Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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Mass. G/L Families Win Marriage Case

BOSTON - In an historic decision, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled Tuesday, November 18, that Gay and Lesbian couples can no longer be excluded from obtaining civil marriages in Massachusetts.

The 4-3 ruling in Goodridge v. Department of Public Health, filed by New England's Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, is the first of its kind in this country by a final appellate court.

"This is a momentous legal and cultural milestone," said Mary L. Bonauto, an attorney for the couples with Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) in Boston. "The law caught up with the reality that Gay people and families are part of the fabric of our communities. At long last, Gay and Lesbian families and their children will finally be equal families in the Commonwealth. This will make a huge difference in people's lives."

Today's decision follows a nearly identical ruling by a Canadian appellate court under the Canadian Constitution on June 10. The Canadian government announced it would not appeal that decision.

The Goodridge case was filed by GLAD in April 2001 on behalf of seven Gay and Lesbian couples living in communities from Orleans to Boston to Northampton. Each couple applied for a marriage license in order to strengthen their families, gain hundreds of legal protections and responsibilities that are otherwise off-limits, and provide greater security for their children and their surviving partner.

The Court's ruling is based on the equality provisions of the State Constitution. Under the "free and equal" clause in the Constitution, it held that there is no rational reason for this discrimination. As the court put it, "The marriage ban works deep and scarring hardship on a very real segment of the community for no rational reason." Because this ruling is based on the Massachusetts Constitution, there is no appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. But today's state ruling follows a 6-3 majority decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in June that that legal concepts of privacy include Gay people's rights to make decisions about personal relationships.

"This is a profound moment for our family," said Hillary Goodridge on behalf of herself and Julie Goodridge, the named plaintiffs in the case. "We will no longer have to try to explain to our eight-year-old daughter why we can't marry, or that we love each other even though we are not married. And more importantly, we'll be able to provide Annie with the full protections under marriage that we now can't possibly provide no matter how many legal documents we draft and sign."

Gary Chalmers, a teacher, and Richard Linnell, a nurse, are a Whitinsville couple who were also plaintiffs in the case. "We are thrilled," said Chalmers. "We've always been like every other family in our neighborhood. But now the one difference has been wiped away. When we get married, we and our daughter will be less vulnerable and more secure."

Added Gloria Bailey of Orleans who has lived in a committed relationship with her partner Linda Davies for 32 years: "Over our many years together, we've seen more and more people come to accept that we're just a regular part of the community. All we want is to preserve and protect the life we've built together. As we both grow older, we have become increasingly aware that we are not fully protected without marriage and we stand to lose everything we've worked so hard to build."

The court stayed its decision for 180 days so the legislature may act, presumably to conform the marriage laws with the court decision. Although a constitutional amendment is pending in the legislature which, if approved by two different legislatures (in 2004 and again in 2005 or 2006) and ratified by the voters in 2006 would undo the decision, Bonauto put aside such concerns.

"The court has said inequality must end," said Bonauto, "and we know that people support us when they understand the real human consequences of discrimination against these families, and when they realize that this decision only invokes civil marriage licenses and does not affect religious practices or convictions."

"On a human level, this is going to make couples who can now marry legally secure and very happy," added Gary Buseck, GLAD's Executive Director, "It won't change life for anyone else, but it will be a monumental change for those individuals who can finally marry the person they love."

Key results from the ruling:

Same sex couples in Massachusetts who choose to obtain a civil marriage license will now be able to:

Visit each other in the hospital, without question;

Make important health care and financial decisions for each other;

Have mutual obligations to provide support for each other;

File joint state tax returns, and

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Panel Decries Gays' HIV 'Complacency'

NEW YORK - On Sunday, November 16, evening an overflow crowd of more than 300 people squeezed into an auditorium at New York City's LGBT Center for a panel discussion, led by Tony Award-winning actor Harvey Fierstein, about how to reverse the rise in HIV infections in the Gay community, the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network reported.

Fierstein, a Broadway veteran honored for his work in "Hairspray" and "Torch Song Trilogy," said he participated in Sunday's forum, "Challenging the Culture of Disease," to remind people that "HIV is still a huge problem in the Gay community."

In his opening remarks, Fierstein noted that HIV infection rates were rising "even though we know how to prevent it from being spread."

He added that there are no public awareness programs in New York's Gay community. "Which is shocking considering the fact that during the first six months of 2002 we experienced record high new HIV diagnosis," he said. "We must be doing something terribly wrong."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that the number of Gay men in the United States diagnosed with HIV increased for the third consecutive year in 2002.

Fierstein said he wasn't blaming AIDS organizations, but wondered why there wasn't more support for HIV-negative men to stay that way.

"We need to resist the normalization of AIDS and build a new grass roots movement to put health back in our community," he added.

Panelist Peter Staley, a founding member of ACT UP and a member of President Clinton's National Task Force on AIDS Drug Development, said that a drug epidemic, specifically crystal meth, was fueling the rise in HIV infections. "Most Gay men think that crystal is the next party drug," he said. "It's not. Studies have shown that crystal use often leads to unsafe sex."

Jeffrey Jones of STOP AIDS San Francisco believes that there has been a breakdown in communication between Gay men engaged in sex. "Negative men often are hesitant to bring up the subject of HIV, and positive men often don't tell unless asked," he said. "That needs to change."

Panelists and audience members working with LGBT youth remarked that, during the Bush administration, sex education programs in public schools have increasingly emphasized abstinence, and that condom distribution and frank talk about HIV are becoming rare.

Panelist Dr. David Kim noted that prevention funding for at-risk groups, including Gay men, has decreased during Bush's watch.

According to Dennis deLeon, president of the Latino Commission on AIDS, HIV prevention is no longer a priority in the Gay community. "The wallet of Gay men has basically closed to AIDS," he said.

"The Gay community's complacency is overwhelming," said Daniel Carlson, a co-organizer of the forum. "We need another Larry Kramer. Someone to raise hell."

The consensus of audience members and panelists alike was that the Gay community can't depend on the government to fund the effective HIV prevention programs.

"We have to take responsibility for the rise in HIV infections across the country and do something about it," said Dr. Bruce Kellerhouse, the forum's other co-organizer.

Anti-Gay Chief Justice Removed From Bench

MONTGOMERY - A special court in Alabama on Thursday, November 13, terminated the state's suspended chief justice, Roy S. Moore, who became notorious for writing anti-Gay opinions and for defying orders to remove his Ten Commandments monument from a state courthouse, reported the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

Judge William Thompson, the presiding judge of the nine-member special court, said Moore left the court no alternative but to remove him from the bench because "the chief justice placed himself above the law" during the monument controversy.

Moore defied his own court's order last summer to remove the two-ton Christian sculpture that he had installed in the lobby of the state Supreme Court building in July 2001. In August he was suspended from the bench, and the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal of the case earlier this month.

Prior to the widely publicized Ten

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UPDATE

Festival For Life November 23

TUCSON - This year marks the 15th anniversary of the Jerôme Beillard Festival for Life, an auction fund raiser and celebration to benefit the programs and services of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF).

The event will take place Sunday, Nov 23, 4 - 7 p.m., at the Hilton Tucson El Conquistador Resort at 10000 N. Oracle Rd. The festivities include champagne toast, hors d'oeuvres buffet, entertainment, no-host bar and the fabulous artwork, holiday items and gifts in the live and silent auctions. Tickets are $45 in advance; $50 at the door.

For information, call SAAF (520) 628-7223.

Wingspan & AHRF Nights At The Dog Park November 25

TUCSON - Please join other LGBT and ally dog owners and our furry friends as we meet on the fourth Tuesday (for November, Tuesday, November 25, 6 of each month at the Reid Park Dog Park, 900 S. Randolph Way.

The lighted and fenced one-acre site features a large open area for dogs to run and play with each other. The area is partitioned for large and small dogs. Dogs must have current licenses and tags to attend. The Reid Park dog park is located just across from the Reid Park Zoo entrance (off 22nd Street between Alvernon and Country Club) on a converted Little League field. The purpose of this free monthly event is to provide a social venue for LGBT and ally folks to get together and meet one another--and for our dogs to have fun! A representative from Wingspan and a representative from AHRF will be on-site to provide information about each organization and our upcoming events (and maybe even some treats for your puppy!) - we will be wearing AHRF and Wingspan T-Shirts so we will be easy to spot (...Spot. get it?)

Please Note: Depending on the weather, people may stay home if it's raining cats and... well, you know.

Day Of Remembrance November 20

TUCSON -Tucson's observance of the National Transgender Day of Remembrance, will consist of a candlelight ceremony at the park will be followed by a march down 4th Avenue and a reception at Wingspan.

This event is sponsored by the Southern Arizona Gender Alliance.

The Day of Remembrance is an annual event commemorating the violent deaths of Transgender people over the past year. This year we have already recorded the murders of 29 of our sisters and brothers across the U.S. ~ a dramatic increase over the 18 we mourned at last year's Day of Remembrance.

For more information, call (520) 624-1779.

Desert Voices Concert Offers More Than Music

TUCSON - Desert Voices upcoming Holiday show, titled "Home (Oh!) For the Holidays," is quickly approaching on December 6 at 7:30 p.m. and December 7 at 3 p.m. at The Muse - Community Arts Center, corner of 6th street and 5th Avenue, across from Wingspan.

Both chorus members and the public like what Desert Voices is doing this season, working under interim musical director Chris Tackett and the talented accompaniment of Namoli Brennet. And this year, the chorus is teaming up with Fourth Avenue merchants to make your concert experience even more delightful!

Epic Café and Rainbow Planet Coffeehouse are offering discounts to our audience members before and after the show. Audience members can show their ticket stub at both of these fine establishments on the day of the show to receive discounts on their orders. Epic Café at 745 N Fourth Avenue is open daily from 6 a.m. till Midnight.

The program itself is loaded with fun. Desert Voices will invoke memories of childhood, singing songs from favorite Holiday television specials. Desert Voices will also offer their unique interpretation of Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite," adding text to the traditional ballet score, and presenting the Dance of the 'Sugar Plum Fairy-Bear'. Adds musical director, Chris Tackett, "We have taken the various experiences of our members and woven them into a tale of the Holidays that will tickle your funny bone, and touch your heart."

Tickets are available from Antigone's on 4th Avenue, and online from DoTucson.com, and cost $12 in advance (Seniors and Students (with ID) for $10) and all tickets will be $15 at the door. For tickets or more information, contact Desert Voices at info@desertvoices.org, or via their website at desertvoices.org, or you can call (520) 791-9662.

Partner Registry Drawing Interest

TUCSON - With implementation of Tucson's domestic-partner registry less than three weeks away, interest is high but leaders of the Gay community say it remains to be seen how many couples will immediately register, the Arizona Daily Star reported.

"There's significant interest. I'll be curious to see," said Kent Burbank, director of Wingspan, Tucson's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community center. "My sense is that there will be a fair number of people who want to get in right at ground level, but there will be a significant number who will wait and see."

Wingspan organized a forum Thursday night to answer questions couples have about the registry, which starts Dec. 1.

The City Council unanimously passed the domestic-partner ordinance Sept. 15. The registry, not limited to same-sex couples, will give partners two basic benefits in the city: right to visitation if one partner is in a hospital and access to city facilities and programs at family rates.

Though the tangible benefits are minimal, the registry is largely a symbolic gesture for those who cannot, or choose not to, marry, said Nancy Robinett, an attorney who co-chairs Tucson's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Commission and helped draft the ordinance.

The panelists - Robinett, Arizona Human Rights Fund board member Randy Soderstrom and Wingspan community forum committee member Sam Ritchie - discussed the history of the ordinance, explained the process of the registering and fielded questions from an audience of about 30.

One benefit is that local businesses that offer domestic-partner benefits will be able to defer to the city's registry and dispense with any liability on deciding who is eligible for benefits, Ritchie said. Many businesses are expected to follow that route.

The forum was the first public discussion of the registry at Wingspan since the ordinance was passed, said Robinett, who offered an overview of the nuts and bolts of the process. Questions ranged from how to pay for the registration and certificate - cash, money order or certified check - to how the registration might be applied in other cities or states, which depends on other local ordinances.

"Domestic-partner registration offers few benefits, but it's an incremental move in the right direction," Soderstrom said. "My partner and I are excited about the registry. It's just a landmark. This is the tip of the iceberg and it's the right direction for equal treatment of all of us."

Dana Twincham and his partner, Joseph Adams, said they went to the forum to learn more and pick up information they couldn't get from just reading the ordinance.

"We're very interested and we're probably going to do it," Twincham said. "It's a symbolic thing and it's good to have more voices behind it."

"We also realize it will take a while before it carries the kind of momentum we need," Adams said.

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ACLU Details Extent Of HIV Bias In U.S.

WASHINGTON - The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) released a survey on Thursday, November 13, detailing the extent to which people living with HIV/AIDS face discrimination: From hospitals to homes, civil rights abuses are adding to the difficulties many HIV-positive people face, reported the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

The survey, titled, "HIV & Civil Rights: A Report from the Frontlines of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic," comes from over two years of interviews the ACLU compiled interviews from community-based AIDS service providers.

The survey details several violations, including one in rural Texas where a patient with AIDS was admitted to a local hospital for vomiting and diarrhea. AIDS Resources of Rural Texas said the hospital called them to deal with the man. Workers for the AIDS agency said they found the patient lying in a hospital bed with nothing but a cup of water on the table. The man would soon die after being transferred to another hospital.

Brad Ward, the executive director of AIDS Resources of Rural Texas, told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network the very hospital described in the survey continues to treat people with HIV/AIDS poorly. In one instance, he said the hospital told a man with HIV/AIDS that he had only six months to live. "But he's still alive today, long after six months ended," Ward said.

Other abuses detailed in the ACLU's survey include: a landlord in Arkansas tearing up his tenant's lease when learning his tenant was HIV-positive; a teacher in Florida telling classmates which student was HIV-positive; and a receptionist telling a man his HIV status in front of a waiting room full of people in New Mexico.

"Many people are still completely clueless about HIV/AIDS and about their legal obligations for dealing with people with the disease," said Leslie Cooper, the staff attorney for the ACLU AIDS project.

That's why the ACLU decided to file suit Thursday on behalf of a 19-year-old woman from a small Nebraska town, claiming she was fired from her job at a restaurant and mistreated at a convenience store when her employers learned she was HIV-positive.

The plaintiff, known as Priscilla Doe to protect her privacy, said she was fired from her hostess job over the phone when her employer learned her HIV-status. Once she was fired, she contends the manager of her second job at a convenience store, Casey's General Store, asked about her HIV status. Priscilla claims after telling the manager the truth, she was forced to wear rubber gloves at all times, not to tell anyone about her status, and given reduced hours.

"When I tested positive, my whole world turned upside down, and I had to reevaluate everything," Priscilla told the ACLU. "I knew that living with HIV wasn't going to be easy, but I wasn't prepared for people to be so mean and ignorant."

The lawsuit against the local restaurant was filed in state court, charging the owner violated a Nebraska law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of HIV infection in employment. The lawsuit against Casey's General Stores, Inc., was filed in federal court, charging violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as well as state anti-discrimination laws.

One company, however, is firing back after being accused of HIV/AIDS discrimination. On Thursday Lambda Legal claimed Cirque du Soleil has started sending out a letter to the public, admitting a gymnast was fired because he's HIV-positive but claiming the action protects the public and is not discrimination.

"It's mind-boggling that Cirque du Soleil readily admits they fired someone for no other reason than his HIV status, and then says that isn't discrimination," said Michael Adams, director of education and public affairs at Lambda Legal, in a prepared statement.

Lambda Legal and San Francisco community groups plan to demonstrate outside a Cirque du Soleil performance on Nov. 20.

Germany Will Build Monument To Nazi-Persecuted Gays & Lesbians

BERLIN, Germany - The country will build a national memorial to Gay men and Lesbians persecuted or killed under the Nazis, complementing the planned German memorial to the 6 million Jews who died in the Holocaust, a parliament committee decided on Thursday. Nazi Germany declared homosexuality an aberration that threatened the German race and convicted some 50,000 Gay men and Lesbians as criminals. An estimated 10,000 to 15,000 Gay men were deported to concentration camps, where few survived.

A bill to build a memorial in Berlin passed the lower house's culture committee with the support of the governing Social Democrats and Greens, who also have the majority on the house floor. The conservative opposition Christian Democrats opposed the measure.

"Homosexual victims of Nazism have gotten too little attention in the past in Germany's culture of remembrance," Green lawmakers said in a statement. Architects will be asked to submit proposals for the design.

Few Gays convicted by the Nazis came forward after World War II because of the continuing stigma and because the law used against them remained on the books in West Germany until 1969. The German parliament last year issued a formal pardon for Gays convicted under the Nazis. One reason the pardon was delayed for so long was because supporters linked it to a blanket rehabilitation of 22,000 Wehrmacht deserters, a move many conservatives opposed.

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Jeb Bush Says San Franciscans Are Endangered

TALLAHASSEE - Gov. Jeb Bush joked during a Florida cabinet meeting that the people of San Francisco may be endangered and "that's probably good news for the country."

The topic being discussed was environmental protection, and at the time of his remark, Bush was looking at a map showing locations boasting many different types of wildlife. "It looks like the people of San Francisco are an endangered species, which may not be a bad thing," Bush said during the meeting Wednesday. "That's probably good news for the country." People in the room broke into laughter. "Did I just say that out loud?" the governor continued.

While San Francisco mayor Willie Brown reportedly laughed off the comment as a tongue-in-cheek remark, Matt Foreman, head of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, didn't see anything funny in it, believing it to be antiGay because of San Francisco's large Gay population. "It's extremely insulting," Foreman said. "But of course I would say that Gay people in Florida are far more endangered than Gay people in California."

Bush told reporters he was just joking, then added, "Don't call Willie Brown." Bush spokesman Jacob DiPietre later explained the governor's thinking: "The cabinet was talking about endangered species, and everyone knows that Republicans are an endangered species in California."

HRC Launches Marriage Ad Campaign

WASHINGTON - In response to reports that the Republican Party intends to make the fight against marriage rights for Gay and Lesbian couples one of the centerpieces of the 2004 election, the Human Rights Campaign has launched a $1 million ad campaign in an early attempt to shape the argument, reported the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

"This campaign answers the question, 'How does society benefit by providing civil marriage licenses to all committed, loving couples?'" said HRC's Elizabeth Birch.

"Civil marriage licenses... ensure that devoted couples can visit each other in the hospital, have the protection of pension, health care and Social Security benefits, and generally allow couples to care for one another and their children."

HRC unveiled five advertisements Monday morning, November 10, at the National Press Club. The ads will be placed in major national newspapers and are intended to put a human face on the issue.

"Why Are 'Pro-Family' Groups Attacking This Family?" says one ad featuring a Maryland couple, Jo and Teresa, and their three young children: Between "skinned knees" and "soccer practice . . . they face all the same joys and frustrations as other parents – but without the same protections."

Other versions showcase two elderly women, two black women, two church-going men and Keith Bradkowksi holding a photo of his partner, who died in the World Trade Center attack. "The terrorists killed people not because they were Gay or straight – but because they were Americans," the headline says.

"These families pay taxes just like every other American family, but do not have the same rights," said Birch. "According to the 2000 Census, same-sex couples are in 99.3% of counties in this country. We are your family and friends, your neighbors, your co-workers - when people begin to know and understand Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender people they realize the discrimination we face is wrong and un-American."

Republican leaders in Congress with the support of President Bush are pressing for the passage of the Federal Marriage Amendment which seeks to write into the U.S. Constitution a ban on the legal recognition of Gay relationships.

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DEAR TUCSON:

Not very long ago we passed a milestone: the 1000th edition of the Tucson Observer was published. That in itself says a lot. This publication is Arizona's oldest GLBT newspaper and is a chronicle of our community. So much of our collective history is recorded in these pages; it would be a tragedy if we were to lose it, but that could happen.

Currently there is no permanent record of it. While we have the actual papers, over time newsprint gets very brittle and fades. This is happening right now. As a professional librarian and a member of a committee that examines GLBT issues, I strongly suggest that, as a community, we need to act to preserve this paper, to save our heritage!

I have done some research in what would take and how much it would cost to save the Observer in a media format that would last indefinitely. We can get the entire paper, from 1976 to the present, micro-filmed for less than $5,000. The Arizona State Library has the equipment and resources to do it. Once the paper is transferred to microfilm we can produce dubs (copies) for about $200 per set. The microfilm copies would be accessible to historians, researchers and the general public through the public library and organizations such as Wingspan and the Arizona Historical Society. Future microfilming of the paper could be done on a regular basis to add to the archive.

In the past we've come together to exert our rights and celebrate our existence, we need to do something right now. Whether it's to donate money, hold fund raisers, we must do what ever it takes to get the Tucson Observer recorded for posterity's sake. This will ensure that current, as well as, future generations of Tucsonans will be able to read and see what Tucson's GLBT scene was like during the last quarter of the 20th century and beyond.

Richard DiRusso, Public Librarian
Tucson, AZ

Gay Games 2006 Looks For New Host City

MONTREAL, Canada - The Gay Games are looking to move i n 2006, after Montreal officials indicated on Tuesday they would reject the Federation of Gay Games' (FGG) deadline to accept its "final offer" for a licensing agreement, reported the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

The FGG had given Montreal 2006, the local organizing committee for the Montreal games, until 1 p.m. CST on Wednesday, November 12, to accept its terms.

"If the Federation's offer is not accepted, Montreal 2006 will lose its designation as the official host of Gay Games VII," said a statement issued by the FGG Monday evening.

Montreal 2006 then issued its own statement on Tuesday. "We realize now that it is time to break with the past and with an organization that ultimately represents little more than itself," the release said, referring to the FGG.

In October 2001, The FGG chose Montreal over Atlanta, Chicago and Los Angeles to host the 2006 Gay Games. But the FGG and Montreal 2006 could not agree on key financial and logistical details, despite negotiating up to the last minute ahead of the FGG's annual meeting, which is going on this week in Chicago.

The Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network has learned that the FGG is already moving ahead with plans for an abbreviated bidding process to find a new host city. It is expected to take two to three months to select a city.

Montreal 2006 says it will host an international Gay athletic competition in 2006, regardless of the outcome.

"Our event will take place without the FGG," said Mark Tewksbury, co-president of Montreal 2006 and an Olympic gold medalist in swimming. "Our vision remains the same. We will offer the best sport games the Gay. and Lesbian athletes of the world have ever seen."

That could mean rival Gay games in 2006. Montreal 2006 officials say they're confident the athletes will still come to their event.

But one athlete who has attended the past three Gay Games said if it comes down to choosing between two competitions, "I'm going to the (officially sanctioned) Gay Games."

"We spend four years preparing for the next Gay Games, with fund-raising, committees and getting our routines ready," said Morgan Craig, the captain of Cheer San Francisco, an acrobatic cheerleading squad. "It's so rich in tradition. It's the experience of a lifetime."

The FGG could, as some insiders speculate, delay the official Gay Games by one year, until 2007. In fact, the new host city would likely need the extra time to begin fund-raising, book venues and take care of countless other details necessary to prepare for a huge competition and cultural festival involving thousands of athletes.

Montreal 2006 and the FGG are each blaming the other side for the collapse of the talks.

In its press statement, the FGG said its final offer "made further concessions on some issues that appeared to be of particular importance to Montreal 2006."

But the statement from Montreal 2006 said the FGG "returned with clauses that Montreal 2006 had already repeatedly rejected and, more importantly, the FGG has continued to demand the full financial control of the 2006 Games."

British Government To Propose Civil Partnerships

LONDON, UK - The Queen's Speech, which will mark the opening of the British parliamentary session on November 26, will feature a Labour government proposal for granting same-sex couples some of the same rights as married couples.

The Civil Partnerships Bill, as the bill will be known, would be the most far-reaching change to British laws relating to Gay sexuality since it was decriminalized in Britain in the 1960s, the Times of London said Monday, November 10.

Under the proposed legislation, which will also apply in Scotland, Gay couples will be able to sign an official document at a registry office in front of the registrar and two witnesses, although this would not be taken as a "marriage ceremony".

Registered couples would be able to take custodial responsibility for one another's children, and would ensure that pension benefits, previously available only to married couples, could also be claimed by a Gay or Lesbian partner.

A family law expert told The Times newspaper: "The reform will be a huge symbolic step with real practical advantages for same-sex couples; the State is recognizing and sanctioning same-sex relationships as deserving equal treatment. [It] would, in effect, be virtually the same as marriage, but as yet the tax treatment isn't guaranteed to be the same."

The Labour proposal would include divorce with alimony and child support claims where appropriate. Gay couples who split would also be granted access to legal aid to sort out disputes over contact with children or finances.

Martin Bowley of the Bar Lesbian and Gay Group, a legal organization, quoted an Appeal Court ruling by Lord Justice Ward defending the Civil Partnerships Bill. "The question," he said, "is more what a family does than what a family is. A family unit is a social unit which functions through linking its members closely together."

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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

by Lee Thorn

Let's Just Make It Up!

You've heard of journalists who lie for money, journalists who make up stories to save some shoe leather, journalists who won't report stuff that might annoy potential advertisers, or annoy regular sources, or annoy this or that demographic group. But I think I have a new one for you today, journalists who didn't tell the truth because it didn't have a dramatic arc that was as artistically satisfying as the arc of the story they made up.

In terms of background I think we ought to recognize that the whole idea of dramatic arc is very big in the current popular culture. A gangster is a popular TV series recently complained to a fellow gangster that his life "lacked a dramatic arc." The other gangster, older and wiser, pointed out that most lives with dramatic ares occur in fiction, as pithy an observation as ever came out of a fictional gangland.

And now we have a case of the big-time TV news sources being seduced by the notion of dramatic arc. The story, nearly unanimous as far as I can tell, is their version of the brief but glorious career of the Concorde. It goes like this: Supersonic passenger transport began in a blaze of technological brilliance, international cooperation and unlimited glamour. CEOs and rock stars plied the heavens in almost unimaginable luxury for a few brief decades until a fatal accident in France, a weak international economy and hikes in jet fuel prices combined to bring the glorious epoch to its inevitable close.

Nice story, dramatic arc like a Roman candle, but nothing like the truth. What really brought the epoch to a close was the British government's refusal to let international entrepreneur
Richard Branson buy them out. Unfortunately, no dramatic arc there.

Branson, founder of Virgin Atlantic Airways and dozens of other successful businesses, one of the richest and most respected businessmen in the world, offered to buy the British Concordes and continue the service as a part of Virgin Airways. When the issue of national pride was raised, he said he'd be happy to continue flying the fleet with British Airways tails. All out of excuses, the government walked away from the deal without giving any explanation for rejecting it.

Telling the story recently on the Charlie Rose Show, Branson speculated that the British government didn't want a private business to succeed where it had failed, a pretty reasonable speculation, especially in the absence of any official explanation.

"The inevitable end" of supersonic transport that most of the TV news outlets sang their sad songs about wasn't inevitable at all. Nobody doubted that Branson had the money to do the deal. Nobody doubted that he knew what he was doing: in fact his Virgin had successfully competed against British Airways' non-Concorde routes for years. And then there's the fact that everything he touches has a way of turning to gold. And it certainly wouldn't have been the first time in history that a private entrepreneur had made a success of something a government bureaucracy screwed up.

In all the TV coverage of the British Concorde's demise that I heard, only one outlet, CNN, even mentioned Branson, and that mention was outrageously misleading. They said that he had offered to buy "at least one" of the Concorde planes. But I guess you could say that their statement is technically true. If he offered to buy and run the entire operation, hasn't he also offered to buy "at least one" of the planes?

Where the hell is Bill Bennett, author of "The Death Of Outrage" when we need him? Isn't it fairly outrageous that a company started with British taxes can be allowed to fold when there's a legitimate offer on the table, to fold just so incompetence can be spared embarrassment?

Take a step back the outrageousness – the media outrageousness as well as that of the British government -- and consider for just a second what a colossal brain cramp you'd have to have to reach the conclusion that an enterprise must be impossible because one bureaucracy in France and one similar bureaucracy in England couldn't make that enterprise work the first time they, or anyone, tried it. If that were the test for entrepreneurial feasibility, a hamburger joint wouldn't be feasible. Make that a lemonade stand. What I'm trying to suggest is that the media didn't just make up a story that didn't happen to be true; the story they made up, although it had a very nice dramatic arc, is an insult to our intelligence.

The real story here is that the Brits screwed their people twice, once by failing to make a go of the tax-funded Concorde, again by refusing to let anyone else make a go of it. This is an important story because it shows you how governments can go astray. But it has no arc.

[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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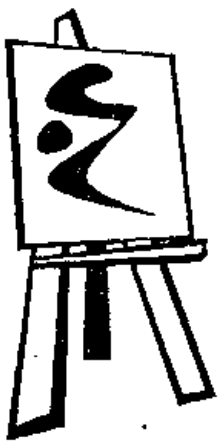

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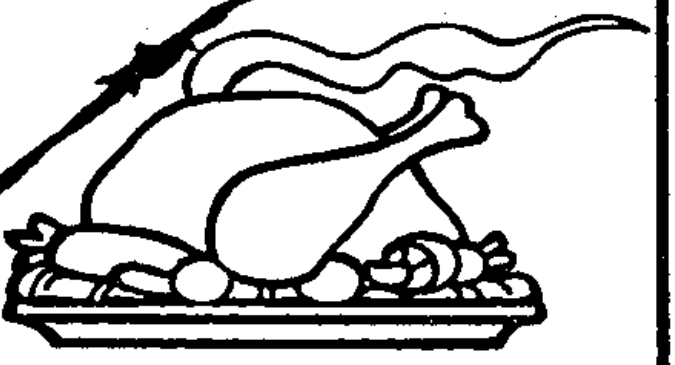

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Gay/Lesbian Loyalties Divided In 2004 Primary

WASHINGTON - They've been credited with raising millions of "Gay" campaign dollars and delivering several million Gay votes in each of the last three presidential elections, two for President Bill Clinton and one for former Vice President Al Gore. Many of them landed jobs in the Clinton White House and high-level positions in executive branch agencies during the Clinton presidency. Most worked hard on Gore's presidential campaign in 2000, reported the Washington Blade.

Now, with nine candidates vying for the 2004 Democratic presidential nomination, many of these seasoned Gay political operatives have become highly sought-after commodities among the "top tier" Democrats running for president.

While a large number of prominent Gay Democrats from across the country have joined the campaigns of each of the nine Democrats running for president, most of the high-level Gay officials from the Clinton-Gore camps remain on the sidelines.

"I like them all," said Gay rights attorney Roberta Achtenberg, who served as Clinton's assistant secretary for fair housing at the Department of Housing & Urban Development.

Achtenberg, now the senior vice president for public policy at the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, said she has been contacted personally by at least four of the candidates, who asked for her endorsement.

"Kerry has asked, Dean has asked, Gephardt has asked, and Clark has asked," she said. "I have agreed to let them all use my name, with the caveat that I'm not supporting one over the other."

Achtenberg added that she will "work like hell" for whichever candidate wins the nomination.

Gay Democratic activist and philanthropist James Hormel, whom Clinton appointed as U.S. Ambassador to Luxembourg, making him the nation's first openly Gay ambassador, expressed the same sentiment.

"I have made no choices," he said. "I find each of them inspiring in one way or the other. I find all of them far preferable to the current White House resident."

Gay activists call the current crop of Democratic presidential candidates, collectively, the most supportive on Gay civil rights of any set of primary contenders in history.

The candidates are former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, U.S. Sens. John Kerry (D-Mass.), Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.), and John Edwards (D-N.C.), U.S. Reps. Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.) and Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio), former U.S. Sen. Carol Moseley Braun (D-Ill.), Rev. Al Sharpton (D-N.Y.), and former Army General Wesley Clark (D-Ark.).

Like other Gay former Clinton administration officials, Achtenberg and Hormel said their decision to hold off on backing a candidate is based on a desire to avoid taking sides in a potentially divisive intra-party fight over the nomination.

Other Gay Clinton administration officials taking a similar posture of neutrality include Richard Socarides, former White House adviser on Gay issues; Todd Dickinson, former Assistant Secretary of Commerce and director of the U.S. Office of Patent & Trademarks; John Berry, former Assistant Secretary of the Interior, and Bob Hattoy, former White House personnel adviser and Clinton-Gore campaign official.

But not all of Clinton's former aids remain on the sidelines. Julian Potter, a vice presidential aid to Gore who served later as Clinton's White House liaison to Gays, supports Dean. She said she agrees with Dean's bold challenge to Democrats who sided with President Bush on the war in Iraq as well as his stands on other issues.

"Some of these people who have been in politics a long time wait until they know who will be the winner," Potter said. "I have a different view. I feel Dean is where the party should be. This is the time to shape our party on the issues. So I'm for him."

Although Potter is the only high-level Gay Clinton administration official so far to back Dean, Dean has attracted the largest number of prominent Gay community leaders and political activists among all of the Democratic presidential contenders. The Dean campaign boasts that the growing list of Gay Dean supporters resembles a "Who's Who" among Gay elected officials and Gay Democratic Party leaders.

Among the Gay Dean backers are Tom Ammiano, the San Francisco Supervisor and mayoral candidate; Jeffrey Prang, the mayor of West Hollywood; and Jim Graham, the D.C. City Council member.

Also backing Dean are a number of prominent Gays in the arts and entertainment industry, including singer Melissa Etheridge.

Kerry has also drawn a significant number of Gay leaders to his camp. Gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) is serving as chair of the Kerry campaign's National Lesbian & Gay Advisory Council. Others backing Kerry include Fred Hochberg, former deputy director of the U.S. Small Business Administration under Clinton.

David Mixner, the Gay Democratic activist credited with lining up Gay support for Bill Clinton in the early stages of the 1992 presidential campaign, was named last month as co-chair of the Gephardt campaign. Mixner is considered a highly successful fund-raiser for the Democratic Party and Gay rights causes, making him an important asset for Gephardt, Gay activists said. He has been working with Gephardt since the Missouri congressman entered the presidential race last year. Joining Mixner on the Gephardt campaign is Gay Democrat Steve Elmondorf, who for years served as chief of staff to Gephardt's congressional office, including his minority leader's office.

Another key Gephardt campaign official is the congressman's openly Lesbian daughter, Chrissy Gephardt, who serves as director of Gay and Lesbian outreach as well as a liaison on women's and college student issues.

Former Clinton White House staffer Paul Yandura, who serves as a consultant to the Edwards campaign, said the campaign will soon announce the names of other "prominent Gay and Lesbian Democrats" backing Edwards.

Although the Lieberman campaign has yet to draw some of the big names from the Clinton-Gore campaigns of past years, Lieberman enjoys the support of many

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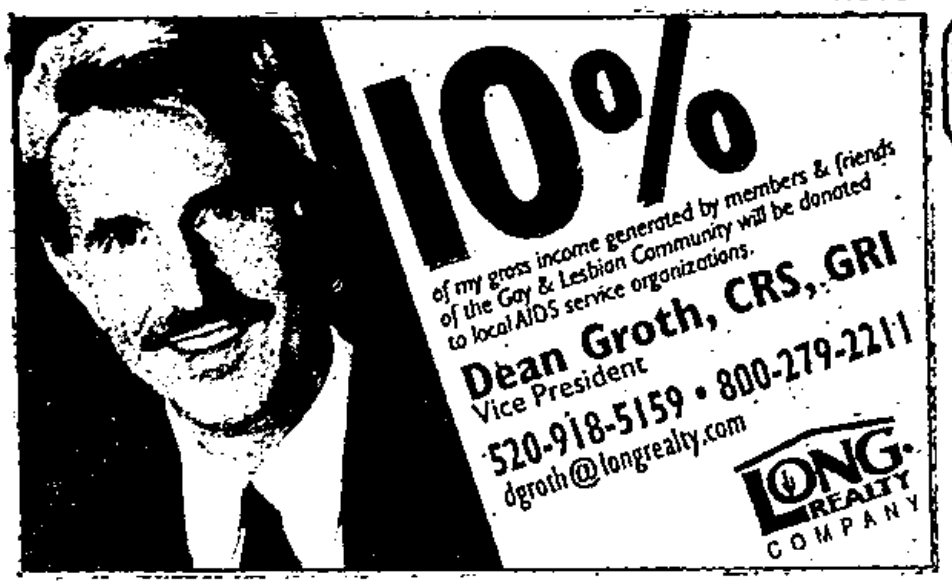

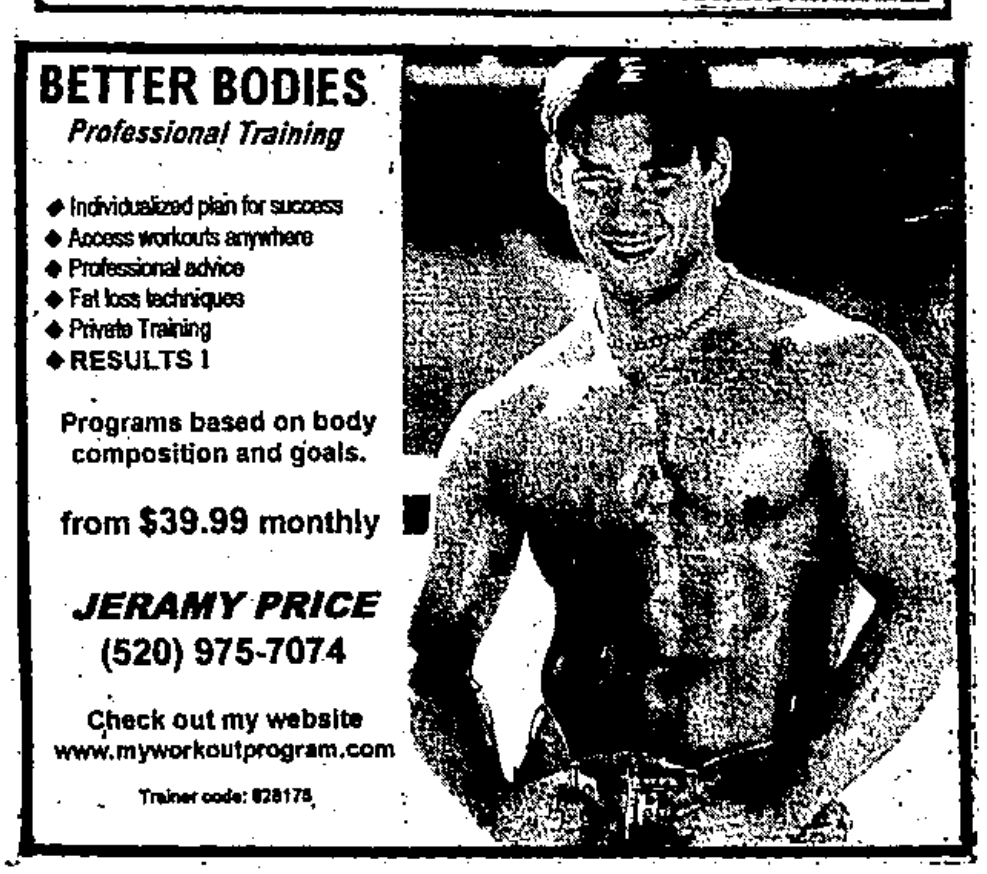

POLITICS 2003

by Mark R. Kerr

So Where Do They Really Stand? Wesley Clark

When a reporter writes for a weekly publication, the old adage that news will happen the day after the publication "has gone to press," and once again it happened. So without further adieu, here is the full responses to the Human Rights Campaign questionnaire by General Wesley Clark, who is running for the Democratic Presidential Nomination.

In 36 states, no laws protect Americans from employment discrimination based on sexual orientation, like the federal laws that exist on race, religion, sex, national origin, age or disability. As president, would you support and work for passage of a federal bill that would prohibit job discrimination based on sexual orientation?

CLARK: Support. Comments: As President, I will support the enactment of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act to remedy the gap in federal law to bar employment discrimination based on sexual orientation.

As president, would you support and work for passage of a federal bill that outlawed discrimination in the workplace based on gender identity and expression?

CLARK: Support. Comments: All Americans should be treated with equality and dignity. I would work to enact the Employment Non-Discrimination Act now stalled in Congress.

Currently federal hate crime laws do not cover sexual orientation or gender identity and expression. Would you support the inclusion of protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity to the law passed in 1968 which covers the categories of race, religion and national origin?

CLARK: Support. Comments: Hate crime legislation should protect Gay and Lesbian Americans just as it protects crimes based on race, religion or natural origin.

New treatments have improved the quality of life for those living with HIV/AIDS, but those treatments are expensive, and not available to everyone who needs them. As president, would you support: Increased funding for the Ryan White CARE Act?

CLARK: Support. Comments: My health plan would improve health care for those that have it by emphasizing preventive, medically-justifiable and cost-effective services and guaranteeing universal coverage for children, access for all Americans, and making health care more affordable for tens of millions of families currently struggling to pay their premiums. I would also proudly support increased funding for this critical Act since it is the second largest federal investment in the care and treatment of people living with HIV/AIDS (second to Medicare).

Allowing low-income Americans better access to treatment through the Early Treatment for HIV Act (ETHA)?

CLARK: Support. Comments: This Act would improve the quality of life for those who are HIV positive and it would save taxpayers money by reducing long-term health costs. It just makes sense to give states the option to provide Medicaid coverage for low-income individuals.

Increased funding for HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and research?

CLARK: Support. Comments: It has been proven that HIV prevention programs are effective in slowing the annual rate of new HIV infections, even in high risk communities. Money invested in Americans' health is money well spent.

Comprehensive and age-appropriate sex education for America's students that includes science-based prevention methods?

CLARK: Support. Comments: I support comprehensive and age-appropriate education because it succeeds in stemming sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies.

Currently, no state recognizes any legal form of marriage for same sex couples. Do you believe the civil institution of marriage (with absolutely no requirements imposed on religious institutions) should be made legally available to two committed adults of the same sex?

CLARK: Oppose. Comments: I support civil unions so that Gays and Lesbians have equality and full rights under the law. Families in the United States come in many shapes and sizes. Currently, most of our laws extend rights and responsibilities to only heterosexual families and explicitly exclude same-sex couples from enjoying those same rights and responsibilities. It is the best interest of our country to promote stable communities and families, this includes both heterosexual and same-sex families. Accordingly, I believe that same-sex couples shouldn't be denied rights to pensions, health insurance, family medical leave, bereavement leave, hospital visitation, survivor benefits, and other basic legal protections that all families and children need.

If you do not believe that civil marriage for same-sex couples should be made available to same-sex couples on the same basis as opposite sex couples, is there any legal construct you do embrace that would extend legal recognition to same sex couples?

CLARK: Support. Comments: Yes, see answer above.

If a state has taken the steps to recognize same sex couples (and their families) for purposes of state-based benefits, rights, privileges and responsibilities, should the federal government recognize the state's legal recognition of such couples and families for purposes of federal benefits and tax treatment?

CLARK: Support. Comments: I believe the federal government should recognize state approved civil unions so that same-sex partners have access to pensions, family medical leave, hospital visitation rights, and survivor benefits.

Gay and Lesbian Americans pay federal taxes. According to a 1997 GAO

CONTINUED ON PAGE TEN

COMMENTARY

A More Perfect Union Through Human Rights And Equal Protection Under Law by Congressman Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.

[The following is an address given at the Human Rights Campaign 14th Annual Michigan Dinner November 15, 2003; Detroit, Michigan by Rep. Jackson, Jr.]

I'm interested in building a more perfect Union and advancing new American rights.

Sometimes both the enemies and the friends of social and political progress want to make civil rights issues more complicated and difficult than they are. I don't want to over-simplify any issue, but if your premise is clear and your foundation is solid, most other things tend to fall rather easily into place and become less complicated.

So let me state clearly my foundation and early on my operating premise, and it is: human rights for all human beings and equal protection under the law for all Americans. I start with that premise and foundation and strive to judge all human rights by one yardstick.

Human rights for all human beings is why Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or Transgendered Americans deserve the same rights and protection under the law as other Americans. Gay and Lesbian couples who make a life-long commitment to one another should receive the same legal rights and benefits of marriage that other couples receive. Gay and Lesbian couples in long-term committed relationships deserve to be able to visit each other in the hospital, share health insurance coverage and get equal pensions and other survivor benefits if one spouse dies.

There are those who want to make Gay and Lesbian civil unions or civil marriages a moral and religious issue only. All issues have a moral underpinning and a religious dimension to them, but in our secular society, religious institutions are under no moral, religious or legal obligation to perform or bless Gay unions. Such institutions are free to either grant or withhold such celebrations and blessings. Consistent with the First Amendment, neither the government nor the law should interfere with religion or impose one set of religious beliefs on people who hold different beliefs.

Let me be perfectly clear. When I assumed office, I put my hand on the Bible and swore to uphold the Constitution. I did not put my hand on the Constitution and swear to uphold the Bible, the Torah or the Koran. The people of the Second District of Illinois did not elect me to be their pastor, priest, rabbi or imam for the purpose of shepherding their souls. They elected me to be their political representative and the guardian of their Constitutional rights.

To uphold my oath of office and the Constitution I must defend the rights of Christians of all denominations, Jews, Muslims, and people of other faiths in American, as well as unbelievers —even hostile unbelievers--- agnostics and atheists. The greatness of our country and our Constitution (as amended) is that it puts believers in the position of defending the rights of unbelievers, while unbelievers must defend the rights of believers. Certainly that same religious, legal and constitutional standard applies to upholding equal rights under the law for Gays and Lesbians.

That doesn't mean the enemies of building a more perfect Union and advancing new American rights won't protest and politicize you issue.

The proposed anti-Gay constitutional amendment would writer discrimination into the Constitution.

So rather than using the Constitution to advance rights and provide equal treatment under the law for all Americans. This amendment would actually write discrimination into the Constitution. Since the Bill of Rights was ratified, there have been 17 other amendments added to the Constitution, and all of them were designed to expand people's rights –such as ending discrimination against African-Americans, women and young people with respect to voting.

But the proposed anti-Gay constitutional amendment, HR 56, the Federal Constitutional Marriage Amendment, if passed, would actually be the first time in American history that an amendment would be added to the Constitution restricting the rights of a group of Americans.

HR 56 goes much further than simply defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman. It actually bans protection under the law for Gay and Lesbian couples. It's a harsh, homophobic and discriminatory amendment that would prevent Gay and Lesbian couples, with life-long commitments to each other, from having any basic rights and protections under the law.

Since I have been in Congress, I believe I have a 100 percent voting record on HRC's scorecard. I continue to support and advocate for issues of importance to you: an end to the "don't ask, don't tell" policy in the military; no job discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation; support for anti-Gay hate crimes legislation; an increase in HIV/AIDS money for research, prevention and cure, both here and abroad, but especially in Africa; support for non-discrimination legislation in housing, health care, insurance and other areas of civil rights concern. I will continue to fight for Gay and Lesbian issues by speaking out and supporting fair legislation that eliminates discrimination and provides equal rights, liberty and justice for all.

While I'm fully appreciative and supportive of the great strides and civil rights gains of the past ---for African-Americans, Hispanics, women, Gays, Lesbians and others... as you know, I'm deeply rooted in that tradition... I'm equally concerned about the next stage of challenges and of projecting a positive future. I'm not interested in just remembering the past and recalling the bad old days that became better. I'm interested in discussing the next frontier. I want to know, where do we go from here?

From my perspective, the next cutting-edge political frontier in America is to move beyond fighting merely for progressive civil rights legislation —all of which I support— but moving to fight for constitutional amendments. We must add human rights to the Constitution in the form of amendments.

What do I mean? I mean that the vote, education and health care are human rights. I mean that most Americans aren't aware that they don't have the right to vote in the Constitution. "No individual right to vote" is the central lesson to be learned from the Bush v. Gore decision of 2000.

Most American aren't aware of what adding an individual citizenship right to an education and health care of equal high quality to the constitution would mean in their daily lives and in the lives of future generations. So, in conclusion, I not only come to HRC's gala dinner in Detroit tonight to lend a hand and help. I also come asking for a helping hand and for help.

I need your help in lobbying your Congressman to become a co-sponsor of legislation to put the individual right to vote, education and health care in the Constitution as new amendments – House Joint Resolutions 28, 29 and 30.

My father often compares the struggle for equal rights to a quilt. All of us have our piece of the cloth, our patch, to go in the quilt. Each of our patches may be made of a different material —some Gay and some straight, our patches may come in different colors —black, white, brown; our patches may be different sixes and shapes —some short and tall, others fat and skinny. And all of our patches are valid.

But our separate patches alone are not enough. To make a quilt that will keep all of us warm and secure, someone must sew all of the patches together into a huge quilt of justice and equality.

That's our challenge tonight. Perfect your patch —Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender rights – yes, but don't stop there. Fight to make other patches perfect as well.

When we fight for justice for ourselves and others, we can build a more perfect Union and advance new American rights —to the benefit of all Americans and for the betterment of the entire world.

Anti-Gay Chief Justice Removed From Bench

Continued from Page One

Commandments controversy, Moore enraged advocates for Gay rights in February 2002 when he wrote in a legal opinion that homosexual conduct is "immoral, detestable, a crime against nature and a violation of nature's God, upon which this nation and our laws are predicated." The comments were part of a ruling that prevented a Lesbian mother from winning custody of her three children from an allegedly abusive father.

Moore's removal from the bench followed a one-day trial on Wednesday. According to the New York Times, the former judge spoke to reporters outside the courthouse after the ruling, saying he was guilty of acknowledging God – "the source of our law and our liberty."

The Rev. Barry W. Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State (one of three groups that brought the lawsuit against Moore's Ten Commandments display), applauded Moore's removal.

"America is a safer place with Roy Moore off the bench," Lynn said. "After all, this is a man who said in a court decision that the state has the power to execute Gay people. His repeated attempts to mix his personal religion with government power was dangerous, and I'm glad he's no longer a judge."

Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, called Moore "a nightmare for Lesbian and Gay people in Alabama."

"Justice Moore has invoked his own personal religious beliefs as a justification for taking children away from Lesbian and Gay parents," Minter told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network. "It is frightening to have such an overtly homophobic person on the bench, and his removal is a welcome development."

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Thank you, Gary Cunningham and Mark Hopwood.

POLITICS 2003

CONTINUED FROM PAGE EIGHT

study requested by Judiciary Chairman Henry Hyde, there are over 1000 benefits, rights and privileges provided to married couples and their families in federal law. Same-sex couples cannot access such benefits, rights and privileges because same sex couples are not allowed to marry in any state in the union. Do you support extending federal benefits, rights, privileges and responsibilities to same-sex couples (and their children) provided the partnership meets certain federal standards of commitment and mutuality of interest?

CLARK: Support. Comments: I believe same-sex couples deserve the same federal benefits, rights, privileges and responsibilities as opposite-sex couples.

Specifically, do you support the expansion of the Family and Medical Leave Act to cover domestic partners and their children?

CLARK: Support. Comments: See above comments.

Do you support fair and equal tax treatment of same sex couples on the same basis as married couples?

CLARK: Support. Do you support modifying the Social Security System to pay survivor benefits to the same-sex partners of Gay and Lesbian people?

CLARK: Support. Many Gay and Lesbian people serve in the federal government but do not receive the same health insurance and other employee benefits of married couples.

Do you support domestic partner coverage for Gay and Lesbian employees of the civilian federal workforce?

CLARK: Support. Comments: If Fortune 500 companies have adopted policies to permit employees to designate domestic partners to receive employment benefits, so too can the federal government.

While 47 states allow Gay and Lesbian people to adopt children, some legislators are pushing to prohibit capable, committed adults from adopting because of their sexual orientation. As president would you support giving appropriate judicial authorities the full authority to make decisions on adoption based on the best interest of the child, without bans based solely on sexual orientation?

CLARK: Support. Comments: There are too many children who need loving homes and parents-- to prevent able, responsible adults from adopting solely because of their sexual orientation is wrong. I support giving judicial authorities the right to make decisions based on the best interest of the child.

Would you support the Permanent Partners Immigration Act (H.R. 832) which would enable an American citizen to petition for immigration sponsorship for a same-sex partner, and the INS would treat the relationships between opposite and same-sex couples in the same manner under the immigration code?

CLARK: Support. Comments: I believe committed same-sex partners should be treated just as opposite sex partners under the law.

Would you support a congressional repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy which would allow Gay, Lesbian, and bisexual soldiers the right to serve openly in the military as is currently the policy in nearly every NATO country?

CLARK: Support. Comments: I believe that the military needs to rethink the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. It does not serve this country to discriminate against people who want to serve in our armed forces. I would ask the military to craft and implement a policy that ensures that everyone who wants to serve their country is permitted to do so with honor and dignity. I would ask the military to look seriously at the British policy, which prohibits sexual misconduct by both heterosexuals and homosexuals. I would then submit the new policy to Congress to replace the current "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law.

For more information, visit his Web site, Clark04.com.

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Mass. G/L Families Win Marriage Case

Continued from Page One

have the burden and advantages of the state tax law for married couples; and

Receive hundreds of other protections under state law.

Churches and other religious institutions will not have to recognize or perform ceremonies for these civil marriages. This ruling is not about religion; it's about the civil responsibilities and protections afforded through a government-issued civil marriage license.

By operation of law, all married couples should be extended the more than 1,000 federal protections and responsibilities administered at the federal level. These rights include the application of federal inheritance laws, social security benefits, the right to unpaid leave to care for a family member, the ability to file joint tax return, and the like. However, the so-called Defense of Marriage Act purports to discriminate against same-sex married couples and deny them these protections. Because no state has recognized civil marriage for same-sex couples in the past, this law has not yet been challenged in court.

Other states and some businesses may legally recognize the civil marriages of same-sex couples performed in Massachusetts the same way they treat those of opposite-sex couples.

HOROSCOPES

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Chatty Mercury pumps and bumps powerful Pluto and our thoughts and words create lunar landscapes. This energy will serve us well if we are making a valid point but pure sass will hoist us on our own petards. Be sure to wear clean petards in case of an accident.

ARIES
MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

The Pluto / Mercury conjunction can make you a bit too mouthy for your own good. Proud Rams love to hear their own opinions and now you are ready to take your case to the global arena in order to make your point. Push comes to shove, especially if the law is involved. Are you prepared to put your principles on the line? Then also be prepared to pay the fine... or do the time.

TAURUS
APRIL 21 - MAY 21

The most intriguing part of the Mercury / Pluto conjunction is that whatever assorted nonsense you say to people will sound authentic and appear to ring true. Conservative queer Bulls let loose and can take things to the Outer limits. Use this mouthy energy to lure potential lovers into your Venus Flytrap where you devour them whole. What a change of pace.

GEMINI
MAY 22 - JUNE 21

Gay Twins are happiest with a significant other and the Mercury / Pluto conjunction heats up partnerships with a few well chosen words. This transit can transform a good relationship into an excellent one. However, the opposite is also true; A shaky partnership can crack apart like a rotten egg. If you're searching for your dreamboat, it could bring in the fleet. Well hello sailor!

CANCER
JUNE 22 - JULY 23

Proud Crabs are ready to toss off their chains and announce their liberation from the workforce. The Mercury / Pluto conjunction pits your desire to do a good job with your impatience at never quite getting ahead of the game. If you're fed up with being a just another working stiff try limbering up and working off your frustration at the gym. Or be stiff at home instead.

LEO
JULY 24 - AUGUST 23

Fun has a way of getting out of hand during the Mercury / Pluto conjunction. You take excessive risks to steal the show (so what else is new?) or to entice a new romance. Don't. It's not worth it. One ill timed remark could launch the torpedoes so watch your mouth to maintain the peace. Proud Lions enjoy applause not rotten tomatoes. To be safe, wear nothing but cellophane.

VIRGO
AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23

Expect a few changes around the house when Mercury conjuncts Pluto. Queer Virgins feel an overwhelming urge to call it as they see it with family members. Go for it as long as you are prepared to accept all outcomes. Pluto continues to rearrange the landscape and the ultimatum you launch today may not be required tomorrow. Check your rear-view mirror for roadkill.

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23

Your words pack a nuclear punch so position what you say very carefully during the Pluto / Mercury conjunction. Diplomatic Gay Libras may tip the scales with a stray remark. On the bright side, you have a unique opportunity to set our agenda on full throttle and get our word Out, loud, proud and queer. Sometimes you have to tip the scales over to get everyone's attention.

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22

Calculating Gay Scorps will have to reevaluate everything that they hold near and dear during the Mercury / Pluto conjunction. Your values have been placed on the petri-dish of life; how is it growing? Of course, by mouthing your opinions now you could inadvertently give up something that you currently treasure. Maybe it will be a weight off your back. Then again, maybe not.

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22

Proud Archers are true to form but now with the Mercury / Pluto conjunction, you're changing form everyday. Expect a major transformation in the way you appear to others during this planetary aspect and all through Pluto's visit in your sign. It may be that you are finally on track in your life's work or it may be time for you to spread your wings and fly off in a new direction. Splat.

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20

Keep your opinions to yourself queer Cap, particularly during the Mercury / Pluto conjunction. Loose lips sink ships now and hidden enemies will control and detonate your assorted stray missles right in your backyard. I know that you are usually fairly tight lipped (thus your popularity in certain circles...) but this transit tempts you to say just one more word. How about goodbye?

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19

Aqueerians are the merry bandleaders of zodiac and now, with the Mercury / Pluto conjunction, your tempo increases to a ferocious crescendo. Everyone dance or else! How much cheap abuse will you heap upon faithful friends? Try to hold off on your more incendiary comments now; there is no sense in insulting and alienating pals over a fleeting transit. Miss a beat this week.

PISCES
FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20

Poor Guppies are probably up to their gills in pressing career issues. But no matter how frustrating your professional life is right now don't whine around the office during the Mercury / Pluto conjunction. There is no sense in complaining anyway; your words will not have the intended effect and may make things worse. Suck up your gut and hold off for at least another week.

A View From The Rock

by Joy L. Childress — A Commentary From Cornerstone Fellowship

Is This The Real You?

I went to the Marsha Stevens Concert at Cornerstone last night and this song "Is This the Real You" really tagged at my heart strings. So much so, that I was told in order to heal I would have to tell my story. The real story. The part of me that I have kept hidden for so many years; the one I wouldn't share-ever! So. here is my story.

Like so many people now a days, I come from a home with divorced parents and step parents. My father was my rock; he was very important to me and my spiritual walk. I was brought up Methodist and he insisted that all nine of his children attend church, plus develop a personal walk with Jesus. A strong foundation was formed, something that I wouldn't understand the dynamics of and what impact this would have on my life, until much later. At the age of 10 years old, my father passed away and my world, as I knew it to be, was turned upside down, inside out. Within 6 months, my stepmother had a new boyfriend, sold the house and moved us away from everything familiar, including church.

Within a year of my fathers passing, that loving, caring household was quickly replaced by abusive, both mentally and physically, behavior. My stepfather, Jerry, didn't encourage me to attend church. Matter of fact I was not allowed to attend. My place was to be at home, where he could be in control. It didn't take long for me to discover that Jerry's beliefs were much different than mine. You see, Jerry is a Satanist and pedophile.

It didn't take him long to get me involved in his way of life and for the next seven years I endured all of his advances. He used the sexual abuse to create his own brand of sexual magic. Forcing me to have sex with other people, as well as with him. In my late thirties I discovered that when I was 12 years old, I had fathered a child, which was confirmed by the woman that carried that child. Unfortunately, that child was aborted. As if this wasn't enough, let's throw mental abuse in the mix. With such comments as "You will never amount to anything," or "You are a nothing and a nobody," sound familiar? This way of life lasted a total of 10 years and has left very deep scars. Painful scars.

I'm hoping that you will see that I am not that perfect Christian, with my perfect life, going to my perfect church. I, like so many people, have seen enough pain to last several life times. I'm hoping that you will see where I have come from and see how I managed to move forward. Through those years, the one Saving Grace that kept me alive was the knowledge of Jesus Christ. There were many a nights that I would cry myself to sleep reciting the only scripture I knew, the Lord's Prayer.

I am thankful that my memories are few and far between. I'm grateful that my father insisted that I have a personal relationship with Jesus. I still struggle with the scars everyday but I know that by His Grace I have been healed. When those memories do arise, I give them over to my Lord and Savior-Jesus Christ. Through the Power of the Blood of Jesus, I have been set free from the bondage of fear.

I pray that no one would have to go through this kind of experience, but if you have, I pray that you will be healed and set free. You say that is not possible, I say it is possible because anything is possible through Jesus Christ. He didn't hang on that cross, to just save the Christians, but to save every soul. All people whether Gay or Straight, Jew or Gentile, Black or White it does not matter in the eyes of God!?

In Christ Love,

Brian Fox
aka Alotta W.

What Makes Our Town Tick?

Calabazamusic@yahoo.com — By Jerry D.

Heeding My Own Warning

Hello readers! I am always curious as to who actually takes the time to read my column on a regular basis. I promote it while out on the town and write it with the expectation that those who read it can take at least a little out of it for their day. The responses I receive usually come after I have presented the column to them at an establishment, or when they were the subject matter of my weekly rant. I found myself quite surprised and humbled when my previous article was the defense against me from some of my friends.

In case you do not remember, my last piece (which was viewed two weeks ago) was a warning of sorts to those who try to take on too much when the holiday season arrives. I used the therapeutic words of the Rolling Stones (go figure), to make a point that we take on more than we could handle, especially at this time of year, to little or no avail come New Year's Day. I did not have a particular person in mind when I wrote the article, it was just a general observation that I hoped would touch some and save exhaustion, not to mention grief.

I realized how many people read that particular column when I attended a couple of the weekly duties I have either volunteered or work at throughout. No less than three people used the very words I penned against me in explaining why I might be so tired as of late. Sometimes it takes others to show you where you are, and when they do, listening to them can be as valuable as any other decision made for the time.

I was always raised with the mantra of idle hands and have lived that way for many years. I take pride in any event or task I tackle and can truly say that I am proud of all that I accomplish, both alone and with the help of my friends. When the very story I put out came back to bite me though, it was a wake up call the likes I never thought I would be receiving. All of the tasks that fill my week for the past number of months have obviously taken its toll on me to the effect that my own words were a cry to just slow down.

Aside from my day job, I am co-owner of a karaoke company here in the Old Pueblo. I have three shows a week that take my evenings after work. At the same time, the production of "Hearts Are Wild" is in its production stages, of which I am co-writer and participant. Whatever evening I do find myself home, it is usually spent in front of my computer, catching up on my campaign work for Howard Dean, or

CONTINUED ON PAGE THIRTEEN

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John 3:16

You can be GLBT and a Christian.

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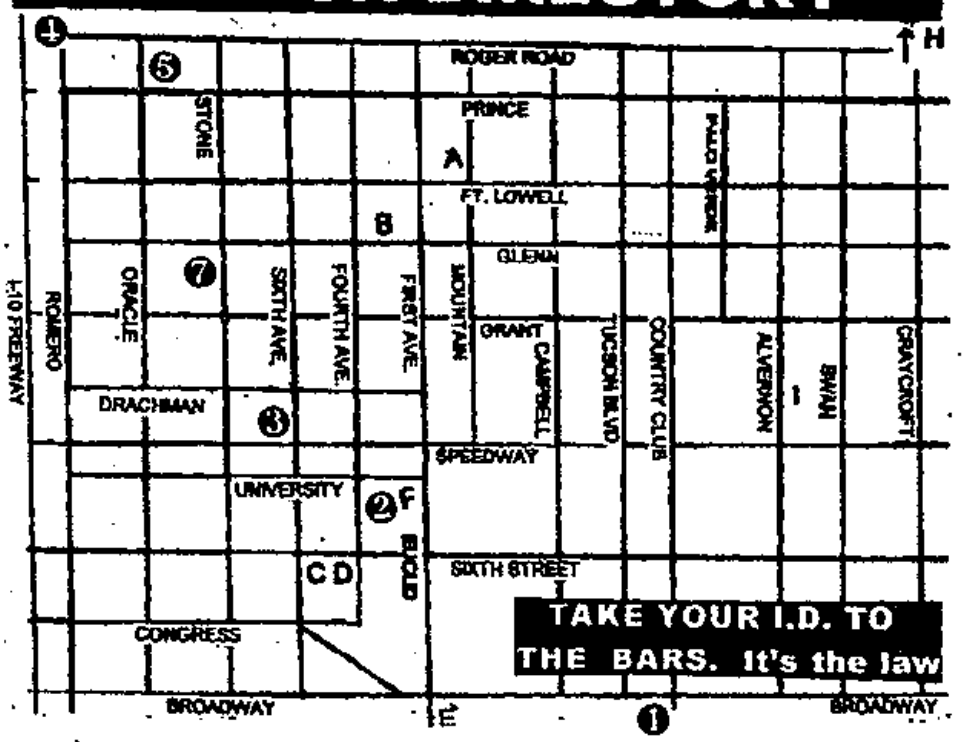

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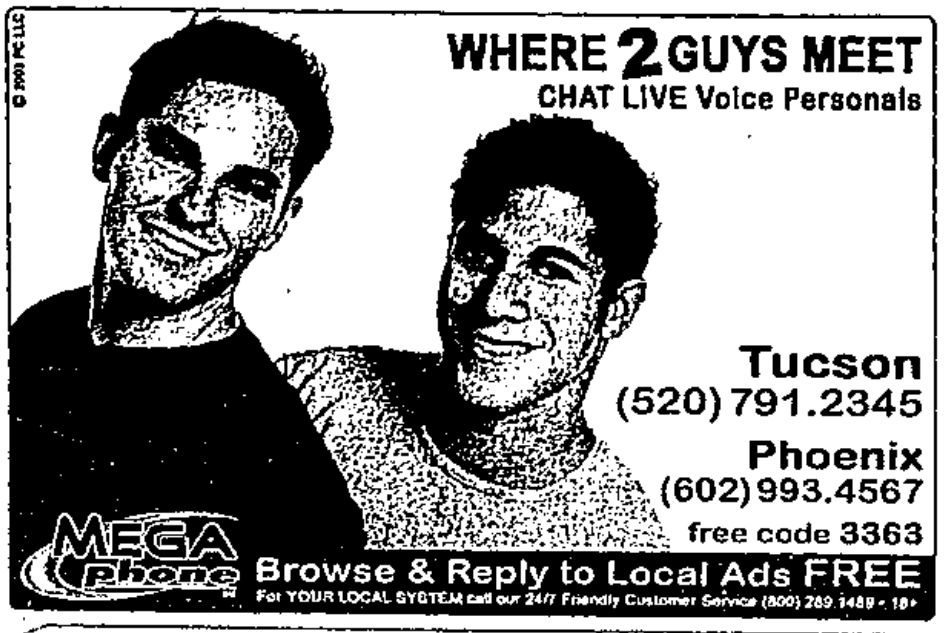

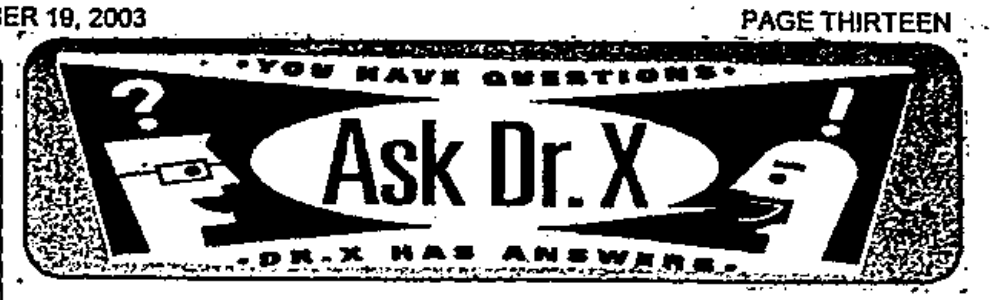

Dear Dr. X,

The other night my boyfriend and I were talking and he got on the subject of having a three way! I thought we were happy with our sex life and didn't think it needed any outside help but during the conversation I agreed to "try it out!" Now when we go out my boyfriend is flirting and trying to hook up with guys for us. I'm having doubts and don't really want to go through with it. How can I tell him this without pissing him off?

Signed, Stuck in the Middle

Dear Stuck,

First of all you need to talk to your boyfriend and find out what is happening with your sex life. If he is comfortable enough to bring up having a three way, he's probably mature enough to talk about what's missing from your sex life. I'm sure there are a lot of things that you would like to try sexually, so why don't you try those first before resorting to a three way. I can also tell you if you feel this way now your going to feel worse after it's happened. If you do decide to have a three way, you and your partner need to discuss things beforehand. I would talk about your boundaries, how you are going to handle any jealousy issues that come up, and how this is going to impact your relationship.

Dear Dr. X,

What is hepatitis? Am I at risk for it? Is there a cure?

Hepatitis is a virus that affects the liver. There are many types of hepatitis which are differentiated with letters Hep A, Hep B, Hep C ...etc. Health officials primarily focus on Hep A, B, & C.

Almost all types of Hepatitis are transmitted from sexual contact or with bodily fluids. Rimming is a high-risk activity for Hep A due to fecal material. Hep B is currently on the rise, and is transmitted through body fluids, especially semen. Hep C is primarily a blood-based virus, which can be contracted from tattoos and piercing if the equipment is not sterile or new. The strange thing with Hepatitis is a lot of people who are infected with it do not have any symptoms. Other people show flu like symptoms such as nausea, joint pain, and loss of appetite. People with many sex partners, men who have sex with men (MSM), and people who inject drugs are at high risk for Hepatitis.

There are vaccines for Hep A & B. Hep A shots consist of one shot with a booster 6 months later. Hep B vaccines are also available and are given as 3 shots over a 7-month period. There is no current vaccine for Heb C. Both shots are available right now at Theresa Lee Clinic. Call (520) 624-8272 for details. Theresa Lee Clinic also offers full STD screenings including Hepatitis tests and anonymous HIV testing. Make a day of it and go get your Hep shots, get an HIV test, find out what's causing that penile drip and get some lunch. Get your shots and keep healthy.

[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 gmhp.org.]

What Makes Our Town Tick

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ELEVEN

freelance writing, and of course my weekly column. When you lay out all the above mentioned tasks and labors of love, along with my duties as husband and father, it leaves about 5 hours a night to sleep, eat, shower and keep my house clean (I hate a messy place, even if I don't spend time there). The full plate is scheduled to continue until at least the end of January, when I am sure something else will arrive for me to take on.

I have never actually been witness to a nervous breakdown. I have read about them in magazines and seen enough versions of what Hollywood seems to think one looks like. I have not reached that point, but after my own readers and friends scolded me, I find it is time to beat the dam before the burst. It is time to scale back my duties and make sure that I have time to just sit there and let my mind be the only organ going at a high speed. I have delegated some duties of my own company and have asked my day job to give me a little less to take on till the end of the year. The play will have my focus as usual, but I will attempt to not sweat about details I can not do anything about.

CONTINUED ON PAGE FIFTEEN

NON-BAR CALENDAR
GROUPS / CLUBS / ORGANIZATIONS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. The Triangle Tribe/Circle of Men is a support group that helps you deal with yourself and your relationships with others. For directions and reservations, please call Tom at 591-2828.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. The Canasta Club meets to play this fun card game. If you don't know how to play, we'll teach you. For directions and reservations, please call Karol at 744-9017.

Tucson Prime Timers Video Night - 7:00 p.m. Non pornographic movies with Gay themes are shown. Phone: 740-0620

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join us as we get out our monthly 10-page newsletter. It simple, and you get a chance to meet new guys as we assemble the newsletter. The work goes quickly, and is usually done with 30 minutes. For reservations and directions, please call Jerry or Les at 690-9565.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:30 p.m. Join us for the MSN Premiere of "I Love You Baby", a Spanish comedy about a man trying to win back his ex boyfriend. For reservations and directions, please call Les or Jerry at 690-9565.

2-4 p.m. the original Men's Group Massage. A great ay to meet new men and make friends. Fee. Call Marc 881-4582 for information and to reserve a place. Also the Tantric Sex Workshop meets from 4-6 p.m. Sign up in advance. Fee.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Tucson Prime Timers Breakfast - 9:00 a.m. The Egg Connection, 3114 E. Ft. Lowell Rd. (SE corner of Country Club)

Desert Players is holding auditions for "Ten Little Indians" bu Agatha Christie. Eight males and three females aging from mid twenties and ujp, are needed. Auditions will be held upstairs in the Art Gallery at the Temple of Music and Art, 330 S. Scott. Noon to 4:00 p.m. Cold readings from the script. Bring bio and photo. For more information call Cindy Thomas 733-1076.

Tucson Prime Timers Food &Drinks - 5:00 p.m. Woody"s, 3710 N. Oracle Rd.

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Marv for an evening of Pinochle. If you don't know how to play, the guys will teach you in a relaxed atmosphere. For directions, please call Marv at 745-0304.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Tucson Prime Timers Lunch - 12:30 p.m. The Wildcat House1890 N. Stone Ave.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join the men of MSN for an evening out at Rainbow Planet. This is a chance to have a cup of coffee and chat with the men of MSN.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. The Triangle Tribe/Circle of Men is a support group that helps you deal with yourself and your relationships with others. For directions and reservations, please call Tom at 591-2828.

Bar Calendar Of Upcoming Events

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

IBT'S - 9.00 p.m. A special DivaLicious' Show "A Night From Broadway" hosted by Lucinda Holliday and starring Diana Flair, Veronica Halliwell and Stella Virgin.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22

IBT'S - Aqua Party kcks off with a circuit Mix with DJ Q. No cover. Special $1 LCD Lights,. Aqua Jello Shots. Agua Hypnotic Drink Specials. Aqua GoGo Boys. Nemo Attire Invited.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

IBT's -Aqua Party continues. Troy's Recovery Bar from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 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 Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) . 8:00 p.m. Aqua Sissy Bingo with Ajia Simone and Lucinda Holliday. 9:00 p.m. Aqua Boy Contest. $75 First Prize. Aqua Drink specials all night. Hot dance with DJ TC Wildman.

WOODY'S - Sunday Brunches are back .- 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Eggs with a meat du jour side plus Bloody Mary, Mimosa or Screwdriver $5.00.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24

VENTURE-N - Annual Art Show and Sale begins today featuring selected artists. Artist reception from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

IBT'S - 9:00 p.m. A special Thanksgiving DivaLicious' Show hosted by Lucinda Holliday and starring Lady Ashley, Tori Steele, Venecia and Tabatha LaVoll.

THURSDAY, NOV. 27 - THANKSGIVING

VENTURE-N - Open 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 a.m. Today. Turkey Dinner Pot Luck begins at 1:00 p.m. Jim is preparing the turkey. Bring a side dish or a dessert.

WOODY'S - Bar Opens at 3:00 p.m. Dinner with turkey and all the trimmings served beginning at 4:30 p.m.

YARD DOG - Opens at 5:00 p.m. Today only.

Tucson Prime Timers Video Night - 7:00 p.m. Non pornographic movies with Gay themes are shown. Phone: 740-0620

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 1:00 p.m. You're invited to join the MSN family for our traditional Potluck Thanksgiving. The main dishes are provided. For directions, please call Bill at 546-7539.

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 5:00 p.m. After the Thanksgiving meal has been devoured, we'll put out the leftovers and show a movie. The film is "Big Eden", a charming fairy tale of a small town in Montana that comes together to help a gay man looking for love. For directions, please call Bill at 546-7539.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 5:00 p.m. After Thanksgiving, you have to face more turkey, as we show our annual Turkey Movie. This year's clunker is "Monster in the Closet", a horror comedy/spoof of 50s monster movies. Space is limited. For directions and reservations, please call Les at 690-9565.

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 -Open Noon $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. 6:30 shows or special events or Hi energy dancing w/DJ 'T.C. Wildman'. 9-close. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open Noon. Bloody Marys $2.00 til 3pm. Steak & Shrimp Dinner $6.99, 5-9pm. Karaoke w/Jerry O 7:30 to close. Free pool all day.

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio open 3pm. $1.75 Bloody Marys or Screws til 3pm Patio Beer Bust 3-7.Burger BBQ 5-7. Selection of burger meats to choose from. $2 proceeds go to Pet Watch (helping HIV/AIDS clients with their veterinary bills).

WOODY'S - Open 11am. Sunday Brunch 11:30 - 2:30. Eggs and meat du jour plus BMs, Mims or Screws $5. $1.50 Bloody Marys, screwdrivers, Mimosas; Happy Hour 11am-8pm $2 well or domestic beer Patio Bar open 5-close. Pick-up Beach Volleyball games 5-?, $2.50 sirloin burger w/salad 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 Noon. Happy Hour Noon-7pm, 'Theme Dance Nite' with Johnny DJ. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open Noon Happy Hour 4-7pm. Ladies Nite. Free Pool 8pm to close.

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 6pm. Free pool til 4pm. Draft Special 12-4pm. $2.75 Skyy Martinis 4-8. Monday Nite Football. Free Hot Dogs.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. $2 well or domestic beer til 7pm.Karaoke w/Michael D. 9-1

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Scotch until 7pm. Kennel open 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 8 to close.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-7pm, Bare Chest Nite- Bare it and get happy hour prices from 9 to close. Progressive/Retro '80s dance with DJ Q. 9 to close

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open Noon. Happy Hour 4-7pm. $1 Kamakazi, Jellos. Ladies Nite.

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Draft Special 12-4.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. $2 well or domestic til 7pm. Bartender Calls it drink specials..

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

Wednesday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ- Open 2pm. Happy Hour 2-4-1 domestic beer and well from 2-7pm. Hip Hop or Dance w/DJ Shorty or Senna 9pm - close. $1.25 pitchers of Bud/Bud Light or $1 Tequila shots 8-1.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hours Noon-7pm, 8pm "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 noon-1am Happy Hour 4-7pm. plus drink specials. Shrimp Fry Dinner 5-8pm $5.99. Karaoke w/Jerry D 7:30pm-close.

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Draft Special 12-4pm. $2.75 Cuervo Margaritas 4-8pm

WOODY'S - Open Noon. $2 well or domestic beer til 7pm. Free Hot Dog Buffet 5-11pm. Underwear- fetish- leather nite w/Gary and Chris along with GMHP. $1 off any drink or bottled beer (Excludes draft & schnapps) for all in leather or underwear.

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, $2 Kamikazees and $1 Hot Sex..

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hours Noon-7pm, HINRG video dancing with Johnny DJ 9-1 All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open noon. Grill open noon-8pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm. .

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio open 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Draft Special 12-4pm. Pool Tourney 7pm. $3 entry (Pot Matched) Special prices for players.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. $2 well or domestic beer til 7pm. Free Pool 8 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 Noon. Happy Hours Noon-7pm, Live Jazz on the patio with the Susan 6-9pm. Patio Bar 5-1pm. GOGo Boys and Dance Party with Dj 'T.C. Wildman' 9 to 1. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open Noon. Happy Hour 4-7pm. Fish or Shrimp Dinner $5.99 11am-8pm. Country Western Dance, with Libby & Pat 8pm-closing.

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio open 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Draft Special 1-4pm. DJ 9pm to close.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. $2 well or domestic beer til 7pm. Martini Party - Well Martini's $2.00 4-8pm. Call Martinis $3 from 4-6pm. Complimentary Shrimp Cocktail 4-8pm. 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-5pm $4 Martinis and Daquaris. Happy Hours Noon-7pm. Dance Party 9-1 w/DJ-Q. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open noon. Grill open 1-7pm. Margaritas $3 6pm-close. Latino Nite. Dancing w/Dr. Carlos. Free SAAF HIV testing.

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio Bar open 3pm. Patio Beer Bust 3-7pm. DJ 9-1.

WOODY'S - Open 11am $2 well or domestic beer. Til 7pm. Patio Bar opens 5pm. 5-9pm Steak or Mahi Mahi 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

Arts & Entertainment

NOW PLAYING THROUGH DECEMBER 7

Live Theatre Workshop presents Robin Hood adapted by Jeremy Thompson with original music by Michael Martinez and Jay Everett. Journey to the enchanting and musical world of Sherwood Forest during the reign of King Richard the Lionhearted. The Sheriff of Nottingham has an evil plot to destroy Robin Hood, the only man who can save the kingdom from ruin in the absence of the beloved king. With daring duels and unrequited love, the audience will discover that the hero is not always who they think it is, and sometimes, all it takes to become a hero, is a little help from your friends. Playing Sundays only at 1:00 pm. Live Theatre Workshop, 5317 E. Speedway. Tickets $7 for adults, $5 for children 18 & under. 327-4242 for info.

NOW PLAYING THROUGH DECEMBER 21

Live Theatre Workshop presents "Bullshot Crummond". In 1930s England, all is not calm and tranquil. The evil villain, Otto Von Brunno and his seductive mistress have kidnapped Professor Fenton in hopes of stealing his formula for making synthetic diamonds. Enter the hero detective, Hugh "Bullshot" Crummond. Car chases, plane crashes, sword fights, intrigue and romance! A wild ride you won't want to miss! Thurs., Fri., Sat., 7:30; Sunday matinee only 3:00 p.m. Tickets range from $14 - $12. 5317 E. Speedway, 327-4242.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

The Arizona Friends of Chamber Music presents their 2nd concert of their 56th season. The Pacifica String Quartet will perform at 8:00 pm. In the Leo Rich Theater at the Tucson Convention Center. General Admission tickets are $20. Student tickets are $5. The public can contact the AFCM at 520-577-3769 for visit their web site at www.ArizonaChamberMusic.org for more information.

NOVEMBER 24 - DECEMBER 14

+Invisible Theatre presents "Later Life" at 1400 n. First Avenue-(at Drachman). It's another penetrating and yet funny look at modern life penned by one of the most prolific and produced playwrights in America, A.R. Gurney. After meeting briefly 30 years prior, Austin and Ruth, who lead very divergent lives, meet again at a cocktail party. Austin is a privileged and conservative banker who has never strayed from Boston. Through the course of her four marriages, Ruth has lived a very different life in many ways. Tickets $20 Tues., Weds., Thurs., Sun. 7:30 p.m. $22 Fri., Sat., 8:00 p.m. and Sun. 2:00 pm. For reservations call 882-9721 Tues-Fri 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 28 - 29 - 30

The Theater League presents Rodgers and Hammerstein's "The Sound Of Music" at the Tucson Convention Center Music Hall. Tickets are on sale now at the TCC Box Office and TicketMaster (520)321-1000.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Desert Diamond Casino presents Willie Nelson for one performance only. Tickets now on sale. 323-2799

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

Desert Diamond Casino presents Ray Charles tonight only. Tickets now on sale. 393-2799.

"Gallagher Gone Wild" at the TCC Music Hall. Tickets now on sale at TCC Ticket Office and all TicketMaster locations. To charge tickets call 321-1000. Flash Photography allowed! Meet Gallagher pre-show.

DECEMBER 12 - 13 - 14

The Tucson Symphony Orchestra and soloists from the San Francisco Ballet will perform the 10th Annual "A Southwest Nutcracker" at the TCC Leo Rich Theatre. Performance times are 7:30 p.m. Friday; 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 1:00 and 4:30 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are $28 for adults. Seniors, students and children or groups of 10 or more $19. TCC Box Office:791-4266. TicketMaster: 321-1000.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

Desert Diamond Casino presents Tom Jones tonight only. Tickets now on sale. 393-2799.

I LOVE THE

OBSERVER

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE .25 PER WORD $5.00 MINIMUM

CLASSIFIED ADS MUST BE MAILED, NO PHONE ADS

NOTICES

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

"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

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

THE MAN TO MAN Social/erotic education club is the tantric men's group that offers passionate friendships, fun activities and sex education. Marc 881-4582

GLBT Buddhist meditation group meets Sundays from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. at the Wingspan annex space, 739 N. 4th Ave. Please be willing to sit for two twenty minute sessions in silence. All are welcome.

CARE TEAMS ARE AVAILABLE to offer support to people living with HIV/AIDS. The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network offers trained, compassionate and committed volunteers to provide services including friendly visits, light housekeeping, assistance with meals, shopping, errands, transportation and companionship for medical appointments, and respite care for primary care givers. No judgement or proselytizing - we are here to be of service. For information call Scott at 299-6647.

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

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

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

COMMUNITY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (CBA), Tucson's Gay and Lesbian business networking group holds regular meetings the third Thursday of every month. Call 615-6436 for more info.

TUCSON PRIDE, INC. (Formerly Tucson Lesbian and Gay Alliance - TLGA) meets on the second Tuesday at 845 S Craycroft Road at 6pm. Tucson Pride events: Pride Week, Gay West and OUTobenFEST. Inquiries about support groups and individual needs should be directed to Wingspan and other local agencies listed here. For more information call 622-3200 or visit the TPI website at www.tucsonpride.com

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

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

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

GRACE GROUP - CATHOLIC GAY/LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP meets every 2nd and 4th Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the Madonna Hall at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, 1436 N. Campbell across from University Hospital. For more info. Call Anabeli at 325-0892

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

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

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

HALLELUJAH RECOVERY DRUG & ALCOHOL 12-STEP. Every Thursday 5:30-6:30pm at Cornerstone Fellowship, 2902 N. Geronimo. 622-4626.

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

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

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

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

NOTICES

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 615-3491, leave name and phone number.

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

AIDS HOTLINE - 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 psychological 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.

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

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO -- a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, Call the Bears Hotline (520)790-5775 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 of visit our website at www.botop.com All are welcome to our general meetings/potlucks on the 2nd Friday of every month, 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 8:45 to 9:45 p.m. at Lambda Center, 2940 E. Thomas, Phoenix. Ellie 581-8830 or Ronn 968-2384.

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

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

T-SQUARES Lesbian and Gay square dance club meets every Tuesday from 6:30-9:00 p.m. at Cornerstone Fellowship Social Hall, 2902 N. Geronimo (near 1st Ave. and Laguna). Open to All. Call Liz at 325-9466 or Ray at 749-5247.

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

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

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

DESERT VOICES, Tucson's Gay & Lesbian Chorus. Want to join? E-mail: www.desertvoices.org or call 791-9662.

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

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.

NOTICES

AA Meeting with HIV/AIDS focus, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., Wingspan Annex, 739 N. 4th Ave. All alcoholics welcome.

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 Girlz (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 602-279-4805.

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

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

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

GLSEN - Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network meets first Thursday of every month at 4:30pm at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th Street. 733-1800.

TUCSON CATHOLIC GAY & LESBIAN FAMILY MINISTRY. Currently meeting the 4th Monday of every month at SS Peter & Paul Church, Madonna Hall 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Fr. Fiedler in attendance every meeting and willing to speak one on one. Reaching out to Parents and Families. For more info call Doc or Barbara 293-6624.

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

TUCSON GREATER SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION. Interested? Call Kelly Quinn, (520)742-7895 or go to our web site http://www.tgsasoftball.org

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.

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)

PERSONALS

LOOKING FOR A WORKOUT PARTNER. In shape man looking for same to meet 2 or 3 times a week. Can offer accommodations - massage. Call 745-0231 Reed. 1011

HOUSING/FOR RENT

AFFORDABLE RENTALS, ROOMS, APARTMENTS OR HOUSES! Starting at $265/mo.! Must see. Central units, good areas. John, 327-3135 1008

CUTE 1 BEDROOM COTTAGE. Small complex. Large covered porches. Pool - BBQ. $425/mo. + gas and elec Pima/Swan area. (520)326-1934. 1009

ROOMMATES

HOME SHARE IN FOOTHILLS. Rustic setting. Walking distance to National Forest. Great hiking area. Approximately 15 min. to UofA. $425/mo. 287-3127 1010

HOME TO SHARE WITH 35 YEAR OLD GWM. Private entrance. Foothills area. Just north of Tucson Mall. Beautiful views of cith. House keeper included. UofA student or ??, very clean, very open. $375/mo. Call 283-3940 or 861-3557. 1009

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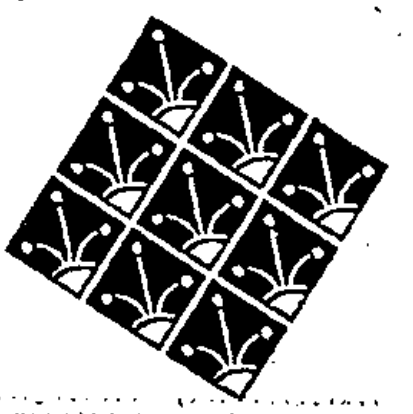
What Makes Our Town Tick

CONTINUED FROM PAGE THIRTEEN

I am going to take a hiatus from my column as well. The holidays will bring most of you traveling and although we are available online, reading is probably not on your list of to-dos during this season. I will return after the New Year with hopefully a fresh look and attitude that will be visible in my words and my way of taking things on so that this never occurs again. I can not guarantee that of course, but it is worth trying, at least for my health and sanity. I thank you all for tuning in and hope to have you back when I grace the pages of our local paper once again. In the meantime, keep the voting registration going, come see my show, and I will be just as visible in town as always (like when the Man About Town was here with us). Have a great holiday, whichever you celebrate. I hope the New Year brings us all success, peace and above all, rest. Have a great week and thank you!



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Hatch Joins Kennedy In Hate Crimes Legislation

WASHINGTON - Republican senator Orrin G. Hatch of Utah, who has opposed Massachusetts senator Edward Kennedy's hate-crimes legislation in recent years, has surprised many by joining Kennedy in sponsoring a new proposal to pass the law.

The proposal, supported by Democrats and several key Senate Republicans, would vastly expand the federal government's power to prosecute such crimes committed anywhere in the country, including those based on sexual orientation. In a dramatic reversal of his past position on the matter, Hatch has recently said that those lawmakers who oppose the inclusion of sexual orientation as a protected category "have got to grow up."

Kennedy-sponsored hate-crimes legislation has been introduced many times in the past but has always been defeated, usually through parliamentary procedures or in conference committees after passing the Senate. In recent years, Hatch, in his capacity as chairman of the Judiciary Committee, has personally held up the legislation. Now he has joined Kennedy to support it, while making his own changes to the scope of the proposed law, changes he says might get the bill approved by the Senate before the end of the current session. If the bill were to face a vote on the floor by the full Senate, it would likely pass with support from at least eight Republicans, including Hatch and Sen. Gordon H. Smith of Oregon.

Swedish Restauranteur Charged With Anti-Lesbian Discrimination

STOCKHOLM, Sweden - A restaurant owner who kicked out a Lesbian couple after he saw them kissing was charged with discrimination and could face as long as a year in prison, a prosecutor said Friday, November 7.

Aziz Cakir told Anna Fernstroem and Susanne Gustavsson to leave his restaurant July 4 because they are Lesbian, according to charges filed Thursday with the Stockholm District Court. Calls to Cakir's restaurant were referred to a law firm, which didn't immediately return calls for comment.

Prosecutor Tora Holst said Cakir told police he didn't accept anybody "making out" in his restaurant regardless of their sexual orientation. But Holst said she believed the women were targeted because they were Lesbian. If convicted, Cakir could face fines or up to a year in prison, she said.

G/L Loyalties

Continued from Page Seven

Clinton-Gore backers, according to Gay Lieberman supporters Raymond Buckley of New Hampshire and Emily Giske of New York City.

Buckley and Giske, both openly Gay members of the Democratic National Committee, said Lieberman's strong Gay rights positions and his status as a moderate Democrat make him one of the strongest contenders to beat President Bush in the general election.

Tom Goodwin, president of an executive search firm in D.C. and one of the leading Gay Democrats backing Clark, said he expects a large number of uncommitted Gay Democrats to gravitate toward Clark in the coming months. Like many of Clark's supporters, Goodwin believes Clark has the best chance of defeating Bush because of his background as a military leader. Other Gay Clark supporters include Richard Maulsby and Paul Kuntzler, the founding members of D.C.'s Gertrude Stein Democratic club and participants in Gay Democratic politics going back to the 1970s.

Gay backers of Moseley Braun, Kucinich, and Sharpton say that while the three so far have struggled with low-budget campaigns and low numbers in public opinion polls, they draw support from a large cadre of grassroots Gay activists. All three have taken some of the strongest stands on Gay issues. Unlike the others, the three have expressed support for Gay civil marriage, prompting their Gay backers to label them as the most pro-Gay of the nine Democrats running for president.

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