Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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GLBT Groups React To Federal Budget Proposal

WASHINGTON, DC - Just days after announcing a major initiative to fight global AIDS – without making any reference to the estimated 900,000 U.S. citizens currently infected with HIV – President Bush said he will request $16 billion for domestic AIDS prevention, care and treatment when he submits his 2004 budget to Congress.

"[The] budget I've submitted and worked with Congress on – it will be a request for $16 billion for domestic HIV prevention and care and treatment, a 7 percent increase over '03. It's a $93 million increase for AIDS research, $100 million more to support the AIDS Drug Assistance Program," said Bush late last week.

The AIDS Drug Assistance Program, or ADAP, provides state funding to purchase HIV-related drugs for people without health coverage.

The president's announcement was greeted with enthusiasm by Gay rights organizations.

"We applaud the president for attempting to meet the challenge of effectively fighting AIDS at home, as well as abroad," said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest Gay-rights organization.

However, the group's praise was tempered with concerns over the true dollar amount increase in the president's domestic AIDS budget, the administration's abstinence-only education plans and the alarming increase in new HIV-positive cases reported in the U.S.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, each year 40,000 Americans are infected with HIV. Currently, nearly 900,000 Americans are HIV-positive and evidence indicates those numbers are increasing, not declining or even holding steady.

The CDC also reports the number of Americans living with AIDS in the United States increased 33 percent between 1996 and 1999. In 2001, 15,603 Americans died from AIDS, a sign that the domestic epidemic is still raging. Additionally, AIDS is now the leading cause of death for African Americans in the 25-44 age group.

Bush also announced that federal health officials had cleared the way for doctors and public health workers to have easy access to a new test that can detect infection with HIV in as little as 20 minutes.

The test was approved in November on the condition that it be offered only in hospitals, clinics and doctors' offices that met certain federal laboratory standards. However, on Friday the Department of Health and Human Services waived those restrictions.

"This waiver is an incredible step that will increase from 38,000 to 100,000 sites where this quick test can be administered," said HRC's Birch.

"Extensive accessibility of the rapid HIV test will expand overall HIV testing and lower the number of individuals who are unaware they are infected. This is crucial because approximately 225,000 Americans don't know they are HIV-positive."

Although Bush's actions are considered a positive contribution to the fight against HIV/AIDS, many questions remain about the actual size of the budget increase. According to the HRC, this is because it is still unknown if Bush's number is a 7 percent increase over the fiscal year 2003 budget proposal or the fiscal year 2003 appropriated level, which has not yet been completed.

If Bush is increasing the budget 7 percent from his fiscal year 2003 budget, then this request could contain a much smaller increase than 7 percent between fiscal year 2003 and fiscal year 2004 because Congress is most likely going to appropriate at least that much for fiscal year 2003 in the coming weeks.

In a letter sent last week to the president, the Human Rights Campaign also articulated the group's long-standing concern over the administration's focus on abstinence-until-marriage education.

HRC describes these programs as ineffective, saying they omit crucial, life-saving facts and ignore the needs of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender people - particularly GLBT youth.

"It does not help anyone in the Gay community – particularly Gay youth who desperately need accurate information – because we can't legally marry," said Winnie Stachelberg, HRC Political Director.

Helmsley Loses In Court, Must Pay $11.2M

NEW YORK, NY - Hotel magnate Leona Helmsley showed no reaction Tuesday afternoon, when she was ordered to pay $11.2 million to her former employee, Charles Bell, in a discrimination case.

A New York jury agreed with Bell that he was impermissibly subjected to a hostile environment on the job, and then fired for being Gay in violation of local labor laws. Helmsley's lawyer, Steven Eckhaus, said he will ask the judge to set aside the verdict, the Associated Press

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Identity Theft Doubled In 2002

NEW YORK, NY - The figures are in, and they're downright scary: consumer fraud complaints soared 73 percent last year, the Federal Trade Commission said recently.

At the top of the list of complaints is identity theft, the nastiest of crimes where someone steals some bit of your personal information – often a social security number, PIN, or credit card number – and then uses it for their own purposes. In the doing, they rack up a potential fortune in bills in your name, usually ruining your credit in the process, gfn.com reported.

How bad is it? The FTC's Consumer Sentinel project, a central clearinghouse for data on consumer scams, reports that identity-theft complaints doubled in 2002, reaching 162,000 from 86,000 in 2001.

The FTC estimates that it costs the average victim more than $1,100 in long-distance phone calls, notary charges, mailing costs and lost wages to get his or her financial life back in order after an identity thief strikes.

One of the chief problems, say security experts, is that credit grantors are not compelled to check the accuracy of identifying information when issuing credit. A thief can get credit in a consumer's name with nothing more than a Social Security number. Discrepancies in an applicant's address, employment history and gender are ignored by the firms granting credit.

We pay the price for their negligence, but it's up to us to become a little savvier in order to protect ourselves.

Four Easy Ways to Protect Our Identity

Not all identity thieves are high-tech sleuths. Getting information about you is as easy as going through your trash (albeit smelly, but easy).

Security experts offer numerous antidotes for protecting yourself. Here are four low-cost, easy-to-accomplish, suggestions to thwart the thieves:

1. Buy a paper shredder. Since so many thieves get the very information they want by looking through garbage cans, shredding your discarded mail is a cheap and easy way to protect your identity.

You may think of shredding obvious things like your credit card statement and those "free" checks they seem to send every month along with your portfolio statement. But seemingly innocuous bills like your utility bills, doctor and insurance statements can contain your social security number, or account numbers, and your address.

A basic shredder from Staples will

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Skin Infections Hit San Francisco Gay Men

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - Doctors in San Francisco report that they are seeing an increase in cases of a drug-resistant bacterial skin infection among Gay men, just a week after similar reports started coming out of Los Angeles.

The bacteria, Staphylococcus aureus (better known as staph), has been a common problem in nursing homes and hospitals. But in the past several months, in both Los Angeles and San Francisco, there have been outbreaks among Gay and HIV-positive men and groups of prisoners.

Although HIV-positive men are thought to be more susceptible to infections because they often have suppressed immune systems, doctors are not sure why apparently healthy people with no broken skin have been getting infected. Reports of the outbreaks have been spreading through Gay communities in both cities, but doctors are quick to point out the infections can still be controlled, reported the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

"I don't want people to think this is the equivalent of a new HIV/AIDS disease," said San Francisco Department of Public Health Director Dr. Mitch Katz to the San Francisco Chronicle. As of yet there have been no reported cases of anyone dying from the infection, but the drugs needed to fight the resistant staph often have to be given intravenously and can require hospitalization.

The infections are usually spread by skin-to-skin contact or by touching a recently contaminated surface, according to the Chronicle.

No one is quite sure how many cases of the drug-resistant infection are out there, although one San Francisco doctor familiar with the outbreak estimated the city's cases number between 200 and 300.

Until recently, state and federal health officials were not asking doctors to report on individual cases. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is now testing the strains that have appeared in San Francisco and Los Angeles to see if they are the same.

UPDATE

Tucson Pride Update

TUCSON - Tucson Pride is sponsoring some social events in February and March for the GLBT community.

Friday, February 14, 7 - 9 p.m., is Sweetheart/Singles Bowling at Lucky Strike Bowl, 4015 E. Speedway. $10 cost per person includes shoes and unlimited bowling. There will be some weird prizes to add to your fun. Come on out and just have fun. As long as the ball rolls down the alley, and everyone is having a good time, that's all that counts.

Sunday, March 9, 8 a.m., a hike is planned in Sabino Canyon. Meet in the parking lot at Sabino Canyon, Sunrise Drive and Sabino Canyon Road. Bring water for the hike and a sack lunch for a picnic after. If you can't join the hike, show up for the picnic brunch which should be about 10:30 a.m. Look for a grey VW van near the tram station with signs for the Tucson Pride picnic location. Coffee and soda will be provided at the picnic by the Rainbow Planet Coffee House.

For more information send email to pride@tucsonpride.com, visit the Tucson Pride web site at tucsonpride.com, or call the PrideLine at (520) 620-1770.

Desert Voices Bringing Mardi Gras February 22

TUCSON - Can't get to New Orleans for Mardi Gras this year? Desert Voices will present its own version on February 22, at the annual Cabaret Show and Silent Auction to be held at 6245 E Bellevue (N of Speedway and Wilmot behind Trader Joe's).

There will be costumes, masks, music and great items for sale at the Auction, at good prices.

Ticket cost is $15 in advance, $20 at the door, which includes hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine. Tickets may be purchased from chorus members, at Antigone Books, or by calling (520) 791-9662.

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Reveille Returns With 'De Colores'

By Renata Tebaldi

TUCSON - Reveille Gay Men's Chorus presents "De Colores", an evening of joyous music and Reveille's first major concert of the season, Friday, February 28, at Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Curtain is at 8 p.m.

"De Colores" will also be presented in Hermosillo, Sonora, February 22 as a benefit for ACCSIDA, Community action Against AIDS. ACCSIDA is the leading community HIV/AIDS prevention organization in Sonora, Mexico. "De Colores" marks the debut of Linus Lerner, the "Brazilian Firecracker", as Reveille's artistic director. Linus is an immensely talented musician (and very cute – take it from Renata) who is completing a doctorate in music at UA.

"De Colores" features rousing folk music from North and South America, some great classics of choral music and pop solos that will knock your socks off. Traditional Mexican pasteles, chocolate and cafe will be offered during intermission and after the concert. This will be a great date event, a great place to meet someone special, a great occasion for a group of friends to gather, and a great event for going it alone. Does that cover it, or what? Remember Friday, February 28, for "De Colores"!

Tickets are $18 advance and $20 at the door. Advance tickets are available at Antigone's Books, from Reveille chorus members and by telephone at (520) 617-3100. There will be only one performance of "De Colores" in Tucson.

Antigone Books Workshop Feb. 15

TUCSON - Join us for an event at Antigone Books, Saturday, February 15, noon to 3 p.m., for a Portable Shrine Workshop

Have fun creating your own portable shrine/altar in a 2 ½ hour workshop with instructor Nicole Raisin Stern. We will use colorful handmade papers, leaves, pods, markers, bamboo, etc. to decorate cigar boxes and transform them into personal shrines with doors that open.

Participants are encouraged to bring any special items wanted for inclusion. $40; all supplies included. Advance registration (and payment) required. Limited to 7 participants. Call, (520) 792-3715, or come by the store to register (and see a sample shrine)!

6th Annual Valentine's Dance At MCC Feb.15

TUCSON - The Water of Life MCC (Metropolitan Community Church) will be holding its 6th annual Valentine's Dance, 8 p.m. Saturday, February 15 and goes on until Midnight.

The admission is $5.00 and includes music and refreshments. With raffle prizes galore and other surprises, this is an event not to missed. You need not be a church member to attend. Every one is welcome to attend this alcohol free event.

Water of Life MCC is located at 3269 North Mountain Ave (just north of Fort Lowell) and meet every Sunday at 10:15 a.m. For more information, call (520) 292-9151 or e-mail: WOLMCC@aol.com.

TIHAN Volunteer Training In February

TUCSON - TIHAN conducting the next round of orientations and training at the end of this month.

This is your opportunity to "change the world" for people affected by HIV/AIDS in our Tucson Community. TIHAN is a non-profit organization in Southern Arizona that works with our faith communities to provide social, emotional, and practical assistance (non-medical) to those who are living with HIV. Volunteers are the heart of our organization and need your help!

Making a difference has never been easier! Here's how you can get involved: First, select only one of the orientation dates/times below and RSVP, (520) 299-6647 or e-mail to mike@tihan.org.

Tuesday, February 18, 7 - 8:30 p.m. Thursday, February 20, 1 - 2:30 p.m. Thursday, February 20, 7 - 8:30 p.m. Monday, February 24, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. or Wednesday, February 26, at 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

At the orientation, you will gain a better understanding of TIHAN's history and mission, an overview of HIV/AIDS pandemic, and the many volunteer opportunities available.

Then, come to our day of training on Sat., March 1st from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. This day will provide the training, understanding, and information you need to make a difference in the lives of people living with HIV in our community. There is a $15 cost for materials and lunch (scholarships are available through TIHAN).

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church (3809 E. 3rd Street - between Speedway and 5th Street, west of Alvernon Way) will be the location for all orientations and the training.

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Gay / Lesbian Marriage: Where We Are

NEW YORK, NY - The history of Gay and Lesbian marriage in America is relatively short and somewhat bittersweet.

In 1978, the United States Supreme Court declared marriage to be "of fundamental importance to all individuals." The court also described marriage as "one of the 'basic civil rights of man."

Although the High Court affirmed marriage a fundamental right, no state yet recognizes same-sex marriages; the "basic civil rights of man" do not extend, under the Supreme Court's definition, to Lesbian and Gay people, reported gfn.com

Unfortunately, many states have agreed with the Supreme Court's sentiment, and have passed the Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA, specifically barring same-sex marriages. DOMA legislates marriage as a union "only between a man and a woman," and says that the state will not recognize same-sex marriages performed anywhere.

The fiery issue of Gay marriage makes headlines on a regular basis. This week in Conn., hundreds of Gay rights activists and their conservative religious opponents staged competing demonstrations in the single-digit weather outside the state capitol over the issue of same-sex marriage.

One conservative Rabbi told the cheering crowd that same-sex marriage would lead to polygamy and incest. Such are the rational arguments of same-sex marriage opponents.

The best news in the fight for recognition of same-sex unions came within the last two years, when the Vermont Supreme Court ordered its state legislature to come up with a system providing same-sex couples with traditional marriage-like benefits and protections.

While this law doesn't legalize same-sex marriages, it offers Gay couples some of the same advantages, including:

Property inheritance without a will.

Medical rights such as hospital visitation, notification and durable power of attorney family leave benefits.

The right to sue for wrongful death, loss of consortium and any other tort or law related to spousal relationships.

Use of family laws such as annulment, divorce, child custody, child support, alimony, domestic violence, adoption and property division.

It is important to note that these rights apply only to couples residing in Vermont. Moreover, these rights only apply to local/state laws; civil unions do not provide same-sex couples with rights and benefits provided by federal law. Same-sex couples can't take advantage of Social Security benefits, immigration privileges and the marriage exemption to federal estate tax.

So far, any test of the portability of the Vermont law has failed, even in "divorce." In what is believed to be the first such test of the two-year old law outside Vermont, in July, one Gay couple's attempt to have their Vermont civil union dissolved in Hartford, Conn., was rejected by a Connecticut appeals court, claiming it had no jurisdiction in the matter.

Only two states, California and Hawaii, have passed comprehensive domestic partnership laws offering benefits similar to those available in Vermont.

If you live in one of these three states, you can take advantage of laws that allow you to register your partnership and receive many of the benefits granted to married couples.

Legal experts also advise registering your domestic partnership with both the state and the cities in which you live and work to ensure that your right to benefits available through each jurisdiction is secure.

In practice, if you are registered with the state, some cities will automatically treat you as though you are registered locally. Registration with a city or an employer is never sufficient to entitle you to the state domestic partner benefits.

However, if the partnership breaks up, it's recommended to file the appropriate paperwork in every jurisdiction in which you are registered.

California. To register a domestic partnership in California, visit the California Secretary of State Web site.

Hawaii. To learn about registering your partnership in Hawaii (where it's called a "reciprocal beneficiary relationship"), visit the Web site of Hawaii's Vital Records office.

Vermont. You can read the official guide to Vermont's civil union law, by going to the Vermont Secretary of State Web site.

AIDS Group Returns Money Used To Hire Gay Porn Star

ST. LOUIS, MO - A St. Louis AIDS organization that came under scrutiny last fall after reports surfaced that the agency hired a Gay porn star to appear at a safer-sex event has agreed to repay the city the $500 in health department funds paid to the actor.

Blacks Assisting Blacks Against AIDS had paid Edgar Gaines, who performs under the name Bobby Blake, to appear at a July 20 event held at the home of former BABAA director Erise Williams Jr. Gaines reportedly appeared at the event wearing only a towel and boots, and some of the event attendees say that Gaines was nude at one point and allowed guests at the event to fondle him. Williams and BABAA senior director James Green were fired in November.

The St. Louis Health Department in November froze the remainder of a $96,000 grant to BABAA for syphilis prevention education, from which Gaines's appearance fee was drawn, and declined to renew the grant in 2003. The $500 was returned to the health department at the prompting of city auditors. BABAA officials say the agency will continue to serve HIV-positive people in the St. Louis area and that the organization hopes to win back the syphilis prevention grant.

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Valentine Messages For Observer Deadline Monday, February 10

TUCSON - For over 15 years, the Observer has been offering the printing of free Valentines to its readers. The number has been as high as 700 valentines received in 1996. That figure has settled down to between 250 and 400 each Valentine's Day.

Here is that opportunity to recognize your love for a partner, your distaste for a certain person or send a message to that certain one you have always wanted to talk to.

However you must hurry! The deadline for this year is Monday, February 10, to be inserted in our February 12 Valentine issue. These messages will also be included on the world-wide web in our online edition of that date.

Just a few guidelines:

1. Be as brief as possible; make sure that your message is in reasonably clean language. (Observer reserves the right to edit (s)language that is deemed offensive. Make sure handwriting is clear. Print if necessary.

2. No more than four (4) messages per person, please.

3. Messages may be dropped off at any of Tucson's Gay bars; or at Antigone Books, Rainbow Planet Coffee House, Wingspan, Desert Pride, or SAAF.

4. (a) Messages may be mailed to the Observer at P.O. Box 50733, Tucson, AZ 85703. (b) Messages may be e-mailed to: observer@theriver.com - (Please indicate 'valentine' in the subject line. (c) Messages may be faxed by dialing (520)792-8382. (d) Messages must be received by midnight, February 10, 2003 to be included.

Affairs of Abdicated King's Wife Revealed

LONDON, UK - The American woman whose affair with England's King Edward VIII led to his abdication in 1936 cheated on him with a Gay business heir as well as a Nazi minister and a car salesman, it was revealed, reported Gay.com UK.

The new evidence raises the possibility that the king would not have abdicated had he known of her affairs.

Wallis Simpson had an affair with a Gay man behind husband Edward's back, amongst many dalliances. At the age of 55 -- in 1950 -- Wallis embarked on another affair, with Gay playboy Jimmy Donahue, heir to the Woolworth's empire and 19 years her junior. It lasted three years.

The information came to light in a Special Branch dossier, one of 120 released. The dossiers also contain disapproving notes about Wallis' friends.

Before the Second World War, Wallis was said to have had a passionate relationship with prominent Nazi Joachim von Ribbentrop, Hitler's special adviser. FBI (news - web sites) files show he gave her 17 carnations -- one for every time they had slept together.

Edward died in France of cancer in 1972, still bitter his wife was never made royalty. He was 77. Wallis was 89 when she died in 1986. The two are buried in Windsor, England.

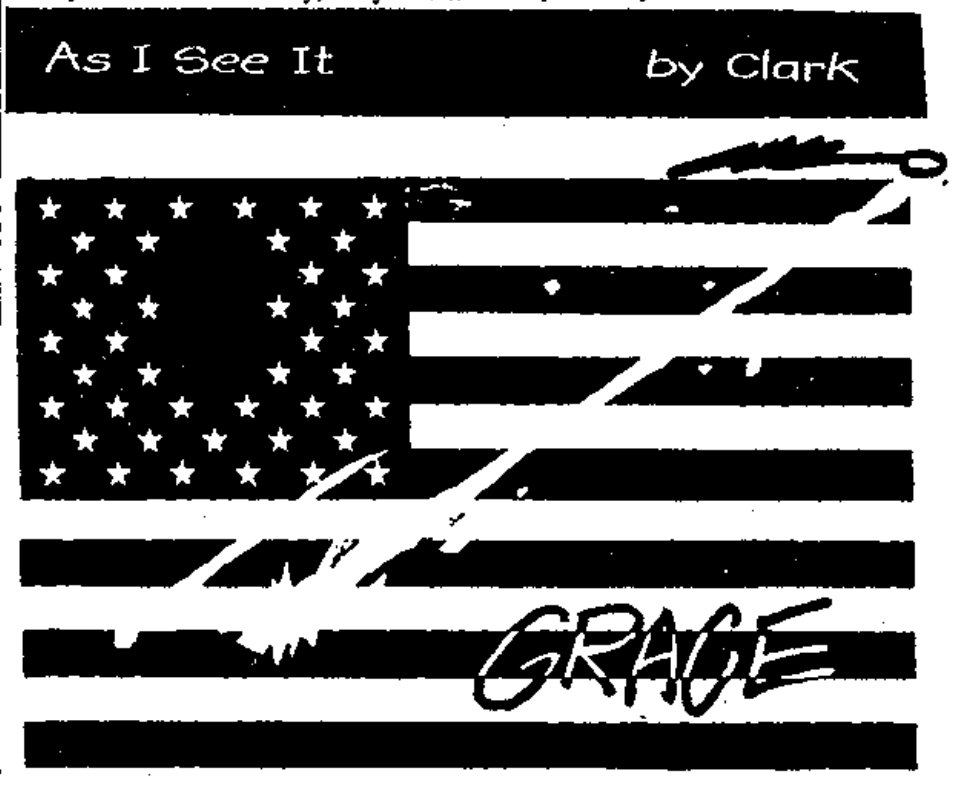
Rosie O'Donnell Accuses Publishers Of Manipulating Sales

NEW YORK, NY - Rosie O'Donnell is fighting back hard in her countersuit against Rosie publishers Gruner + Jahr.

O'Donnell filed papers saying that G+J manipulated sales figures of the magazine so as not to have to honor a clause in O'Donnell's contract that would have allowed her to walk away from the magazine if sales figures fell below a certain level.

She now claims that G+J exploited that loophole and inflated sales figures for the magazine and that those actions were performed "with the express approval of its corporate parent, Gruner + Jahr" of Germany. O'Donnell's attorney, Mary Jo White, claims she will produce a smoking gun--an E-mail from G+J America executives asking their superiors in Germany for permission to cook the books, which would then force O'Donnell to pay G+J for permission to exit her contract.

O'Donnell is not the first person to make such allegations against the company. Both Women's Wear Daily and Advertising Age reported that G+J inflated the circulation numbers for YM when they reported figures for the audit of the second half of 2001. YM publisher Laura McEwen later admitted to Advertising Age, "The figures were inaccurate, and we take ownership and responsibility for that."



NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

by Lee Thorn

New Art In Hip City

I'm starting to get to like the folks at the Tucson Pima Arts Council. If you disagree with them they'll argue with you, unlike many local officials I could name. They don't get mad and hang up just because you challenge their judgment and, even better, they actually know something about art. When I recently asked them what's new in local public art, they gave me three projects to ogle and at least ten minutes of good-natured argument.

The thing they said that most surprised me was that Tucsonans are vociferously complaining about two of the new projects. Tucsonans complaining about anything at all is hard enough to believe. Our complaining about art is little short of wondrous.

If I may digress very briefly, we don't complain when our jailors beat prisoners to death, or when the city runs a sleazy extortion racket, or when the county refuses to prosecute felonious law enforcement officers, or when the city invents a new and extra-legal privacy right for celebrity drunk drivers, so if we're now complaining about new public art it's not only a sign of life – it's conclusive evidence of the extreme sophistication required to differentiate the quotidian from the eternal. We are no longer merely the Old Pueblo: We are Hip City.

The first new piece of "art" I was directed to was the "wall treatment" on River Road between Campbell and First. It consists of lots of round rocks and a few green wavy pieces of metal stuck to walls used for traffic noise abatement.

I would first point out that it is decoration, not art. Decoration has a useful function, namely to decorate a useful object like a wall. Art purposely avoids having a useful function.

Secondly, it's difficult to imagine what anyone could complain about except perhaps the blandness of this "treatment." It's so bland you have to drive up and back a few times before you even notice it. Only in Hip City would the people raise a hue and cry against blandness.

The next new art project is a pair of sculptures, one at Ft Lowell and Mountain, its mate at Mountain and Glenn. Both pieces consist of blobs of cement covered with irregularly shaped tiles. The tiled blobs come out of sewer pipes and are supposed to represent flowing water.

The guy who runs the convenience store next to the piece on Ft Lowell confirms what the Art Council says -- everybody really hates it, so much so that the artists are considering brightening up the finish to make the blobs look more watery.

The idea that artists would alter their design to reduce public grumbling is really sad. Imagine Picasso or Van Gogh doing that. Politicians are supposed to work with one wet finger in the air to test the winds, not artists.

It's not surprising that the public hates new art. Art is supposed to be about originality. The public loves familiarity. Any new art that is instantly embraced by the public is probably trivial. The true test of public art is whether a piece will come to be loved as it grows in familiarity, something that has never happened after three decades with the still hated red pagoda-looking thing in front of the main library.

And finally there are five panels of bronze reliefs on a wall at Silverlake and Santa Cruz. If you're one of those many people who like art whose production demands very high degrees of skill, training and labor, this is your cup of tea. And although relief genres are some of the oldest and most traditional in art, these works sparkle with originality and even a dash of insouciance.

The panels depict scenes from Arizona history and they belong in the lobby of some important government building. Unbelievably, by some stroke of stultifying idiocy, they've been placed on a highway with virtually no pedestrian traffic. Cars speeding past aren't even able to see what they are. There are no walkers.

The only conceivable rationale for this placement is as some sort of twisted incitement to vandalism. Maybe a banner should be added: "Vandalize Us." If no one has so far complained about these works, perhaps it's because no one's yet found them.

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

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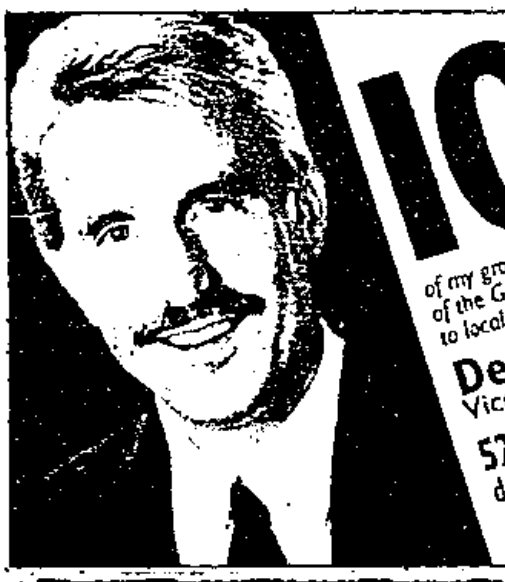

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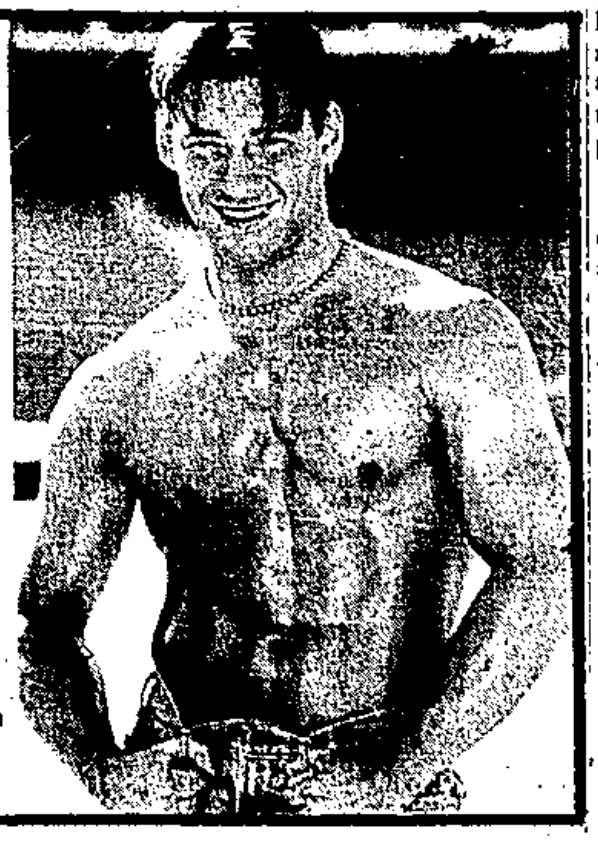

'Social Darwinism Won't Balance The Books'

In the January 30 article, entitled "GOP Plan Will Keep Us At Bottom," by Arizona Daily Star columnist, Ernesto Portillo Jr., he slams "his state legislators", state Rep. Peter Hershberger and state Sen. Toni Hellon, both Republicans, congratulating them for coming up with a Draconian state budget proposal despite the fact neither one of them had a hand in it.

How smarmy can you get, since according to the article, Portillo didn't bother to speak to his other "legislator," Republican state Rep. Steve Huffman, the chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, or for that matter, Ernesto didn't bother to speak with Republican state Rep. Randy Graf of Green Valley, the House Majority Leader, who had a part in the drafting of the GOP draconian state budget proposal, to deal with the shortfall.

This is not surprising since Portillo, one of the stars of KUAT's "Reporter's Roundtable", where know-it-all breeder reporters gather on Friday's, to talk about politics, and the issues at hand, took out an early ballot for the November 2002 general election and turned it in late, and wrote about it in his "enumerable style" but with the Arizona Daily Star, supposition prevails over fact and bias remains supreme over the truth.

Hellon and Hershberger are a rarity in the Arizona Legislature, moderate Republicans who are pro-choice, open-minded on social issues and don't toe the conservative line by the leadership in both chambers. They've served their district and constituents very well and is why this publication enthusiastically endorsed them in the 2002 primary and general elections, as well as state Rep. Huffman.

"This budget makes a mockery of education," Hershberger said in the piece, commenting about the conservative GOP leadership proposal. Hellon commented on the budget as well, stating, "This budget makes so many mistakes, they've given us all kinds of reasons to oppose the budget."

Indeed, selling off state buildings and important machinery, such as the snow plows that keep the roads clear in the northern part of the state; cutting many health care and education programs, such as the adult education programs helping people learn how to read, naming several of the many proposals, makes so many mistakes, that the conservative GOP leaders are already backpedaling from their own proposed budget.

There is one proposed cut in the conservative Republican budget that will be a matter of life and death.

In the GOP proposal, $1-million dollars would be cut that now help pay for the AIDS "cocktail" for low income patients and if this proposal goes through, a total of 1,000 patients statewide, 136 in Tucson and Pima County would have these medications cut off, meaning an early death for some of these individuals, since these drugs would cost nearly $1,000 a month, something those lucky people who have insurance can get.

Now is the time for us to let our voices be heard, especially to support Governor Janet Napolitano's budget proposal, for which none of these proposed cuts appear in. Call your state legislator at (800) 352-8404 and let them know of your support of the Napolitano budget proposal.

For the past twelve years, the state has suffered with the tax breaks for the rich, alt-fuels and the slashing of essential services that government should provide. Voters made it loud and clear that a drastic change of direction was needed with the election of Napolitano and that "Social Darwinism" won't balance the books this time and for the future.

SOUTHERN ARIZONA LEGISLATORS

Legislative District 25: Senator Marsha Arzberger, Rep. Manuel Alvarez, Rep. Jennifer Burns.

Legislative District 26: Senator Toni Hellon, Rep. Peter Hershberger, Rep. Steve Huffman.

Legislative District 27: Senator Jorge Luis Garcia, Rep. Olivia Cajero Bedford, Rep. Phil Lopes.

Legislative District 28: Senator Gabrielle Giffords, Rep. Ted Downing, Rep David Bradley.

Legislative District 29: Senator Victor Soltero, Rep. Linda Lopez.

Legislative District 30: Senator Tim Bee, Rep. Marian McClure, Rep. Randy Graf.

If you are unsure of what Legislative District you live in. Call the Tucson Legislative Office at (520) 628-6593, or call the toll-free number for the Arizona Legislature, (800) 352-8404.

FREE VALENTINES IN THE FEBRUARY 12TH ISSUE OF THE OBSERVER.

Leave your Valentine messages at any of Tucson's Gay Bars, or at Antigone Books, Rainbow Planet, Wingspan, Desert Pride or S.A.A.F., or send directly to the Observer at any of the addresses on page two.

LIMIT FOUR (4) MESSAGES PER PERSON

DEADLINE FEBRUARY 10, 2003

La Conexión Latina
Salud es Poder

El machismo en la communidad Latina Gay; retos y ventajas

El machismo es algo que está presente en todo el mundo pero con diferentes matices. Para comenzar a discutir el asunto comenzáremos por tratar de definir a una persona machista. Una persona machista es aquella que sin importar su sexo o género, piensa que el hombre, por el simple hecho de ser hombre tiene mas valor que la mujer. El machismo no es exclusivo del hombre ya que en ocasiones las mujeres pueden ser mas machistas que los mismos hombres. Hay una tendencia en las mujeres mexicanas, madres de familia, a preservar la cultura machista ya que en sus mismos hogares enseñan a las hijas a atender a los hermanos, (lavarles, plancharles, cocinarles, limpiarles el cuarto) simplemente porque ellas son mujeres y sus hermanos son hombres. Esto es a grandes rasgos una descripción del machismo en la familia latina, a continuación discutiré un poco mas a fondo el machismo en la comunidad latina gay.

Sin caer en generalizaciones, en la comunidad gay el machismo se preserva en los adjetivos calificativos de "activo", y "pasivo", de "quién es el hombre y quien la mujer". En estos casos, el activo (penetrador) es "el hombre" o "el macho" mientras que el pasivo (penetrado) es "la mujer". Estas categorizaciones pueden ser problemáticas si las enmarcamos en el machismo donde los "machos" pueden hacer lo que quieran y los "pasivos" no les queda otra que aceptarlo. Tomemos por ejemplo a una persona que creció en un hogar machista y el se identifica mas con el sexo femenino en donde su modelo a seguir es su madre o hermanas. En este caso es muy posible que vea como natural el dominio del su "macho" y si él no quiere usar condón, pues simplemente va a aceptar lo que se le imponga. El machismo es algo difícil de borrar pero es necesario comenzar por ver a dos hombres que tiene sexo entre sí, como eso, como dos hombres y no como un hombre y una mujer. De que lo que hacen en la cama no necesariamente refleja el género de estas personas, es decir por el hecho de que alguien sea pasivo, ese rol no lo convierte en mujer. Como todo, esto es muy complejo y no se aplica a todo el mundo ya que existen gays que se sienten y viven como mujeres y esto no es aplicable a ellos o ellas.

¿Hay ventajas en el machismo? Esta es una pregunta muy interesante y como con todas las buenas preguntas, no hay una respuesta convincente. Seguramente hay algunas ventajas y es que el poder que se le da al macho, ya sea el mismo o la sociedad, debería ser visto como una responsabilidad para con los demás. En los latinos un buen "macho" es aquel que protege a su familia en todos los aspectos, que es responsable y que es un modelo a seguir. También se puede ser macho y ser gay al mismo tiempo. Un ejemplo de macho gay seria la pareja de un hombre que independientemente de lo que haga en la cama, es responsable, ayuda a salir adelante a su pareja y esta comprometido a sacar adelante la relación en todos los aspectos.

Salud es Poder te invita a expresar tus comentarios o sugerencias sobre esta sección. Háblanos al (520) 628-7223 o salud@saaf.org

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EDITOR:

Wingspan would like to congratulate the Bears of Old Pueblo for their incredibly successful Fiesta de los Osos. This year was the largest gathering ever of Bears in Tucson, with over 260 people in attendance from nearly every state in the country and two or three foreign countries.

Through the Fiesta and their other activities, the Bears of Old Pueblo raised a total of $2,373, which they donated to Wingspan this year. We are incredibly grateful to the Bears for the wonderful work they do in our community and for their generosity toward local LGBT-related non-profits.

Kent Burbank
Executive Director, Wingspan

EDITOR:

I would like to thank IBT's for allowing Gay Men's Health Project the opportunity of their barbecue/drag show fundraiser this past Sunday.

Thanks to Henry, Michael and Larry for running the food as well as Fran for cooking it. Huge thanks go to those incredibly fabulous performers Janee Starr, Teri Aki, Miss Saigon, Lady Ashley, Veronica Halliwell, Deora Le Blanc, Stella Virgin and special guest Tootie for going beyond the call of duty, donning some fabulous outfits, raising the roof and helping raise over $300.00.00 for Condom Brigade. I would also like to thank the audience for being so generous with their tips and for their amazing support of the program.

This money will buy condoms and lube for distribution in Tucson's Gay bars. Again thanks to all who took the time and energy to help Condom Brigade. I couldn't do it without you.

Bearhugs,
Scott A. Davey
GMHP Manager

TUCSON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOK REVIEW

[Sex Crime Panic: A Journey to the Paranoid Heart of the 1950's By Neil Miller, 2002. Reviewed by Terry Nordbrock, Tucson-Pima Public Library.]

In Sioux City, Iowa, in 1954, an 8-year-old boy was sexually assaulted and brutally murdered. 50-year-old salesman Ernest Triplett was charged with the crime, despite the fact that there was no evidence against Triplett except that he admitted to having sex with men.

While under arrest, Triplett was given huge amounts of experimental drugs (LSD and amphetamines) to help him "remember" the murder, and his enjoyment of Liberace was used against him in court. Another gruesome murder occurred while Triplett was incarcerated, and his conviction was later overturned in 1972.

The two murders created a public hysteria, which the Iowa legislature re-

CONTINUED ON PAGE NINE

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ARIES
MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

February proves to be a professional boon to Gay Rams with an eye towards the future. There is love in the corner office in time for Valentines Day and a way to make yourself heard and understood for the genius you are after the 22nd. While you wait for the rewards to trickle in, be cognizant of the impact you have on friends. Are you too much of a good thing? Oh let's hope so!

TAURUS
APRIL 21 - MAY 21

Expand your vision this February as the push of Venus extends your reach and impact. There is a great deal of power to be had by dipping into your inner well. But don't drown in your own magnificence, queer Bull; retro Saturn ties your purse strings in knots and all the charisma in the world will not pay your bills. Wait until the 22nd before you take the next big step. Oops!

GEMINI
MAY 22 - JUNE 21

Pink Twins are not known for their passion but this Valentines month has you singeing quite a few sheets. But you may be too hot to handle until Saturn redirects on the 22nd and controls your flame more effectively. While you wait for your stew to simmer to a slow boil, put more emphasis on long range goals. You can go the distance if you can pace yourself. Ain't' that the truth!

CANCER
JUNE 22 - JULY 23

If you feel especially cuddly and cocooning this February, chalk it up to a very charismatic Venus which highlights partnerships. Strengthen current relationships or develop a few new interesting ones while the Valentine's energy maximizes your charm and allure. Don't be shy, pink Crab; crack open up your shell before you become just another saucy claw in the gumbo.

LEO
JULY 24 - AUGUST 23

February delivers a package of valentines promise at every party in town. The glamour and glitz can lead you to great adventures and zesty fun. But let me let you into a secret, proud Lion; the greater rewards can be found at work. Try not to dissipate your energies by searching for your special someone after hours. Spend more time at the water cooler to quaff your thirst.

VIRGO
AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23

Queer Virgos may want to spruce up their nest this February. Venus is trolling for love at every party in town and you want to be ready with all the finishing touches. Put your mind to the task of love and place your professional goals on the back burner until after February 22nd when Saturn redirects. That will be the best time to show those in power what you can do.

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23

You may want to soar with the eagles but Saturn suggests that you wallow with the rest of us mortals in early February. Concentrate instead on the antics of Venus which lights a fire in your home life throughout the month. Spread valentines joy with a few intimate soirees. Maybe you will even let your love flow to some impossible relatives? Dream the impossible dream.

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22

Passionate Gay Scorps can make their sexy intentions known in no uncertain terms when Venus spices your words. But all talk and no action will lead you nowhere fast. Wait until wise old Saturn redirects on the 22nd before you take love to the next step. So what if your Valentines Day is a bit quieter than usual. You will finish February with a bang ... or two... or three....

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22

Love for sale? It seems so as Venus glides into mercenary Cap this February and places a price tag on every piece of merchandise. But you needn't worry about being overcharged, Gay Archer; Mars and Pluto make you quite a showpiece yourself and customers clamor to feel the fabric. After the 22nd, Saturn redirects and encourages you to select one from the rack to take home.

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20

Who is this superstar? Venus shines a pink spotlight on you this February and increases your personal stock to preferred status. Proud Caps don't have to worry about attracting valentines - they will find you. As you bask in their adoration and love, you may be tempted to sample from the entire tasting menu. Avoid the temptation while Saturn retrogrades and causes indigestion.

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19

What do you divine, you divine thing? Venus ambles into your cosmic cloud this February and makes you mysteriously alluring. Be your proud self and love will find you. Aqueerians are on a mission to manifest their destiny and it will be more work than play until Saturn redirects on the 22nd. After that you can enjoy a bit of your spoils. Just don't get spoiled yourself!

PISCES
FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20

You are marshall of the Valentines pride parade this February as Venus provides you with personality plus. Dive into the social swim, Guppie, and let the tide carry you to the action downstream. But be a bit discerning; You snare many more valentines than you can easily fit in your net. By the 22nd you will know which rainbow trout to take home and devour.

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'Looking To The Skies'

Hello readers. Sometimes when you think that folks are talking about a particular subject, the words that are destined to emerge come as easily as thoughts of what is due for the day. Other times, it's worst than getting water from a well that our great-great-grandfather got water from when it is your turn. I was set to write a seething article on the aftermath of our President's statements last week, when Saturday came around. Bob at the Yard Dog gave me final inspiration to write what you are about to read; so if you are in the vicinity, thank him for that last bit of push some writers need from time to time.

When I was going to grade school (oh so long ago), I - along with every other young boy - dreamed of being chosen for a special task. We would have the recurring dream that the call would come and we were chosen to be the next in line to don the suite and fly into the unknown that we called space. Back then, space was a truly unknown place. We remember that President Kennedy made the speech to give not only pride, but purpose, to those who thought that exploration of other worlds was not only necessary, but a duty we were given. We drank our Tang and thought of what it would be like to enter the capsule and be hurled into the dark. It was the dream of most young men back then, even replacing the dream of being a war hero. If we were chosen, we would represent mankind in the search for other life and civilizations that we saw only in our hidden thoughts.

As I got older, that dream of course did not come to fruition, and I even got to see the real meaning behind our exploration of space. While in the Navy, I was stationed on a ship that got to be a visual target for the Shuttle Columbia. When you heard on the news of the shuttle conducting a "military mission," it was nothing more than NASA showing that all those dollars being spent could come to some good. I could remember seeing the streaking light across the sky of the Dead Sea, and knowing it was one of our own vehicles making its mark on the world. We showed the Soviets that we could not only dominate the planet, but its surroundings as well.

When my ship returned from sea, there was a package sent from Florida with the markings of our space organization on the envelope. Having a clearance to open mail, I took the liberty of opening it. Inside were photos of the men who served on our little ship, taken from so far away.

At that point I realized the military intentions of our space program and made it my purpose to not be proud of our ability outside of the accomplishments that were truly human, and not military. I must admit that, when the Challenger exploded during take off, I was as shocked and disturbed as the next citizen; but I still held my ground and would not turn tragedy into the creating of martyrs, knowing that the shuttle's intentions were not truly being disclosed to the people abroad. If the purpose of the money is truly for the progress of our knowing of the heavens, then I would be the first eulogizing the seven who perished last Saturday. I am sorry to say that I can not totally write that in true honesty.

While watching CNN, I was in awe of the fact that it was admitted that one of the first notified of the disaster was our newly-assigned head of homeland security, Tom Ridge. Terrorism would have been the last thought in my mind after seeing that the shuttle did not make it into our atmosphere. After hearing that news, the thought of how much the military was involved in this mission was true to form. If we would even suspect terrorism as the motive for the disaster, then obviously the mission had a military angle to it. Mr Ridge should have heard the news the same way most of us did. Terrorism of course was ruled out, but the procedure by which the country treated it will always be suspect in my heart.

It was a true tragedy we were witness to Saturday morning. What seemed like a routine mission turned into a barrage of questions that might never be answered. As long as our space program is spear-headed by a military committee, we will never truly go into the heavens with an honest intention. Exploration in our country's history has always been about the upper hand of a few and nothing else. The dream most of us had as youngsters will never come to truth unless the space program is in fact about space, not advantage.

My heartfelt sympathy goes to the families of those lost in the Columbia crash. I know they feel that hero is a title their loved ones should carry forever more. I would like to think of them in the same light that those in the Lewis and Clark expedition should be thought of. Their intention was true, but unfortunately, their reason for perishing is a loss that is expected when forging ahead in the progress of our ability to control the rest of the world. That is the bigger disaster that will never be noticed and will be hidden under the rug like so many other government missions. Have a good week!

Book Review

CONTINUED FROM PAGE SEVEN

sponded to by passing a sexual psychopath bill. In 1955 the police rounded-up 20 middle-class Gay men not suspected of the crimes, and sentenced them to the state mental hospital until deemed "cured." The Mount Pleasant Hospital established a special ward for those sentenced under the new law, and Miller provides first person accounts of life in the sexual psychopath ward.

A gripping story of murder and anti Gay hysteria, award-winning journalist Neil Miller's carefully researched account shows how the paranoia of the McCarthy era destroyed the lives of Gay men in the American heartland.

Neil Miller is the author of Out in the World: Gay and Lesbian Life From Buenos Aires to Bangkok, Out of the Past: Gay and Lesbian History from 1869 to the Present, and In Search of Gay America, the winner of the 1990 Stonewall Award from the American Library Association, as well as the Lambda Literary Award. He teaches journalism and nonfiction writing at Tufts University in Medford, Mass.

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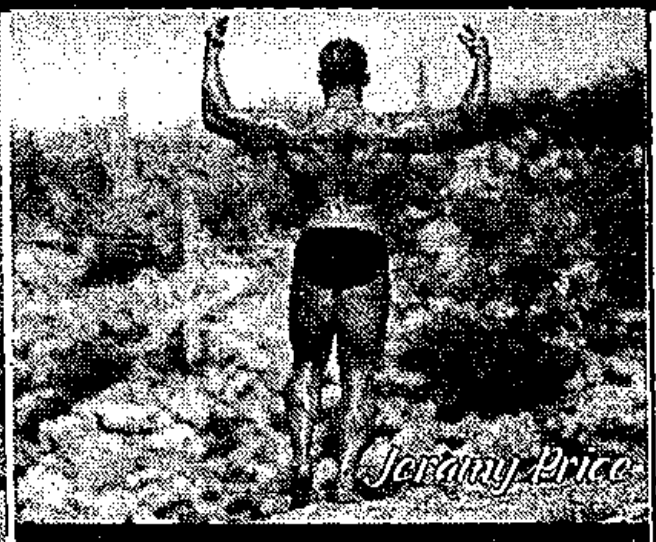

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- BL

After being diagnosed with polymyalgia, I was put on steroids and pain pills. I had been in constant pain for over two years, so I was skeptical on beginning a strength program. Jeramy tailored an exercise routine with special emphasis on the joints which were most sore. Within 12 weeks I quit taking pain pills and have quadrupled my strength and flexibility levels. I would be proud to endorse Jeramy's program to anyone.

- LR

Local Luminaries

GENDER WORLD · BY JONI K. MALLOY

I've been in Santa Fe the past week. While I've often visited Albuquerque's Transgender support group, which meets every Friday night at 7:30 at the MCC, 1103 E. Texas Street NE, I've never been aware of a group in Santa Fe. It's rumored, though, that there are a variety of genders in town.

Thus when I saw the announcement of something called Gender Reconcilation Training, I dialed the number. The woman who answered explained that the training is designed to overcome the power differential between men and women. Naturally when I heard that I was tempted to ask, "But what about the rest of us?"

But I was interested. We talked, among other things, about genital mutilation, which happens, we agreed, to children of all sexes and genders, especially to those born intersexed. I know several people in Tucson who are still recovering from being surgically altered as infants into conforming to one sex or the other.

After I hung up it occurred to me that gender inequality affect us all, and that transpeople are among the best witnesses. As many an FTM can testify, you can increase your income power significantly by becoming a man. Suddenly people see you as important and powerful, and they listen to you. And it doesn't even matter anymore if you're a bit overweight.

From the MTF perspective, becoming a woman means you most likely won't earn nearly as much as you could as a man, and people start to notice your clothes, hair, makeup and fingernails--and ignore or discount what you say. I used to worry about being too skinny and not having a manly chest and shoulders; now I'm more concerned that my waist may not be slender and feminine enough (as well as my nose being too big!). I even find myself wishing I were a foot shorter. I only came out when I felt I had nothing left to lose.

What does all this say about the supposed equality between "men" and "women"? Whatever gender we are, we still have a long way to go, baby! Let me know how you feel. Write me at desertwordsmith@yahoo.com. I'll be back in Tucson in time for the Desert Girlz MTF support group meeting at 7 p.m. at Wingspan next Monday, February 10. See ya, Sweetie!

A View From The Rock

A Commentary From Cornerstone Fellowship

On Being A Christian

How many of you have had a friend or family member that have told you that you are living in sin and are condemned because you are Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or Transgendered?

I think most of us have had this experience. This type of thinking creates problems. It doesn't create problems with the person the person who tells us that we are condemned. That person lives in a very narrow world and doesn't have the capacity to believe otherwise. If that person, or persons, love you, then the only problem they have is to accept you as you are and that, also, may be impossible for them to do. They may not have that capacity either.

The real problem lies with us. We tend to internalize what people have told us about ourselves and live as if we really are condemned by God. We do not have to believe these lies. We can be Christian and GLBT! In Ephesians 1:4,5 I read:" For he chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In Love, He predestined us to be adopted through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His will and pleasure." To me, this is what these verses tell me: (1) I was chosen by God (even though I am a Lesbian); (2) I am holy and blameless (even though I am a Lesbian); (3) In His love, God adopted me through Jesus Christ (even though I am a Lesbian); (4) It is His will, and it is pleasing to Him, that in love He adopted me to be His own (even though I am a Lesbian).

If you are GLBT, you can be a Christian. Do not doubt that! You can love Jesus, and you are loved by Him. Do not doubt that! Internalize these truths! If you need help dealing with the person or persons who tell you that you are condemned by god, ask God for wisdom on what to do and what to say. James 1:5 tells us, "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt." Be assured that you are loved by God!

Loved with everlasting love, led by grace that love to know. Spirit breathing from above, Thou hast taught me it is so! O this full and perfect peace, From His presence all divine In a love which cannot cease, I am His and He is mine. His forever, only His -- Who the Lord and me shall part?

SPORTS LINE

DESERT COYOTES BOWLING LEAGUE STANDINGS

	Won	Lost
ToledoDeJaneiro	37.0	12.0
One Is Two Ain't	31.0	18.0
Aces Over Queens	27.0	22.0
The Nutz	27.0	22.0
2 Dicks No Peter	26.0	23.0
3-4 Buddocks Luv	25.0	24.0
Team Sux	24.0	25.0
Mama's Boys	24.0	25.0
Sofa King Sleazy	22.0	27.0
Pseudovirgins	18.0	31.0
Public Trough	18.0	31.0
Itchy Balls	15.0	34.0

SEASON ACHIEVEMENTS

High Average - Erick J., 207; JoAnn S., 167; ToledoDeJaneiro, 575.

High Series Scratch - Erick J., 749; JoAnn S., 609; ToledoDeJaneiro, 1842.

High Game Scratch - Erick J., 300; Heather H., 229; ToledoDeJaneiro, 674.

High Series Handicap - Jason B., 782; JoAnn S., 753; Sofa King Sleazy, 2143.

High Game Handicap - Michael H., 312; Heather H., 283; Mama's Boys, 788.

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Paul Chambliss, Pastor

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Morning Worship Service - 10:30 am
Wednesday Night Bible Study - 6:00 pm

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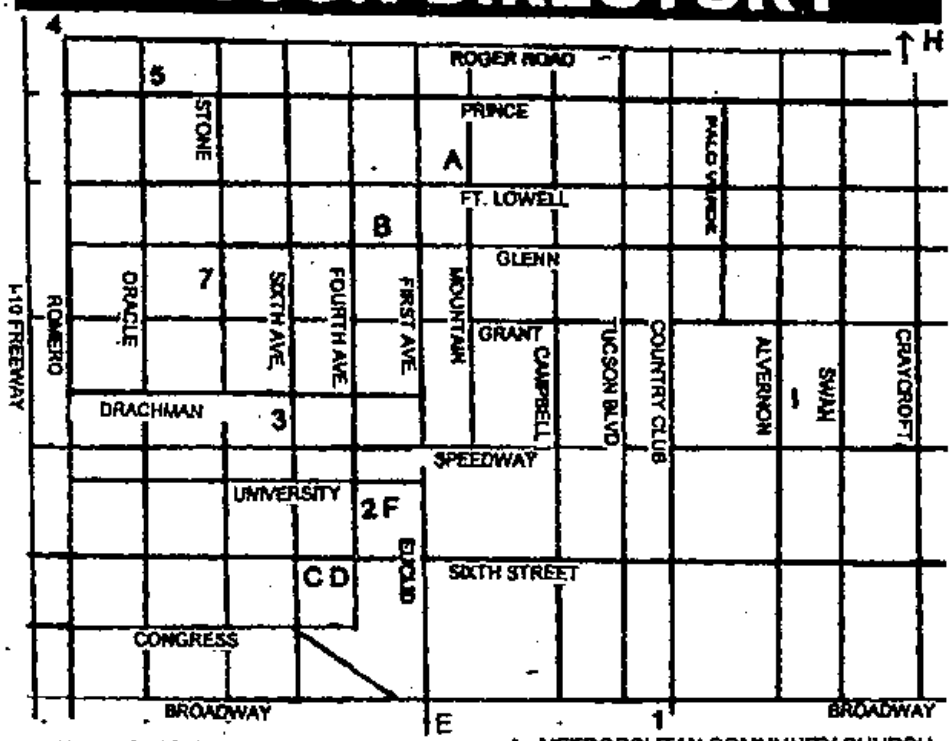

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2. IBT'S - 616 N. 4th Ave. 882-3053
3. VENTURE-N - 1239 N. 6th Ave. 882-8224
4. NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - 4001 N. Romero Road (@ West Roger Rd). 407-9822
5. WOODY'S - 3710 N. Oracle Road, 292-8702
7. YARD DOG - 2449 N. Stone, 624-3858

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FREE Valentines in the February 12th issue of the Observer. Get them in by Feb. 10 Limit four to a person. Leave your Valentine messages at any of Tucson's Gay bars, or at Wingspan, Antigone Books, Rainbow Planet Coffee House or S.A.A.F., or send directly to the Observer at any of the addresses on Page two. Join the fun. Hundreds do every year!

Dear Dr. X,

I have never seen a question like this on any sex advice page so I am hoping you can help. This one is about a harsh sickness I get after anal sex. I love to be the bottom. But, due to my problem, I am always the top because I know what happens if I bottom.

Almost every time I have ever been the bottom, I have had very painful bloating afterwards. On some occasions, I even had horrible diarrhea. It is always the same, no matter who my partner is. I have tried different lubricants, different everything...I even get sick from fingering myself.

Lately, it has become worse. I spend the next few days sick, sitting on the toilet thinking that my insides are going to fall out (sorry to be so graphic). I can't imagine what is making me react this way. Am I allergic to anal sex? Is it possible for my body to be so sensitive that it cannot even bear it? Sex itself doesn't hurt at all. Can you please offer some advice to preventing this sickness? I want to enjoy anal sex the same way all Gay men seem to.

Alleged Allergic

Dear Alleged Allergic,

It is rare, but not unheard of, for a man to be "allergic" to anal sex. Most men with this problem only have symptoms when they have sex without a condom, which points to a physical reaction to semen.

There are also some men who are allergic to different types of lube. In your case, since even your finger makes you ill, the root of the problem is very likely to be psychological. Psychology plays a major role in *all* sexual activity. Unless a man is unconscious while he has sex, his mind is his biggest sex organ. Can you rule out any traumatic experiences with sex in the past? There could be other psychological associations involved as well.

I recommend that you try hypnotherapy. It is an inexpensive and gentle approach. Hypnotherapy may or may not get to the root or cause of your anal sex allergy, but it almost certainly can help you to overcome feeling sick after anal sex. The fact of the matter is that anal sex should *not* make you feel sick unless your man is so rough with you that he harms you physically. I hope that this helps and you can get back in the saddle again.

Dear Dr. X,

I am an attractive black man. Ever since I can remember I have been attracted to men. My ideal is a white rugged man between the ages of 35-55. My friends have a problem with this and say "Black with Black. White with White." What can I do to get my friends off my back?

Confused & Hurt

Dear Confused & Hurt,

As a Gay black man, or as a man in general you need answer to no one regarding what sort of relationships make you happy. It is no one's business what sort of skin tones you find attractive.

Yes, the USA is still largely a racist country, and there is widespread ignorance and prejudice about skin color within virtually every community. Certain segments of society are uncomfortable seeing anything that seems different. Two men together are different. Two men of different races are different. But the fact of the matter is that we live in a world of diversity, and the more variety people see on a daily basis, the less unusual it becomes. Follow your heart. There is no one place in the USA where men of any race can love one another free of any form of prejudice. Tucson sometimes seems to be very liberal, but you can probably expect some ignorant reactions wherever you go, and you must learn to take them in stride (painful as that may be at times). Ultimately, you have to be true to yourself. Do what feels right to you, and the rewards will far outweigh societal pressures.

[Send your questions to Dr. X at gmhp@saaf.org or mail them to SAAF/GMHP, 375 S. Euclid, Tucson, AZ 85719. You can also check out Dr. X online at www.gmhp.org.]

NON-BAR CALENDAR
GROUPS / CLUBS / ORGANIZATIONS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Marv for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Marv at 745-0304.

Tucson Prime Timers Video Night 7 p.m., Non pornographic movies with Gay themes are shown. Phone: 740-0620

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 1:00 p.m. Join the guys of MSN for a great Lunch Out at La Fuente, a place for great Mexican food. For directions and reservations, please call Jerry or Les at 690-9565.

A Fellowship Group starts at 7:00 p.m. at the Water of Life MCC. All are invited to come and your expand your relationship with God. You need not be a church member to participate. For more information, call (520) 292-9151.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 8:00 p.m. A theatre outing takes us to "Who's Under Where?", a romp involving two married women, jealous husbands, and a male model. For tickets, please phone the ticket office at 733-1076.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Marv will host Pinochle Night. If you don't know how to play, but would like to learn, this is the place. For more information, please call Marv at 745-0304.

Red and White Fantasy Night, Cactus Rose, 8617 N. Black Canyon Road, Phoenix Sponsored by Transgender Harmony

Tucson Prime Timers Food & Drinks – 5 p.m., Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 3:00 p.m. Art & Jeff host dinner and a movie. The film is "Clay Farmers", a film about what homophobia can do. For directions and reservations, please call Art or Jeff at 762-9135.

Tucson Prime Timers Dinner - 6:00 p.m., Pastiche – Modern Eatery, 3025 N. Campbell Suite 121. Reservations - Don: 622-1835

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10
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.

Desert Girlz, Support group for male-to-female transgenderists. 7 PM, Wingspan 300 E. Sixth Street

Tucson Prime Timers Lunch at 12:30 p.m., Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11
#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Chris 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 Chris at 304-5814.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Tom for Bridge Night. If you don't know how to play, the guys are willing to teach you. For directions and reservations, please call Tom at 326-8196.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Bruce for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Bruce at 743-3890.

Tucson Prime Timers Video Night – 7 p.m., Non pornographic movies with Gay themes are shown. Phone: 740-0620

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 1:00 p.m. Join Karol for an afternoon of miniature golf. For reservations and directions, please call Karol at 744-9017.

A Fellowship Group starts at 7:00 p.m. at the Water of Life MCC. All are invited to come and your expand your relationship with God. You need not be a church member to participate. For more information call (520) 292-9151

7:00 - 9:30 p.m. the Men's Relationships Group meets that includes a video on tantra. Call Marc at 881-4582 to reserve a place.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14
Tucson Pride is sponsoring "Valentine's Sweetheart Bowling" at Lucky Strike Bowl, 4015 E. Speedway, from 7-9 pm. The entry fee of $10 includes shoes and bowling. For more information call the PrideLine at 520-622-3200.

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. On Valentine's Day, join us for Hearts Night. This fun, but vicious game is easy to learn and entertaining to play. For reservations and directions, please call Les or Jerry at 690-9565.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15
#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 a.m. Gene and Rich invite you to join them on a birding expedition to see the Sandhill Cranes, along with other birds. For more information, please call Gene at 625-8109.

Bar Calendar
Of Upcoming Events

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5
IBT'S - 9:00 P.M. "The DivaLicious Show" hosted by Lucinda Holliday and starring Ajia Simone, Samantha White and Tabatha Lovall.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7
NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Tonight and every Friday there will be free dance lessons beginning at 7:00 p.m. Couples, singles - all are welcome. Everything from Country/Western, Latin, Ballroom, Swing and Hustle, and all in between check it out. Lessons will be taught at beginner level by Ira Nadbrone with over 40 years experience.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9
IBT'S - Party line-up includes Dennis' Recovery Bar from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. $1.75 Bloody Marys, Screwdrivers or Mimosas. Karaoke Party with Michael D. on the patio from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., Benefit Bar-B-Que / Beer Bust from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. This weeks proceeds go to Wingspan. 8:00 p.m. It's a special fufndraising show for Roosevelt Bellman (Candidate for Mr. National Capitol Cities. Starring Tori Steele, Ajia Simone, Bunny FuFU, Janee Starr and special guest Miss NCC, Sache. 9:00 p.m. CD Release Party.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12
IBT'S - 9:00 P.M. 'DivaLicious Show' hosted by Lucinda Holliday, starring Janee Starr, Bunny FuFu and Veronica Halliwell.

FRI - SAT - SUN, FEBRUARY 14-15-16
YARD DOG SALOON - 2nd Anniversary Party. Drink Specials All Weekend. Friday: London Broil meal 6:00 p.m. by Phil and Keith. Saturday: Breakfast by "Knot Hole Joe" 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. At 3:00 p.m. there'll be special live entertainment. A real Filipino meal will be served at 6:00 p.m. prepared by BeBe from November Bar and Grill. Then at 8:00 pm. It's the Mr. & Ms. Yard Dog Contest. On Sunday Breakfast will be served by the Tucson Knight Owls (TKO) from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. A full, fun-filled weekend for sure!

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14 - Valentine's Day
IBT'S - Valentine's Day Party. Watch for further info.

VENTURE-N - Valentine's Day 'Two of Hearts'. Match the hearts and find your match. Drink specials too.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16
IBT'S - President's Day Party. Watch for more info.

THURSDAY, MARCH 6
IBT'S - Mardi Gras Party. Watch for more details.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 9:00 a.m. Join Jack for a morning of Volleyball. This is played for fun, and you'll get to know some nice guys as you play. For details and directions, please call Jack at 881-5733.

#3. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Karol will host Pinochle Night. If you don't know how to play, but would like to learn, this is the place. For more information, please call Karol at 744-9017.

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

#2. Tucson Prime Timers Food & Drink – 5 p.m., Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd.

Water of Life MCC holds it's 6th Annual Valentines Day Dance. The festivities start at 8PM until Midnight. Food, Music, & Raffles all for $5.00. You need not be a member to attend. For more information, call 292-9151

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16
#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 1:00 p.m. Bill invites you to join him for a potluck Sunday Brunch and an afternoon matinee showing of "The Ritz", an outrageous comedy set in a Gay bathhouse. For directions and reservations, please call Bill at 887-3743.

3:30 - 5:30 The men's massage group meets. A great way to meet new men and make friends. Call Marc 881-4582 for information and to reserve a place.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17
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 at 12:30 p.m., Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Chris 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 Chris at 304-5814.

Desert Boyz, Support group for female-to-male transgenderists. Homecoming night for people who went to the True Spirit Conference in Washington, D. C., Feb. 14-18. 7 PM, Wingspan, 300 E. Sixth Street

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Karol for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Karol at 744-9017.

Tucson Prime Timers Video Night – 7 p.m., Non pornographic movies with Gay themes are shown. Phone: 740-0620

Daily Bar Calendar

Sunday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Open 2pm. Beer Bust 5-10, $1.25 pitchers Bud or Bud Light. Latin Music with DJ Hill 9pm to close. Drink & Shot specials all night.

IBT's - 10am-6pm $1.75 Bloodys, Screws or Mimosas.. Sangria Party $2.50 from 4-1 Benefit B-B-Q and Beer Bust for community organizations 5:30-8pm. Karaoke with Michael D. on the patio 4:30-7:30. 8:30 shows or special events or HI energy dancing w/DJ Dr. Who. (Call for details). All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 11am. Brunch 11am-2pm. Pool Tourney 3pm Hip Hop 8pm-close 1st/3rd Sundays; "November Girls" 2nd/4th Sundays.

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; Happy Hour 11am-8pm $2 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 Michael D. 9pm

YARD DOG - Open Sundays 10am - 1am. Bloody Marys or Screwdrivers $1.75 from 10am - 1pm. 50¢ off any Rum 1pm-7pm. Dinner and live jazz 5-8pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Monday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Open 2pm. Happy Hour Two-For-One domestics and well 2-7pm. Free pool 8-10pm. 50¢ cups draft Bud & Bud Light 8pm to close.

IBT's - Open 11am. Happy Hours 11am-8pm, $2 domestic beer and well. 4-9pm. Undie Mondie- Happy Hour prices for those in their undies 9pm-close. Queer As Folk shown beginning at 8pm. Hot Dancing follows with Johnny DJ. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 10am. Grill open 11-8:30pm. Happy Hour 3-5pm. Free Pool 6pm-close.

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

WOODY'S - Open Noon. $2 well or domestic beer til 8pm. Karaoke w/Micheel D. 9pm to close.

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

Tuesday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Open 2pm. Happy Hour Two-For-One domestic beer & well 2-7pm. Pool tourney 7:30pm. $3 entry, bar matches pot. Country music 9pm to close. $2 bottled Bud products 8pm to close.

IBT's - Open 11am. Happy Hours 11am-8pm, $2 domestic beer and well. 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

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 10am. Happy Hour 4-5. Today's Hits-Yesterdays Favorites" 8pm-close

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

WOODY'S - Open Noon. $2 well or domestic til 8pm. 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

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ- Open 2pm. Happy Hour 2-4-1 domestic beer and well from 2-7pm. 90s retro music 9pm - close. $1.25 pitchers of Bud/Bud Light or $1 Tequila shots 8pm to close.

IBT's - Open 11am. Happy Hours 11am-8pm, $2 domestic beer and well. 9pm "Diva-Licious" show w/Lucinda Holliday and guests. HiNRG Dancing with DJ-Q. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 10am. Grill open 11-8:30pm. Happy Hour 3-5. Shrimp Fry Dinner 5-8:30pm $5.99. Karaoke with Mattie & Steve 8pm-close.

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

WOODY'S - Open Noon. $2 well or domestic beer til 8pm. Volleyball games start 7pm. Underwear- fetish- leather nite with Michael $1 off your favorite drink. Chili dogs or bowls $1.

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

Thursday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS -Open 2pm. Happy Hour 2-7pm with 2-4-1 domestic beer and well. Karaoke 9-close, with $2 Kamikazees and $1 Hot Sex..

IBT's - Open 11am. Happy Hours 11am-8pm, $2 domestic beer and well. 4-9, HI NRG video dancing with Johnny DJ 9-1 All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 10am. Grill open 11-8:30pm. Happy Hour 3-5pm. BBQ Steak or Chicken 5-8pm, $5.99. Techno 9pm-close.

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

WOODY'S - Open Noon. $2 well or domestic beer til 8pm. Trivia Thursday 8pm-close plus 50¢ off all Big Ass drinks. Top scores on NTN game wins special prizes. Free Pool 6 to close. Volleyball Court is Open. See bartender.

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

Friday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Open 2pm. Happy Hour 2-7pm with 2-4-1 domestic beer and well. Music with DJ Hill 9pm - close. Shot and drink specials all night. No cover.

IBT's - Open 11am. Happy Hours 11am-8pm, $2 domestic beer and well." Live Jazz on the patio with the Susan 5-9pm. Patio Bar 5-1pm. Dance Party 9 to 1.. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 10am. Grill open 11-8:30pm. Happy Hour 3-5. Fish or Shrimp Dinner $5.99 11am-8:30pm. Country Western Dance with Libby and Pat 8:30pm-12:30am.

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 8pm. 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

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Open at 2pm. Pool Tournament 6:30pm $3 entry. Bar matches pot. $2 pitchers for pool players. DJ Hill 9pm-close. Drink & Shot Specials all night.

IBT's - 10am-8pm $2 domestic beer and well. Dance Party 9-1 w/DJ-Q. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 10am. Grill open 11-8:30pm. Latino Nite. Drag Show 1st/3rd Sat. 10:30pm. Free HIV testing by SAAF.

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 8pm.. Happy Hour 4-9pm. $1.75 well or domestics. Patio Bar opens 5pm. 5-9pm Filet Mignon or Swordfish BBQ with all the trimmings $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

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE .25 PER WORD $5.00 MINIMUM

CLASSIFIED ADS MUST BE MAILED NO PHONE ADS

NOTICES

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

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

WINGSPAN - Tucson's Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Community Center, 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.

RAINBOW SUPPORT GROUP: LGBT and supportive friends meet for open discussions in a loving, supportive atmosphere. Support meetings are the 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 7:30 to 9.00 pm at St. Francis in the Foothills Church, Swan and River Road, Room 42. The 3rd Thursdays of the month, the group will meet at 7:30pm at Rainbow Planet Coffeehouse (606 North 4th Ave.) as a social outing. 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. 322-5655. Leave message. TucsonSources@aol.com

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. 579-9020

AA Meeting with HIV/AIDS focus, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., MCC Church, 3269 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 690-9565 for information and a newsletter. Check the Non-Bar Calendar in the Observer.

CARE TEAMS ARE AVAILABLE to offer support to people living with HIV/AIDS. The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network offers trained, compassionate and committed volunteers to provide services including friendly visits, light housekeeping, assistance with meals, shopping, errands, transportation and companionship for medical appointments, and respite care for primary care givers. No judgement or proselytizing - we are here to be of service. For information call Scott at 299-8647.

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 881-4562 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 615-6436 for more info.

TUCSON PRIDE, INC. (Formerly Tucson Lesbian and Gay Alliance - TLGA) meets on the second Tuesday at 845 S. Craycroft Road at 7pm. Tucson Pride produces Pride events: Pride Week, Gay West and OUTober FEST. Inquiries about support groups and individual needs should be directed to Wingspan and other local agencies listed here. For more information call 622-3200 or visit the TPI website at www.tucsonpride.com

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

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

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP. Involving discussion, support and activities. Designed to support each other. Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 8pm. Alternate Saturdays the group meets for social activities. For info, call Dorian Easty. 882-7723 Facilitator.

P.F.L.A.G. - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays - is a support group available to anyone who has a son, daughter or friend who is Gay. Call 575-8660 or write P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740-6264. All replies confidential.

NOTICES

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)790-8775 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 888-5541

LESBIAN AND GAY AL-ANON - Affected by someone's drinking? Meeting every Tuesday 6:45 to 9:45 p.m. at Lambda Center, 2940 E. Thomas, Phoenix. Ellie 581-6850 or Ronn 868-2364.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE GROUP - Outreach to Gay and Lesbian people in Arizona. Meets monthly. Write to P.O. Box 693, Phoenix, AZ 85001 or call Eddy Walters, (602)371-1102

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

T-SQUARES Lesbian and Gay square dance club meets every Tuesday from 6:30-9:00 p.m. at Cornerstone Fellowship Social Hall, 2902 N. Geronimo (near 1st Ave. and Laguna). Open to All. Call Liz at 325-9468 or Ray at 749-5247.

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

COME EXPLORE YOUR SPIRITUALITY! St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church offers a variety of Gay and Lesbian groups and services for the spiritually minded. Come meet the Family! For more information call Debbie 579-9827 or David 323-7843.

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.

HALLELUJAH RECOVERY DRUG & ALCOHOL 12-STEP. Every Thursday 6:30-8:30pm at Cornerstone Fellowship, 2902 N. Geronimo. 622-4626.

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

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 690-4813, 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.

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

GLSEN - Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network meets first Thursday of every month at 4:30pm at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th Street. 743-4600.

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)570-1225 for current information.

TUCSON GREATER SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION. Interested? Call Kelly Quinn, (520)742-7695 or go to our web site http://www.tgasoftball.org

NOTICES

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, 3269 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: sipoodrum@uswest.net.org

"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

PASSAGES MENTALK - Discussion group and more. For men in their 30s, 40s and late 20s. A great way to meet people. Meeting 3rd Tuesday of each month at Wingspan 7-9pm. Call 760-8381 for more information.

SOUTHERN ARIZONA STONEWALL DEMOCRATS meet 3rd Monday of each month 7pm at 4639 E. First Street. Call Jesse 743-4320 or Maurice 323-2293. All LGBT Democrats and supporters welcome. TucsonStonewall@aol.com

GUYS BOOK CLUB meets 4th Tuesday of each month at 7pm, Rainbow Planet Coffee House, 606 N. 4th Ave.

TUCSON INTERFAITH HIV/AIDS NETWORK (TIHAN), a coalition of faith communities committed to a compassionate response to HIV/AIDS, provides HIV education in congregational settings, volunteer CareTeams to support HIV+ persons, a referral network of HIV-sensitive clergy, and interfaith services of healing and hope. For more information call 299-8647.

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 Anabell at 325-0892

SMART (Self Management And Recovery Training) a free non-12-step self-help alternative for people working to overcome addictive and other emotional problems meets in Tucson Monday thru Thursdays at different locations. For more information about SMART, contact Jennifer at 792-4607, Ext.388

AZdykes is a new email list for Lesbians living in Arizona. For information mail tyan@therver.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. Dezert Glitz (MTF) Meets 2nd Monday at 7pm. Dezert 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, 6523 N. 14th St., #112, Phoenix, AZ 85014 or call 602-279-4605.

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

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

PERSONALS

TUCSON'S HOT GAY ACTION LIVE ! 1-ON-1. Let our boys get you off! Dial Now. 1-800-308-7532 / 1-900-435-6191 / $2.00 - $4.99 per min. 18+

HOUSING/FOR RENT

ACCOMMODATION NEEDED FEBRUARY 2004. Two non-smoking European mineral dealers wish to rent 3-5 bedroom house or apartment for mineral show 2004, but arrange February this year. ClausHedegaard@Yahoo.DK 969

HISTORIC 200 sq. ft. house. 4br/2ba, 2 fireplaces, double carport, 1/3 acre. 3538 N. Estrella Ave. $850/mo. + utilities. Pets OK. Brian 272-4064. 967

LARGE 1600 SQ. FT. HOME, off street parking, fireplace, central air. Pets OK. 2625 E. Prince Rd. $850/mo. + utilities. Brian 272-4064. 967

ROOMMATES

DO YOU LIKE THE QUIET AND SERENITY OF THE COUNTRY? Then the room we have for rent might be the place for you. $375/mo. Includes a furnished room, laundry, electricity, gas and many other extras. If interested please call Charles or Brian at 982-4023 or 861-3051 965

SERVICES

WHYPNOTIST - Teach Hypno, Reduce Stress and Tantric Hypno. Weight Solutions and Stop Smoking. Herbs Coral Calcium Supreme. 393-0029, www.2bee.com/hypnosis. Metaphysical orb_bob 968

CASH FOR YOUR PORN! Buy-Sell-Trade. Private Collector seeks GAY MALE videos (VHS/DVD). Magazines, Books, Art, Toys, Leather Gear, Costumes/Uniforms, Fetish equipment and other items of Gay interest. Free local pickup. Complete discretion. Evenings and weekends by appointment only. Current to Classic - All conditions. Call John at 327-3135. 971

EXPERIENCE A TOTALLY RELAXING or deep-tissue massage by a trained, caring male therapist. In-home, hotel or resort. Ask about college student special. (520)730-7966. 968

FULL BODY SWEDISH MASSAGE FOR MEN. Best rates in Tucson! Try the rest. Compare the value! 7 days. $30/hour. 327-3135. 965

HI-TEC PARALEGAL SERVICE: Bankruptcy $155 ● Divorce $155 ● Wills $75 ● Living Trusts $399 ● House Calls. (520)498-4771 or Pager: 218-0218

END BACK PAIN. The back solution, massage and bodywork. 15 years experience. Tension Erasure - Stress Reduction - Relax for Health. Abe 294-4810 974

LET ME PAMPER YOU! With a Full Body Swedish Massage in a quiet, relaxed atmosphere. $35 for a full hour. Ralph (520) 883-7498 975

ENJOY A NICE TOUCH. Attractive man offers a sensuous, relaxing massage. 10am - 8p.m. 745-0231. 960...

TENSE? STRESSED OUT? Relax for an hour with a full body rub by Frank. Private studio, off-street parking. (520)271-3660 days, evenings. 972

PERFECT CHOICE: Have yourself an expert holistic tantra massage. Treat yourself to a Major tune-up. 21 years of quality experience. Marc - 881-4562 Licensed. 971

HEAVEN SENT ME. Experience a massage steeped in rich tradition combining ancient, sacred and intimate healing techniques. Strong, yet gentle hands work with your complete comfort in mind. In & Out, Days & Evenings, sometimes at a moment's notice. Call Glen, CAT (520)907-2551 for the touch you so richly deserve. Experienced, professional, and kind ... not bad looking either! 971

ALTERATIONS AND REPAIRS

Let me keep your clothes fitting properly and in good repair. Experienced -- Economical -- Prompt. Merle Hudson, (520)888-7264 in Tucson. 970

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

WHAT'S BLACK & WHITE & READ ALL OVER?

OBSERVER TUCSON, ARIZONA

Identity Theft

Continued from Page One

run you under $25. Get one and use it on all of your discarded mail.

2. Check your bank statement every month. The same goes for your credit card statement. Often people toss them in a drawer and plan to check them later...by the time they realize something is amiss it's too late. You have only 30 days to reconcile transactions in your checking account, so review your statements regularly.

Also, be aware that your checking account deposit slips have a wealth of information on them. Just like your checks, they contain your account number and personal information, like your address and sometimes driver's license number. Someone could easily use your deposit slip to make a phony deposit to your account and, at the same time, make a withdrawal from your legitimate funds.

3. Check your credit reports. You can get regular statements from the three credit-reporting companies – Experian, Equifax and TransUnion sent to you right online or in the mail. It will cost you around $30 to check all three agencies, but the faster you recognize a fraudulent use of your credit, the quicker you can report it and the better your chances of salvaging your good name and credit history.

4. Copy the contents of your wallet, front and back. Do you know exactly what you have in your wallet? If it was stolen, would you know which credit cards to calls? Anyone who has ever had their wallet stolen knows how challenging it is to recount exactly what was in their wallet in the first place; months later you reach for something in there only to recall that it no longer exists. The cost of copying your wallets' contents will set you back less than a dollar. Put a copy of it in a secure place – that is, any secure place other than your wallet.

We live in a time when if you make it easy for someone to steal from you, someone will, especially identity thieves. But we can stop making it so easy.

Helmsley Loses

Continued from Page One

reported.

The decision brings an end to a trial that filled pages of the city's tabloids. Bell, 48, accused Helmsley of harassing him, calling him a "fag," and making him "feel like dirt." Hired to run the Park Lane by Helmsley's chief operating officer, Patrick Ward, Bell was doing fine in his six-figure job until Helmsley realized he was Gay, Bell charged.

As the tabloids reported, Helmsley first discovered that Ward, whom she appeared to consider a boyfriend of sorts, was himself Gay. Ward was fired, and later sued and settled out of court. Shortly after Ward's dismissal, Bell said his boss began treating him coldly and with suspicion, warning him to "stay away from that Miami faggot crowd" and asking why so many Gay men were hanging around in the Park Lane. Her verbal abuse escalated, leaving him in tears. Just before Bell was fired, witnesses said Helmsley remarked: "I got rid of one fag. I can get rid of another."

When the 82-year-old "Queen of Mean" took the stand, she told a different story. Why was Bell fired? "He was on dope. I don't permit dope for any reason," she testified. "He kept crying. I thought it was strange. For five days he cried. I said: 'Is he on medication?' Then it came out he was on drugs."

During the course of the trial, Bell was also accused of falsifying his resume, giving free rooms to friends and holding a raucous New Year's Eve party, where men cavorted in the Park Lane hallway and maids later picked up unsightly debris.

Helmsley also swore that she had never used the word "fag."

"(Bodyguard) Andrew (Martinez) was lying?" her lawyer asked. "Like a rug!" she snapped.

"Wow, that's a lot of money," said Jon Davidson, senior counsel at Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, in reaction to the verdict. Davidson, who confessed that he had not been following the case closely, said the decision "sends a message that people who discriminate based on sexual orientation shouldn't think they can get away with it cheaply."

Federal Death Penalty Sought In Lesbian Hikers' Murders

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. attorney general John Ashcroft has authorized federal prosecutors to seek the death penalty for a Maryland man charged with the 1996 slayings of two Lesbian hikers in Shenandoah National Park.

Assistant U.S. attorney Tony Giorno said the brutality of the slayings of Julianne Marie Williams and Laura "Lollie" Winans led him to seek permission to pursue the death penalty for Darrell David Rice.

Federal authorities are involved in the case because the slayings occurred in a national park. Rice, 35, of Columbia, Md., has been charged with two counts of capital murder in the killings and faces two additional counts of capital murder on grounds that he intentionally selected his victims because they were female and Gay.

Williams, 24, of St. Cloud, Minn., and Winans, 26, of Unity, Maine, were found about a week after they set out on a camping trip in May 1996.

Their bodies were discovered about a quarter-mile from Skyline Drive off the Appalachian Trail. Their throats had been slit, their mouths gagged, and their hands bound.

Winans had been a student at Unity College, majoring in outdoor recreation. She had also worked as a volunteer at a rape crisis center in nearby Waterville, Maine.

Stonewall Awards Announced

NEW YORK, NY - The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Round Table of the American Library Association has announced the winners of the 2003 Stonewall Book Awards--Noël Alumit's Letters to Montgomery Clift in the literature category and Joanne Meyerowitz's How Sex Changed: A History of Transsexuality in the United States for nonfiction.

The awards will be presented at the 2003 ALA/CLA Annual Conference in Toronto, June 19-25.

Also honored in the literature category were Jamie O'Neill's At Swim, Two Boys, Sarah Waters's Fingersmith, Jeffrey Eugenides's Middlesex, and Ronald Frame's Lantern Bearers, while the other honored nonfiction titles were Noelle Howey's Dress Codes: Of Three Girlhoods--My Mother's, My Father's, and Mine, Jerry Rosco's Glenway Wescott Personally: A Biography, Carmen L. Oliveira's Rare and Commonplace Flowers: The Story of Elizabeth Bishop and Lota de Macedo Soares (translated by Neil K. Besner), and Neil Miller's Sex Crime Panic: A Journey to the Paranoid Heart of the 1950s.

Arizona Dust Devils Cycling Club

Major Event Sponsors:
Echo Magazine & Buddy's
Desert Adventures & Frontrunners

The AZ Dust Devils is a gay and lesbian non-profit social cycling group to promote partnering for road cycling, mountain biking, triathlons & racing.

SWEAT, SAND & SUDS

Road Cycling, Mountain Biking, Trail Running & Trail Hiking

5 Special Events
February 22nd • 9am
McDowell Mountain Park
(NE of Fountain Hills, AZ • Pemberton Trailhead)

2 Road Cycle Rides: 54-mile challenging loop & a 37-mile course
Mountain Bike Ride: 15.5 miles of scenic single track
Trail Hike: Distance TBA
Trail Run: 10K through the desert mountain preserves

Followed by a BBQ & Beer Bust!

54-mile ride starts @ 9am, all others @ 10am. $20 registration fee includes an event t-shirt, the BBQ* & Beer Bust* & Community Goody Bag! Bring your own Chair. (*vegetarian fare & sodas too)

Name: _____ Check One: ☐ 56-mile Road Ride
Address: _____ ☐ 37-mile Road Ride
City, State, Zip Code: _____ ☐ 15.5-mile MTB Ride
Phone #: _____ ☐ 10K Trail Run
E-Mail Address: _____ ☐ Trail Hike
T-Shirt Size: ☐ M ☐ L ☐ XL ☐ XXL Age: ____ M/F: ___ Vegetarian? Y / N

Mail w/ $20 registration fee to: **AZ Dust Devils, 1828 E. Earll Dr. Phx, AZ 85016** postmarked by Feb.10.
Late registrations of $25 accepted but will not receive a T-shirt.

FOR MORE INFORMATION E-MAIL joxcomm@aol.com