 FM, Community Radio KXCI. The show "This Way Out", a nationally syndicated Lesbian and Gay radio show is aired at 5:30 pm every Wednesday.

THEATER / DINNER / ETC! Non-Smoking Lesbian Network meets every 3rd Saturday night of each month. If you'd like to meet women 35+ (flexible) and socialize in a smoke-free environment 888-8010 before 10:00 p.m. The group dines out and attends shows or movies. Now in their 16th year! (2nd in Tucson).

SOUTHERN ARIZONA GENDER ALLIANCE (SAGA). Meetings on the 1st Monday, 7pm. Desert Girlz (MTF) Meets 2nd Monday at 7pm. Desert Boyz meets 3rd Tuesday at 7pm. of every month. All meetings take place at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. Call 624-1779 for more info. SAGAEmail@aol.com http://members.aol.com/sagaemail

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, 8523 N. 14th St., #112, Phoenix, AZ 85014 or call 602-279-4905.

DESERT DOMINION TUCSON'S 100% CONSENSUAL, Pan-Fetish, Pan-Sexual, Informational, Educational, Safe Space for the B&D, S&M, D&S and TV community. For more info call (520)792-6424 or http://www.desertdominion.org

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 Mirta Stone, MSW, at 327-1171 (if unavailable leave message with phone number.

AAPSP - ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY PROFESSIONALS - a confidential organization committed to providing support and networking for all Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual public safety professionals in Arizona. Membership open to Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters, Probation, Parole and Corrections Officers and civilians working within these agencies. Website: AAPSP.org or e-mail: AAPSP@aol.com or call Dave (520)745-9059 (Tucson) or Kim (602)534-8219 (Phoenix)

GLSEN - Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network meets first Thursday of every month at 4:30pm at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th Street. 743-4800.

TUCSON CATHOLIC GAY & LESBIAN FAMILY MINISTRY. Currently meeting the 4th Monday of every month at SS Peter & Paul Church, Madonna Hall 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Fr. Fiedler in attendance every meeting and willing to speak one on one. Reaching out to Parents and Families. For more info call Doc or Barbara 293-8624.

SAA (Sex Addicts Anonymous) has 5 meetings a week in Tucson. People who wish to stop their compulsive sexual behavior, please call (520)570-1226 for current information.

LUTHERANS CONCERNED -- Tucson chapter for Gay/Lesbian Lutherans meets 4th Sunday, 6:30 p.m. each month at Santa Cruz Lutheran Church, 8500 S. Cardinal Ave. For information visit www.lctucson.org write: LC, 7014 E. Golf Links Road, PMB 212, Tucson, AZ 85730.

ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS: Confidential individual or group support for Gay, Bisexual or Trans men who are victims/survivors of domestic violence. For more information call 624-0348 (24-hour line)

REVEILLE GAY MEN'S CHORUS rehearses Tuesdays 7-10pm at MCC Church, 3288 N. Mountain. Have any history/ experience singing? Join us!! Call 617-3100 for more info.

TGNetArizona: The central source for news and information for, by and about the TS, TG, and Gender-variant communities of Arizona. Website URL: http://www.tgnetarizona.org - e-mail address: algoodrum@uswest.net org

SENIORRAP, a discussion group for older LGBTs, meets from 7 to 8 pm on the last Sunday of every month at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St.

"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

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE CLINIC provided daily by the Pima County Helath Department. Gay friendly. Confidential, Treatment and Medication too! Any questions? Call 624-8272

SOUTHERN ARIZONA AIDS FOUNDATION (SAAF), 375 S. EUCLID. Office Hours 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday. Direct services and emotional support for persons with and affected by HIV. Anonymous HIV testing and support groups available. Prevention education programs. 628-SAAF (7223). World wide web: http://www.saaf.org. VOLUNTEERS WELCOME.

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP. Involving discussion, support and activities. Designed to support each other. Meets 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month from 9:30 to 11am. Alternate Saturdays the group meets for social activities. For info call Dorian Easty, facilitator. 882-7723

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 575-8660 or write P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740-6264. All replies confidential.

TUCSON GLBT AL-ANON GROUP meets Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th Street. Call 624-1779 for more information.

YOUNG AND GAY?
GLBT Youth 23 and under, meet every Saturday in Tucson for sharing, support and information. Meetings are held at 300 E. 6th 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 activities. Meetings luncheons and dinners are held monthly. For dates, times and information call 529-9344, leave name and phone number.

TUCSON GAY INFORMATION AND REFERRAL
For information on human service organizations, health and mental health services, financial and government assistance, emergency services such as food and shelter, education, etc. Call Information and Referral 881-1794 - 8 am - 5 pm Mon. - Fri.

AIDS HOTLINE - 325-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, 300 E. 6th 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.

SUPPORT GROUP: Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals meet weekly for open discussions in a loving, supportive atmosphere. Meetings Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:30 pm at St. Francis in the Foothills Church, Swan and River Road, Room 43. For more information call the church at 299-9083 and ask for a contact person.

HIKE & BIKE DYKES. Meets 2nd Monday at 7pm. Call 327-7239 for info.

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

SOURCES UNLIMITED, a Lesbian & Gay referral service. Business and individual listings are free of charge. All information available to anyone just simply by asking. 322-5855. Leave message.

GAY COWBOY CLUB - Nationwide Personal Ads. Admirers welcome too. Send stamp for information: Mavericks, Box 9543, Santa Fe, NM 87504.

ATTENTION ALL NUDISTS - Tucson Tanners is a nudist group open to all -- Nude activities scheduled both indoor and outdoors. Not "Gay Only", but Gays are welcome and invited to join. For further information send SASE to: Tucson Tanners, P.O. Box 84-G, Cortaro, AZ 85652.

INNER WISDOM - Try hypnotherapy for pain relief, past life exploration and addiction release. Also available: Spiritual Counseling and Dream Interpretation. 579-6020

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)790-6775 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 or visit our website at www.botop.com All are welcome to our general meetings/potlucks on the 2nd Friday of every month, 7pm at Sentinel Bldg. On the City of Tucson Resource Campus, 310 N. Commerce Park Loop on Bonita St. between St. Marys and Congress.

LAMBDA CAR CLUB, a social organization of Gays and Lesbians who share interest, information and fellowship involving all cars and trucks. New Southern Arizona Region now in Tucson. Call the HOTline at 585-6641

TUCSON GREATER SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION. Interested? Call Kelly Quinn, (520)742-7686 or go to our web site http://www.tgsasoftball.org

NOTICES

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 624-6788.

T-SQUARES Lesbian and Gay square dance club meets every Tuesday from 6:30-9:00 p.m. at Cornerstone Fellowship Social Hall, 2902 N. Geronimo (near 1st Ave. and Laguna). Open to All. Call Liz at 325-6466 or Ray at 748-5247.

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

COME EXPLORE YOUR SPIRITUALITY! St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church offers a variety of Gay and Lesbian groups and services for the spiritually minded. Come meet the Phamily! 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 Chorus rehearses Monday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30pm at Armory Park Senior Center, 220 S. 6th Ave. Call 791-9662.

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., MCC Church, 3288 N. Mountain. 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 Jerry at 690-9585 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 299-8647.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SPORTS TEAMS and updates on Gay Games 2002, contract TEAM ARIZONA at their website: teamarizona.org

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

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

COMMUNITY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (CBA), Tucson's Gay and Lesbian business networking group holds regular meetings the third Thursday of every month. Call 615-8436 for more info.

TUCSON LESBIAN/GAY ALLIANCE (TLGA) meets on the second Tuesday at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th Street at 7pm. TLGA produces Pride events. Inquiries about support groups and individual needs should be directed to Wingspan and other local agencies listed here. For more information call 622-3200or visit TLGA website 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. 694-7083.

MEN TALK - A new group forming for Gay men that adores ourselves, our community and encourages positive growth. A great way to meet people. Meeting 3rd Tuesdy of each month at Wingspan, 7-9pm. Call 760-8714 for more info.

PERSONALS

OBSRVER looking for someone to assist in the upkeep of computer system. Must know PC/Windows, etc. Must be reasonable. Call 622-7176.

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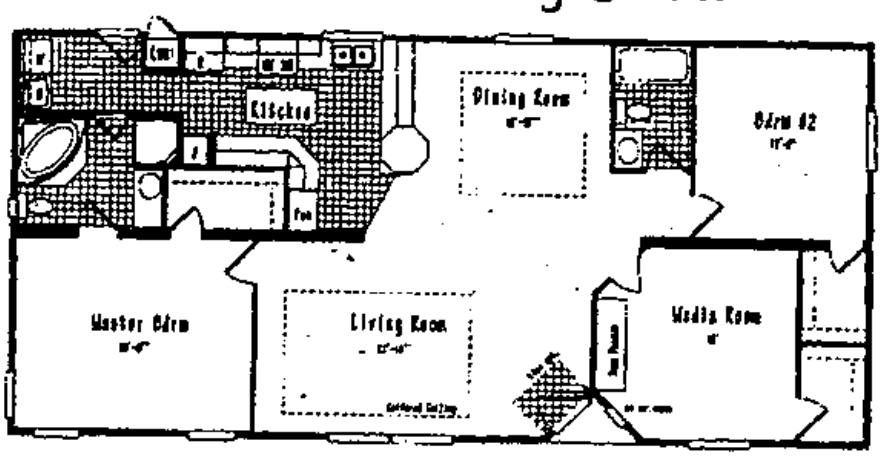

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'Bleeped Out Of The Story'

By Joan M. Garry

I bet you saw the footage (or the photos) of the Mike Tyson/Lennox Lewis brawl -- oops, I mean press conference -- a couple of weeks ago. It was on the front page of many newspapers, and heavily bleeped video ran on CNN, ESPN and local television stations across the county. And sports commentators, of course, had a field day with it.

Not that this was really news. Mike Tyson biting someone and being generally loutish is pretty much a given whenever he appears in public. But there's another side of this incident you may not be as aware of.

After the brawl, Tyson hurled a series of epithets at a reporter who sensibly (if a bit too loudly) observed, "He should be in a straitjacket." "Come here and say that to my face, you faggot!" was just the beginning of Tyson's violent outburst, and what followed was a stream of slurs, threats and unprintable obscenities -- including the threat of rape toward the male reporter and repeated use of the word "faggot." Tyson has since offered an apology for the incident, saying he doesn't consider himself a "role model" and sees himself as "politically incorrect."

Yet in their focus on Tyson's brawl and its fallout (including the Nevada Athletic Commission's decision to deny him a boxing license), the sports media machine has carefully avoided examining the anti-Gay content of Tyson's outburst. Sports commentator Keith Olbermann quipped during his guest-stint on CNN's "The Point": "I'm just worried [by] reports that the only damage Mike was able to do is to leave a slight strawberry on Lewis' leg. I mean, that's a problem. Apparently Cousin Mike still has his jab but he's lost his bite."

Clever? Sure. But accurate reporting? Hardly. And Olbermann wasn't alone in downplaying the "other" part of Tyson's press conference performance.

Why don't sports writers want to run with this? Maybe they think reporting such epithets will offend people in Gay community? (News flash: too late!) Maybe they've become so accustomed to casual homophobia in sports that it just washed right over them? Or maybe there's some unwritten rule where news that casts a too-revealing spotlight on the reality of sports industry culture simply goes unreported.

Sometimes journalists do break the mold and report on homophobia in sports, although generally it's in response to a controversy. Last May, we saw a media frenzy at the mere hint of an unnamed Gay professional baseball player. In December, chaos erupted when "Sports Illustrated for Women" printed a piece about a new women's football league and one of its players came out. And the marketing challenges faced by the WNBA have been fodder for features on whether Lesbians are a desirable part of a sports team's fan base.

But these reports aren't enough to tell the whole story of homophobia in sports. Anti-Gay and sexist put-downs are still the most common way for athletes to humiliate their opponents and even for coaches to "motivate" athletes. Tyson of course didn't break any new ground with his use of anti-Gay slurs. Not surprisingly, it turns out that Tyson himself had been taunted in a similar manner before the press conference began by former boxer Mitchell Rose, a Lewis supporter. Rose had screamed, "[Tyson's] a homosexual, a faggot, and someone needs to do something about him."

Pretty vicious cycle, isn't it?

All this reminds me of the words of another Gay-bashing celebrity: Eminem. He justified using the word "fag" by saying, "The most lowest degrading thing that you can say to a man when you're battling him is call him a faggot and try to take away his manhood...'Faggot' to me doesn't necessarily mean Gay people. 'Faggot' to me just means taking away your manhood." I don't doubt that Eminem's take on the word "faggot" ranks among its common, popular meanings (it certainly helps explain Tyson's use of rape threats against a male journalist who criticized him). But that doesn't make the word any less damaging.

Tacit acceptance of these attitudes, behaviors and words nurtures homophobia in junior high and high school locker rooms. And as we saw in the Tyson incident, homophobia isn't just targeted at Gay people. When young athletes learn they can conflate being Gay with being less than a "real" man or woman, they discover a powerful weapon for pummeling their peers into conformity (and, in the case of Gay youth, shaming them into the closet). So when authority figures -- whether they're coaches or media professionals -- downplay this harassment ("boys will be boys," after all), young people learn that they can act out on homophobia with impunity. The *results*: an enforced, profession-wide closet in sports and public behavior like that of Mike Tyson to reinforce it. And then the cycle begins anew.

Whether he or anyone else admits it, Mike Tyson's visibility translates into influence -- particularly on young people and athletes. The sports media's myopic fixation on Tyson's physical brawl and relative blindness to his homophobia send a disturbing message: that highly visible media figures (like Mike Tyson and tennis champion Goran Ivanisevic before him) who publicly use words like "faggot" will not be held accountable for their overt displays of bigotry.

The "boys will be boys" defense is a convenient excuse for those who would claim that Tyson's homophobic epithets are a non-issue, but the sports media that cover Tyson's every move owe us more than a collective wink and a shrug here. They have a responsibility to examine the sports culture that told Tyson it was OK to say those things in the first place.

[Joan Garry is the Executive Director of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD).]

California AIDS Cases

Continued from Page Three

Policy told the Times. "You want people to know that there's hope, yet you don't want them to take risk. It's really much better not to get HIV in the first place."

California's AIDS decline is unique, the Times reported, largely because of demographics. HIV/AIDS is more prevalent in the Gay and Bisexual male population of the state, and a high percentage of men in this group seek testing earlier and have good access to health care. These factors delay the overall cases of AIDS, state public health officials said.

Many other states, by contrast, have a higher percentage of cases among minority women and injection drug users, many of whom may not seek treatment or have access to it.