Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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Hundreds Attend 'Love And Justice' Rally At El Presidio Park

By Mark R. Kerr

TUCSON (ON) - Hundreds of people, all types and from all walks of life and location gathered at El Presidio Park, on a sunny, Sunday afternoon, Feb. 12.

Young, old, LGBT and straight, single people, people with their families and children, significant others or alone came together to rally and express their love, freedom, commitment to peace and justice, as well as their opposition to hatred and fear that is fast approaching and will be here in the state, in less than five months if the purveyors are successful in their efforts.

These people assembled at El Presidio could express their love, commitment to each other, through the Tucson Domestic Partner registry at this event, sponsored by Wingspan and Arizona Together, a pre-Valentine's Day rally against the proposed Protect Marriage Arizona amendment (PMAA) to the state constitution. In addition to those activities and others offered, they heard a series of speeches, addresses, pleas and statements from a cross section of speakers.

Elected officials present, state Representative Linda Lopez, D-Tucson, Pima County Supervisor Richard Elias, D-District 5, Tucson Vice Mayor Steve Leal, D-Ward 5, openly Lesbian Tucson Councilmember Karin Uhlich, D-Ward 3, exhorted the crowd in the upcoming months to be strong, speak out - even if they are fearful, and work to fight those who wish to divide the community. Also present to show their support where openly Lesbian state Senator Paula Aboud, D-Tucson and Tucson City Councilmember Nina Trasoff, D-Ward 6.

Speakers, with their spouses and families, such as: Amelia Craig Cramer with the Pima County Attorney's office and Amy Cramer and their daughter Margaret, Jack and Karen Kressley with PFLAG, Tom Oliver and Fred Hubbard, Laura Penny and Steve Gottleib, Pam Squires and Sarah Jones, Kelly Frieders and her children, poet Albert Lannon and Kaitlin Meadows (who couldn't be present), Amanda Simpson and her son Max, and David Bucchiere and the Rev. Dr. John Hooker told the crowd how the proposed PMAA would hurt their families, as well as all of Arizona's families, if they didn't come together

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Discharging Gays & Lesbians From Military Cost Taxpayers $368.8 Million

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Discharging troops under the U.S. military policy on gays cost $363.8 million over 10 years, almost double what the government concluded a year ago, a private report says, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. The report by a University of California Blue Ribbon Commission, questioned the methodology the Government Accountability Office used when it estimated that the financial impact of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy was at least $190.5 million.

"It builds on the previous findings and paints a more complete picture of the costs," said Rep. Marty Meehan, D-MA, who has proposed legislation to repeal the policy.

Congress approved the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy in 1993 during the Clinton administration. It allows gays and lesbians to serve in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps as long as they abstain from homosexual activity and do not disclose their sexual orientation.

The Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, which has represented service members who left the military under the policy, estimates the Pentagon has discharged more than 10,000 service members for being openly gay since "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" went into effect in 1994. The number of discharges has gone down in recent years.

In February 2005, the GAO said the financial impact could not be completely estimated because the government does not collect financial information specific to each individual's case. Cautioning that the figures may be too low, the GAO said the federal government spent at least $95.4 million to recruit and $95.1 million to train replacements from 1994 through 2003 for the 9,488 troops discharged during that period because of the policy.

The university study said the GAO erred by emphasizing the expense of replacing those who were discharged because of the policy without taking into account the value the military lost from the departures. So, the commission focused on the estimated value the military lost from each person discharged. The report detailed costs of $79.3 million for recruiting enlisted service members, $252.4 million for training them, $17.8 million for training officers and $14.3 million for "separation travel" once a service member is discharged.

Commission members include former Defense Secretary William Perry, a member of the Clinton administration, and Lawrence Korb, a former assistant defense secretary during the Reagan administration, as well as professors from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Trial To Proceed For Trio Accused In Vicious Santa Fe Gay Bashing

SANTA FE - A judge has ruled there is enough "probable cause" to send three men to trial for the attack on two men that put one in hospital for more than a month last year, reported 365Gay.com. Paul Montoya, 20, and Jonathan Valdez, 21, will go on trial Apr. 25 on charges of aggravated battery causing great bodily harm, conspiracy and criminal damage to property for their roles in the beatings.

Four other men initially charged in the case have taken plea deals but will not be sentenced until the jury reaches a verdict in the trial of Montoya and Valdez. One of the four who accept a deal from prosecutors is a minor. David Trinidad, 17, pleaded guilty to charges of aggravated battery, battery, conspiracy and criminal damage to property. In a hearing in January the judge in the case said Trinidad would be sentenced as an adult because he had shown no remorse.

James Maestas, 21, and his friend Joshua Stockham, 23, were attacked in the parking lot of a motel last Feb. 27. The men had just finished lunch with several female friends at a Santa Fe restaurant and had gone outside for a smoke when five men drove into the parking lot. The men attempted to talk up the girls and at some point got into an argument with Maestas and Stockham. Police said that the argument escalated with one of the men calling Maestas and Stockham "faggots" and trying to provoke a fight. Stockham, Maestas and the females got into a car and began driving away. The men then began throwing rocks at the car according to police.

Trinidad, who had waited on them in the restaurant, was just finishing work and came outside. Police said that Trinidad knew the five men and joined in the rock throwing.

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UPDATE

Moda Provocateur February 19

TUCSON - A spectacular evening of style, fashion and entertainment, will be presented on Sunday, February 19th at the Third Annual Moda Provocateur fashion show to be held downtown at the newly renovated Fox Theatre, benefiting the programs and services of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation.

Starting with cocktails (no-host bar) and hors d'oeuvres at 5:00 p.m. in the lobby of the Fox Theatre, the show will take the runway beginning at 6:00 p.m. In addition to the festivities, a raffle will be held during the performance for a variety of very desirable prizes, gift certificates and other terrific prizes.

Tickets to Moda Provocateur are $30 in advance and are available at participating salons, or by calling SAAF. Tickets at the door will be $40 if available. More information about the event or SAAF can be found at saafmoda.org, or by contacting Mae Kruger at SAAF (520) 628-7223.

Gay Men's Health Project Workshop February 25

TUCSON - Gay Men's Health Project is proud to announce its newest campaign in the fight against HIV. The multi-faceted approach, entitled The Naked Truth About HIV...will involve bold print media pieces, virtual interaction via the GMHP website, and a series of Community Leadership workshops.

Print media for The Naked Truth campaign centers around a group photo of individuals, in the buff, who are either infected with or affected by HIV. Each individual in the photo will also have a printed card detailing his or her story around being personally affected by HIV. These will be placed throughout Tucson at key locations frequented by Gay and Bi men. In addition, all campaign materials will be accessible online via the GMHP website at gmhp.org.

The Community Leadership workshops are short but intensive group sessions for men 18 years of age and older. The focus of these workshops is to develop participants skills to help friends and partners change their behaviors around substance use, such as the ever-increasing use of crystal meth, and sexual behaviors that put them at risk for HIV and other STD's. In addition to acquiring these valuable skills, compensation ranges from $60 to $180, depending on the level of participation.

For details about where you can see the campaign displayed, or if you are interested in being part of the Community Leadership series, please call Gary at (520) 628-7223 or grhine@saaf.org to secure your place for the next available date. The next session of the Community Leadership series will be held on February 25, 10 am - 4:30 p.m., at Wingspan 425 E. 7th St.

AHRF Lobby Day At The Capitol February 27

PHOENIX - The Arizona Human Rights Fund (AHRF) is holding its Lobby Day at the Arizona Legislature on Monday, Feb. 27, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. This annual event has become the largest LGBT lobbying activity, with LGBT people and straight allies from around the state converging on the State Capitol.

Organizers anticipate over 150 participants, who will be treated to this year's special guest speaker Roey Thorpe, Executive Director of Basic Rights Oregon. "We cannot achieve equality and opportunity without having real political power and a strong legislative presence," said Barbara McCullough-Jones, AHRF Executive Director. "It's an honor to have Roey Thorpe in from Oregon, and a real opportunity to learn from the accomplishments and challenges of activists in other states. The combination of our local political information and training and Roey's keynote address will give folks a big picture of our movement here and around the country."

AHRF has invited representatives from other LGBT organizations to speak at the event. "We have an engaged and enthused audience at Lobby Day who want to learn about a range of LGBT issues, so we'll have speakers from the health care, education, youth, and faith communities address the crowd," said McCullough-Jones.

The event is free, although there is a minimal fee for lunch. A RSVP is not required but is appreciated so enough food can be ordered. Please contact amyk@ahrf.org to RSVP or for more information, call (602) 650-0900.

Agency Seeks Past Participants For Book

PHOENIX - 1N10, formerly Valley One In Ten and Horizons, is seeking past youth participants and volunteers. This is for input to a book celebrating the non-profit agency's 15 year history serving Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, (GLBT) questioning youth and their straight allies.

Toby Urvater, co-chair and one of the founding volunteers, says the book will tell the history of the non-profit through the individual stories of those who attended. "Over the years 1N10 has played a vital role in thousands of youth's lives. Hopefully, telling individual stories will show how important it is to support GLBT youth. We look forward to the collaboration between youth, past and present," says Urvater.

Matt Heil and Gina Read will co-edit the book, and work with youth interested in telling their stories through prose or poetry.

"Hopefully, this project can show 1N10 participants that their experiences are important, and that our Valley's Gay youth have a community of support," says Heil. "Because we've had to change locations so many times in the past ten years, we've lost a lot of our history and contacts. It's important that we tell as many of the stories as possible, including those of our straight youth," added Read.

For additional information call (602) 373-9490. Past participants can E-mail: coordinator@1n10.org.

LGBT Motorcycle Riders Day Feb. 19

TUCSON - LGBT Motorcycle Riders will be hitting the road on Sunday, Feb. 19, for a beginners ride of about 130 miles along scenic back roads, with little traffic to Arivaca.

This first ride will commence at 10 a.m., from the Albertson's-Checker's parking lot (Silverbell and Speedway) and go until 2 p.m.

For more information: Log onto autos.groups.yahoo.com//group/tucsonLGBTriders or call Toni, (520) 331-9263.

AHRF Endorsement Conversation February 21

TUCSON - What criteria should the AHRF PAC use in endorsing candidates?

Please join Amy Kobeta, Director of Public Affairs, for a conversation about AHRF candidate endorsement criteria and voter guides at the Wingspan Community Center, 425 E 7th St in Tucson on Tuesday, Feb 21, 6 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting is to share thoughts and ideas about political endorsements, a first step in a year-long process of reviewing and perhaps updating the AHRF endorsement process. For questions or to RSVP, contact amyk@ahrf.org.

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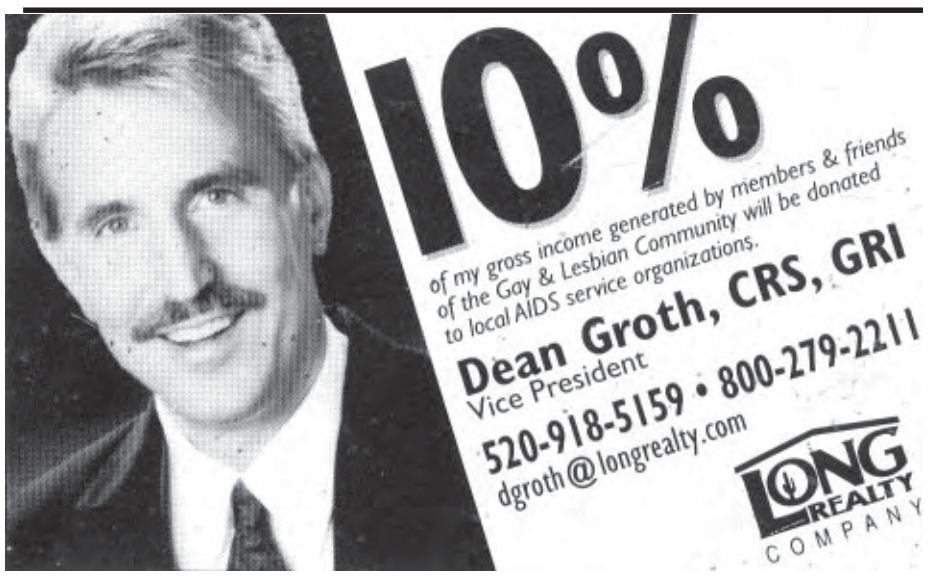

Pentagon Admits Improper Spying

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Department of Defense has admitted that some of its clandestine investigations of foreign terrorist threats dealt "inappropriately" with peace activists and Gay protesters, said Sen. Carl Levin, D-MI, reported 365Gay.com.

In a letter to the Senate Armed Services Committee that Levin referenced Tuesday (Feb. 9), the Pentagon revealed the initial results of an internal investigation into its 3-year-old Counterintelligence Field Activity unit. The results included keeping data deemed "invalid" to terrorist threats for longer than the allotted 90 days.

First exposed by a document leak to NBC News in December, the agency runs an information-gathering project called Threat and Local Operation Notice, or TALON, which spies on so-called "suspicious incidents." Those incidents reportedly have included anti-war campus protests and demonstrations against the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy against Gay personnel.

On Monday, the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network filed a federal suit against the Defense Department and the Department of Justice, demanding fast action on a month-old Freedom of Information Act request for information about six government agencies, including CIFA. The original request was met with stall tactics, the LGBT legal group said.

The original Jan. 5 FOIA filing demanded documents and information about materials gathered on Gay rights groups by CIFA, the National Security Agency, the CIA, the FBI and two units of the Justice Department. It was joined by 13 other organizations, including the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, the Human Rights Campaign and Lambda Legal. The Servicemembers Legal Defense Network sued after it became clear that the materials would not be provided in a timely fashion, if at all.

In addition to the recent national debate over extra-legal wiretapping by the National Security Agency, the FBI has been accused of investigating Greenpeace and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals in an effort to rout out "eco-terrorism." As for CIFA and its TALON project, Newsweek's Michael Isikoff reported in January that the number of Americans listed in TALON reports could be in the thousands. According to Newsweek, these would include a dozen activists who handed out peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwiches outside Halliburton's headquarters in Houston in June 2004, as well as the 15 or so demonstrators who waved a giant "Bush Lied" sign outside a military recruiting office in a Florida strip mall.

The Servicemembers Legal Defense Network is particularly concerned with the suggestion that TALON snoops spied on "don't ask, don't tell" protesters at the State University of New York in Albany, William Patterson College and New York University. An alleged TALON investigation of an anti-war event on the University of California, Santa Cruz campus led Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., to write a letter to Defense Secretary Rumsfeld last month.

"Under what circumstances can peaceful protests at universities or by anti-war groups be monitored?" Feinstein wrote. "What authorities, and under what regulations, do military counterintelligence units have to conduct investigations on U.S. persons?"

LGBT Rights Activists Release Study On Harassment

DES MOINES - Advocates for Gay students released results of a survey Wednesday (Feb. 8) that they said show how much Gay students and their friends are harassed. The survey of 175 students in 48 Iowa school districts included a focus on straight students who have Gay friends. The students said being friends with someone who is Gay increased their chance of being harassed, reported the Associated Press on Advocate.com.

"Just being the friend of a Gay student increases the likelihood that you'll be threatened," said Ryan Roemerman of the Iowa Pride Network, an advocacy group for Gay students.

The survey showed that 43% of students with Gay friends reported they had property stolen or damaged, compared to 18% of the general student population. It also found that 94% of Gay students reported hearing derogatory remarks frequently, and that in more than 70% of those incidents teachers did not intervene. "This report has demonstrated that homophobia in Iowa's schools affects all students, straight and Gay alike," Roemerman said. "Our conclusion is clear: Iowa school districts must adopt policies that explicitly protect...students." The survey also found that 60% of Gay students faced incidents of overt harassment and 10% of straight students with Gay friends faced such harassment. Another 18% reported hearing derogatory remarks from teachers or school staff.

A survey released by the group in November found that 58% of students reported their school had no policy to protect Gay students, while nearly 75% said faculty members rarely or never intervened when homophobic remarks were made in their presence. The group lobbies schools to toughen policies protecting Gay students. It also has lobbied the legislature to expand the state's antibullying law to cover discrimination based on sexual orientation.

While local schools must enforce such policies, setting a statewide standard sends a strong signal, Roemerman said. The legislature has resisted setting such standards, and lawmakers said the latest survey is unlikely to change their view. "Schools should be handling that," said senate Republican leader Stewart Iverson of Clarion. "Almost every school board in Iowa has a policy on that."

With the senate evenly split at 25-25, both parties must agree before an issue can advance. Gov. Tom Vilsack and Democratic lawmakers have pushed for the expansion of the bullying measure in the past, but Republicans have resisted. Vilsack has again asked the legislature to expand the antibullying law, but that legislation has not advanced.

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Rice Takes Heat Over Anti-Gay Vote At U.N.

Secretary Of State Condoleezza Rice

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Forty-five members of Congress are demanding answers from Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice about the U.S. vote that prevented two LGBT organizations from participating in the U.N. Economic and Social Council, reported 365Gay.com.

In a letter sent Tuesday (Feb. 9), the members of the House of Representatives called the Jan. 23 anti-Gay vote at the United Nations a "drastic reversal" of Washington's previous stand on the issue. The letter noted that in voting to block the Gay groups from the U.N. panel, "the United States joined some of the world's most oppressive regimes, among them China, Cuba, Sudan and Zimbabwe," and demonstrated "a reprehensible inconsistency" in protecting LGBT individuals.

The lawmakers signing the document included Democratic Reps. Eliot Engel of New York, Steny Hoyer of Maryland, Tom Lantos of California, Rahm Emanuel of Illinois and Dennis Kucinich of Ohio.

The State Department defended its vote against the Belgium-based International Gay and Lesbian Association (IGLA) and the Danish National Association for Gays and Lesbians, claiming one of the organizations supported pedophilia.

IGLA expelled the North American Man Boy Love Association from its ranks in 1994. In 2002, when the United States actually voted for IGLA's inclusion in the U.N. organization, the U.S. representative noted that IGLA did not condone pedophilia and was crucial in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Despite U.S. support in 2002, the group did not get enough votes to win consultative status in 2002. The 2006 vote had been its first chance since then to try again.

Last month, the United States abstained on a vote denying a hearing for the two groups, and then voted in favor of Iran's proposal to deny their applications. That vote carried, 10-5, with three abstentions.

German envoy Martin Thuemmel told Reuters that the committee decision "will haunt us for a long time," since it sends a message that discriminating against LGBT people is acceptable.

John Marble, spokesman for the National Stonewall Democrats, told the PlanetOut Network that the letter will help "draw attention to actions done by the administration" and ensure that other countries pressure the White House when it comes to LGBT issues. "It's a process of moving the football across the field," Marble said.

Paratroopers Location Secret As Gay Porn Investigation Proceeds

RALEIGH - A group of paratroopers from the U.S. army's 82nd Airborne Division have been moved from their regular barracks while military officials investigate allegations they appeared on a Gay pornography website, a spokeswoman said, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. The investigation is still at an early stage, division spokeswoman Maj. Amy Hannah said in a statement. The move was prompted by concerns for the soldiers' privacy and rights, not fears about their safety, she said.

The 82nd Airborne acknowledged the investigation but declined to say how many soldiers might have appeared on the porn site. A defense official speaking on condition of anonymity said last week as many as seven soldiers were involved. The paratroopers have been allowed to seek legal assistance but no charges have been filed, the division said. There are no direct references on the website to the 82nd Airborne or its home base, Fort Bragg, N.C.

The military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy states: "Homosexual orientation alone is not a bar to service but homosexual conduct is incompatible with military service." Soldiers who violate the policy are removed from the service. The registered owner of the website's domain name lists a street address in Fayetteville, the city that adjoins Fort Bragg. E-mails to the registered owner were returned as undeliverable and the phone number listed on the domain-name registration is no longer in service. Nevertheless, the website was still active.

Trial To Proceed

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Trinidad, according to the police statement learned that Maestas and Stockham were staying at nearby hotel while he was serving them. He told investigators that he and the five men followed the group to the hotel and along the way they "pumped" themselves up by talking about "fucking those faggots up". The statement also quoted Trinidad as telling investigators that they referred to Stockham and Maestas as "fucking white boys." They arrived at the hotel just behind Stockham and Maestas and began beating the pair while yelling anti-Gay epithets. Maestas fell to the ground unconscious. He spent nearly a week in hospital in intensive care. Stockham was treated at hospital and released.

Hundreds Attend Rally

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and work to defeat the proposed ballot measure.

Activists and community leaders, such as Jess Knutsen of Arizona Together, Cathy Busha of Wingspan, Lupe Castillo, Stacy Speer, Mary Casanova, Michael Mandel and EON Youth, to name a few of those who addressed the enthusiastic crowd, emphasized the need to come together to prepare for the upcoming battle over the proposed PMAA.

Proponents of the PMAA have until Thursday, July 6, less than five months away as of press time to submit 183,917 valid signatures of Arizona voters to place their proposed amendment to the state constitution, barring same-sex marriage, civil unions and domestic partnerships on the Nov. 7, 2006 general election ballot.

Campaign Seeks To Dispel Image Of Minorities As Anti-G/L

NEW YORK - Five national LGBT civil rights groups Monday (Feb. 13) announced a new coalition to increase the visibility of people of color who support same-sex marriage, reported 365Gay.com. In 2004 President Bush successfully used Black Churches to attack Gay marriage and to call for a federal amendment to the Constitution to specifically bar same-sex couples from marrying.

"The right-wing has perpetuated the idea that people of color are overwhelmingly against marriage for same-sex couples – it is important that people see this for what it is – a half-baked myth that needs correcting," said Kevin Cathcart, Executive Director of Lambda Legal, which is one of the five groups.

The others are the National Black Justice Coalition, Asian Equality, National Latina/o Coalition for Justice and Freedom to Marry.

"We are very pleased to have such strong coalition partners in this effort - together we can reach many communities who need to see that Marriage Equality Matters to people of color," Cathcart said in a conference call to reporters. The coalition will reach out not only to communities of color, but white audiences as well, using banner ads in several minority publications online Cathcart said.

The initiative was launched in conjunction with Freedom to Marry Week. The ads will feature African African-American, Latino/a and Asian Asian Pacific American people, Gay and non-Gay, standing up in support of ending discrimination in marriage. The group is also planning a photo exhibit appearing in venues across the country that will be in full swing during Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual ,and Transgender Pride month in June.

"Same-gender-loving, black families have more to lose if /when we are denied the responsibilities and protections of marriage," said H. Alexander Robinson, Chief Executive Officer of the National Black Justice Coalition.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, black same-sex couples earn roughly $2,000 to $9,000 less in median annual household income than black married opposite-sex couples.

"On average, black same-gender-loving women are more likely to be raising children, black Gay families earn less and are more likely to have public sector jobs than our white peers," said Robinson. The black family is a fundamental driver of black advancement, so discriminatory policies that act to further marginalize black Gay families put the entire black community at risk."

Lisbeth Melendez Rivera, National Convener for the National Latina/o Coalition for Justice told reporters during the conference call that marriage equality will become a reality and that it is only a matter of time. "We know it, our opposition knows it - hence the desperation to create the illusion that Latinas and Latinos don't believe in marriage for same-sex couples, said Rivera. "Protecting our families is core to us. Marriage equality will guarantee security and justice for all Latino families and that is worth fighting for."

Millions In Federal Funds Handed To Anti-LGBT Groups

WASHINGTON, D.C. - With leaders of some of America's leading anti-g/L marriage groups looking on President Bush has signed legislation giving $500 million to faith-based programs to promote and strengthen opposite-sex marriage, 365Gay.com reported.

The provision is part of the deficit reduction bill passed by Congress. "[It] allows faith-based groups that provide social services to receive federal funding without changing the way they hire," Bush noted at the White House signing ceremony.

Under the law faith-based groups are able to circumvent local and human rights laws that are supposed to protect LGBT workers.

Assistant Health and Human Services Secretary Wade Horn said that the financial windfall is not intended to specifically oppose same-sex marriage, although the President is a major supporter of a proposed amendment to ban Gay marriage in the Constitution.

Horn said, however, that none of the money could be used to promote or support same-sex marriage in Massachusetts where Gay marriage is legal.

The money also could not be used to support Gay families where civil unions or domestic partnerships are allowed.

Horn cited the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act defines marriage as "the union of one man and woman" for all federal programs and services.

The White House's so-called marriage initiative has been under fire for the past year after it was learned the administration had secretly paid journalists to promote the plan.

Last October the US Attorney's office started an inquiry into the use by the Bush administration of anti-Gay commentator Armstrong Williams to promote the initiative.

Last year 3675Gay.com reported that Williams was paid nearly a quarter million dollars by the White House to promote the President's agenda in his columns and nationally syndicated talk show.

Williams is a former aide to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. In a column following the 2004 election Williams linked Gay rights advocates with organized crime.

"Despite the rhetoric that you hear from the homosexual Cosa Nostra, the lack of support for the Gay marriage amendment has nothing to do with prejudice," he wrote.

After Williams was exposed two other cases came to light where the administration hired journalists to promote its agenda in the guise of unbiased commentary and news.

Syndicated conservative columnists Maggie Gallagher and Michael McManus were paid by the administration to promote the marriage initiative.

In 2003 Gallagher testified before a Senate subcommittee in support of a constitutional ban on Gay marriage but failed to mention she was on the White House payroll.

McManus, whose syndicated column, "Ethics & Religion," appeared in 50 newspapers, was hired as a subcontractor by the Department of Health and Human Services.

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COMMENTARY. . . . by Paul Waldman

Is Part Of Coretta Scott King's Legacy Being Ignored?

Coretta Scott King

Nearly every daily newspaper and television news show in America included a tribute to Coretta Scott King. But in all the recounting of her life and legacy, her struggles and her courage, one item of particular interest was largely missing: her strong advocacy for equal rights for Gays and Lesbians, including same-sex marriage.

Mrs. King described herself as "an outspoken supporter of civil and human rights for Gay and Lesbian people" and frequently made parallels between the civil rights struggle of the 1960s and the challenges confronting Gays and Lesbians today. She fought for laws banning discrimination against Gays, and against efforts to amend the Constitution to ban sam-sex marriage. "Like Martin," she said, "I don't believe you can stand for freedom for one group of people and deny it to others."

But you wouldn't have known it from the obituaries that ran this week. Most newspapers either ignored the issue completely or touched on it only in passing, with a generic sentence mentioning only "equal rights" and avoiding the contentious issue of same-sex marriage (the Los Angeles Times and San Francisco Chronicle were two exceptions). Although Andrew Young described her Gay rights work in an interview on CNN, no other television network – either cable or broadcast – included even a single mention of the issue in all their coverage of Mrs. King's passing.

This is not to say that the fate of Gays and Lesbians was at the center of Coretta Scott King's life, or that tributes to her should have focused primarily on this issue. But given her history – and the fact that she was a strong moral voice for equality for Gays and Lesbians years before many other progressives stepped up to the plate – one would have thought that tributes to her life and work would have included at least a passing mention.

So why was this piece of Mrs. King's history omitted? It may be in part because in 2006 we want to believe that the fight for civil rights is in the past, an issue that has moved from the realm of contest to the realm of consensus. After all, even the most conservative politicians in the land now offer tributes to Coretta Scott King and her husband. If Congress voted today on whether to declare Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday a national holiday, you can bet the measure would pass unanimously, with no one stepping up to oppose it, as 90 House members and 22 senators did in 1983 (including then-Wyoming Congressman Dick Cheney).

But discussing Coretta Scott King's advocacy for Gays and Lesbians – and especially her support of same-sex marriage - pulls this national icon back into the realm of bitter political debate, casting her not just as a model of courage, struggle and moral righteousness but as a participant in one of our most divisive controversies. Suddenly the civil rights struggle doesn't seem like a chapter in our children's history books – a fight that is over, and one in which we all agree who was right and who was wrong. Instead, it becomes a fight whose echoes continue today in matters to which all of us do not pay the same lip service.

Many African-Americans - including many religious leaders, and even some of Coretta Scott King's own children - disagreed strongly with her on the issue of Gay rights. Some bristle at the notion that the effort to secure full legal and civil rights for Gay Americans is only the latest incarnation of the struggle for equality that came to a head in the 1960s. We could – and perhaps we should – have an extended discussion about the similarities and differences between the two, and where equality begins and ends. But it is not too hard to imagine that a few decades from now, this conflict too will evolve into consensus on which side was right and which side was wrong. If and when that happens, it will be in no small part because those with moral authority, like Coretta Scott King, took a strong stance knowing that it would not be popular in all quarters.

Although we have Mrs. King's assurances on the subject, we cannot know with absolute certainty whether Martin Luther King, Jr. would have supported same-sex marriage or other efforts at equality for Gays and Lesbians were he alive today. But there is no doubt where Coretta Scott King stood on the issue. That is a part of her legacy, and one that should not be ignored.

[Paul Waldman is a senior fellow at Media Matters for America, a progressive media watchdog group, from which this is reprinted from their Feb. 8, 2006 online edition.]

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SAAF UPDATE

SOUTHERN ARIZONA AIDS FOUNDATION

By Anne Maley

A spectacular evening of entertainment, style and fashion will burst off the stage of the newly renovated Fox Theatre for the Third Annual Moda Provocateur fashion show on Sunday February 19, benefiting the programs and services of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation. Guests will be greeted by entertainment from Flam Chen, the well-known Tucson pyrotechnic theater troupe, beginning at 5:00 p.m., including stilt walking creatures and displays of fire. Inside, in the beautifully restored theatre lobby, a no-host bar and complimentary hors d'oeuvres will be available to guests as they peruse information about Prevention programs, Client services and Volunteer Resources provided by SAAF.

Working together with Title Sponsor Rio Development Company are Tucson's top salons, Avalon, Chrome, dada and Imagen and participating boutiques include Buffalo Exchange, grasshopper, Kanella's, Lucky Brand Jeans, Parachute, Pour Moi Boutique, Sherre's, Sigi's, St. John's Sport, Tommy Bahama's and Via Montenapoleone. A Tucson Dance Company is providing dancers and choreography and over 100 stunning models will tread the runway beginning at 6:00 p.m., bringing the show to life.

Moda Provocateur is an awe-inspiring collaboration that mirrors the spirit of SAAF in so many ways. Just as SAAF is the result of a merger of three AIDS service organizations in Tucson, Moda Provocateur merges sponsors together with inspired talent from Tucson's most creative salons and most fashionable boutiques and weaves them together with music, dance, comedy, drama and celebrities to create a unique and unforgettable evening, all to help provide a compassionate response to people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

I hope you will join us at the Third Annual Moda Provocateur. Tickets are $30 in advance and are available at participating salons, or by calling SAAF at (520) 628-7223. Tickets at the door will be $40 if available. More information about the event and SAAF can be found at saafmoda.com.

Gay Ex-Giant Alleges Super Bowl Discrimination

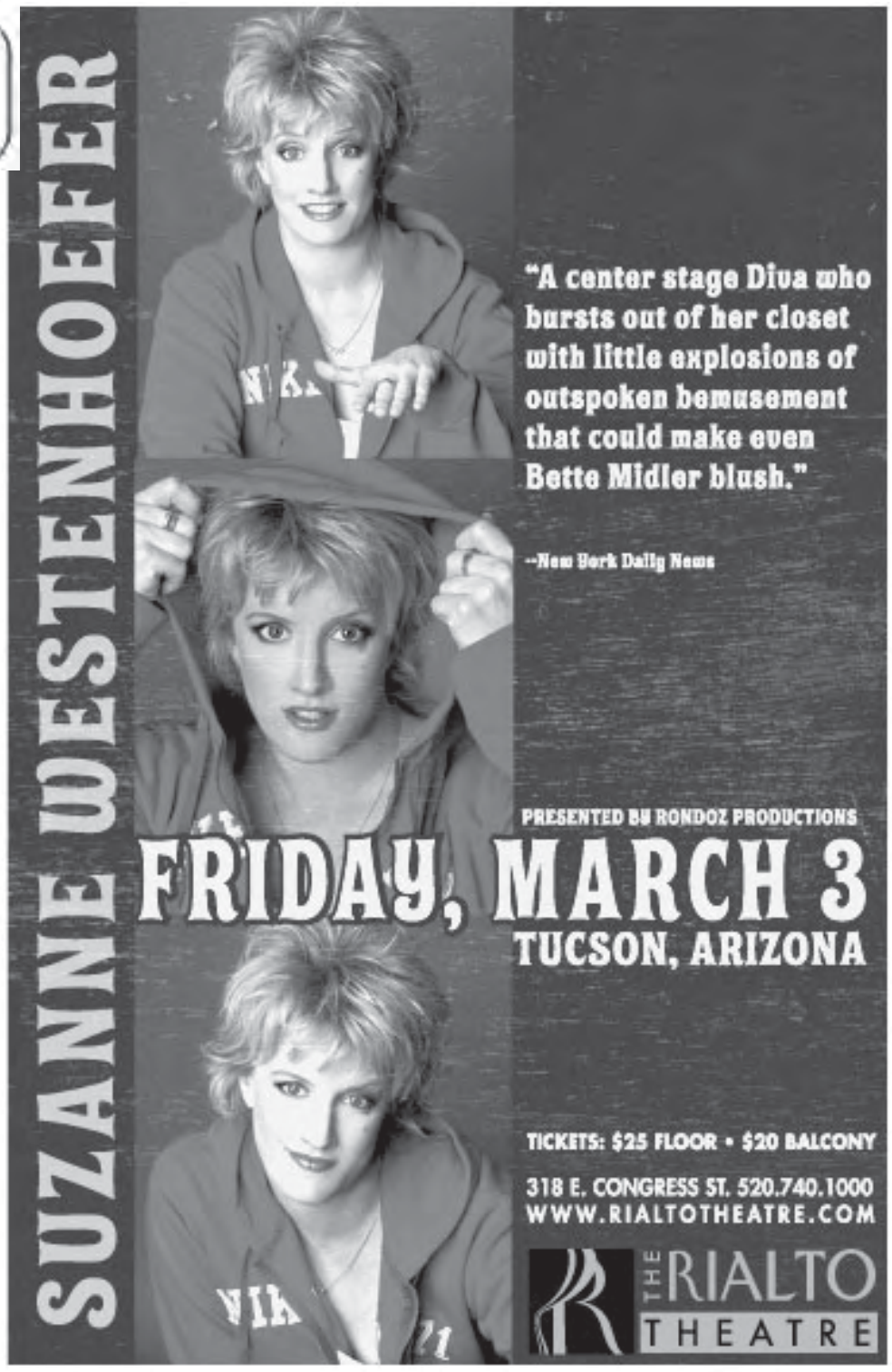
Former Giant Football Player Roy Simmons with Attorney Gloria Allred

NEW YORK - Former Giants lineman Roy Simmons and celebrity lawyer Gloria Allred want an investigation into whether Simmons was denied access to the Super Bowl media center because he is Gay and HIV positive, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. Simmons and Allred held a news conference outside NFL headquarters Thursday (Feb.9) before delivering a letter to the league asking it to look into why Simmons wasn't granted a media pass.

Simmons requested a credential for the center Feb. 2, three days before the Super Bowl. He also asked for two tickets for the game, which the Pittsburgh Steelers won 21-10 over the Seattle Seahawks, and a party. He said he was told there were no more credentials available. But Allred, whose clients have included the family of Transgender teen Gwen Araujo, said the NFL indicated that it would give others passes after Simmons asked for one.

Simmons, who also played for the Washington Redskins, said he stood outside the media center in Detroit and watched many past and present football players go in and out. "I was once part of the inner circle - now I'm standing on the outside looking in," said Simmons, who also wasn't given passes to the game or the party. In a letter addressed to NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue, Allred listed questions she said the NFL should answer, including whether Simmons' request was denied because he no longer fit the image of an NFL player or whether the NFL "is inherently homophobic and prefers that a Gay football player remain in the closet."

The NFL said in a statement that people throughout the league are inundated with last-minute requests for Super Bowl game tickets, party invitations and press credentials. An NFL spokesman said some requests are handled by the league and others go through the public relations staff at the media center. "It is impossible for all of these requests to be met, and there were many people, apart from Mr. Simmons, who were disappointed," the statement said. It said that "far from being hostile to Mr. Simmons, the last word back to him from our office was to contact us after the Super Bowl about the possibility of speaking to our rookies at their annual June symposium." Simmons said he never asked for credentials in the past and wanted access to the media center this year to talk about the importance of HIV testing. Simmons, who played for the Giants from 1979-81 and Redskins in 1983, disclosed that he is Gay in 1992. He was the first former NFL player to come out as HIV positive 10 years later. He now works as a supervisor at a halfway house in Long Island.



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RALLY FOR LOVE AND JUSTICE FEBRUARY 12

POLITICS 2006

by Mark R. Kerr

Not A Political Issue My Ass!

One of the leaders of the Republican (GOP) Culture of Cronyism and Corruption on Capitol Hill announced that a bill will be taken up for consideration by the full Senate and voted on Monday, June 5.

Senate Majority Leader, Bill Frist, R-TN said the bill, S.J. Res. 1 is the proposed legislation in question that will be considered and voted on.

Why the importance? S.J. Res.1, entitled the Marriage Protection Act (MPA), is a proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution barring same sex marriage, civil unions and domestic partnerships. S.J. Res. 1 has twenty-eight cosponsors, all Republicans and includes Arizona Senator Jon Kyl.

Frist, the subject of several current criminal and ethical investigations, made this announcement Friday, Feb. 10, before the annual gathering of the Conservative Political Action Committee, at their annual meeting held in Washington, D.C.

"Today, the institution of marriage is under attack," Frist said in a speech Friday to the Conservative Political Action Committee Conference. The content of the speech was first disclosed Monday, Feb. 13.

"When America's values are under attack, we need to act," Frist said, telling participants to note June 5, the scheduled date of the vote, on their calendars.

"Senator Frist used the stage at the venomous CPAC conference to appeal to a small group of extremists that strategists like Karl Rove count on turning out on Election Day," said Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign, in a statement. "Writing discrimination into the Constitution may appease extremists but it turns off fair-minded voters tired of political games when real problems are left unsolved."

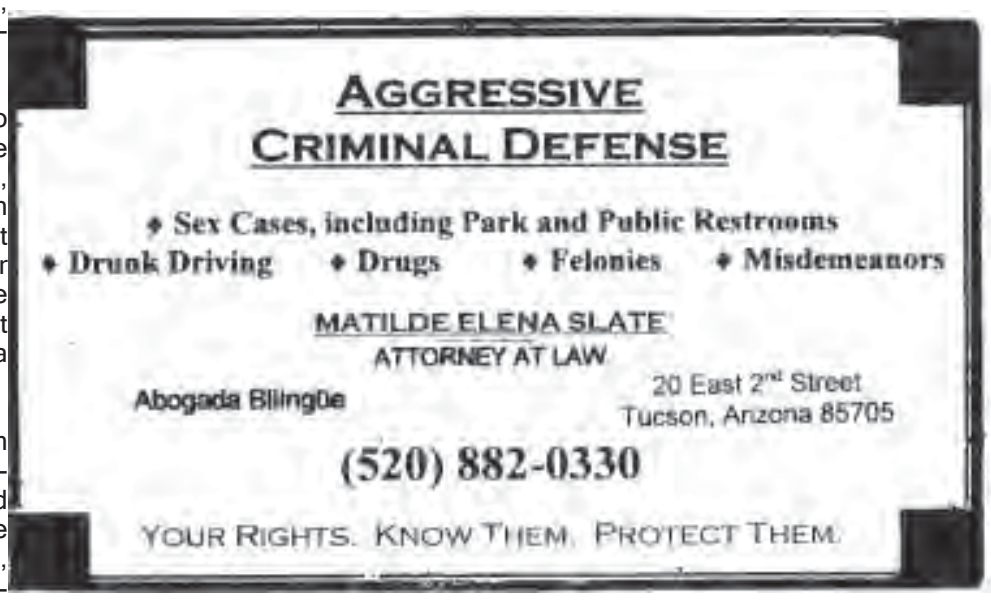
"Americans want fairness for Gay and Lesbian couples and this amendment could wipe out any option for providing critical responsibilities and protections to families," Solmonese added. "Our nation's founding document should be amended to expand rights and liberties, not take them away."

Other speakers at the CPAC event were noted anti-LGBT leaders Phyllis Schlafly; Sen. Rick Santorum, R-PA; Sen. Sam Brownback, R-KS; and Alan Chambers, head of the "ex-Gay" group Exodus International.

Sound familiar? Flash back to 2004, when another proposal, the Federal Marriage Amendment (FMA), received prominent attention when House and Senate leaders, Bill Frist leading the charge in the upper chamber, tried to use this as a wedge issue in the November elections but hypocritically declaring, "it wasn't a political issue."

Despite intense pressure from the White House and extreme right-wing organizations, the FMA failed miserably in 2004, by a vote in the House, 227-186, and in the Senate, 48-50, falling short of the constitutional requirements but succeeding in getting the Republican base out to the polls, giving Dubya and the Republicans a narrow victory in the Presidential and Congressional elections that year.

A 67-person super majority is needed in the Senate to pass a proposed constitutional amendment, which must be approved by three-fourths of the states after passing Congress. So why the importance of another vote that will fail to get the requirements needed? Could it be that the GOP Culture of Cronyism and Corruption is the one "under attack," by a populace that is finally waking up to their misdeeds?



In Their Own Words

Since the days of Aaron Burr, under our constitution, the Vice President has the implied authority to shoot whomever the hell he pleases. In point of fact, had Burr foregone the formalities of "choice of pistols," "choice of position" etc. and simply started blasting anything that moved in Weehawken, he would have been legally justified in doing so.

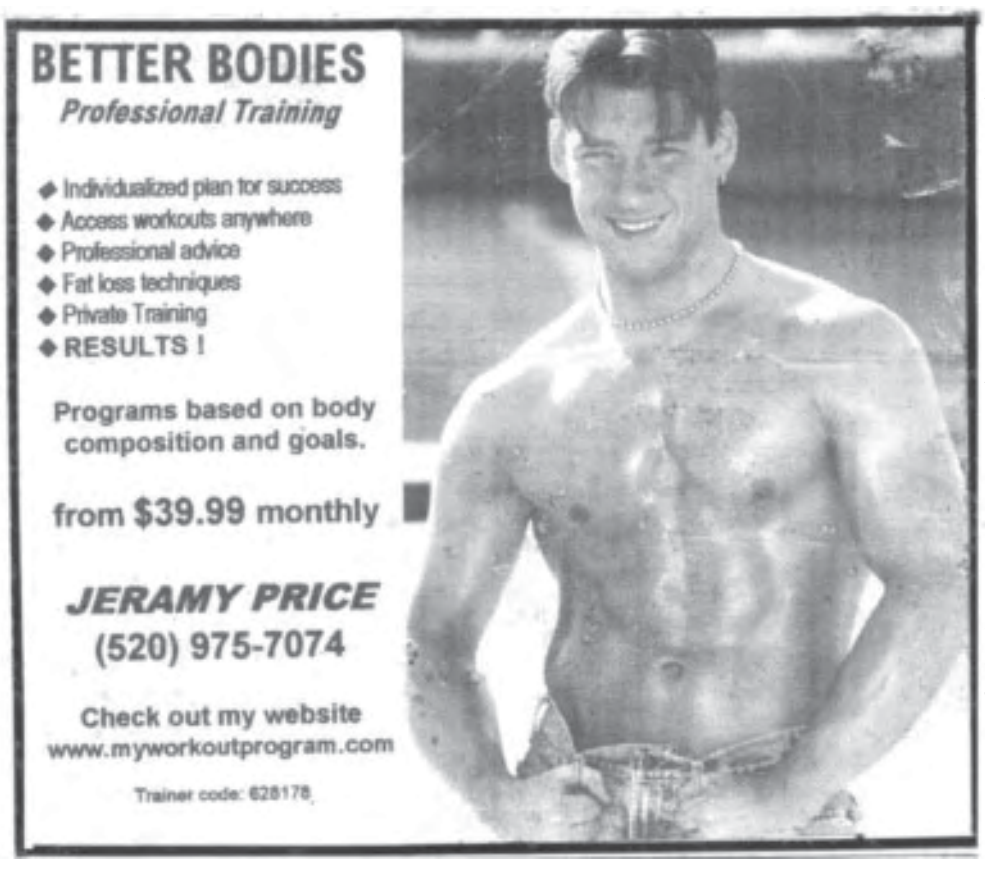
In a time of war, it would be inappropriate to comment further on how and under what circumstances a 78-year-old man underwent a minor pellet infusion. Suffice it to say that I am well, and was able to enjoy dinner following the alleged incident.

As I dedicated my formative years to acquiring draft deferments, copulating fortuitously to produce my firstborn nine months and two days after the Selective Service eliminated special protections for childless married men, I remain dedicated in my adult life to personal gain from the sacrifice of others.

Let all Americans never forget that an open field is a dangerous place, teeming with biological agents. And let us resolve never to surrender in the face of that which we imagine to be real.

Now go f**k yourselves.

[Editor's Note: This really wasn't from Dickie Cheney but we couldn't resist! From huffingtonpost.com]



THE BUZZ. . . . . .

Hollywood 'Resists Gay U.S. Actors', McKellan Says

BERLIN - Sir Ian McKellen has said openly Gay US actors are prevented from having successful Hollywood careers, reported bbcnews.com. "It is very, very, very difficult for an American actor who wants a film career to be open about his sexuality," the Gay British actor said. "And even more difficult for a woman if she's Lesbian. It's very distressing to me that that should be the case." The Lord of the Rings star added: "The film industry is very old fashioned in California." McKellan was speaking at the Berlin Film Festival, where he received a lifetime achievement award.

Sir Ian said Oscar-nominated cowboy love story Brokeback Mountain may open the door to more films about homosexuality. But the film industry was still reluctant to cast an openly Gay man in a leading role, he said. The same was not true on Broadway, where people were "very at ease with being open and honest." His career in mainstream films "really took off once I'd come out and said I was Gay," he said. The actor, who came out in 1988, is one of the film world's most high-profile openly Gay stars.

A number of other British actors such as Rupert Everett, Simon Callow and Sir Anthony Sher have publicly acknowledged their sexuality. But fewer US actors have been willing come out and big names such as Rock Hudson and Montgomery Clift hid their sexuality for most of their lives. While leading men may be discouraged from coming out of the closet, Hollywood has recently been praised by a Gay rights group for making major films about Gay characters.

Brokeback Mountain, Capote and Transamerica all feature prominently in the Oscar nominations. "This has been a landmark year for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender-inclusive films," said Neil G Giuliano, president of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. "These are films with an emotional authenticity that have clearly connected with both Gay and straight audiences alike. "By telling our stories, this year's Oscar nominees have helped raise the visibility of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender issues and have given millions of Americans a greater understanding of who we are."

Thorpe Learns To Live With Gay Rumors

MELBOURNE - Australian Olympic swimmer Ian Thorpe, 23, told an Australian newspaper that rumors persist about his sexuality even though he is straight. Thorpe told Friday's edition of the Melbourne Herald Sun that he is heckled by strangers who shout homophobic epithets and make other jabs, reported Advocate.com.

"It's a downer, but you have to look at it from a logical point of view," he told the newspaper. "If someone screams a profanity at you and you don't know them, you just have to disregard it as you walk down the street, and that's what I have learned to do. They do [target my sexuality] to an extent," he said of the public. "But I think we're past that now. I think most people are over that most of the time."

Thorpe, who is under intense media scrutiny in Australia, says he wants to return to obscurity once his career is over. "I am not an attention seeker. I by no means want to be more famous," he told the newspaper. "I live every day in the public eye, and I don't get the luxury of switching it on and off." Thorpe has revealed that he may retire from competitive swimming after the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

Authorities: Gay Bar Attacker Shot Himself

BOSTON - The teenager accused of going on a rampage at a Gay bar and later killing two people fatally shot himself in the head in a gunfight with Arkansas police, authorities said Tuesday (Feb. 7), reported 365Gay.com.

Jacob Robida, 18, of New Bedford, turned the gun on himself Saturday (Feb. 11) after he fatally shot a West Virginia woman who was in his car, said Bristol District Attorney Paul Walsh Jr. Police originally said that they shot Robida Saturday after he fired at them at the end of a high-speed chase in rural Arkansas. Robida killed Gassville, Ark., police officer Jim Sell and led police on a 20-mile chase before being stopped in nearby Norfork. Police had searched for Robida since early Thursday (Feb. 9), when they say he used a hatchet and handgun to wound three men at Puzzles Lounge, a Gay bar in New Bedford.

Walsh said two of his investigators are in Arkansas and reviewed Robida's autopsy report. He said Robida's autopsy proved that he was killed by the same gun used in the bar attack. He said that gun also fired the bullet that killed Jennifer Rena Bailey, 33, an acquaintance Robida had picked up after fleeing Massachusetts. Robida was shot just once, and Walsh said it was his understanding that no police bullets penetrated the car.

Walsh said the suicide confirms his early suspicion that Robida remained dangerous. "He was prepared not to come out of this alive," he said. Police in Massachusetts, who

Continued on Page Seventeen

This Saturday, February 18th will be a night of Broadway music & vocal pyrotechnics!

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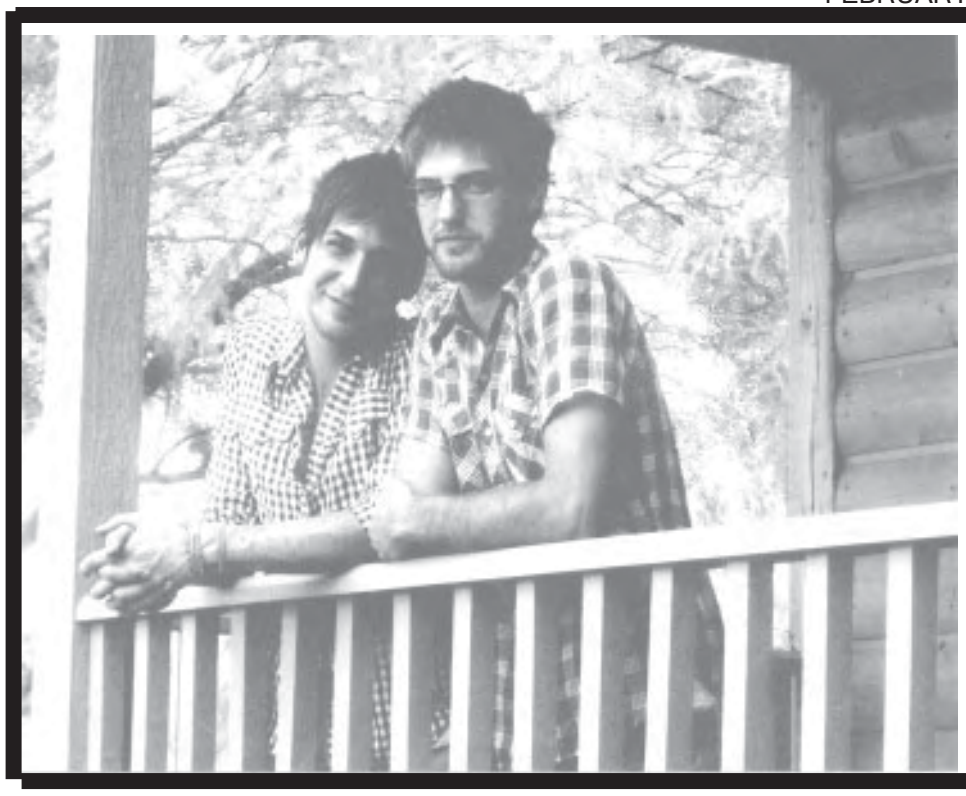
Special accompaniment by Aryo Wicaksano.

This event will take place on the main stage of the prestigious Temple of Music and Art , 330 S. Scott Ave. Go online and check out the lineup of Tucson favorites! www.arizonaonstage.org

WHAT: HEART & MUSIC - An Evening of Broadway Song
WHERE: The Temple of Music and Art 330 South Scott Street
WHEN: Saturday, February 18th at 7pm.
COST: $30 or 4 for $100
TICKETS: 520-622-2823 - there is no service charge if you purchase them in person.

This event is sure to sell out, so get your tickets to HEART & MUSIC now!



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LGBT Artifacts Go On Tour

SAN FRANCISCO - For the first time the nation's largest repository of LGBT history and memorabilia is going on tour. Called Out At The Library the exhibition features highlights of the James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center at the San Francisco Public Library, reported Advocate.com. The traveling exhibition is comprised of 25 specially-designed panels of photographs of the Center's artifacts. It will be sent to six libraries across the country between February 23 and June 30.

The collection includes an appointment book and the hand-edited draft of a speech by Harvey Milk, San Francisco's first openly Gay supervisor who was assassinated in 1978. Also included are leather boots belonging to Dr. Mary Edwards Walker. Walker, who lived from 1832 to 1919, was the first female surgeon in the U.S. Army, a humanitarian, and an early advocate for women's rights, including dress reform. During the Civil War, she risked her life while caring for the sick and wounded. But some of the collection is pure Gay pop culture, including a volume of Der Eigene, considered the world's first Gay periodical, and homoerotic fiction from the early 50s. Through reproductions of historic photographs and archival materials, the images and stories in the traveling exhibition offer compelling views of remarkable and ordinary lives.

It will be at New York's LGBT Center from Feb. 23 to April 25. Then the exhibit will to travel to the Provincetown Public Library, Provincetown, Massachusetts (May 10-June 8); Atlanta-Fulton Central Library, Atlanta, GA (June 21-Sept. 7); Swarthmore College Library, Swarthmore, PA (Sept. 25-Nov. 3) and Minneapolis Central Library, Minneapolis, MN (April 20-June 30).

"I'm proud that the San Francisco Public Library's first-ever traveling exhibition showcases this gem in our crown of important archival collections," says San Francisco City Librarian Luis Herrera. The tour was made possible by a fundraising drive by the center. "The exhibition has the potential to reach an even wider audience with the lesser-known stories from GLBT history, as well as the Hormel Center's efforts to preserve and make accessible that history." The Center was made possible by a half-million dollar grant by Gay former US Ambassador James Hormel.

Curious George Collaborator Met Killers Through Gay Sex Directory

BOYNTON BEACH - A day before "Curious George, The Movie" makes its big screen debut two men have been charged with killing the collaborator of the books and TV series about the mischievous monkey, reported 365Gay.com. The body of Alan Shalleck was found covered with garbage bags on the driveway of his mobile home in a Boynton Beach trailer park. The 76 year old had been stabbed to death, his home ransacked and jewelry and credit cars were missing. It was also discovered that money had been taken from Shalleck's savings account.

Tracing his final hours police determined he met his killers through a Gay sex listing service. Using Shalleck's phone records investigators were led to two Broward County men. Rex Spears Ditto, 29, and Vincent Puglisi, 54, were jailed after turning themselves in. They are charged with first degree murder, armed home invasion, aggravated battery of a person 65 or older and dealing in stolen property.

Alan Schalleck

Shalleck was the writer and director of more than 100 short episodes of Curious George, which aired on the Disney Channel, and co-wrote more than two dozen Curious George books with Margret Rey, who created the character with her husband, H.A. Rey, in 1939. Despite the success of the books and TV series Shalleck never became famous or rich out of "Curious George." He lived on his Social Security checks and made ends meet doing odd jobs.

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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

The Rest Of The Story

by Lee Thorn

A famous radio broadcaster named Paul Harvey used to have a feature in which he'd tell a story while withholding some crucial bit of information until the very end. The crucial final tidbit would give the whole story a new and/or much deeper meaning. (I say he "used to" but for all I know he still does. My radio's broke.) We could really use a Paul Harvey in Tucson these days because what he would call "the rest of the story" seems very often to be left flapping in the wind somewhere.

I'm thinking of a recent newspaper piece I read that said Tucson has about 100 city employees who make over $100,000 a year (numbers approximate) whereas a demographically comparable Southwestern city has only ten employees in that cushy compensation category. So wow! This looks interesting, even juicy! What's the deal? But there wasn't any rest of the story. Apparently the reporter and his editor didn't think it would be interesting to ask our elected officials how they could justify this payroll largesse. I'd sure like to know what they think. What if they said, "Look, we pay our people better. They deserve it. We're proud of it?" On the other hand, what if they said, "This is an outrage. These salaries are going to be trimmed back immediately and heads will roll for having let them get so outrageous?" Wouldn't the answers of city officials, the answers that were never asked for, make a difference to the voters whose money is being spent so freely?

Another story had our mayor saying that he thought the City needed about 400 more police officers over the next seven years (numbers approximate). Okay, that's interesting. How does he figure that? But again, there was no rest of the story. Doesn't it matter how the mayor got his numbers? What if they came to him in a dream? Say he was dreaming of clouds floating over the Rincons and the clouds formed themselves into a 400 over a seven. Or what if he looked at some other city and, figuring he wanted Tucson to be twice as safe as that city, he got out his calculator and found that we needed 400 new cops in seven years to be on track to have twice as many as that other city would then have? Or what if he figured that we only needed 300 but he decided to ask for 400 because he expected some fiscal conservative to cut the number back? Seriously folks, doesn't it matter to the voters how the mayor got his numbers?

And then there's the Tucson woman who was recently sentenced to probation for stealing about a million dollars worth of merchandise. What's the deal? We have people in jail for stealing less than one percent of what she stole. Apparently nobody thought it would be interesting to ask the judge how he could justify this seeming injustice. Wouldn't it matter to the voters if the judge said, "Look, I admire the woman's enterprise. If you're going to steal, steal big?" What if he said, "Ordinarily I'd put her in jail and throw away the key, but this lady happens to be my cousin?"

And what about the tunnel story? They were talking about burying a downtown section of I-10 for maybe as much as $350 million. Then some consultants said it might cost $390 million and the City said, "No way! We can't afford anything like that." (Paraphrase and numbers both approximate.) Well, okay, if we can afford the $350 million but we throw a fit at $390, at what point did it get too expensive? Again, nobody asked what the tipping point was and I'm therefore wondering whether the whole proposal was just a trial balloon from the start. It doesn't look like we'll get the rest of the story.

Although we seem to be having a rash of it lately, this lack of journalistic curiosity is nothing new in Tucson. A couple years ago singer Diana Ross was supposed to have served several hours in a Connecticut jail for a driving infraction she committed in Tucson. Barrels of ink were spent on the story. There were all kinds of issues raised: Should somebody that important have to go to jail for ANYTHING she might have done in Tucson? Was she getting special treatment? Was she being unduly inconvenienced? But nobody thought it was important to find out whether she actually did the jail time, however minimal it might have been. As everyone who owns a television knows, a person's going to jail generates at least two documents, mug shots and a set of fingerprints. To the best of my knowledge, nobody has ever seen Diana Ross' mug shots or fingerprints from her alleged stay in a Connecticut jail. I'd bet a beer and a shot that no Tucson reporter has ever asked to see either.

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

TKO Donates Turkey Dinners

TUCSON: Merlin Cummins and Shawn Cummins of Tucson Knight Owls (TKO) present a donation of 20 full turkey dinners to volunteers from the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN). Around the Christmas holidays, TIHAN distributed turkey dinners to people living with HIV/AIDS in our community, courtesy of the fund raising efforts and generosity of TKO.

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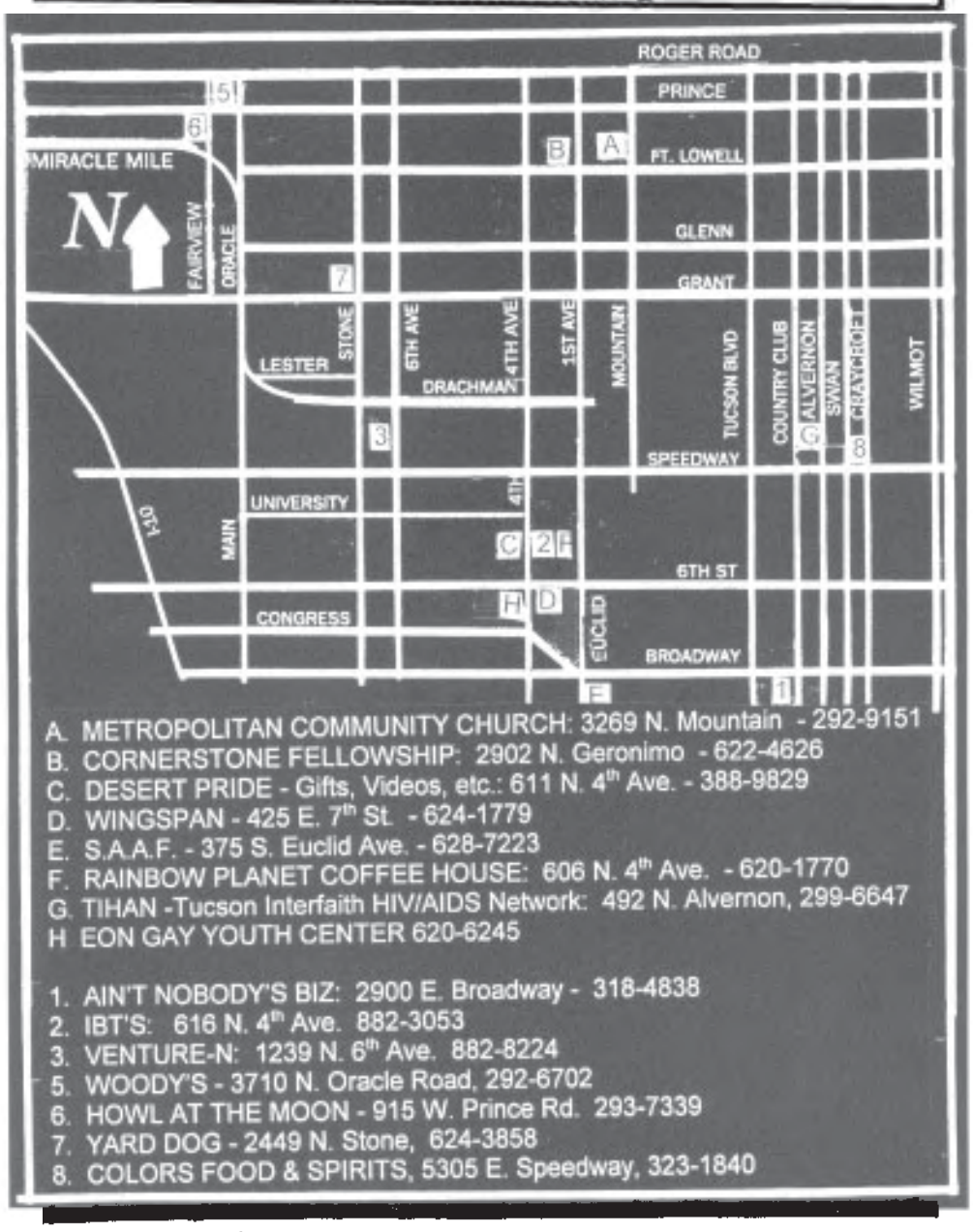

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Non Bar Calendar

Wednesday, February 15
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed: 7:00 p.m. Join Jack for an evening of Canasta. If you don't know how to play, they'll teach you-and it's a very relaxed atmosphere. For directions and reservations, please call Jack at 887-3736.

Thursday, February 16
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed: 7:00 p.m. Join the men of MSN for Coffee Night out at Rainbow Planet Coffee House. This is a chance to have a cup of coffee and chat with the men of MSN. This is a No-host event, so please ask Barista to point you in our direction.

Friday, February 17
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00p.m. Join Lloyd as he hosts Pizza Night. For just $5.00, come and enjoy a night of Pizza and good conversation. For reservations and directions, please call Lloyd at 792-8537. Please reserve your spot by noon on Thursday, February 16th.

Saturday, February 18

"Heart And Music: An Evening of Broadway Song" with an all star cast, will be presented by/and for Arizona Onstage Productions as a fund raiser. The big event will be held at the Temple of Music and Art Holsclaw Theatre, 330 S. Scott St. 7:00 p.m. For tickets and more information see their ad which appears in this issue of Observer on page eleven or call 622-2823. This event is sure to sell out, so get your tickets now!

#1 Join Jack & Mike for a morning of Volleyball. This is played for fun, and you'll get to know some nice guys as you play. For details and directions, please call Mike & Jack at 881-5733.

#2 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed: 7:00 p.m. Steve hosts Pinochle Night. If you don't know how to play, but would like to learn, this is the place. For more information, please call Steve at 664-2076.

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

Sunday, February 19
4:00 to 6:00 p.m. The Men's Massage Group is a great way to men and have clean, safe erotic fun. Non- Sexual. Call Marc in advance at 881-4582 for information and to sign up. We have been doing this group for 15 years. Small fee.

Monday, February 20
#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed):7:00 p.m. Join us for the "putting out the Newsletter" Night. For reservations and directions, please call Arlan at 323-7414.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed):7:30 p.m. Join us after putting out the Newsletter for the MSN Premiere of "Puppetry of the Penis", this film will instruct you on foreskin origami. For reservations and directions, please call Arlan at 323-7414.

Tucson Prime Timers Lunch – 12:30 pm, The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

Tuesday, February 21
#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed: 7:00 p.m. The 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. Join Karol for an evening of Dinner and a Movie; the classic "Arsenic and Old Lace". For details and directions, please call Karol at 744-9017.

Wednesday, February 22
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed: 7:00 p.m. Join Merlin and Lee for an evening of Canasta. If you don't know how to play, they'll teach you-and it's a very relaxed atmosphere. For directions and reservations, please call Lee & Merlin at 207-5336.

Thursday, February 23
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed: 7:00 p.m. Join the men of MSN for Coffee Night out at Rainbow Planet Coffee House. This is a chance to have a cup of coffee and chat with the men of MSN. This is a No-host event, so please ask Barista to point you in our direction.

Friday, February 24
Tucson Prime Timers , Lunch – 1:00 pm, The Lotus Garden, Speedway & Sonoita (NW corner)

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed:7:00 p.m. Lloyd hosts a fun evening of Scrabble. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Lloyd at 792-8537.

Saturday, February 25
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed: 7:00 p.m. Marv hosts Pinochle Night. If you don't know how to play, but would like to learn, this is the place. For more information, please call Marv at 745-0304.

Monday, February 27
Tucson Prime Timers Lunch – 12:30 pm, The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

Tuesday, February 28
#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed: 7:00 p.m. The 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. Perry hosts Bridge Night. If you don't know how to play, they'll teach you-and it's a very relaxed atmosphere. For reservations and directions, please call Perry at 321-4387.

Friday, March 3
Comedienne Suzanne Westenhoefer appearing at the Rialto Theatre,318 E. Congress downtown Tucson. Suzanne, described as "A center stage Diva who bursts out of her closet with little explosions of outspoken bemusement that could make even Bette Midler blush," according to the New York Daily News. Tickets to this Rondoz Production are $25 floor, $20 balcony. Call (520)740-1000. Don't miss this hilarious evening of comedy.

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, March 10-12
Wingspan Film Festival. Check out their ad on page twenty of this issue of observer.

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(520) 624-8272

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

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2nd Stop:

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2900 E. Broadway
Friday February 17, 2006
Time: 7 pm – 10 pm

3rd Stop:

Woody's
3710 N. Oracle Road
Wednesday March 15, 2006
Time: 7 pm – 10 pm

A collaboration of the Pima County Health Department and Gay Men's Health Project

HOROSCOPES

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Our hopes, dreams and great ideas meld into a powerful love potion when Pluto nuzzles the Sun, Mercury and Neptune this week. Rather than rest on your laurels, prepare to posit on a golden throne. That is, if you decide to rise to the occasion.

ARIES (MAR. 21 - APR. 20)
Your inspiration does not come to you in the silence of the night or by taking yourself out of the social beehive. In fact you do yourself a disservice by shutting out the world this week. Proud Rams need to fly into the action and hum with the general buzz. By doing so, you tap into your genius and make a social mark. Or is it a sting? Just watch where you point that thing, honey.

TAURUS (APR. 21 - MAY 21)
Power is intoxicating. At least it will seem so while Pluto sextiles Mercury, Neptune and Sun. Queer Bulls pull a few tricks out of their corporate hats and use them to their sexy advantage. You sizzle and can attract anyone you want. Seduction is high on your needs hierarchy. But guess who will wind up being the one lassoed, hogtied and branded, cowpoke? You lucky thing.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
How can you spice up a bland relationship? How can you fill your love cup so that it overflows? Pluto, Sun, Mercury and Neptune encourage you to toss off your inhibitions, let it all hang out and allow the world to have a good long look. (Well maybe it will just seem long.) Experiment and try some new techniques, pink Twin. Stop at the power drill and kitty litter.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
There is something going on at work that will grab your attention, suck you into the action and get you into all sorts of trouble. This may not be a bad thing - you are apt to benefit from a proletariat revolution if you take calculated risks and forge beneficial alliances. Remember, Gay Crab, you have nothing to lose but your chains, a drab grey cubicle and pile of paperclips.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)
Who knew that certain people were so entertaining and so much fun! They certainly didn't bark like wilde party hounds last week. But now merriment can be found in almost any venue and with almost anyone. Proud Lions suddenly discover that even the very bottom of their social barrel is top rated. Well at least it will seem that way. Ahem.

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)
Queer Virgins may learn a thing or two about how to improve and transform their home life this week. Will you decide to turn over a new healthy leaf and rid your environment from toxins and dirt? Maybe not entirely but at least you will find ways of reducing stress and creating something fresh out of something stale. Exercise by pushing around some of the furniture.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)
Pastimes become much more serious. You are generally very light hearted but even casual, flirty conversations have monumental impact on your life this week thanks to Pluto. Don't shy away from either the heaviness or the lightness of being - The critical thing is to just "be" in the moment. Take a bite out of life proud Libra, before it eats your lunch.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)
The grass is always greener in the next yard ... or so you think. And you scan the terrain with an acquisitive and needy greedy eye. Proud Scorps have an itch to keep up with the Joneses this week. Why is that? It is all chimera. Instead of running with the herd, spruce up your nest with items that make a strong personal statement. Add an exclamation point!

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)
Sometimes you talk to hear yourself. Sometimes you feel like a voice in the forest who no one hears. This is usually not true reality. And it is especially untrue this week when even your faint whispers reverberate across town and shiver the timbers. Speak up proud, queer and with authority Gay Archer. Let's make a few of those timbers crash and burn. Watch your toes.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)
There is more to life than surrounding yourself with gaudy trinkets and cheap tricks. At least that is what the cosmos is trying to tell you, pink Cap. The world now reveals its beauty to you in mysterious, harmonic and karmic ways and not with quick riches and superfluous luxuries. Oh goodie. Well they do say that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Yeah right.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)
Friends make your day. In fact they make your month. This is not the week to sit at home and wait for someone to knock. It is the time to venture Out and blend in with the crowd. Aqueerians wander into exciting new social circles that can change their lives ... or at least their appearance. So choose wisely and avoid unfashionable crowds who wear qiana and white belts.

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MAR. 20)
Guppies get a helping hand from a guardian angel this week. This leg up will be unexpected and the advantage will be felt in your career. Build your professional castle on solid rock and not on shifting sand. Bolster your gains with hard work, actual accomplishment and cement it with political savvy. Either that or take the money and run, run, run!

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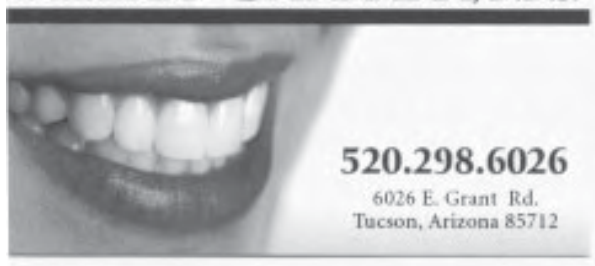

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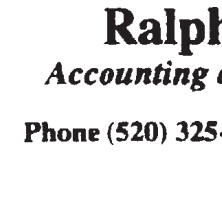

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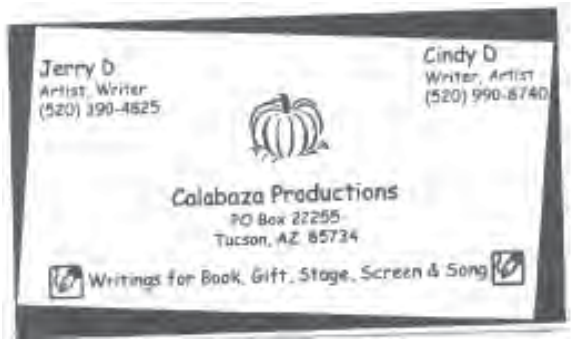

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Authorities: Gay Bar Attacker Shot Himself

Continued from Page Ten

are investigating whether Robida had an accomplice in the bar attack, searched Robida's room and discovered a handwritten note in which Robida bid his mother goodbye and suggested he would again resort to violence. The contents of the note were not released. It was unclear whether Robida left the note before or after the nightclub attack. Robida also had a small cache of weapons with him as he fled westward, an Arkansas prosecutor said. Investigators don't know why, nor why he and his female companion were in Arkansas.

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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

sunday

COLORS - Open 11am - 11pm Champagne Brunch 11am - 2pm with choice of complimentary mimosa, Bloody Mary or Screwdriver. Happy Hour 4-7pm $3 Skyy Cocktails, $2.25 Domestics and half price appetizers. Full menu served 2-10pm. Nightly dinner specials. Live music from Bob Feldhaus during Brunch (11:30-2:30) & Dickie Steede during dinner (6:30-9:30)

HOWL AT THE MOON -Open at 11am. Kitchen open until 9pm. Watch the NFL here! $1.00 Jumbo Hot Dogs, $2 Chili Dogs. $2 Smirnoff Sundays. Free Texas Hold'Em Poker Tourneys at 4 and 7pm. Sign-up begins one hour before playing time. No Cash - Play for Prizes and Points. Great chance to learn the hottest game around

IBT's -Troy's Recovery Bar noon-4pm. 4-7:30 Karaoke on the patio. Benefit B-B-Q for the Pride Parade 5:30-7:30 and dance with DJ Mike Lopez 9pm to close.

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio open 3pm. $2.00 Bloody Marys or Screws til 3pm Patio Beer Bust 3-7.Burger BBQ 5-7. Selection of burger meats to choose from. $3 proceeds go to Pet Watch (helping HIV/AIDS clients with their veterinary bills).

WOODY'S - Open 11am. Brunch $5, 11:30 - 2:30. Patio open 1pm-close. Yard games on the grass. Beer Bust 16oz $1 2-7p. $2.50 Sirloin Burger or Chicken w/sides 5-9pm. Karaoke with Michael D. 9pm-close. Drag Bingo every other Sunday 8-9

YARD DOG - Open 10am - 2am. Patio Bar opens at 5pm.

monday

COLORS - Closed on Mondays.

HOWL AT THE MOON -Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, $2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, $3 sm pitchers, $5 lg pitchers. Kitchen open 4-9 pm with reduced prices on appetizers - best deal in town! Free Texas Hold-'Em Poker Tournaments at 6:00 pm and 9:00 pm. Sign-up begins one hour before playing time. No Cash - Play for Prizes and Points.

IBT's -Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, DJ Craig Carter 10pm-2am $1.50 well vodka drinks, All drink specials not available during special events.

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio 6pm. Free pool til 4pm. $2.75 Skyy & Beefeaters Martinis.

WOODY'S - Open 10am. w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm $1.50 well or domestic longnecks. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Karaoke w/Michael D. 9-1

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

tuesday

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7 $3 Skyy cocktails, $2.25 Domestics and half-price appetizers. 1stTuesday of month "Dinner & Movie" sponsored by GMHP. All other Tuesdays "Dinner and a Concert"shown on 52" projection system. Full menus served until l0pm.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, $2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, $3 sm pitchers, $5 lg pitchers. Tequila Tuesday: $2.00 well margaritas, 50¢ off call tequilas. Karaoke with Debbie from 8 - midnight

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

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

WOODY'S - Open 10am w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. 80s Nite 9-close. $1 off to those wearing 80s concert t-shirt. (Excludes draught & schnapps).

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am.50¢ off any Tequila until 7pm Beer Bust 3-7pm.

wednesday

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3 Skyy cocktails, $2.25 Domestics and half-price appetizers Full menu served 4-10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, $2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, $3 sm pitchers, $5 lg pitchers. Free Pool all day. Draught Beer Specials all day. Kitchen open 4-9pm. Women-only Texas Hold-Em Poker at 6:30 p.m. Play for prizes and points.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, "Diva-Licious" show 9pm w/ Bunny Fu Fu& Friends. After show dance with DJ Q til 2am,

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

WOODY'S - Open 10am w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm $1.50 well or domestic longnecks. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Underwear- fetish-leather nite $1 off for those wearing underwear-fetish or leather. (Excludes draught & schnapps) for all in leather or underwear.

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

thursday

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm,$3 Skyy cocktails, $2.25 Domestics and half-price appetizers. Full menu served 4-10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

HOWL AT THE MOON -Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, $2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, $3 sm pitchers, $5 lg pitchers. $2.00 Mexican Beers all day. Kitchen open 4-9pm. Karaoke with Debbie from 8 to midnight.

IBT's -Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, Boyz Nite Out with your Bartenders & GoGo Boys dancing in their undies and DJ Mike Lopez spinning Top 40 & All request $1.75 Long Islands and $1.50 Tequila shots 10pm-2am.

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio open 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Pool Tourney 7pm. $3 entry. Special prices for players. Steak Nite (4th Thursday of each month). Bring your own or get it here $6.00.

WOODY'S - Open 10am w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm $1.50 well or domestic longnecks. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Free Pool all day. NTN Game Nite w/prizes 9-close. $1 Pabst Blue Ribbon. Patio bar open 8pm-close

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am.50¢ off any Top Shelf Bourbon til 8pm. Beer Bust 4-8pm. Patio Bar opens 5pm.

friday

COLORS - Open 4pm-1am. Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3 Skyy cocktails, $2.25 Domestics and half-price appetizers . Full menu served 4-11pm. Nightly Dinner Specials. 6:30-9:30pm. "Hot Jazz, Cool Martinis" with Susan Artemis 10pm "Guys & Dolls" hosted by Lucinda Holliday. Reservations suggested.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, $2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, $3 sm pitchers, $5 lg pitchers. Line Dance Lessons 7:30 to 8:30 pm. DJ Pat plays your favorite country dance songs 8:30 to midnight then a mix of dance & country 'til close. Kitchen open 4-9pm.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm,, Hot Dance with DJ Mike Lopez 9pm-2am.

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

WOODY'S - Open 10am.w/Special Happy Hour til-2pm $1.50 well or domestic longnecks. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Patio Bar open 8-close. Party w/DJ Jeff 9-close.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am.50¢ off any Top Shelf Gin until 8pm. Beer Bust 4-8pm. Patio Bar Opens 5pm

saturday

COLORS - Open 4pm-1am, Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3 Skyy cocktails, $2.25 Domestics and half-price appetizers Full menu served 4-11pm. Nightly dinner specials. Singer, piano player Marilyn Harris performs during dinner from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Reservations suggested.

HOWL AT THE MOON -Open at 11:00 am. Kitchen open til 9pm. Happy Hour 11am-8pm, $2 Well, domestic longnecks & pints, $3 small pitchers, $5 large pitchers. $4.00 Cheeseburger & Fries all day. DJ Johnny D playing your favorite dance & country 9pm to close. Kitchen re-opens 9pm - midnight for late night munchies.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, 5-8pm karaoke and Teryaki Kabobs on the patio. 8:30pm Show time w/ Ajia Simone or Janee Star. DJ Q spinning Club Music inside and Mike Lopez spinning on the patio 10pm to close..

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

WOODY'S - Open 10am. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. $5 Steak or Fish w/all the trimmings 5-9. Patio Bar open 5-close. Live Jazz w/Arthur Migliazza on the patio 6-9. Party w/DJ Jeff 9-close.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. Beer Bust 4-8pm. $1.25 glass, $2.25 pitcher. Patio Bar Opens 5pm.

CASINOS. . . . . .

AVA AMPHITHEATER AT CASINO DEL SOL COMING ATTRACTIONS:(Box office 838-6700 - I-10 Exit Valencia West)

DESERT DIAMOND CASINO UPCOMING ATTRACTIONS: (Box office 393-2799 - I-19 & Pima Mine Road, Exit 80 - 7 minutes south of Tucson)

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16
WOODY'S - Tailgate Party in the new Patio Theater with the big 8 foot screen 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17
YARD DOG - 5th ANNIVERSARY PARTY begins tonight!!!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18
YARD DOG - 5th ANNIVERSARY PARTY continues with all-day and evening events. TKO will be serving breakfast beginning at 10:00 a.m. Beer Bust by the Yard Dog Cowboys from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.. Then starting at 9:00 p.m. DJ Zack will be spinning music on the patio and there will be a special presentation of Mr. Yard Dogs.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19
IBT'S - "Menergy": An evening of flesh, fun and fantasy featuring the Men of Playgirl! Dino Phillips and Guest.

WOODY'S - Sunday Party begins with the usual 11:30 a.m. Brunch. The 2:00 p..m. Patio Bar and Beer Bust; the 5:00 p.m. Burger Bar-B-Que. Then at 8:30 p.m. It's the Budweiser "Ro-Sham-Bo" national competition plus $2.25 Bud products during the contest. Don't forget karaoke with Michael at 9:00 p.m.

YARD DOG - 5th ANNIVERSARY PARTY winds down with a big Spaghetti Dinner from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Y'all come!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25
HOWL AT THE MOON - Singles Mingle - Watch for more information!!!

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28
IBT's - It's Mardi Grtas Masqueade - the hjottest 'Fat Tuesday' party in Tucson!!! Mardi Gras Mask Contest; Beads, Party Favors and Prizes plus Drinnk Specials and Hot Boys!!!

WOODY'S - "Tucson's biggest Mardi Gras Party" - mark your calendars.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3
HOWL AT THE MOON - "Leather and Lace" - get out your chaps.

SATURDAY, MARCH 11
HOWL AT THE MOON - Spring Fling Drag Show at 10:00 p.m.

Ending the violence.

Wingspan launches the Anti-Violence Project – a community initiative to assist lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender victims of discrimination, domestic violence, sexual assault and hate crimes.

Call the Anti-Violence Project 24-Hour Crisis Line at 624-0348, or toll-free 1-800-553-9387.

WINGSPAN
Southern Arizona's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center

www.wingspan.org

NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

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 360-3795 or write P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740-6264. All replies confidential.

GLBT-friendly AL-ANON group mets Saturdays at 11am at Unitarian Universalist Church, 4831 E. 22nd Street, Tucson

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

The TUCSON Chapter of PRIME TIMERS WORLDWIDE invites Gay or Bisexual men and their admirers to join and share Prime Timers fellowship. We welcome mature men (and admirers) who wish to become involved with planned and future Prime Timers (TPT) activities. Meetings luncheons and dinners are held monthly. For dates, times and information call743-0810, leave name and phone number. Tucsonpt@primetimersww,org

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

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

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

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

GREATER PHOENIX GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (GPGLCC) P.O. BOX 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2097. E-mail: webmaster@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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AA Meeting with HIV/AIDS focus, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., Wingspan Annex, 425 E. 7th St. All alcoholics welcome.

MEN'S SOCIAL NETWORK: Social organization for men of all ages. Building an extended Gay family in Tucson. Monthly social potluck gatherings the first Saturday of each month and almost weekly social activities. Call 690-9565 for information and a newsletter. Check the Non-Bar Calendar in the Observer.

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

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SPORTS TEAMS and updates on Gay Games 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.

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

TUCSON PRIDE, INC. (Formerly Tucson Lesbian and Gay Alliance - TLGA) meets on the second Tuesday at 845 S. Craycroft Road at 6pm. Tucson Pride events: Pride Week, Gay West and OUToberFEST. 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 tyan@theriver.com and request guidelines.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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)906-0669 and or Mona Garcia 256-8728.

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

REVEILLE GAY MEN'S CHORUS rehearses Tuesdays 7-10pm at MCC Church, 3269 N. Mountain. Have any history/experience singing? Join us!! Call 617-3100 for more info.

"OUT ON THE TRAILS - EQUESTRIAN FUN!"
Rider Club forming. Looking for women and men to ride together on the trails of Southern Arizona. Must have own horse, truck and trailer. For more info write: "Out On The Trails" P.O. Box 44045, Tucson, AZ 85733-4045

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

LGBT BUDDHIST MEDITATION GROUP. Join us for two 20 minute silent sitting meditations, and reading from Buddhist spiritual text and discussion. Bring a friend and a pillow or cushion. Takes place every Sunday from 10:00 - 11:30am at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St.. Contact Maurice Grossman for more info. 323-2293.

LGBT SUPPORT GROUP FOR VICTIM/SURVIVORS OF Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Hate Crimes, Bias Acts, Harassment. Call Lori at Wingspan, 624-1779, ext. 20. Services are free.

NEW TUCSON SOBRIETY SUPPORT GROUP. Secular Organizations for Sobriety - Sundays 8:00 - 9:30 p.m. at 739 N. 4th Avenue. Contacts Rick R. 520-792-2604 or Gary S. 520-323-1969. More information at www.secularhumanism.org/sos/ This group is an alternative to 12-step programs.

MEN'S KINK DISCUSSION GROUP (Open to all who identify as male and are 18 or older) meets 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at Desert Dominion, 3843 E. 37th Street, Tucson, (Map available at www.desertdominion,org) For those who are kinky or just curious. No fee, contributions are appreciated, but not required.

SUN WORSHIPERS OF TUCSON (SWOT) is a local men's nudist organization for men of all ages. Events feature swimming, hot tubbing and socializing in a relaxed, private setting

MAN TO MAN INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY FORMING for anyone wanting quality friendships, better health and more passion in their lives. This group has far-reaching benefits for those who want to explore their own spirituality, sexuality and purpose in life. Contact Marc Haberman, Holistic Health Practitioner at 881-4582.

WINGSPAN

FilmFest

March 10-12

C'mon out and watch…

Opening Night
Join us for a very special opening night at Wingspan's 11th Annual FilmFest beginning at 7 pm on Friday, March 10 with the lesbian-themed feature *Mom.* A no-host cocktail reception with filmmakers Erin Greenwell *(Mom)* and Robert Gaston *(OpenCam)* will take place at the intermission between the two feature films. The gay-themed feature film, *OpenCam,* will be showing at 9 pm. Tickets are $15 for either film plus the reception. Or, buy a Producer's Pass for only $40, and enjoy full access to both films on opening night, as well as the entire festival! For tickets to any of the films and more information, visit www.wingspan.org/FilmFest.

Here are just a few of this year's films:

Friday, March 10 at 5:00 pm (Earlybird special: Admission is FREE, $5.00 suggested donation)
Call Me Malcolm A journey of self-discovery that started with a simple phrase, "From now on, call me Malcolm."

Friday, March 10 at 7:00 pm
Mom In this smart and tangy tale of life's surprises, Kelly is all business as a market researcher, but longs to be a TV news field reporter. When she's shipped off to Little Hope on a data-collecting assignment she's paired with the fascinating Linda, an impulsive, free-spirited butch with camera who has aspirations of her own—to be a tattoo artist. This unlikely duo's adventure will carry you through a zany maze of ups and downs, as the local hotel is unexpectedly overbooked and they find themselves at a Youth Hostel. Tensions erupt when a bored housewife is thrown in the mix, and the annual Chili Cook-Off hits town. This film's characters all learn a few things about themselves and each other, and everyone is surprised by who's hiding beneath each woman's surface.

Friday, March 10 at 9:00 pm
OpenCam Director Robert Gaston's *OpenCam* "is a thriller like no other" and "paves the way for emerging talent to get noticed" (Reel Affirmations 15). A rocking soundtrack accompanies this often dark, delicately paced and sexually charged nail-biter that will have you glued to the screen. In this dramatic suspense film, a serial killer is lurking online, creating a dark chase of fear and survival. As the murderer maneuvers in closer to Manny, an edgy and controversial young artist, it's up to Detective Hamilton to stay one step ahead of a killer's twisted plan. Meanwhile, Manny is forced to re-examine his life, his relationships, and the world that he knows, while Hamilton risks everything to keep him alive.

Saturday, March 11 at 7:15 pm
Reel Relationships A compilation of narrative shorts that illustrate the dangerous and liberating aspects of relationships, with compassion and humor.

Saturday, March 11 at 9:00 pm
The Reception A twisty, tricky story where what you think is happening isn't.

Sunday, March 12 at 5:15 pm
El Favor A colorful comedy-of-errors involving aphrodisiacs, seduction, and turkey basters.

Sunday, March 12 at 7:00 pm
Original Pride A documentary about one of the first gay men's social organizations ever, the Satyrs Motorcycle Club, formed in 1954.

Programs subject to change

www.wingspan.org/FilmFest

film descriptions / showtimes / ticket information