Observing Tucson And The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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More Than One Half Of U.S. Population Will Be Protected From Anti-LGBT Discrimination

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The 2007 state legislative season has been the most productive in the history of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) rights movement and, as a result, for the first time more than half the U.S. population will live in jurisdictions that outlaw discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, according to an analysis of Census data and current laws released by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. In addition, nearly 40 percent of the population will now live in jurisdictions that protect Transgender people from discrimination – a sevenfold increase since 2000, and one-fifth of all Americans will live in states that offer same-sex couples broad rights under state law, more than an eightfold increase since 2004. The Task Force said the 2006 elections and years of dogged work at the grassroots level were responsible for the surge in legislation.

"This is a historic and long-overdue milestone. At long last, a majority of Americans will now live in jurisdictions that protect people from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation," said Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "As important, protections for Transgender people and broad rights for same-sex couples are surging from coast to coast. We still have a very long way to go, but the tide is clearly shifting."

Since Jan. 1, 2007, the legislatures in four states – an all-time high – have passed nondiscrimination laws. Three of those states – Iowa, Oregon and Colorado – moved to extend protections to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people, and the Vermont Legislature passed a bill amending its existing nondiscrimination laws to include Transgender people. As a result, the percentage of the U.S. population living in jurisdictions protecting Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual people from discrimination will rise to 52 percent, crossing the halfway mark for the first time. The laws of Iowa, Oregon and Vermont prohibit discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations, among other categories; Colorado's law covers employment only. Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski is scheduled to sign his state's bill into law today; the governors in the other three states have pledged to sign their bills into law.

When the four state discrimination laws go into effect, 37 percent of the population will live in jurisdictions that protect Transgender people from discrimination. Protections for Transgender people have grown much more quickly over the last decade than those for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual people because of a commitment of the LGBT movement to insist that Transgender people be included in new nondiscrimination laws and to go back and add protections for Transgender people to existing sexual orientation-only laws. Since 2000, the percentage of the population living in jurisdictions with nondiscrimination laws covering sexual orientation grew 14 percentage points (from 38 percent to 52 percent). During the same period, the percentage of the population living in jurisdictions with nondiscrimination laws covering gender identity/expression grew 32 percentage points (from 5 percent to 37 percent), more than five times the rate of growth for sexual orientation protections.

The Task Force created and staffed its Transgender Civil Rights Project in 2001 with the goal of increasing the number of Transgender-protective discrimination laws. Since the project's inception, the proportion of the population covered by Transgender-inclusive laws has increased from 6 percent to 37 percent. "It's clear that legislators recognize that Transgender people face widespread discrimination and deserve the same protections as other minorities," said Foreman. "The common wisdom used to be that including protections for Transgender people would kill a bill – that's obviously not the case." Foreman noted that the U.S. House of Representatives passed a hate crimes bill containing explicit protections for Transgender people by a vote of 237-180 and that this year the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) was amended to prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity and expression. There is widespread expectation that both houses of Congress will take up ENDA before the end of the calendar year.

Over the last five months (Dec. through Apr.), legislatures in three states – New Jersey, New Hampshire and Oregon – passed laws granting same-sex couples the same rights and responsibilities afforded married couples under state law through civil unions or domestic partnerships. As in the nondiscrimination arena, this is more states taking such action than in any previous state legislative season. As a result, one-fifth (20 percent) of the U.S. population will live in states that offer broad rights and responsibilities to same-sex couples. (Other jurisdictions, including Washington state, Hawaii and the District of Columbia, have passed laws that give significant but not comprehensive rights to domestic partners. These jurisdictions are not included in the calculations.)

Five years ago just one state, Vermont, with 0.2 percent of the population, offered broad protections to same-sex couples with a law enacted in 2000. When the bills passed this session take effect, seven states (California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oregon and Vermont), with 20 percent of the population, will offer broad protections to same-sex couples.

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Gay Foe Jerry Falwell Dead

LYNCHBURG, Virginia - The Rev. Jerry Falwell died Tuesday (May 15) at the age of 73. Falwell was found unconscious in his office and rushed to hospital where he died about an hour later, 365Gay.com reported.

Falwell survived two serious health scares in early 2005. He was hospitalized for two weeks with what was described as a viral infection, then hospitalized again a few weeks later after going into respiratory arrest.

Falwell, the founder of the Moral Majority and Liberty University, had a long history of opposing Gay rights. In 1976 he, along with Anita Bryant, led the charge against Gay adoption in Florida leading to the most repressive anti-Gay adoption law in the U.S.

Following the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington in 2001 Falwell declared that Gays and pro choice advocates were to blame.

Speaking on the 700 Club religious program Falwell said, "The abortionists have got to bear some burden for this because God will not be mocked. And when we destroy 40 million little innocent babies, we make God mad. I really believe that the pagans, and the abortionists, and the feminists, and the Gays and the Lesbians who are actively trying to make that an alternative lifestyle, the ACLU, People For the American Way, all of them who have tried to secularize America. I point the finger in their face and say 'you helped this happen'."

In 2003 Falwell announced that he was putting aside everything to devote his time to passage of a federal constitutional ban on Gay marriage. "I am dedicating my talents, time and energies over the next few years to the passage of an amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which will protect the traditional family from its enemies who wish to legalize same-sex marriage and other diverse "family" forms," Falwell said.

In the 2004 election campaign he worked with Republicans to use same-sex marriage as a wedge issue. A week after the November election he announced he was organizing battle plans for what he called an "evangelical revolution." Falwell said that the election showed that Americans want to return to "traditional values". He promised to roll back Gay rights laws in communities across the country.

"Reverend Falwell's death today causes my thoughts to turn toward the members of our community who have at great personal sacrifice contended with the Reverend's work and teachings," said Human Rights Campaign president Joe Solmonese.

"As I remember Reverend Falwell's life, I also remember all of the families of people who have died of AIDS," said Solmonese.

"Reverend Falwell's legacy is not about the tenants of Jesus' ministry such as healing the sick and standing with the disenfranchised but about shunning and ridiculing those who have suffered and died of AIDS and their families. Many faith leaders today are moving away from his divisive approach and toward the compassion and inclusiveness that Jesus modeled every day of his ministry."

"The death of a family member or friend is always a sad occasion and we express our condolences to all those who were close to the Rev. Jerry Falwell. Unfortunately, we will always remember him as a founder and leader of America's anti-Gay industry, someone who exacerbated the nation's appalling response to the onslaught of the AIDS epidemic, someone who demonized and vilified us for political gain and someone who used religion to divide rather than unite our nation," Matt Foreman, Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, said in a statement.

UPDATE

24th International AIDS Candlelight Memorial May 20

TUCSON - SAAF, Wingspan, and TIHAN announced that Tucson will participate in the 24th Annual International AIDS Candlelight Memorial.

This event will take place on May 20, at Himmel Park (Tucson Blvd., 1 block south of Speedway) in solidarity with memorials and events worldwide. Tucson's Candlelight Memorial will highlight the effects of AIDS on African-American and youth communities. Bring a blanket and/or lawn chair.

For more information, contact Madeline Porta, (520) 624-1779, E-mail: mporta@wingspan.org, and candlelightmemorial.org/.

'HerScopes: A Guide To Astrology For Lesbians

NEW YORK CITY - What really happened that June night that caused the Gay Pride Movement? The stars and planets played a major role! Read all about the Stonewall Rebellion horoscope in the first astrology book written for the woman's woman, HerScopes: A Guide to Astrology for Lesbians (Simon & Schuster, ISBN: 0-684-86867-9).

HerScopes, by Charlene Lichtenstein, whose horoscopes are featured weekly in The Observer, is the must have guide to all aspects of a woman's personality. It's revealing chapters on each sign delves into all her secrets - from how to turn her on to how to turn her off, from money to health to family to love. And since it unlocks the mystery of each sign it is also a good personal read as well as a good one for friends, family and co-workers.

Not only do people have horoscopes. Buildings, events, events and even corporations have them too. The last chapter of HerScopes is dedicated to a complete analysis of the events of June 28, 1969 in New York City. This was the night of the Stonewall Rebellion which heralded in the Gay Pride movement. And guess what? The planetary placements that night revealed all.

HerScopes: A Guide to Astrology for Lesbians (Simon & Schuster ISBN: 0-684-86867-9) can be ordered through Simon and Schuster at thestarryeye.com/?booklink=SS , Amazon at thestarryeye.com/?booklink=AZ , Barnes & Noble at thestarryeye.com/?booklink=BN and at discerning bookshops everywhere.

Volunteer With Wingspan Anti-Violence Project

TUCSON - Are you looking for a way to help make the world a better place? Would you like to meet other LGBT people and allies? Want to improve your resume? Would you like to learn more about domestic and sexual violence, hate crimes, harassment or discrimination?

Wingspan's Anti-Violence Project (AVP) will hold a free, engaging, interactive and informative training for potential crisis line volunteer advocates, service providers, students, and interested community members. The three-part training will be presented June 8-10, 2007. Training Schedule: Friday, June 8 - 6:00 p.m. -10:00 p.m., Saturday, June 9, 9:00 am - 5:00 p.m., and Sunday, June 10, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

The Wingspan AVP is the only organization in Arizona that provides 24-hour services specifically to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender victim/survivors of violence. Wingspan AVP are a member of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Projects. For more information or to register, please contact Heather Hill at hhill@wingspan.org or call (520) 624-1779. If you or someone you know is experiencing violence, please call our 24-hour crisis line at (520) 624-0348.

Celebrate Pride In Prescott, May 19

PRESCOTT - The Prescott Pride Center will host its 7th annual Mile High Pride Day on Saturday, May 19, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., at the Prescott Pride Center, 111 Josephine Street.

Join in for a day of hometown fun and celebrate the wonderfully diverse community with vendors, live entertainment, psychic readings, raffles, festival food, and more. Admission is $5 and kids 12 and under get in free.

This is a family event, so bring your kids, relatives, and friends, but please leave your pets at home. For more information, call the Pride Center at (928) 445-8800 or visit us on the web at prescottpridecenter.com.

More Than One-Half Of U.S. Population

Continued from Page One

The Task Force said Oregon's new law was a particularly satisfying turnaround from 2004, when voters approved a constitutional amendment banning the recognition of same-sex marriage by a margin of 57 percent to 43 percent, the narrowest margin among the 13 states voting on anti-marriage measures that year. The Task Force donated nearly $900,000 in cash in the attempt to defeat the amendment and sent 10 organizers to help staff the campaign. "While the 2004 loss really hurt, it's now clear that our campaign really did convince people that all families deserve broad protections and relationship rights," said Thalia Zepatos, director of the Task Force's Organizing & Training Department. Zepatos, who played a major role in fighting every anti-LGBT measure in Oregon since 1988.

The results of the 2006 election played a pivotal role in four (Colorado, Iowa, New Hampshire and Oregon) of the six states passing nondiscrimination or family protection laws since December, the Task Force said. Before the November elections, Democrats held control of both houses of the state legislatures in three of the states taking pro-LGBT action: Vermont, Colorado and New Jersey. As a result of the November elections, however, Democrats picked up control of both houses in the other three states: Iowa, Oregon and New Hampshire. Before the elections in Iowa, the Senate was evenly divided and the House was Republican-dominated; in Oregon, Democrats controlled the Senate and Republicans controlled the House; in New Hampshire, both houses were controlled by Republicans. In Colorado, Democrats strengthened their control of the Legislature, and Democrat William Ritter succeeded Republican William Owens as governor, who had twice vetoed the nondiscrimination bill. The change in control of the state legislatures was due to Democratic gains nationwide, as well as specific work to elect pro-LGBT state legislators spearheaded by Colorado philanthropist Tim Gill. "The lesson here? What a difference an election makes!" said Foreman.

In Oregon in 2006, then-House Speaker Karen Minnis was singularly responsible for blocking nondiscrimination and family recognition legislation bills. With Democrats taking control of that chamber, Minnis has since lost her leadership position. Although it took Democratic control to move the bills, each passed with Republican support (although Colorado's employment non-discrimination bill passed with only one Republican voting for it).

The Task Force stressed that while the change in party control was an essential factor in moving bills this year, grassroots activism over many years made it possible for legislators to vote on the pro-LGBT measures. In Oregon, for example, activists had been pushing a nondiscrimination law for nearly 30 years, and work on the comprehensive domestic partnership law began immediately after the 2004 election. Similarly, the LGBT community in Vermont has been pushing to include protections for Transgender people for eight years, and New Hampshire's civil union law is a direct result of marriage equality organizing by the New Hampshire Freedom to Marry Coalition.

"These bills would have never passed without the dogged work of state and local leaders and organizations over many, many years," Foreman said. "Our national community owes them all its respect and gratitude."

Since Jan. 1, the legislatures of all 50 states have been in session. As of May 8, 29 legislatures remain in session.

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Informing the Community
The Observer

COMMENTARY. . . .

Anti-Gay Crimes Are Hate Crimes

THE HOUSE OF Representatives has passed a new hate crime bill that pleases Gays and Lesbians, angers the religious right and has provoked a veto threat from President Bush. But the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act should be judged not on the basis of who is for or against it – or on the message it sends – but rather on its merits.

They are considerable, but there also are problems that need to be resolved in the Senate. That will be easier if both supporters and opponents stop making extravagant claims about the bill. It is neither "one of the most significant civil rights measures in this or any other Congress," as House Judiciary Committee Chairman John Conyers Jr., D-MI, boasted, nor a threat to the right of preachers to sermonize against homosexuality, as some conservatives complain.

The bill does two important things: It expands a key definition of hate crimes to include acts of violence inspired by a victim's sexual orientation, and it provides federal assistance to local and state law enforcement agencies seeking to prevent and prosecute hate crimes. Both are worthy refinements of existing federal law.

Adding sexual orientation to the definition of a hate crime makes sense whether or not one believes that acts of violence motivated by bias should be punished more severely than other violent crimes. This legislation deals not with penalties but with the allocation of resources in a way that recognizes that bias-fueled crimes exist.

Such crimes include attacks on Gays and Lesbians. In 2005, according to the FBI, 14.2% of "single-bias" incidents were motivated by sexual-orientation bias. That's less than the 54.7% attributed to racial bias but more than the 13.2% with "ethnicity/national origin bias." The Justice Department already includes such incidents in its hate crime statistics, but the definition of hate crimes for purposes of federal prosecution comprises only crimes motivated by hostility to a victim's race, color, religion or national origin. The government's own statistics suggest that this is an oversight that should be rectified.

The problem is that the House bill goes further, by including gender and disability in its definition of hate crimes. According to the FBI, fewer than 1% of hate crimes in 2005 reflected a bias against the disabled. Although the FBI doesn't keep count of gender-bias crimes, California does, and only 1.3% of the state's hate crimes in 2005 involved "anti-gender bias." A second problem is that the bill lowers the bar for federal intervention in a way that might invite a court challenge. Under current law, the federal government may take over the prosecution of a hate crime only if the crime interfered with a federally protected activity – a broad category covering everything from travel to study at a state university to use of a public accommodation.

The House bill drops that requirement. Instead it grounds federal intervention in hate-crime cases in Congress' power to regulate interstate commerce. The problem is that the Supreme Court in recent years has been skeptical about the Constitution's Commerce Clause as a rationale for crime legislation.

Congress did use that same constitutional provision in the 1964 Civil Rights Act to get around bigoted state officials. Is such an end-run necessary in 2007? It is, according to Conyers, who warned that "Americans are still being killed out of hatred and intolerance, and in far too many instances, the federal government is still powerless to act."

But consider the incidents Conyers cited as a justification: the 1998 murder of James Byrd, a black man who was dragged to death behind a truck; the killing that same year of Matthew Shepard, a Gay college student; and the post-Sept. 11 shooting death of South Asian immigrant Waqar Hasan. In each of these cases, the attackers were punished harshly under state law. If they hadn't been, federal prosecution might still have been possible in all but the Shepard case. And that problem, we hope, can be rectified by the addition of "sexual orientation" to factors that give rise to bias crime.

Congress should close that loophole. But if it tries to do much more than that, it risks giving Bush a pretext for the veto that anti-Gay forces are so eager for him to cast

(This op-ed was the editorial from the May 13 edition of the Los Angeles Times, from which this is reprinted.)

Recalled Openly-Gay Sailor To Be Discharged Again

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - A sailor who was fired under "don't ask, don't tell," then recalled to active duty in an apparent bureaucratic snafu has been summarily discharged again after telling his story in the Stars & Stripes newspaper, advocate.com reported. Petty Officer Second Class Jason Knight learned Thursday (May 10) that the Navy intends to discharge him just weeks before completing his most recent one-year commitment, the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network said in a written statement.

Knight, a Hebrew linguist with four years' service, came out to his command in 2005 and was discharged soon after, losing his $13,000 sign-on bonus. He was pleasantly surprised to be recalled in June, and completed a tour of duty with Naval Customs Battalion Romeo in Kuwait. Once again, he was entirely open about his sexual orientation; his interview with Stars & Stripes was published May 6. "Jason Knight was an exemplary sailor who gladly returned to active duty when our country needed him," Sharra E. Greer, SLDN's director of law and policy, said in Friday's (May 11) statement. "Our nation should be embarrassed that our armed forces are forced to respond to Knight's selfless service with a government-sanctioned pink slip," Greer said.

Knight told Stars & Stripes that he was impelled to go public again by the homophobic comments of Marine Gen. Peter Pace, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who called homosexuality "immoral" and refused to apologize despite pressure from members of Congress and several presidential candidates. He sent a letter to the editor, which led to the interview and its consequences.

Continued on Page Four

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Carter: Time For Congress To Revisit DADT

Former President Jimmy Carter

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Former President Jimmy Carter has called on Congress to revisit the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy banning LGBT personnel, 365Gay.com reported. In a statement the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize recipient provided to the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), Carter said that, "It is my long-held belief that every human being deserves dignity and respect."

He went on to tell the advocacy group for Gays in the military that, "I often heard that phrase during my years at the United States Naval Academy, I carried it out as Commander-in-Chief, and it continues to animate my human rights work around the globe today. The nation's commitment to human rights requires that lawmakers revisit 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,' the current policy that prevents Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals from serving openly in our armed forces."

Carter served as President from 1977 to 1981. During his presidency, Carter oversaw the Panama Canal treaties, the Camp David Accords, the treaty of peace between Egypt and Israel, the SALT II treaty with the Soviet Union, and the establishment of U.S. diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. He received a bachelor of science degree from the United States Naval Academy in 1946. While in the Navy he became a submariner, serving in both the Atlantic and Pacific fleets and rising to the rank of lieutenant. Chosen by Admiral Hyman Rickover for the nuclear submarine program, he was assigned to Schenectady, N.Y., where he took graduate work at Union College in reactor technology and nuclear physics, and served as senior officer of the pre-commissioning crew of the Seawolf, the nation's second nuclear submarine. In 1982, he founded The Carter Center, which addresses national and international issues of public policy.

"'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' is the only law in America today that regulates a group of citizens then prohibits them from identifying themselves and speaking up on their own behalf," Carter said in his statement to SLDN. "Gay soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines are unable to tell their Member of Congress or their commander that the policy is an abject failure and they are living proof because they will face discharge. Those who defend our liberties and freedoms deserve better." He goes on to say that, " . . . there are great differences in public opinion on social issues today compared to twenty years ago. When I served as President, the majority in our country did not support equality for Gay Americans, but that has now changed."

The statement makes Carter the most prominent American to criticize DADT. "As someone who has served our country as a Naval Officer, Commander-in-Chief and one of the world's pre-eminent human rights champions, there are few people more qualified to speak about this issue than President Carter," said Sharra E. Greer, director of law and policy for SLDN. "There is a growing understanding that 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' isn't just bad public policy, but is also a blight on our country's commitment to human rights and equal opportunity."

In Feb., Congressman Marty Meehan (D-MA), chair of the House Armed Services Sub-Committee on Oversight and Investigations, reintroduced legislation to repeal the law. Meehan said that more than 120 Members of Congress from both parties have signed on to co-sponsor the bill, called the Military Readiness Enhancement Act. Meanwhile, two lawsuits challenging the Gay ban are underway. SLDN estimates there are about 65,000 Gay men and women who currently are serving in the military.

Recalled Openly Gay Sailor To Be Discharged Again

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"Though I respect (Pace) as a leader, it made me so mad," Knight told the paper.

America's changing attitude on "don't ask" "includes suggestions that the Pentagon is less interested in kicking out Gay service members during war," wrote Stars and Stripes reporter Joseph Giordono. "Pentagon stats show that discharges of Gay service members dropped to 612 in 2006. The peak of such discharges was in 2001, when 1,273 were reported. "The numbers have fallen steadily each year, from 906 in 2002 to 787 in 2003, and on down." Knight receives honorable discharges in both cases – commanding officers have discretion in such matters. Sailors in his detail praised him highly. "The Navy tends to keep people who don't want to be here, but Jason does," Petty Officer First Class Tisha Hanson told the paper, adding that his Gayness "doesn't bother me."

Refusing to be called back up, even as a test case for Gay rights, was not an option, Knight told Lesbian blogger Pam Spaulding. "It is one thing for conservative bigots to kick Gays out, but if we refused to serve they would have a nervous breakdown," he said. "I did consider it. "But I love the Navy and the military; it's just unfortunately under bad policy. I want to defend my nation, as every American has the right to. So I went willingly and out of the closet."

Across The Q Globe

India, Canada In Diplomatic Spat Over G/L Marriages

NEW DELHI, India - The Indian government reportedly has refused a Canadian request to recognize the same-sex marriages of two employees of the Canadian High Commission, reported 365Gay.com. The Calcutta Telegraph reports that the two Canadians - a man and a woman - married their same-sex partners before being assigned to India. They are living with their spouses in Canadian diplomatic corps accommodations.

Homosexuality is illegal in India - punishable by up to ten years imprisonment - under a law passed in the mid 1800s when the country was a British colony. The government has refused to repeal the law and LGBT rights groups are battling the government in court. The Canadian government in its request also asks that its diplomats be exempted from the anti-Gay law. The request is based on two sections of international law: The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 1963 which allow for certain privileges to diplomats and their families on foreign soil.

The Telegraph, quoting unnamed sources in the Foreign Ministry in Delhi, reports that the Canadian request has been turned down. The paper says the sources said the government has told Canada its diplomats are not exempt from the law of the land in which the diplomat is based. That would mean both diplomats could be arrested and tried under the anti-homosexuality law. The Canadian Foreign Ministry declined to comment on the case when contacted by 365Gay.com. Both countries are members of the Commonwealth. Belgium, Holland, Spain and South Africa also permit same-sex marriage. It is not known if any diplomats from those countries are in same-sex relationships. Indian LGBT civil rights groups say that police routinely harass and arrest people suspected of being Gay. They also say that the law is standing in the way of AIDS education because many people are afraid to come forward about their sexuality for fear of being targeted. Anand Grover, one of the attorneys fighting for repeal of the law called it an "archaic remnant of 17th-century British sensibilities."

Outrage Over Australian Ruling Man Not Really Bisexual

SYDNEY, Australia - LGBT civil rights groups are protesting a refugee tribunal ruling that a Pakistani man who identifies as Bisexual would not face discrimination if returned to his homeland because he is not really Bisexual and only functioned as bi because of his incarceration while awaiting a hearing, reported 365Gay.com.

The tribunal also refuted a claim by Ali Humayun that he and his same-sex partner had discussed registering as domestic partners or having a civil union or marriage. "The applicant was not in fact Bisexual," the ruling by Giles Short, the Refugee Review Tribunal member who made the decision, wrote in his verdict. Short went on to say that the man's relationship "was simply the product of the situation where only partners of the same sex were available and said nothing about his sexual orientation." Of Humayun's sworn testimony before the tribunal that he was in a committed relationship, Short said it was nothing more than "a contrived attempt to make their relationship appear more serious".

Humayun appealed the ruling to the Federal Magistrates Court which upheld Short's findings. Meanwhile, Humayun's partner has been granted refugee status. Humayun, however remains detained in an immigration center where he is the only LGBT person. He now identifies as being Gay. He tells the Sydney Morning Herald that he is persecuted daily by fellow detainees and fears the situation will become worse when he is deported to Pakistan. "I'm worried for my life if I am deported home," he said. "The men in my family, they are really fundamentalist types. Muslims. My lifestyle is totally in contrast to what they believe." Under Pakistan's civil law homosexuality is illegal and subject to imprisonment with terms ranging up to life. In areas where Sharia or Islamic law is observed in the country Gays can face 100 lashes or death by stoning.

HELSINKI, Finland - An estimated 100 million television viewers saw an openly-Lesbian singer from Serbia win this year's Eurovision Song Contest. Thousands of fans cheered for their favourite entries at the Helsinki Arena, with Marija Serifovic's song "Molitva" ("Prayer") receiving the most votes during the show. Ukrainian drag queen Verka Serdyuchka took second place. The Eurovision Song Contest is an annual competition held among 24 European countries which each submit a song to be performed on live television. Then the entering countries cast votes for the others' songs in order to find the most popular song in the competition. . . .

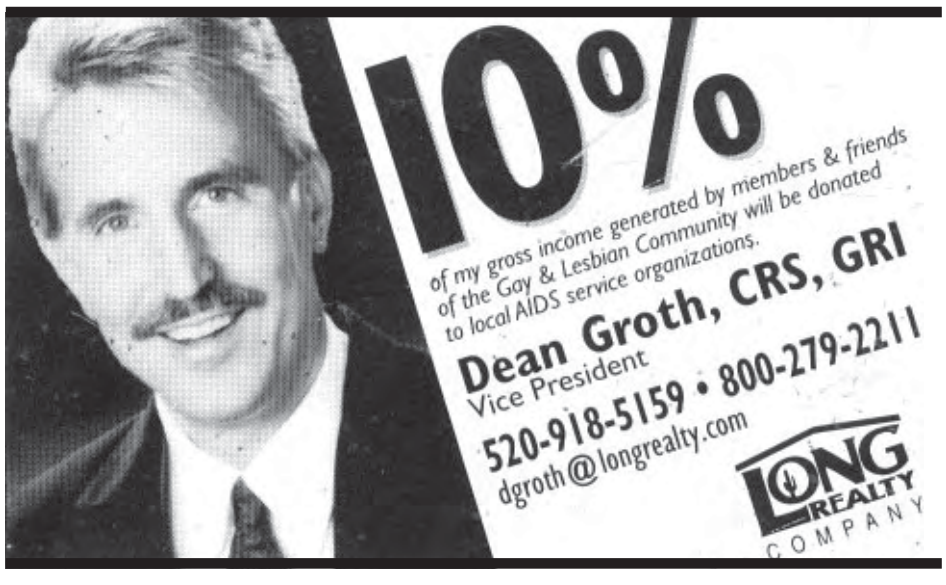
ISHFAHAN, Iran - A western LGBT organization for Gay Iranians says it has learned police have arrested as many as 87 Gays at a private house party. The Toronto-based Iranian Queer Organization (IRQO) said the arrests were made in Isfahan and that it learned of the arrests from "colleagues in Shiraz and Isfahan." IRQO said that police converged on the house where a man identified only as Farhad was celebrating his birthday. The report said that police brutally assaulted the man and others, including his parents, on May 10. Everyone at the party were arrested on the spot said IRQO. The first report put the number of those arrested at 80, the organization said, adding that more recent reports have raised the number to 87. IRQO said that on Sunday it received news that the arrestees were being tortured in jail and that their lives were in danger. Homosexuality is a capital crime under Sharia, or Islamic, law. Some international Gay rights groups believe that more than 4,000 Lesbians and Gay men have been executed since the Ayatollahs seized power in 1979. . . .

MOSCOW, Russia (Observer Update) - Mayor Yuri Luzhkov as expected has refused to allow a LGBT pride parade in Moscow later this month. Moscow LGBT Pride organizers want to hold their march on Sunday May 27. Applications for permits were filed Monday at Moscow City Hall and at the Kremlin. Pride organizers were informed of the decision on Tuesday (May 15). It is the second year in a row that Luzhkov has banned the march. The Novosti news service quotes a spokesperson for the mayor as saying that a LGBT parade would would violate the rights of the majority of Muscovites who are not Gay. There has been no response from the Kremlin on a second pride application. Organizers want to hold a memorial at Alexandrovsky Garden next to Kremlin Walls. Under Russian law only the President can grant authority for activities around the Kremlin. Pride organizer Nikolai Alekseev said only about 200 people would attend the memorial. The small number of people to attend the memorial is the result of the size of the small garden. . . .

SASKATOON, Saskatchewan - An Anglican priest has resigned rather than submit to a directive from his bishop not to officiate at Gay weddings. The Rev. Shawn Sanford Beck of the Saskatoon Native Ministry announced last month that he would marry Gay couples if asked. Same-sex marriage is legal in Canada. In an open letter, Sanford Beck said the Canadian church's ban on same-sex marriages and blessings "theologically problematic and fundamentally unjust." Bishop Rodney Andrews asked the priest to reconsider his position or risk losing his license to minister. . . .

SYDNEY, Australia (Observer Update) The Australian government is moving ahead on tight controls for people with HIV coming into the country despite opposition from HIV/AIDS and LGBT rights groups. Prime Minister John Howard says that the government is preparing legislation allowing the government to monitor and track the every move of migrants who are HIV-positive. The legislation would also give the government to power to block people with HIV. Howard said no final decision has been taken but he has asked both the Health and the Immigration ministries for suggestions on whether the measures are needed and if so how they could be implemented. Last month Howard unleashed a storm of criticism after first suggesting people with HIV should not be allowed to migrate to Australia.

SINGAPORE - A former Methodist bishop has called for greater understanding and respect for Gays in Singapore, where recent public debate has questioned whether homosexuality should be decriminalized. ''We know that the differences will exist, we only...plead for mutual respect and not for condemnation,'' the Reverend Dr. Yap Kim Hao, who in 1968 became the first Asian bishop of the Methodist Church in Singapore and Malaysia, said at a Thursday night dialogue on homosexuality and the church. The dialogue, believed to be the first between the mainstream Christian church and the Gay community in Singapore, was organized by the Gay social outreach arm of the nondenominational Free Community Church. It was attended by more than 350 people, including representatives from major Christian denominations and members of the general public. The dialogue follows rare public debate about homosexuality in Singapore. Earlier this month, the city-state's founding father, Lee Kuan Yew, questioned the country's longtime ban on Gay sex, saying the government should not act as moral police. His comments set off debates in newspapers and online.



Cash Crisis Closing In On PlanetOut

SAN FRANCISCO (Observer Update) - After becoming the dominant media company for the Gay community, PlanetOut Inc. is now just trying to survive, reported the San Francisco Chronicle. The owner of Gay.com, along with the Advocate and Out magazines, disclosed that it will run out of money before the end of the year without an infusion of cash.

The dire situation is a consequence of PlanetOut's declining subscriptions for personal ads, a shortfall in advertising revenue and trouble booking passengers on its Gay-oriented cruises. A dismal first-quarter earnings report on Wednesday hammered the reality home. Virtually every piece of the business needs fixing, according to management. In the report, PlanetOut said it lost $6.9 million in its fiscal first quarter, compared with a $132,000 loss a year earlier. Revenue totaled $16.8 million, down from $17.6 million during the same period a year ago.

Spooked by the results, investors sent PlanetOut's shares tumbling 33 percent over two days to close (Friday, May 11) at $1.64, the lowest point since the company's initial public offering three years ago. "This is deeply disappointing and concerning to me and the rest of the management team," Karen Magee, PlanetOut's chief executive officer, said in a conference call with analysts. "We've got major work to do at PlanetOut to generate the healthy revenue growth and solid earnings performance that I believe this company is capable of producing."

Magee, who joined the company in 2006, described the problems as years in the making. A turnaround, she said, will take up to 24 months, during which the company plans to fix creaky technology, reorganize and sell some assets, including its adult publishing business. Allen & Co., a consulting firm, has been hired to explore various options. PlanetOut is under the gun to come up with an additional $15 million to meet the terms of an existing loan, or face default. If it's unable to get the financing, the lender could foreclose on PlanetOut's assets, a potential death knell. The company, which had $11 million in cash and short-term investments at the end of the first quarter, said it would run out of money by year's end without additional financing.

Magee laid part of the blame for PlanetOut's poor performance on its RSVP travel agency, which offers cruises to destinations such as the Caribbean. Passenger occupancy has been less than expected and, as a result, the company has had to offer steep discounts to attract travelers and pay penalties to cruise lines. Separately, PlanetOut's advertising sales, both online and in print, have been disappointing. Subscriptions to online personals have also lagged amid growing competition from other Gay-oriented Web sites in addition to social networking giants MySpace and Facebook. In a note to investors, Richard Ingrassia, an analyst for Roth Capital Partners, said it's possible that PlanetOut would sell its travel business. Overall, he said, the company is still unchallenged in terms of reaching the Gay demographic.

Thousands Protest Partner Bill In Rome

ROME, Italy (Observer Update) - Thousands of people, including families with their children, poured into a Rome piazza Saturday (May 12) to protest a government bill that would give legal rights to unmarried couples, including Gays and Lesbians, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. The proposed legislation, which awaits approval in Parliament, has been at the center of a debate dividing Italians amid calls by Pope Benedict XVI to defend the traditional family. Hundreds of buses arrived in Rome from across Italy. A colorful crowd waving balloons, with children looking at clowns, jugglers and stilt walkers, was filling up the St. John Lateran piazza before the rally's start. Several thousand people were estimated to be in the piazza by midday. Organizers of Saturday's "Family Day" demonstration include lay Catholic groups and family associations. While the demonstration has been endorsed by Italian bishops, neither the Vatican nor the Italian bishops' conference is formally behind it.

Nevertheless, the Italian bishops conference newspaper, Avvenire, welcomed the demonstration. "Family Speaks: A Feast for All," said the paper's front-page headline. Benedict sent a clear message from Brazil, where he was traveling, on the eve of the rally, assailing popular culture for promoting sexual immorality and destroying the sanctity of marriage. "It is necessary to oppose those elements of the media that ridicule the sanctity of marriage and virginity before marriage," he said. Later, he decried the "plague" of extramarital unions in a speech to the region's bishops.

The bill at the heart of the debate was passed by Premier Romano Prodi's center-left Cabinet in Feb. It stops short of legalizing Gay marriage - as was done in Spain and other European countries. Rather, it would entitle unmarried couples who live together to hospital visiting rights, inheritance rights and others. "This bill is modest and it's just a partial solution," said Franco Grillini, president of the main Italian Gay rights group ArciGay. "I think that the problem is that the country is scared of diversity. We need to defend the dignity of our unions, and we want the government to recognize them." Critics, including the demonstration organizers, say the bill would dismantle what they consider to be the centerpiece of society: the traditional family based on marriage between man and woman. Supporters argue that the bill does not create an alternative family model, and say recognizing the basic rights of people who live outside marriage would make Italy more civilized. As the bill awaits to be taken up by Parliament, its fate is uncertain. Prodi has left lawmakers in his divided coalition free to vote according to conscience. Demonstration organizers say the rally should not be colored with political overtones or be seen as an anti-government protest. But the event has already proven embarrassing for Prodi's coalition, with at least one minister saying he would take part and other center-left leaders expected at the counter-demonstration.

UN: LGBT PWAs Subjected To Discrimination Worldwide

GENEVA, Switzerland - The disabled, Gays and Lesbians, and people living with HIV/AIDS are suffering from new and more subtle forms of workplace discrimination, the U.N. labor agency said Thursday (May 10), reported the Associated Press (AP) on 365Gay.com. Despite major advances in the fight against discrimination, gender, race and religion continue to determine how people are treated in the employment market and at the workplace, the International Labor Organization said in its flagship report on global working conditions.

Women are especially prone to labor discrimination, the ILO said in outlining only a mixed bag of success since the last installment of its "equality at work" series four years ago. "It's striking to see how everywhere in the world, irrespective of how rich or how poor a country is, or what type of political system it has, discrimination is there," said Manuela Tomei, author of the 127-page report. "Discrimination is a never-ending story of human nature. But it's something that society can no longer tolerate." While more women are joining the work force around the world, they continue in every geographical region to be paid less than men for the same jobs, the report said. And underlining the persistence of the "glass ceiling" preventing female employees from winning top posts, the agency said women still represent only "a distinct minority" in legislative and senior official or managerial positions. Their share is over 40 percent in the United States and Canada, but only 11 percent in the Middle East and even less in India and other south Asian countries. "Many countries collect wage statistics by sex but don't even publish them" because they think they are unimportant, Tomei told the AP. "This is very common in Asia."

The report, citing 2004 figures, said women earn at least 30 percent less than men for manufacturing jobs in Asian countries, including Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan. But the gap also prevails in Europe, where women in manufacturing earn less than 80 percent of what men make in Austria, Britain, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands and Switzerland. Bahrain was the worst of 37 countries in the comparison, while Sweden and Australia were the best. U.S. data was not available for comparison, the ILO said. Laws in many countries ban employers from asking women whether they plan to have children, but they are frequently flouted, Tomei said. Employers around the world are also finding more subtle means to discriminate against people based on the color of their skin or their ethnic nationality, she added. "The term 'good appearance' can simply mean light-skinned or tall, thereby excluding certain racial groups," she said. "The height requirement is another indirect form. You don't need to have a certain height to be a receptionist or sell books." The report said some simple improvements in the workplace - a Braille keyboard or use of the most rudimentary sign language - could level the playing field for a number of people suffering from impairments, such as the blind and the deaf. It said many of the 470 million people of working age with disabilities could make valuable contributions in working environments that offer them a chance.

Discrimination against Gays and Lesbians "has only recently been recognized as intolerable" by many nations, Tomei said, but noted that homosexuality remains illegal in over 75 countries, "subject to corporal punishment and even the death penalty." The use of AIDS tests is "extremely widespread" in screening job seekers, despite laws specifically targeting the practice, Tomei said. "Many people are subject to AIDS tests without even knowing it," she added. Another increasingly worrying practice is genetic screening, which employers sometimes use to eliminate prospective employees thought to be predisposed to leukemia or other genetic diseases, the report said. It said "unhealthy lifestyles" is a criterion being used to discriminate against the obese, smokers and others. The 180-nation ILO - which brings together governments, employers and unions - said the near universal condemnation of workplace discrimination has been a major step forward in the labor rights, even if the commitment to equal rights is often lukewarm. The organization's 1951 protocol demanding equal remuneration for men and women, radical at the time of its drafting, has now been signed by 163 ILO members, with a number of Arab states abstaining. Thailand and Singapore are among those yet to ratify a 1958 accord banning all forms of employment discrimination. While Americans were prominent in shaping both conventions, the United States stands alone as the only industrialized nation yet to commit to either the equal-pay or anti-discrimination accords.

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HPV Linked To Throat Cancer; Oral Sex Ups Risk

BALTIMORE, Maryland - Human papillomavirus (HPV) causes some throat cancers in both men and women, says a new study in The New England Journal of Medicine, advocate.com reported. And having multiple oral sex partners tops the list of sex practices that boost risk for the HPV-linked cancer.

"People should be reassured that oropharyngeal cancer is relatively uncommon, and the overwhelming majority of people with an oral HPV infection probably will not get throat cancer," said study author Maura Gillison, an assistant professor of oncology and epidemiology at Johns Hopkins University, in a release. Consistent condom use may reduce risk.

In Gillison's study of 100 men and women newly diagnosed with oropharyngeal cancer (located on the tonsils, back of the tongue, and throat) and 200 control patients without cancer, those who had evidence of prior HPV infection were 32 times more likely to have developed the cancer. This was much higher than the rate for smokers (three times) and drinkers (two times). Study participants who reported having more than six oral sex partners during their lifetime were 8.6 times more likely to develop the HPV-linked cancer. In a surprising twist, Gillison said the data showed no added risk for HPV carriers who smoke and drink alcohol. "It's the virus that drives the cancer," explained Gillison. "Since HPV has already disrupted the cell enough to steer its change to cancer, then tobacco and alcohol use may have no further impact."

Oral sex, including both fellatio and cunnilingus, is the main mode of transit for oral HPV infection, the investigators say, although mouth-to-mouth transmission remains possible and was not ruled out by the current study. HPVs also can be transmitted by skin contact and are found in the mucus of the genital tract, and in saliva, urine, and semen. Both men and women contract the virus—which is believed to infect a large percentage of people worldwide at some point in their lives—in equal numbers. Most HPV infections pass with few or no symptoms, but a small percentage of men and women who acquire cancer-causing or "high-risk" strains, such as HPV 16, may develop a cancer. HPV-linked cancers currently include oral, anal, cervical, vaginal, penile, and vulvar cancers.

Gillison noted that the new FDA-approved vaccine known by the trade name Gardasil can prevent genital HPV infections in girls and young women but has not yet been shown to prevent infection in boys and men. Nor is it known whether the vaccine can prevent oral HPV infections and oral cancers, which are more common in men.

U.S. Supreme Court Reverses Appeal By Gay Phoenix Man's Killer

WASHINGTON, D.C.(Observer Update) - The US Supreme Court on Monday reversed an Appeals Court decision that set aside the death sentence of an Arizona man convicted of killing a Gay Phoenix man in 1989, reported 365Gay.com.

Jeffrey Landrigan was already serving a 20 year sentence for killing an acquaintance. In 1989 he escaped from the Oklahoma prison where he was incarcerated and made his way to Phoenix. A month later, he murdered Chester Dyer, a Gay man he picked up on a street where hustlers hang out. Dyer invited Landrigan home and while they were drinking beer in Dyer's apartment Landrigan strangled him with an electrical cord and repeatedly punctured him with a screwdriver. Landrigan was later arrested, charged, and sentenced to death for Dyer's slaying.

A new lawyer, Dale Baich, appealed, arguing that Landrigan did not receive a competent defense and that Landrigan might have received a life term instead of a death sentence had his trial lawyer submitted evidence that he was predisposed to violence and suffered brain damage that made him unable to appreciate his crimes.

A study of his family history shows that many relatives committed violent crimes, including his father, who is on Arkansas' death row. Baich added that Landrigan's mother constantly drank moonshine when she was pregnant with Landrigan. None of that evidence was presented at trial because Landrigan himself had directed his original lawyer not to present the evidence.

Justice Clarence Thomas, writing for the majority in a 5-4 decision, said that the appeals court should have deferred to lower court ruling in the case. Court records from the original trial submitted to the Supreme Court show that at his sentencing hearing, Landrigan repeatedly interrupted his lawyer's efforts to present evidence on his behalf.

Landrigan finally told the judge that there weren't any mitigating circumstances to share. But after he was sentenced Landrigan claimed that if his lawyer had explained his plan better to him, he would have agreed to allow him present the evidence on his family background. The Arizona Supreme Court, a federal district judge and a three-judge panel of the 9th Circuit all rejected Landrigan's argument. But the full appeals court reversed, saying Landrigan was entitled to a hearing on his claim that his lawyer was ineffective.

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Student-Run Lacrosse Team Lets Gay Coach Go, Says Sexuality Not An Issue

COLUMBIA, Missouri (Observer Update) - Openly Gay University of Missouri head lacrosse coach Kyle Hawkins was informed Friday, May 4, that his contract will not be renewed for the 2007-'08 school year.Hawkins was informed of his termination in a meeting with a Missouri lacrosse leadership group that consisted of captains of the team, faculty advisors, assistant coaches, and a representative of the University, Outsports.com reported. Hawkins said the group asked him to resign and he refused. His contract will run out May 31. The Missouri lacrosse team is not a varsity sport, but rather a club team affiliated with the school. There are no scholarships, and the decision-making of the team rests largely on the shoulders of the players, not school administrators or coaches.

"The players were the major part of it," the team's faculty advisor, Karen Mitchell, told Outsports. Mitchell is a graduate student at Missouri who said she has never played lacrosse. "There were comments from players, parents, and I had concerns. But our biggest concerns were the opinions of the current players." The commissioner of the Great Rivers Lacrosse Conference, of which Missouri is a part, Brian Mosher told Outsports that decisions like these are not a surprise coming from student-run sports teams. "You see these kids who think they know better than anybody else, and I don't think they think long-term as to what the ramification on the program is going to be," Mosher said. "Missouri is taking three big steps backward, and they're going to have a hard time in the next four to five years being competitive at all. I just think it was not a very wise move, a bad decision for the program overall. In a year or two, they will regret it."

Hawkins first contacted Outsports in 2004 when he was looking for advice on how to balance his sexuality and coaching. Soon after, he joined the Outsports discussion board anonymously as "Frustrated Coach" and for almost two years received advice from Outsports community members. He publicly revealed his identity and sexuality in June 2006. Asked his opinion on whether his homosexuality in part led to his firing, Hawkins would not comment. Mitchell said it was never a part of the conversation. "I can tell you that I spent nearly every game with this team in the fall and in the spring season," Mitchell told Outsports. "I got to know the guys very well. I've had a lot of one-on-one and small-group conversations with them. I can tell you that his sexuality has been a non-issue with this team. The issues for this team have been Kyle's performance as a coach." Mitchell said the team considered letting Hawkins go last year, but decided not to because he came out of the closet. "If they let him go last year, it would have been, 'Oh my god, he came out and then they fired him,' " Mitchell said. "They didn't want that to be the perception. So, his contract was renewed with the understanding that this year he needed to improve his coaching ability."

Mosher said that Kyle's sexuality has never been an issue for him, and as far as he knows it has not been an issue for anyone in the conference. "I can say, within our conference board meetings, it's not a topic of discussion," Mosher said. "Even in my conversations with coaches individually, I haven't heard anything. At Missouri State you have coach Daren Turner, who's a Southern Baptist minister. And even in my conversations with Daren, it never came up. The only time it came up was somebody called me, as the conference director, to get my take on it, and I said it has no bearing on anything. Anything about him personally is irrelevant to me."

Hawkins said he was given eight primary reasons for the team's decision not to renew his contract. Those included, according to Hawkins, some players' unhappiness with his practice structure; that the team felt he had a negative reputation outside the school; and that some of his actions have reflected negatively on the team. Hawkins said that the reasons are ridiculous. "I've been here for nine years," Hawkins told Outsports, "and I have a ridiculously good record." According to Hawkins, his nine-year record at Missouri is 127-58. This past season Missouri lacrosse had a record of 6-9; it was the team's first losing season under his tutelage. Of the 26 players listed on the team Web site, 18 are underclassmen. "The win-loss record wasn't even a consideration," Mitchell said. "It didn't even come up when were talking about whether or not to renew his contract." Mitchell said that the decision stemmed primarily from discontent with Hawkins expressed by players on the team. "A lot of the team members felt that practices weren't being well-utilized," Mitchell said. "They were doing a lot of unnecessary routines and exercises and not enough kinds of practices of things that they did need, like shooting exercises. We felt he wasn't doing a good job as a coach."

Mosher was shocked to hear questions about Hawkins' coaching ability. "That's nonsense," Mosher said. "He's coached high school lacrosse and coached at Missouri for 10 years and been successful at it. He's coached camps, and he's had big varsity coaches come work their camp for him. And he's had kids come to his own camp and return the next year. I would say he's a very good teacher." This past season, Missouri had the top scorer in the Great Rivers Lacrosse Conference, Blaine Skrainka, and the No. 5 scorer in Chris Nagel. Eight Tigers received Division A All-GRLC Team honors. Mitchell said another issue with Hawkins was that he did not represent the school or the team well on road trips, and that he did not have a good reputation. "If that's one of their claims, I certainly disagree," Mosher said.

Mosher said Hawkins is one of the strongest advocates of inclusion in lacrosse, and because of that he sometimes butted heads with coaches and programs that Mosher described as more elitist. "Kyle is very passionate about the game and his suggestions," Mosher added. "Kyle wasn't an ass about anything, but he wasn't one to back down because you disagreed with him. And ultimately, his opinion was often the one they chose down the road." Hawkins said he has spoken to other coaches in the conference and that they have expressed "shock" at his

Continued on Page Eighteen

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Radio Waves

LOS ANGELES - Univision Radio, part of the Spanish-speaking division of NBC Universal, suspended a host after he uttered anti-gay slurs on the air May 1, reported advocate.com. Luis Jimenez has been barred from the airwaves for one month after he and his cohosts performed a song titled "Las Patas" ("The Dykes"). The song included several gay slurs and ridiculed lesbians. Later in the broadcast, a stereotypical gay character was introduced, whom Jimenez ridiculed and said, "Cállate, pato" ("Shut up, faggot").

Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) president Neil G. Giuliano said May 4 that the actions taken against Jimenez were timely and appreciated. "GLAAD applauds Univision Radio for doing the right thing and taking responsible action against Jimenez's vulgar and bigoted comments," Giuliano said in a statement. "We call on all Spanish-language broadcasters to require the same accountability from all their on-air talent." GLAAD plans to meet May 17 with Univision Radio and Jimenez's production team. Prior to his stint for Univision Radio, Jimenez spent 13 years as a DJ for New York City station WSKQ-FM, where he was well-known for making homophobic comments. The Luis Jimenez Show airs on Univision Radio in markets such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, Dallas and Chicago. . . .

A New York radio station that ignored criticism after two of his morning show stars called a musician a "fag" on air has fired the shock jocks following a prank phone call to a local Chinese restaurant that was filled with ethnic slurs. The firing of "JV" and "Elvis", announced Saturday (May 12) by WFNY comes three weeks after the pair were suspended when Chinese Americans expressed their outrage. The call was made by the shock jocks the day after WFAN's Don Imus made his comments about the Rutgers women's basketball team and was replayed a week after Imus was fired. Both stations are owned by CBS Radio. In the mock call, a woman employee at the Chinese restaurant was told by the caller that he would like to "come to your restaurant" to see her naked, especially the body part he referred to as "hot, Asian, spicy." He then attempts to order "flied lice," and uses a series of racial slurs and four lettered words. "The Dog House with JV and Elvis," hosted by Jeff Vandergrift and Dan Lay, "will no longer be broadcast," CBS Radio spokeswoman Karen Mateo said Saturday (May 12).

"This is a victory not only for the Asian-American community, but for all communities who find themselves constant targets of racist and sexist programming," said Jeanette Wang, an executive with the Organization of Chinese Americans. When the two broadcasters were initially suspended it came on the day a spokesperson from the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation was to have gone on the show for an apology for the homophobic remarks that the station had originally laughed off. The homophobic slurs occurred during an interview with local unsigned band called A Brief Smile. During the interview bassist John Carnes was critical of the station and the shock jocks took umbrage at the remark referring to the musician "Fag Number 1" Carnes said that he was bisexual and was asked, "How many badges of honor do you have in your colon?" He was eventually kicked out of the studio while being told that his "sexuality makes him a bitch." The hosts also rated the band's song poorly, calling it a "little faggy." GLAAD called station Program Director, John Mainelli several times before reaching him. At one point, said GLAAD Sr. Director of Media Programs, Rashad Robinson, a receptionist hung up on a GLAAD senior staff member and told him to "stop calling." Eventually, Robinson said, Mainelli did call back, was unapologetic about the anti-gay tirade, defending the radio segment as "comedy."

Connecticut Supreme Court Hears Arguments In G/L Marriage Case

HARTFORD, Connecticut (Observer Update) - The Connecticut Supreme Court heard arguments Monday (May 14) in a case involving 8 same-sex couples seeking the right to marry, 365Gay.com reported. Last July a lower court ruled that said same-sex couples do not need marriage because they already are entitled to civil unions.

Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, the Boston-based legal group that won same-sex marriage in Massachusetts, told the court that civil unions creates a "separate but equal" situation in which same-sex couples become second class citizens. "What the state calls something does matter," attorney Bennett Klein told the court. "The only possible reason that the legislature denied marriage here and created a separate institution just for one minority group was because they thought marriage meant something."

Klein argued that denying same-sex couples access to marriage violates the state constitution in two ways: under the equal protection provision and the clause guaranteeing due process. "How can it reasonably be done or logically be done to sort of delink the long-standing, deeply held institutional aspect of marriage, that it's a union between a man and a woman, and then define marriage as something other than that for purposes of this argument?" asked Justice Richard Palmer. "It is really a relationship of two legal equals based on mutual consent by which they take responsibility for each other," replied Klein. "And that relationship is protected by the state." The state Attorney General's staff argued that the landmark civil-union statute is sufficient. The Attorney General's lawyer told the court that the rights and benefits same-sex couples have are identical to those opposite-sex couples have in the state.

The court was packed by both supporters and opponents of same-sex marriage. Outside the court Peter Wolfgang a spokesperson for the conservative Family Institute of Connecticut said the issue of Gay marriage should be left up to voters. "We hope the court will realize that something this radical should be left to the people, that something this disruptive, divisive and controversial should be left to the people to decide and not handed down from above," he said. The court did not indicate when it would issue a ruling, but a decision is expected later this year.

POLITICS 2007

by Mark R. Kerr

UAFA And ETHA Introduced; DADT Languishing

As previously reported Uniting American Families Act (UAFA) (formerly the Permanent Partners Immigration Act), was introduced in Congress Tuesday (May 8), by Senator Patrick Leahy, D-VT and Representative Jerrold Nadler, D-NY, for consideration in the House of Representatives, as H.R. 2221 and in the Senate, as S. 1328

If enacted, UAFA would require bi-national same-sex couples meet the same requirements as bi-national, married couples. Some requirements include providing proof of the relationship, including affidavits from friends and family or evidence of financial support.

UAFA will apply the same standards to same-sex couples that the United States applies to opposite-sex couples where one member is seeking to bring a foreign partner into the country. As with current immigration laws for married couples, the UAFA would impose harsh penalties for fraud, including up to five years in prison and as much as $250,000 in fines. In addition, if the partnership is dissolved in less than two years, the legal immigrant status of the partner would be revoked.

Under the measure, a permanent partner is any person 18 or older who is: in a committed, intimate relationship with another adult 18 or older in which both parties intend a lifelong commitment; financially interdependent with that other person; not married to, or in a permanent partnership with, anyone other than that other person; and unable to contract with that person a marriage cognizable under the Immigration and Nationality Act. H.R. 2221 and S. 1328 have been assigned to the Judiciary Committee's in both chambers for hearings.

S. 860, the Early Treatment for HIV Act was introduced and has been referred to the Senate Finance Committee.

If approved The Early Treatment for HIV Act (ETHA) would permit state Medicaid programs to cover low-income, HIV positive Americans before they develop AIDS. The act would amend Title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide states with the option of covering low-income HIV infected individuals as "categorically needy."

States taking advantage of this option would be provided with an enhanced federal Medicaid match. The legislation is very similar to the successful effort in 2000 that gave states the option to provide Medicaid coverage to women diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer through a federally funded program.

ETHA could realize federal savings of $31.7 million over a ten-year period. Since early treatment for HIV-positive individuals would both delay their need for more expensive forms of treatment and delay the time at which they would become medically disabled, enacting ETHA could produce savings for the SSI, Social Security Disability Insurance Savings, Medicaid, and Medicare programs. Additionally, ETHA would lessen the strain on other federal AIDS programs, such as those funded by the Ryan White CARE Act.

On Tuesday, May 15, former President Jimmy Carter, recipient of the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize, has called on Congress to revisit the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" ban on lesbian, gay and bisexual personnel.

In a statement to Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), President Carter said, "It is my long-held belief that every human being deserves dignity and respect. I often heard that phrase during my years at the United States Naval Academy, I carried it out as Commander-in-Chief, and it continues to animate my human rights work around the globe today. The nation's commitment to human rights requires that lawmakers revisit 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,' the current policy that prevents lesbians, gays and bisexuals from serving openly in our armed forces."

Current legislation to overturn "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," before the 110th Congress is H.R. 1246, which has been assigned to the House Armed Services Committee's, subcommittee on Military Personnel, for which no hearings have been scheduled as of press time. Representative Marty Meehan, D-MA, is the primary sponsor of H.R. 1246. Meehan recently resigned from Congress to take the position of President of the University of Massachusetts.

To express your support for these and other measures of concern, call your Senator or Representative in Washington, D.C. at (800) 862-5530, (800) 833-6354, (866) 340-9281, (866) 220-0044 or go online to: hrcactioncenter.org/actioncenter/home.html, thetaskforce.org/hatecrimes07/hatecrimes07.html or go to aclu.org, click on the link to their action center. This 110th Congress will be in session (pending the inevitable vacations) through at least till Nov. 2008.

In Their Own Words

"I think every good Christian ought to kick Falwell right in the ass." - Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater in Time Magazine, July 20, 1981, responding In response to Moral Majority founder Jerry Falwell's opposition to the nomination of Sandra Day O'Connor to the Supreme Court, of which Falwell had said, "Every good Christian should be concerned,"

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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

Nuevo Nuevo

by Lee Thorn

Tucson's downtown redevelopment program, formerly known as Rio Nuevo, has been given a new name. That ought to solve the problem of the program's accomplishing almost nothing in the last several years. I'm not sure what the new name is. I hope it's catchy. They didn't ask me, but I think a good new name would be "Nuevo Nuevo." That would provide some continuity while retaining the theme of renewal.

Heavens to Betsy! Am I the only guy in town who thinks this is hilarious? It reminds me of the time the city changed the name of a portion of Miracle Mile to Oracle several years ago. A local politician actually got on TV and claimed, with a straight face, that the name change would make the prostitutes leave the area. Can't you just imagine the sex workers telling each other, "We can't possibly continue to ply our trade on a street with such an unexciting name."

But there's more than a name change. They're also going to have a new public-private group to oversee what I'm calling Nuevo Nuevo. That job, overseeing public projects, used to be done by something called "the government." My contention, now as in the past, is that the problem with Rio Nuevo isn't primarily with oversight; the problem is with management.

Some might find "management" an overly vague term, so let's replace it with "technicians." Rio Nuevo has never lacked for politicians who could talk a blue streak about it. It has lacked for technicians who knew how to make it happen. One of the central problems with the project has been the failure of the press and the pols to understand the difference between the jobs of politicians and technicians.

The distinction might be more accessible if we thought in terms of a simple task. Instead of thinking about urban redevelopment, let's think about getting horses into a corral. If that were the task, the pols would stay the heck away from the horses and the corral. They'd hire people who were experts in getting horses into corrals. The experts would use their specialized skills and knowledge to determine whether to use carrots or cattle prods or some combination of both. The pols would check to see how many horses were successfully put into the corral, how long it took and how much it cost. They'd then decide whether they were getting reasonable results for the taxpayers' money or whether they should fire their technicians and hire a fresh batch who might do the job for less.

This is not rocket science. The key that nobody in city government can quite get his hands on is known as "division of labor." You have technicians who keep up with the state of their various arts on one side and pols who find, hire, evaluate the performance of, and fire technicians. It's not just the pols who don't understand division of labor; the local press doesn't understand it either. This leads to the media's consistent failure to pin the tail on the donkey. Example: I recently read a better than average story about the new arena whose funding the city just approved. Having seen a drawing of the building someplace, and figuring that the reporter who wrote the story would be conversant with the background information, I shot him an e-mail in which I asked the simple question, "Who is responsible for approving the architectural design of the new arena?" I expected, or maybe just hoped for, a name and a title, something like Mr. Bill Smith, City Architecture Guy.

I didn't get that. The reporter "answered" my e-mail without answering my question. Why? I don't think that he didn't answer my question because he was too lazy to find the answer, assuming there is one. I sincerely believe that he didn't answer the question of WHO IS RESPONSIBLE because he doesn't think it matters. When you don't have clear divisions of labor, how can you hope to have clear designations of responsibility?

Far be it from me to rub salt in the wounds of the former Rio Nuevo, but think of the series of fantasies that have been what passes for its substance – the giant fish tank, the bridge to nowhere, the science museum filled with, science, I guess, the downtown tunnel that would create the world's most expensive platform for, something interesting, I guess. Why isn't anybody embarrassed? Why isn't anybody out of a job? Why? Because somebody thinks we can fix everything by coming up with a new name.

(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.)

George Michael Pleads Guilty

LONDON (Observer Update) - George Michael pleaded guilty Tuesday to a charge of driving while unfit from drug use, the Associated Press reported on advocate.com. The 43-year-old singer said in court that he was guilty due to ''tiredness and prescribed drugs.'' A charge of operating a vehicle while under the influence of drugs was dropped by the Crown Prosecution Service. Sentencing was deferred until May 30, pending more blood tests.

Michael, whose real name is George Panayiotou, was arrested in the early hours of Oct. 2, 2006 after police responded to complaints that a car was blocking an intersection in North London. Police said he was found slumped over the wheel of the car. ''I am perfectly aware that I did something very wrong and got into my car when I was unfit to drive,'' Michael told the court. ''I was not in my normal physical state, and I'm perfectly prepared to accept the correct punishment for that and I would have accepted it a long time ago.''

''It was fairly predictable considering how much work I had done that week,'' he later said. Michael claimed he was unaware at the time that he could accept a punishment without admitting guilt and dispose of the matter without going to court.

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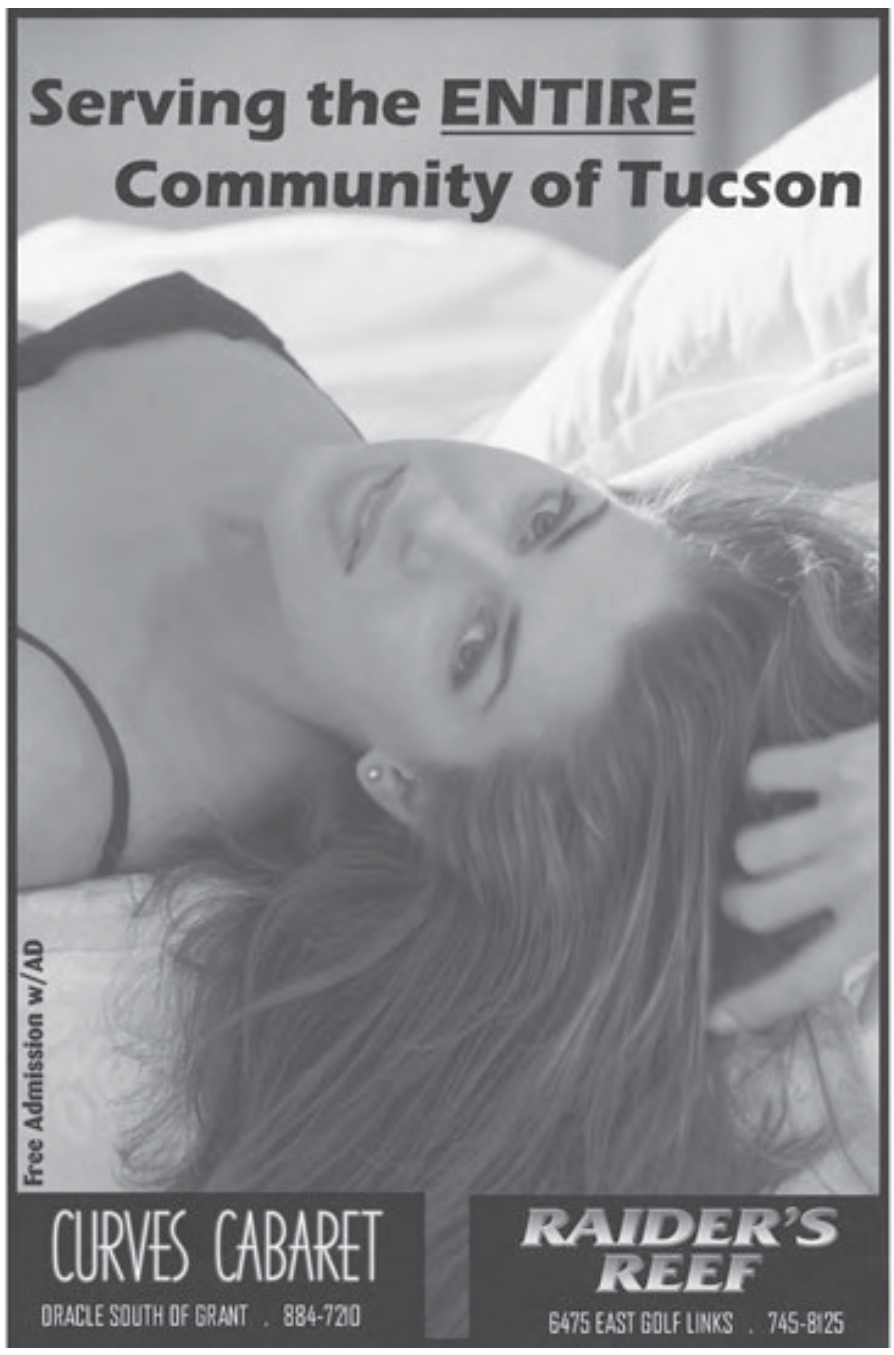

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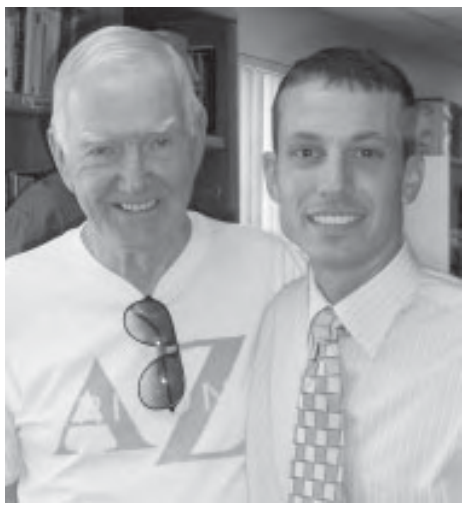

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Broward Sheriff: No Charges Against Airport Worker Following Homophobic Message

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida (Observer Update) - An Airport worker who admitted to being the person responsible for using the airport's loudspeaker system to issue what is described as a homophobic message has now been fired and the Broward Sheriff's office says no charges will be laid, 365Gay.com. Jethro Monestime, 23, a luggage attendant employed by Superior Aircraft Services, admitted to his bosses Monday (May 7) that he was behind the playing of a taped recitation of a verse from Leviticus condemning homosexuality. (story)

Late Monday (May 7) Monestime was fired. The Sheriff's Office has reportedly turned over its material to the State Attorney's Office. But Tuesday afternoon (May 8) the Sheriff's Office told 365Gay.com that no charges will be laid. "The Broward Sheriff's Office investigated to help determine who had broadcasted the message over the airport's P.A. system, but no actual crime was committed so no charges are pending," said Keyla Concepcion, a spokesperson for the Sheriff's Office..

Monestime, meanwhile, has denied he is a religious zealot but does call himself a "prankster." The Old Testament verse that he played over the loudspeaker system states that: "If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death." He said the tape was sent to him as a joke by a friend. "I just want to apologize to everybody who was involved, especially the couple," Monestime told the Sun-Sentinel. "I didn't think it was going to hurt anybody."

Waymon Hudson and Anthony Niedwiecki, a Gay couple returning from a trip to Chicago, were waiting for their luggage in Terminal 3 when they heard the announcement on the public address system. Niedwiecki, a Nova Southeastern University law professor, issued a formal complaint the following day to airport authorities. Broward County Mayor Josephus Eggelletion issued a public apology on behalf of the county and said if the culprit turned out to be a county employee they would be fired. Niedwiecki said he still is not convinced the tape was broadcast as a prank. "It was a death threat," he told the Sun-Sentinel. "I appreciate the fact that police followed up on this."

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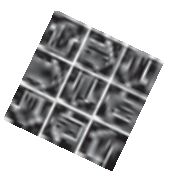

HOROSCOPES

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A personal reassessment is in the works as three personal planets make their move this week. Venus enters Cancer, Mars enters Aries and Mercury enters Gemini. Off we go, with a song in our heart and a spring in our step. How high will you bounce? It depends how much rubber you are packing.

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Proud Rams make an excellent impression on new acquaintances. Not only do you know just the right things to say to sway the crowd, you also know how to energize any dull activity. But gadflying around town becomes a bore. Center yourself and make your home an entertainment center in every sense of the word. How rowdy can you get? It depends on the crowdy.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Do you hear the static of activity going on in the background? While it sounds like a low level buzz, as the week progresses it heats up to roar. Don't sit back and wait for the drones to rush by. Queer Bulls need to get off their tails and move with the common surge. Do good for the many and reap tangible benefits for yourself. Ah, will you also share the credit?

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Every piece of cosmic debris wants to gravitate into your orbit this week. And why not? Pink Twins are charming, disarming and ready to launch a few landing rockets. Spread your charisma around among known and soon-to-be-known groups. There is a catch though (isn't there always?). All this pomp and circumstance doesn't come cheap. Oh course some do at times.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Pink Crabs make excellent first impressions this week if they concentrate on their "look". Save those leather chaps for Saturday though and dust off those pinstripes for Monday. Turn your charm onto the corporate sharks and see who takes your bait. The urge for a corporate takeover is too great to defer. They say it's lonely at the top, but I hear that it pays rather well.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

Global enterprises with humanitarian or charitable component hold a certain allure for you this week. Good; it's time that you expanded your outreach. Proud Lions not only feel good doing good, they can also increase their platonic popularity. Impress the crowd with you innate sensitivity and ability to connect. Well at least to pretend to be interested in others.

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)

Queer Virgins are hot to trot and ready for a full gallop. Yeeha! Grab your special someone and carouse. For those on the hoof, you may find a choice of likely candidates in the running among your usual crowd. You are welcomed into the social whirlpool and become the center of attention. Is there a jewel for you among the rocks? Or perhaps two?

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

There is something in the air that sniffs of long term commitment. Either that or you have something growing in the refrigerator. Solidify relationships - both business and personal - and set goals by surveying the lay of the land in professional and personal landscapes. Is your social garden overgrown? Hire a nubile gardener to help dig you Out.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

Your career catapults into international terrain when a plethora of personal planets all change signs this week. Proud Scorps may burn the midnight oil in their cubicles initially, buried under job minutia, but that's just preparation for future global expansion. Maybe you are considering a venture onto the internet? Why not? I always knew that you love to cruise.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)

Mix a little fun in your relationships this week. It is so easy for Gay Archers to either fall into a domestic rut or break out and seek stimulation elsewhere. Avoid the temptation to wander. Concentrate, instead, on increasing the creativity in current relationships. Single Sadges can find new and interesting ways to meet and greet. And the more, the better.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)

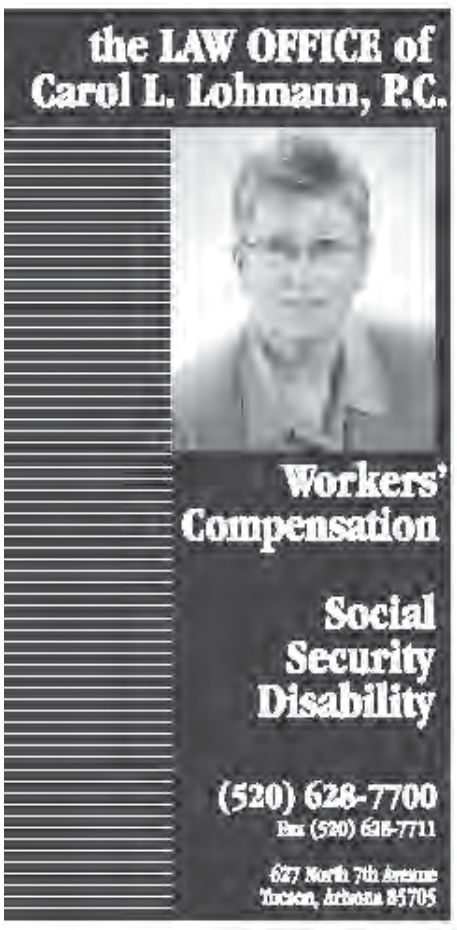
Pink Caps are at a crossroads with family and lovers. Good - you have oodles of ideas of how to synergize and compromise. Not only can you compartmentalize annoyances and unreasonable demands from here and there, you also create greater harmony in your living space by sprucing up your domain. A new broom sweeps clean; don't sweep it under the rug!

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

Aqueerians are ready to grab the microphone and make their ideas known. Speak loud and queer; your opinions count. As long as you conspire to get into others' faces, why not make a sterling impression and get into shape for a festive summer? Review and revise your exercise regime and see how much fun you can have. Suggestion: Don't do push ups alone.

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MAR. 20)

A spotlight shines on your finances this week. Wise Guppies can harness this rare practicality and start to build a successful fiscal empire. Of course you can always be lured by the prospect of a garishly good and expensive time with some worm. Don't swallow the bait. You may find yourself netted, deboned and fried. Well, I guess things could be worse.



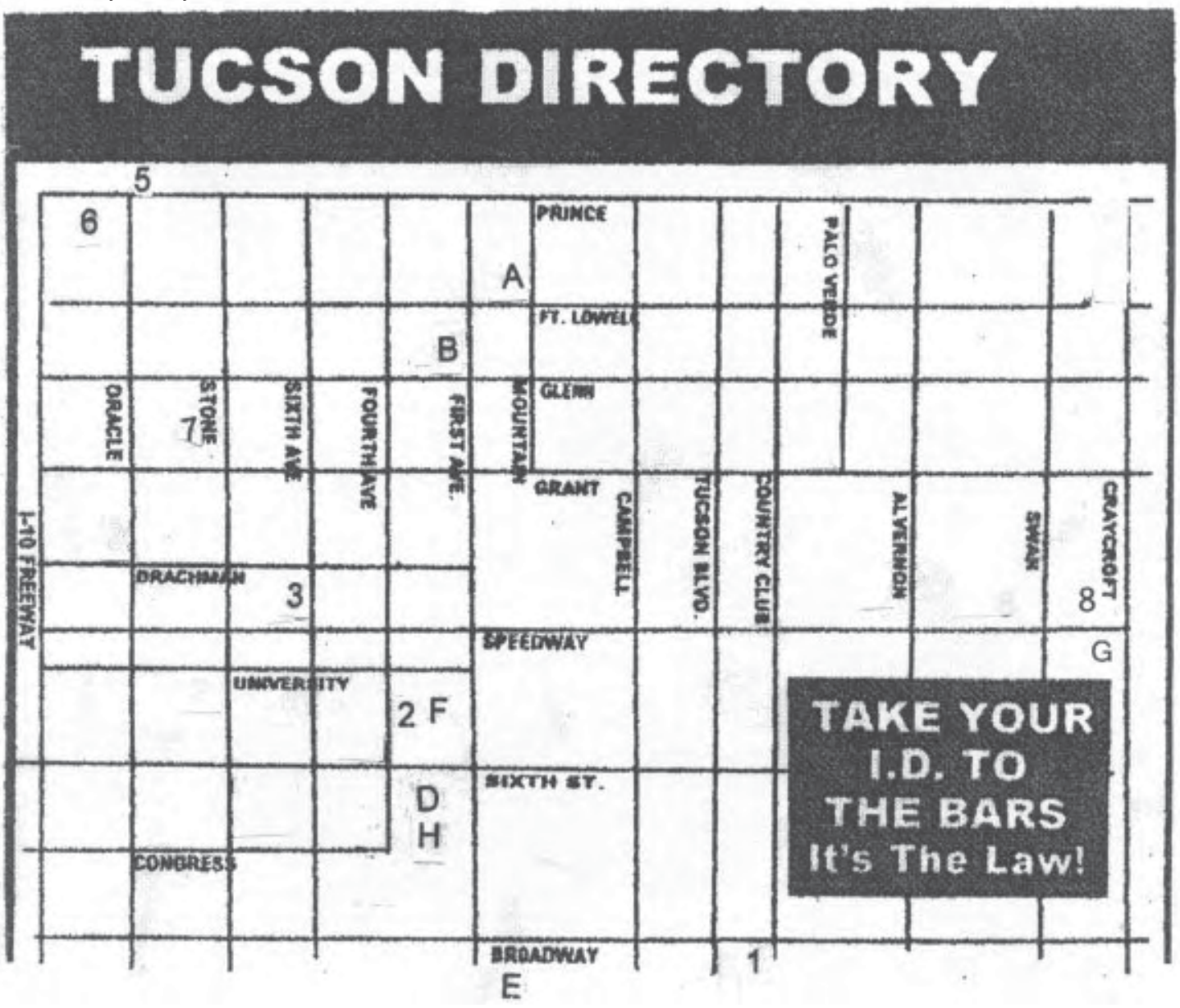
Ending the violence.

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

TUCSON DIRECTORY



Community Bars

1. THE BIZ
   2900 E. Broadway 318-4838
2. IBT'S
   616 N. 4th Ave. 882-3053
3. VENTURE-N
   1239 N. 6th Ave. 882-8224
5. WOODY'S
   3710 N. Oracle Road, 292-6702
6. HOWL AT THE MOON
   915 W. Prince Rd. 293-7339
7. YARD DOG SALOON
   2449 N. Stone, 624-3858
8. COLORS FOOD & SPIRITS
   5305 E. Speedway 323-1840

Community Organizations

A. MCC - METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
3269 N. Mountain - 292-9151

B. CORNERSTONE FELLOWSHIP
2902 N. Geronimo - 622-4626

D. WINGSPAN - 425 E. 7th St. - 624-1779

E. S.A.A.F. - 375 S. Euclid Ave. - 628-7223

F. RAINBOW PLANET COFFEE HOUSE
606 N. 4th Ave. - 620-1770

G. TIHAN -Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network
1101 N. Craycroft, Ste 301. 299-6647

H. EON YOUTH CENTER 620-6245

Non Bar Calendar

Thursday, May 17
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m.Triangle Tribe-A Men's Circle. According to a recent study, very few people have as many close friends as they would like. Are you as connected with other men as you want to be? Do you get the support you need for issues in your life? Do you wish you had more meaningful friendships and relationships with other men? Join like-minded men at Wingspan to share feelings, thoughts and ideas in a safe, respectful space. For the same experience with both straight and gay men, join us at the regular Circle of Men meetings. Call Tom at 591-2828 for dates and times.

Friday, May 18
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m.MSN Pizza Night! Usually the 3rd Friday of each month. This month there was no willing host amoung the MSN membership. Plan to attend the next MSN Pizza night on June 15th, and please consider becoming an MSN Pizza Night host.

Tucson Prime Timers, Cocktails - 5:30 PM, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Saturday, May 19
#1 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:30a.m. Join Robert for a morning of Volleyball. This is played for fun, and you'll get to know some nice guys as you play. Two great ways to work on your game! For details and directions, please call Robert at 400-1376.

#2 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m.Shuffle over for Floating Pinochle every Saturday of the month except for first Saturday MSN Monthly Pot Luck. Contact Steve at 664-2076.

Sunday, May 20
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:30p.m. Dinner Out at one of Tucson's Ultra-Fabulous Buffets. For reservations and directions, contact Thom 623-2941, e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com , or Ken at 294-6606. Please contact Thom or Ken by Sunday at Noon to facilitate reservations. Price is usually under $10. Check the Yahoo MSN on-line calendar for the scheduled place. The venue is rotated to include all parts of town, and may occasionally be held at a full-service menu restaurant.

Tucson Prime Timers, Brunch - Noon, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Sign up for the monthly Group Men's Massage in its 18th year. Spend 2 hours on the 3rd Sunday of each month in bliss with other men. Call Marc at 881-4582 to sign up and for information.

Monday, May 21
Tucson Prime Timers, Lunch - 12:30 P.M., The Wildcat House, 800 N. Stone Ave.

#1Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:30p.m.Meet Stephen and the group monthly for dinner and discussion of an agreed upon work of gay fiction. Currently, the group meets the 3rd Monday each month at Gourmet of China, 2544 S. Kolb Road. Contact Stephen at 546-4047.

#2Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Newsletter Night! Join Arlan and crew to help get the MSN newsletter in the mail, plus find out next month's events. [This month the movie is called SHOCK TO THE SYSTEM] Munchies and soft drinks provided. Contact Arlan: 323-7414.

Tuesday, May 22
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Enjoy an evening of Bridge twice a month on the second and fourth Tuesdays. Call Jim at 790-8735 for details.

Wednesday, May 23
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Canasta hosted by Merlin and Lee at 207-5336. MSN Canasta is played every Wednesday at 7pm, but check back here for the specific host.

The Man to Man Party is all about relationships, and enjoying life in a holistically healthy way. Call Marc, 881-4582.

Thursday, May 24th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m.Triangle Tribe-A Men's Circle. According to a recent study, very few people have as many close friends as they would like. Are you as connected with other men as you want to be? Do you get the support you need for issues in your life? Do you wish you had more meaningful friendships and relationships with other men? Join like-minded men at Wingspan to share feelings, thoughts and ideas in a safe, respectful space. For the same experience with both straight and gay men, join us at the regular Circle of Men meetings. Call Tom at 591-2828 for dates and times.

Friday, May 25
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00 p.m. Merlin and Lee host a word for word fun evening of Scrabble. If you don't know how to play, they will be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please contact Merlin and Lee at 207-5336. If you're loquacious, erudite, or a wordsmith; this man's game just may be a triple word score for you!

Tucson Prime Timers, Cocktails - 5:30 PM, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Saturday, May 26
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m.Shuffle over for Floating Pinochle every Saturday of the month except for first Saturday Monthly Pot Luck. Phone host Marvin at 745-0304 for location, driving directions, and info.

Sunday, May 27
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:30p.m. Dinner Out at one of Tucson's Ultra-Fabulous Buffets. For reservations and directions, contact Thom 623-2941, e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com , or Ken at 294-6606. Please contact Thom or Ken by Sunday at Noon to facilitate reservations. Price is usually under $10. Check the Yahoo MSN on-line calendar for the scheduled place. The venue is rotated to include all parts of town, and may occasionally be held at a full-service menu restaurant.

Tucson Prime Timers, Brunch - Noon, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-2am; $2 Pitchers til 10pm and Rotating Shot Specials all night; Latin Music with live DJ at 9:30pm. Get ready!!! L Word Season 4 begins Jan. 7th at 8pm!

COLORS - Open 11am - 11pm Champagne Brunch 11am - 2pm with choice of complimentary mimosa, Bloody Mary or Screwdriver. Dickie Steed on piano during brunch. Brunch served until 2pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm $3.50 Skyy Cocktails, $2.75 Domestics and well. Reduced price appetizers. Dinner served until10pm.

HOWL AT THE MOON -Open at 10am. $2.50 Smirnoff Vodkas all day. Free Texas Hold-'Em Poker Tournaments at 4:00, and 7:00 pm. Play for points and prizes - no cash involved.

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

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

WOODY'S - Open 11am.Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events); Brunch 11:30am-2:30pm; Back Pocket Patio Bar 2pm til 2am. Beer Bust 2-7pm; Bar-B-Que 5-9pm; Karaoke with Michael D. 9p.m.; DJ Jeff in the Back Pocket 9pm; Drag Bingo every other Sunday 8-9pm

MONDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-10pm; Drink what you want with ½ priced Happy Hour. Poke-Her Monday! Free card lessons 5pm. Free Texas Hold-'em Tourney at 6pm; Prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd Places. Happy Hour pricing & Free Food

COLORS - Closed on Mondays.

HOWL AT THE MOON – Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour all day & night with $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Kitchen closed. $3 taco & tostada bar 4-8 pm. GLBT Movie Nite with shows at 6 & 8 pm,. Free pool all day.

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

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio 6pm. Free pool til 4pm. $2.75 Skyy Martinis 4-8pm..

WOODY'S - Open Noon til 2am. Happy Hour Noon-8pm (excl spec events) Karaoke with Michael D. 9pm

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. 50¢ off any Top Shelf Rum until 8pm. Beer Bust 4-8pm. Patio Bar opens 7pm

TUESDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-10pm; Drink What You Want with ½ priced Happy Hour. Monthly Wine Tasting on 2nd Tuesday of every month at 5:30pm. Please RSVP by the first Monday of the Month. Wine bottles will be for sale after the tasting at a special discounted price.

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7 $3.50 Skyy cocktails, $2.75 Domestics and well and reduced price appetizers. Dinner served until 10pm.

HOWL AT THE MOON – Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Kitchen open 4-9pm. Free Texas Hold-Em Poker for women only at 6:30 p.m. Play for points and prizes - no cash involved. Tequila Nite with $2.50 well tequila & margaritas, 75¢ off call tequilas.

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

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio 7pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Spaghetti Nite (2nd Tuesday every month $2.00).

WOODY'S - Open Noon til 2am. Happy Hour Noon-8pm (excl spec events) 80s Nite with Alex 8-close

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am.50¢ off any Top Shelf Tequila until 8pm Dart Tourney at 9am. Beer Bust 4-8pm. Patio Bar Opens 7pm.

WEDNESDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-2am; Drink what You Want with ½ priced Happy Hour 3-8pm; 18 to Party, 21 to Drink! 18 & Over Night w/DJ Shorty at 9:30pm! Rotating Shot Specials all night.

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3.50 Skyy cocktails, $2.75 Domestics and well and reduced price appetizers. Dinner served until 10pm.

HOWL AT THE MOON – Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, Kitchen open 4 - 9 pm. Free Pool all day and night. Free Texas Hold-'Em Poker Tournament at 6:30 pm for Women Only and open tournaments at 7 and 10. Play for points & prizes - no cash involved. Great way to learn the game or sharpen your skills.

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 9am. Patio 7pm. Free Pool til 4pm. $2.75 Cuervo Margaritas 4-8pm

WOODY'S - Open Noon til 2am; Happy Hour Noon-8pm)excl Spec Events); Chili Dog Buffet 5-9pm; Underwear/Fetish/Leather Party with Alex and Blake 9-close - $1 off all drinks for those who participate (50¢ off draught/schnapps) Back Pocket Patio Bar open 9pm-close.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am.50¢ off any Top Shelf Vodka until 8pm Beer Bust 4-8pm. Patio Bar Opens 7pm. Dart Tourney 8pm.

THURSDAY

THE BIZ - Open3pm-2am; Drink What You Want with ½ priced Happy Hour 3-8pm; 'Thirsty Thursday' with Tori Steele & Friends! Drag show starts at 9:30pm with Tori Steele, Janee Starr, Diana Flair and weekly special guests. $2 Pitchers and Rotating Shot Specials. Followed by a new Surprise guest DJ!

COLORS - Open4pm-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm,$3.50 Skyy cocktails, $2.75 Domestics and Well and reduced price appetizers. Dinner served until 10pm.

. HOWL AT THE MOON – Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Kitchen open 4 - 9 pm. Karaoke with Rosemary at 8:30pm. $2.50 Mexican Beers all night, $1.00 Jello shots.

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

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

WOODY'S - Open Noon-2am; Happy Hour Noon-8pm (excl Spec Events); Free Pool all day. Nacho Chip Buffet 5-9pm; $1 PBRs Longnecks and $2 Tecate Longnecks; Back Pocket Bar open 8-close.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am.50¢ off any Top Shelf Bourbon til 8pm. Beer Bust 4-8pm. Patio Bar opens 7pm.

FRIDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-2am; Drink What You Want with ½ priced Happy Hour 3-8pm; Rotating weeks Latin or Hip Hop Music with DJ Shorty at 9:30pm. Rotating Shot Specials all night!

COLORS - Open 4pm-1am. Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3.50 Skyy cocktails, $2.75 Domestics and Well and reduced prize appetizers. Dinner served until 10pm. "Hot Jazz, Cool Martinis" with Susan Artemis and Craig Faltin 6:30-9:30pm. "Guys & Dolls"comedy drag show hosted by Lucinda Holliday at 10pm.

HOWL AT THE MOON – Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Kitchen open 4 - 9 pm. $4.50 Fried Chicken dinner with fries and slaw. Free Two-Step lessons with Amanda every other Friday. Call 293-7339 for schedule. DJ Pat plays the best of contemporary and classic country 8:30 to close. Kitchen open 9 pm - midnight serving late night munchies menu.

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

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio open 7pm. Free Pool til 4pm.

WOODY'S - Open Noon-2am; Happy Hour Noon-8pm (excl spec events); Martini Happy Hour 5-8pm-$1 off all call Martinis; Back Pocket Patio Bar open 8-close. DJ Jeff in the Back Pocket 9-close; Watch for special events.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am.50¢ off any Top Shelf Gin until 8pm. Beer Bust 4-8pm. Patio Bar Opens 7pm

SATURDAY

THE BIZ - $1 Draught Beers until 10pm & $4 Finlandia Vodka Red Bull drinks until 11pm; Dance Party with DJ Shorty at 9:30 mixing it up and playing what you want to hear!

COLORS - Open 4pm-11pm, Lunch served until 4pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3.50 Skyy cocktails, $2.75 Domestics and Well, reduced price appetizers. Dinner served until10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

HOWL AT THE MOON – Open 11:00am. Happy Hour 11am-8pm, $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Kitchen open 11am-9pm. $2.50 Capt. Morgan or Mailbu. Cheeseburger & Fries Special for $4.50 all day. Best burgers around. Learn to plau Texas Hold-Em Poker Lessons at noon with a friendly game to follow - no money involved. DJ playing dance mix or check our ad for special events. Kitchen open 9pm to midnight serving late night munchies menu.

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

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

WOODY'S - Open 10am-2am; Happy Hour 10am-8pm (excl spec events); Steak/Fish Dinner in the Back Pocket 5-9pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar open 5-close. Live Jazz with Arthur Migliazza in the Back Pocket 6-9pm; DJ Jeff in the Back Pocket 9-close. Watch for special events.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. Beer Bust 4-8pm. $1.25 glass, $2.25 pitcher. Patio Bar Opens 7pm.

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

THURSDAY, MAY 17
THE BIZ - Thursday Thunder with a Drag Show at 9:30 p.m. hosted by Boy Sean.

FRIDAY, MAY 18
YARD DOG - Sonny and Band playing on the Patio beginning at 8:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 19
THE BIZ - Beach Party! $3 drink specials: Sea Breeze and Bay Breeze.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Miss Desert States Pageant at 7:00 p.m. Come and see who wins the crown!

SUNDAY, MAY 20
THE BIZ - New on Sundays beginning tonight - Latin Sundays with doors open at 9:30 p.m.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Miss Gay Queen of the Desert America 2007 pageant at 7:00 p.m. Dj music after the pageant. Tickets available at the door.

TUESDAY, MAY 22
HOWL AT THE MOON - Amber Gaia Sound is here playing acoustical favorites and original songs. 8:30 p.m. No Cover

SATURDAY, MAY 26
HOWL AT THE MOON - Viva! Latino Explosion Drag Show starting at 10:00 p.m. $3.00 Cover. Dj playing Latino/Tex Mex before and after the show.

SUNDAY, MAY 27
WOODY'S - Memorial Day Weekend party tonight with a Luau Palrty with Bud Light Promo with Bud's new "Jekyl & Hyde". Ajia's Kitchen will be serving dinner at 5:00 p.m. choose from Seafood or Chicken Gumbo or Noodles de Ajia. Dinner tickets $20 in advance or $25 the night of the dinner. Tickets thru Ajia or Wood'y's, then join Ajia for a special show at 8:00 p.m. open to everyone.

THURSDAY, MAY 31
THE BIZ - Thursday Thunder with a Drag Show at 9:30 p.m. hosted by Boy Sean.

SATURDAY, JUNE 2
HOWL AT THE MOON - "Sports Out Loud" magazine promotion with Wet T-Shirt (for her) and Best Bum (for him) contests. 9:00 pm.

SATURDAY, JUNE 9
HOWL AT THE MOON - Too Much Information is here playing classic rock and blues. 9:00 p.m. $5.00 Cover.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23
HOWL AT THE MOON - Mark your calendars for Gay West at Old Tucson.

SATURDAY, JULY 7
HOWL T THE MOON - Join Amanda Nicole and special guests for a fabulour evening. 9:00 p.m. No Cover

Lacross Team Lets Gay Coach Go

Continued from Page Nine

firing. Hawkins said he will likely look for another coaching job elsewhere, and that he already received an offer from a rival school the day he learned of his firing.

Mosher said that Hawkins will be a hot commodity in the offseason: "The teams that are in this to win would want someone like Kyle on the sidelines. It's very difficult to find a guy who's established, knows what he's doing for the most part, is in the top 30 coaches of all the 200 of us in the country, which I'd say Kyle is. He has a lot to offer, and he's been willing to do it. At our level, to find someone who's willing to do it for more than a year or two is tough. Kyle is willing to make the commitment, put in his own time and money to build a program, and I think that says a lot. In our neck of the woods, anybody looking for a coach would have to entertain the idea if he sent in his resume."

NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

TUCSON KNIGHT OWLS (T.K.O) Openly invites new members to our monthly meetings which occur on the first Saturday of every month at 12:00 pm., followed by a beer bust from 2pm to 6pm., at our home bar the Yard Dog saloon. T.K.O.'s annual spring/summer fling is now called owls fling. This year we will be going to Holly Lake July 27th - 30th. The run fee is $60 for members and $70 for non-members. Applications will be avaible at our next beer bust. You can also pick one up from any T.K.O. member.

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

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

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

P.F.L.A.G. - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays - is a support group available to anyone who has a son, daughter or friend who is Gay. Call 360-3795 or write P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740-6264. All replies confidential.

GLBT-friendly AL-ANON group meets Saturdays at 11am at Unitarian Universalist Church, 4831 E. 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 call 298-6727, 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

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

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO – a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, Call the Bears Hotline (520)790-5775 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 of visit our website at www.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, dances Tuesdays. from 6:30-9 p.m. at Cornerstone Fellowship Social Hall, 2902 N. Geronimo (Northwest of 1st Ave. and Glenn). No experience, no partner required! For more info contact David at 325-6739, or visit www.azgaydance.org

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 Street. All alcoholics welcome.

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

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

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

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 Wednesday at 845 S. Craycroft Road at 6pm. Tucson Pride events: Pride Week, Gay West and

Pride Weekend. Inquiries about support groups and individual needs should be directed to Wingspan and other local agencies listed here. For more information call 622-3200 or visit the TPI website at www.tucsonpride.com

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

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

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

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

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

THEATER / DINNER / MOVIES / ETC! Nonsmoking Lesbian Network meets every month. If you'd like to meet women 50+ (flexible) and socialize in a smoke-free environment, please call or email: 888-8010 'til 9pm, or joycesmth1@aol.com. 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.

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

GLSEN - Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network meets first Thursday of every month at 4:30pm at Wingspan, 425 E.7th Street. 743-4800.

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

TUCSON GREATER SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION. Interested? Call Kelly Quinn, (520)906-0669 and or Mona Garcia 256-8728.

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

REVEILLE GAY MEN'S CHORUS rehearses Thursday evenings 7-10pm at the Historic Y, corner of University Blvd. And 5th Ave. Join us!! Call 304-1758 for more info.

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

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

LGBT Buddhist Meditation Group. Join us for two 20 minute silent sitting meditations, and reading from Buddhist Spiritual text and discussion. Bring a friend and a pillow or cushion. Takes place every Sunday from 10-11:30AM at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St. Donations accepted. Contact Maurice Grossman for more info. 323-2293.

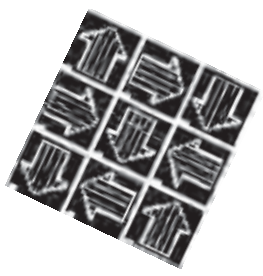
LGBT SUPPORT GROUP FOR VICTIM/SURVIVORS OF Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Hate Crimes, Bias Acts, Harassment. Call Lori at Wingspan, 624-1779, ext. 20. Services are free.

MEN'S HIKING CLUB - A peer-run MEN's outdoor club for hiking, biking, camping, boating etc, is now up and running in the Tucson area. To join, go to SAGE-Tucson-subscribe @yahoogroups.com. See you on the trails.

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, AZ. (Map available at www.desertdominion,org) For those who are kinky or just curious. No fee, contributions are appreciated, but not required.

The new MAN TO MAN INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY is meeting about honoring the spiritual side of ourselves. It is the men's social/erotic group that offers passionate friendships, fun activities, and real tantric sex education. Call Marc 881-4582 in advance Check it out. We meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 7-9pm. Potluck dinner. Donation.

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



Spring Awakening, Grey Gardens, Mary Poppins Lead Tony Nominations

NEW YORK CITY - Spring Awakening, the Duncan Sheik-Steven Sater rock musical about the sexual longing of 19th-century German teenagers, received a leading 11 Tony nominations on Tuesday (May 15), the Associated Press reported on advocate.com.

The Coast of Utopia, Tom Stoppard's epic trilogy about 19th-century Russian intellectuals, and Grey Gardens, a musical look at two of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis's more eccentric relatives, each garnered 10 nominations.

Curtains, a backstage whodunit set during a theatrical tryout in Boston, got eight.

Besides The Coast of Utopia, the nominees for best play were: Radio Golf, the final chapter in August Wilson's decade-by-decade look at the black experience in 20th-century America; Frost/Nixon, Peter Morgan's docudrama about the celebrated interviews between British journalist David Frost and Richard M. Nixon; and The Little Dog Laughed, Douglas Carter Beane's social comedy about Hollywood hypocrisy.

Mary Poppins, a lavish adaptation of P.L. Travers novels and the classic Disney movie, picked up seven nominations during the morning announcement at Lincoln Center. Besides Poppins, best-musical nominations went to Spring Awakening, Grey Gardens, and Curtains.

Legally Blonde, a frothy, fast-paced stage adaptation of the Reese Witherspoon movie, failed to pick up a coveted best-musical nod– important because nominees get a number on the nationally televised awards show– but the show did get seven other nominations, including ones for book and score of a musical, as well as for its leading lady, Laura Bell Bundy.

Bundy's competition includes Christine Ebersole, Grey Gardens; Audra McDonald, 110 in the Shade; Debra Monk, Curtains; and Donna Murphy, LoveMusik.

Angela Lansbury, a four-time Tony winner, has a chance for a fifth prize. She was nominated for her performance as a tennis legend in Terrence McNally's Deuce.

''What a surprise–I never thought it could happen again,'' Lansbury said after the nominations were announced. ''I am overwhelmed. I am proud for the play and proud for the extraordinary lady I am out there playing every night.''

In the actress-play category, Lansbury faces Eve Best, A Moon for the Misbegotten; Swoosie Kurtz, Heartbreak House; Vanessa Redgrave, The Year of Magical Thinking, and Julie White, The Little Dog Laughed.

In the actor-play category, the nominees were Boyd Gaines, Journey's End; Frank Langella, Frost/Nixon; Brian F. O'Byrne, The Coast of Utopia; Christopher Plummer, Inherit the Wind; and Liev Schreiber, Talk Radio.

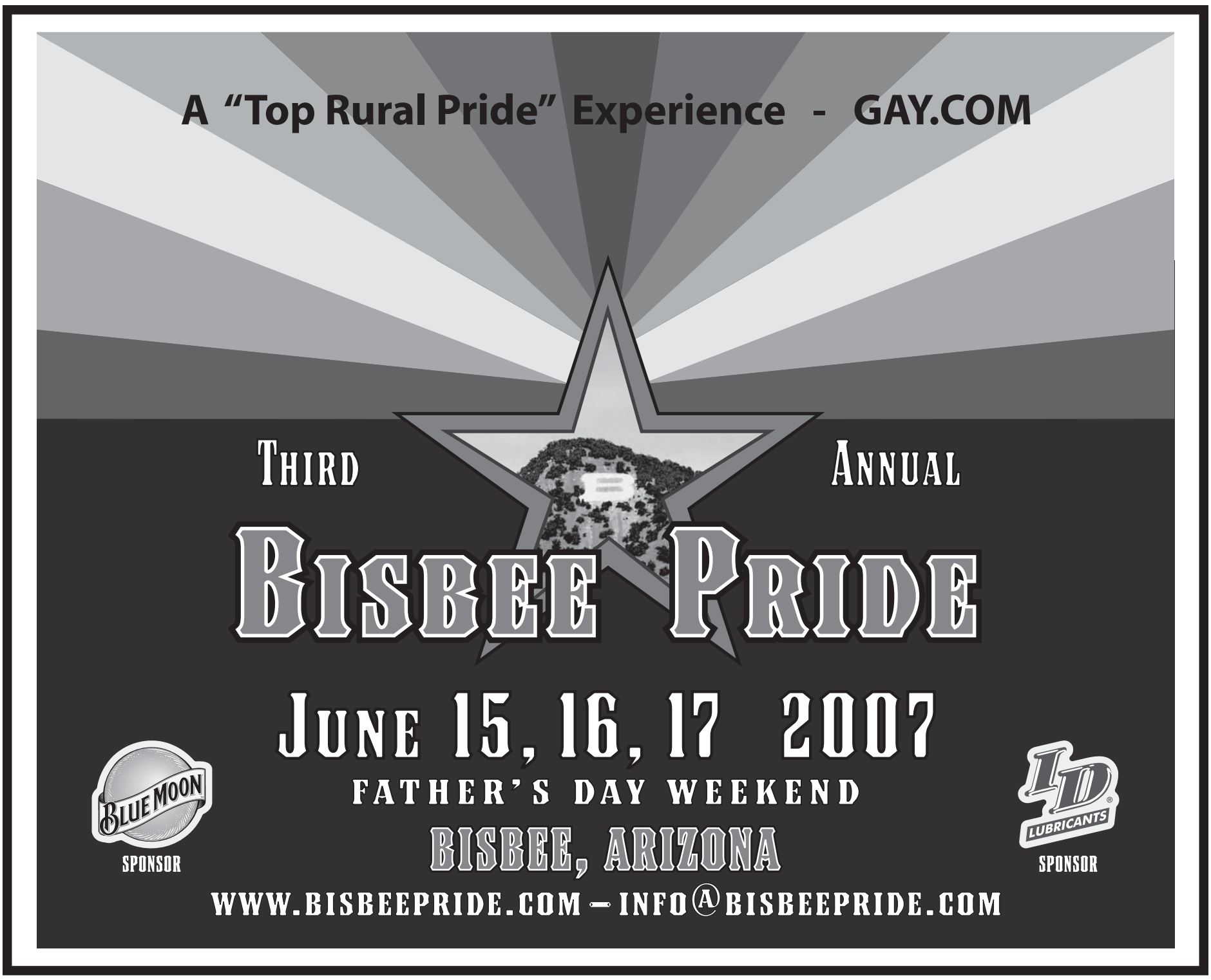
Jonathan Groff, the young rebel in Spring Awakening, heads the actor-musical nominations. The other nominees include Michael Cerveris, LoveMusik; Raul Esparza, Company; Gavin Lee, Mary Poppins; and David Hyde Pierce, Curtains.

The regional theater Tony Award will go to the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta.

The Tonys will be broadcast June 10 (8-11 p.m. EDT) on CBS from Radio City Music Hall.

Tucson Knight Owls Upcoming Events

TUCSON - Tucson Knight Owls (T.K.O.), Yard Dog, staff, and friends held a successful fund raiser for Wess and his children. Our hearts go out to them and their family. (T.K.O.) Openly invites new members to our monthly meetings which occur on the first Saturday of every month at 12:00 pm., followed by a beer bust from 2pm to 6pm., at our home bar the Yard Dog saloon.

'Day At The Park': Come join us for a fun filled day with Food, Fun, Friends and Beer. The picnic will be held on may 12th at ramada #6 Reid park 900 S. Randolph Way. 10am to 4pm.

T.K.O.'s annual spring/summer fling is now called "Owls Fling". This year we will be going to Holly Lake July 27th-30th. The run fee is $60 for members and $70 for non-members. Applications will be available at our next beer bust. You can also pick one up from any T.K.O. member.