MEMORIAL DAY 2007

Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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WEEKLY OBSERVER | MAY 23, 2007 | ISSUE 1192

Nothing beautiful in this world is ever really lost. Those we cherish will always live on in memory.....
Each year on Memorial Day, the Tucson Lesbian and Gay Community remember its lost brothers and sisters.

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UPDATE

Wingspan Reduces Hours For Memorial Day

TUCSON - In observance of Memorial Day, Monday May 28, Wingspan will be open for the following hours, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Wingspan will be open for regular hours on Saturday and Sunday (May 26-27), 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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

Queer Cult Classic - 'My Own Private Idaho' Returns To The Loft Cinema June 2

TUCSON - Spend a part of your summer vacation in Idaho when the 1991 queer cult classic MY OWN PRIVATE IDAHO screens at The Loft Cinema, 3233 E. Speedway, Saturday, June 2, 7:00 p.m., with one of the film's stars, William Richert (who played the colorfully disheveled "street tutor" Bob Pigeon) in person. After the movie, Richert (who in addition to his acting credits, is also an acclaimed director/writer/producer) will discuss making the film, his relationship with star River Phoenix, and his own controversial career in the Hollywood studio system. Admission is $5.00.

When Gus Van Sant's MY OWN PRIVATE IDAHO hit movie screens in 1991, its stylish surrealism and striking queer storyline and imagery made it an instant cult classic (if not a huge box office success). Then-rising young actors Keanu Reeves and River Phoenix became Gay icons for their portrayals of two male hustlers (one Gay, one straight) who live on the streets, do drugs, sell themselves to both men and women, and rely on each other to survive in a world that has discarded them.

Heavily influenced by Shakespeare's Henry VI, the film mixes wild visuals and trippy eroticism with modern slang and Shakespearean dialogue to create a truly unique cinematic experience. William Richert's character Bob Pigeon, who takes the boys under his soiled wing and teaches them the ropes of street hustling, is based on Shakespeare's character Falstaff, and is one of the most memorable roles to emerge from the early 90s indie film movement.

Storm Named JTED Superintendent

TUCSON - Pima County's new Joint Technological Education District conducted a national search for a superintendent – only to find him in Tucson, reported the Arizona Daily Star.

The district's governing board announced that Alan Storm, currently an assistant superintendent in the Sunnyside Unified School District, will become the JTED superintendent on July 1. Storm began working in Sunnyside as a psychologist in 1985, advancing into other jobs until he was named assistant superintendent for student services in 2000, according to a news release from the technology district. Storm also teaches at the University of Phoenix, it said. Storm was one of the co-founders of the Pima County chapter of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Educators Network (GLSEN).

"The governing board was pleased by the quality of all candidates and we were energized by the enthusiasm Dr. Storm exhibited during the selection process," Board President Wayne Peate noted in the release. "Storm's outstanding public school experience and community connections made him a great choice to lead our district." Approved by voters in November as a centralized agency, the technology district will enhance the ability of all Pima County high schools to offer vocational and technical classes. The district will be funded with an annual property tax of $5 per $100,000 of home valuation.

1in10 Youth Car Wash, June 2

PHOENIX - Youth ages 14-22 are organizing a car wash fund raiser to support special program activities at 1n10, Saturday, June 2 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Community Church of Hope, 4121 N. 7th Ave. All sizes of vehicles will be hand washed and dried, including window detail! The 1n10 Youth Council invites you to get your buggy clean and support a great cause while you're at it! Proceeds go directly to activities of the 1n10 Youth Council.

1n10 is the valley's only youth services organization providing weekly support for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and questioning youth (LGBTQ). 1n10 has been providing services to valley youth since 1993 and is currently serving up to 100 youth each week at two drop-in locations.

Can't join us to get your car washed? Send your donation to 1n10 Inc, PO Box 33367, Phoenix Arizona 85067. For more information contact the 1n10 Director, Beck (602) 475-7456 or coordinator@1n10.org.

Outfront Arizona: Blessing All Our Families, June 1-2

PHOENIX - OutFront Arizona, a Christian educational conference exploring Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) inclusion and family diversity will take place June 1-2 at First Congregational UCC, 1407 North Second Street in Phoenix.

OutFront Arizona: Blessing all our Families will present an alternative to the discriminatory religious rhetoric that has barraged the state in the last year. It will give Arizonans the opportunity to learn about an inclusive vision of sexuality, gender, family relationships, and faith from leaders in the field of theological study. It is the final conference of the 2006-2007 series of the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry's OutFront Regional Conferences. These conferences are designed to help progressive people of faith and their allies throughout the country become voices of authority and agents of societal change in the current heated debates surrounding LGBT issues and religion by developing and/or increasing their expertise in matters of sexuality and religion.

OutFront Arizona is open to the public. Registration: $35. For more information, see: clgs.org/4/events.cfm?Display=Full&EventID=218.

Volunteer With The 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.

HIV+ Med Services To Improve For Low Incomes

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Part of a $2.9 trillion federal budget blueprint approved by Congress includes an amendment to expand access to vital medical services for low-income people who are HIV-positive, 365Gay.com reported. The amendment was based on the Early Treatment for HIV Act which also had sponsored. ETHA provides states the ability to extend Medicaid coverage to low-income, HIV-positive individuals before they develop full-blown AIDS.

ETHA was developed to supplement safety-net programs across the country that treat individuals with HIV/AIDS.

In several cases, these initiatives are running out of money, and as a consequence, they are generally unable to cover all of the people who need assistance paying for their medical care.

ETHA provides states with another way to reach out to low-income, HIV-positive individuals and offer health care coverage.

OBSERVER

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Informing the Community
The Observer

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Leon Yi
Francis Young
Norman Young
Terry Young
Dale Yount
Joseph Yurkovich

Robert E. Zack
Gerald L. Zagst
Gene Zarr
Armando Zegri
Donald Annthony Zelkowski
Teresa Zell
Joseph Ziemer
A man whose name
cannot be used

NOTE: Although the great majority of persons named here died of complications of AIDS, some died from other illnesses, natural causes, suicide, murder, accidents, etc.

This list has been compiled from obituary notices that appeared in the Observer and Arizona Gay News, and information received from the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation. It is not a complete list by any means.

It has been updated each year since May 24, 1989. For any corrections, additions or deletions please contact the Observer.

Play Safe!

British Gays And Lesbians Serving Their Country

LONDON (Observer Update) - The officer, a squadron leader in the Royal Air Force, felt he had no choice. So he stood up in front of his squad of 30 to 40 people, reported the New York Times. "I said, 'Right, I've got something to tell you,' " he said. " 'I believe that for us to be able to work closely together and have faith in each other, we have to be honest and open and frank. And it has to be a two-way process, and it starts with me baring my soul. You may have heard some rumors, and yes, I have a long-term partner who is a he, not a she.' "

Far from causing problems, he said, he found that coming out to his troops actually increased the unit's strength and cohesion. He had felt uneasy keeping the secret "that their boss was a poof," as he put it, from people he worked with so closely.

Since the British military began allowing homosexuals to serve in the armed forces in 2000, none of its fears – about harassment, discord, blackmail, bullying or an erosion of unit cohesion or military effectiveness – have come to pass, according to the Ministry of Defense, current and former members of the services and academics specializing in the military. The biggest news about the policy, they say, is that there is no news. It has for the most part become a nonissue.

The Ministry of Defense does not compile figures on how many Gay men and Lesbians are openly serving, and it says that the number of people who have come out publicly in the past seven years is still relatively low. But it is clearly proud of how smoothly homosexuals have been integrated and is trying to make life easier for them.

"What we're hoping to do is to, over a period of time, reinforce the message that people who are Gay, Lesbian and the like are welcomed in the armed forces and we don't discriminate against them in any way," a Defense Ministry official said in an interview, speaking on condition of anonymity in accordance with the ministry's practice.

Nonetheless, the issue is extremely delicate now. The military does not want to be seen bragging about the success of its policy when the issue can still cause so much anguished debate in the United States. This is particularly true in light of tensions between the allies after a British coroner ruled in March that a British soldier who died four years ago was unlawfully killed by an American pilot.

For this article, the Defense Ministry refused to give permission for any member of the forces to be interviewed, either on or off the record. Those who spoke did so before the ministry made its position clear. "We're not looking to have quotes taken out of context in a way to imply that we're trying to influence the debate in the United States," the British official said. "There are some sensitivities over the timing of this. We have had communications from our counterparts in the United States, and they have asked us questions about how we've handled it and how it's gone on the ground. There does seem to be some debate going on over how long the current policy will be sustainable."

The debate in the United States was rekindled in March when Gen. Peter Pace, who as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is the country's top-ranking military official, told The Chicago Tribune that he believed that homosexuality was immoral. In Jan., Gen. John M. Shalikashvili, who until his retirement in 1997 held the same post in the Clinton years, when the Pentagon adopted its "don't ask, don't tell" policy, said in an Op-Ed article in The New York Times that he now believed that the military was ready to accept Gay men and Lesbians. A military already stretched thin, he said, "must welcome the service of any American who is willing and able to do the job."

At least 24 countries – many of them allies of the United States, and some of them members of the coalition forces fighting alongside Americans – now allow Gay soldiers to serve openly in their armed forces.

It is hard to avoid comparing the British and American systems, Gay soldiers in the British forces say. One major, an openly Gay liaison officer in the British Territorial Army, told of an exchange he had in the southern Iraq city of Basra with an American staff sergeant, far from home and eager to confide. "He privately let me know he was Gay," the major said in an interview. "Not in a romantic way, but in a matter-of-fact way. He found it difficult, because he clearly had a whole part of his private life that he had to keep separate and distinct and couldn't discuss with people. He was in his mid-30s, with no girlfriend and no wife, and he had to use all these white lies."

Some Britons said they could not understand why the United States had not changed its policy. "I find it strange, coming from the land of the free and freedom of speech and democracy, given the changes in the world attitude," said the Gay squadron leader, who recently returned from Afghanistan. "It's just not the issue it used to be."

Until its policy changed, the British military had deep misgivings about allowing homosexuals to serve openly in its armed forces. But it had no choice. It was forced to by a European court, which ruled that its policy of excluding homosexuals violated the European Convention on Human Rights.

"There was a lot of apprehension among some senior personnel that there would be an increase in things like bullying and harassment based on sexual orientation, and some of them were almost predicting that the world was going to come to an end," the Defense Ministry official said.

Similar concerns were raised when, bowing to national antidiscrimination laws, the military began allowing Gay personnel who had registered for civil partnerships to live in military housing with their same-sex partners. "But all the problems the services thought were going to come to pass really haven't materialized," the official said.

To the extent it becomes an issue, it is usually within the context of the relentlessly rough give-and-take that characterizes military life, particularly at the lower ranks, said Nathaniel Frank, a researcher at the Michael D. Palm Center at the University of California, Santa Barbara, who has studied the British experience.

"The military is a proving ground, and the first thing people do is find your weakness and exploit it," Mr. Frank said in an e-mail interview. "If you're Gay, that's your weakness, and guys will latch on to that. But frequently this is no more significant a weakness than any other based on your accent, body type, race, religion, etc."

The British military actively recruits Gay men and Lesbians and punishes any instance of intolerance or bullying. The Royal Navy advertises for recruits in Gay magazines and has allowed Gay sailors to hold civil partnership ceremonies on board ships and, last summer, to march in full naval uniform at a Gay pride rally in London. (British Army and Royal Air Force personnel could march but had to wear civilian clothes.)

Speaking at a conference sponsored by the Gay advocacy group Stonewall last year, Vice Adm. Adrian Johns, the second sea lord, said that homosexuals had always served in the military but in the past had had to do it secretly.

"That's an unhealthy way to be, to try and keep a secret life in the armed services," said Admiral Johns, who as the Royal Navy's principal

Continued on Page Fourteen

Reveille Gay Men's Chorus Hits The Road For A Tour Of Mexico

TUCSON - Reveille Gay Men's Chorus, is once again taking their show on the road. On June 1, Reveille will be departing for an eleven day, three city tour of Mexico. It has become a yearly tradition for Reveille to export their unique sound and message of tolerance and diversity to a foreign country. Three years ago Reveille traveled to Montreal, Quebec, Canada, in 2004 Reveille went to Brazil where they were the opening act for the world's largest Gay pride parade, 2.5 million people. This will be Reveille's fourth time to perform in Mexico in their twelve year history.

Three weeks ago, at the Temple of Music and Art in downtown Tucson, Reveille presented their spring 2007 concert, "Beyond the Border", a diverse program from a colorful palette of world music. "I chose the "Beyond the Border" theme with our upcoming tour of Mexico in mind," said artistic director Linus Lerner in a recent interview. "I think the Mexican audiences will enjoy our eclectic mix of music including song from Ireland, England, Peru, Tahiti, South Africa, United States and Mexico too." Reveille's special guests at their spring concert was Mariachi Serenata with whom the chorus sang several songs in Spanish. "We will be singing several songs in Spanish, well known to Mexican audiences," said Lerner. "I hope they will appreciate the humble attempt by this gringo chorus from Tucson to sing songs in their language!"

Reveille has always stressed outreach as a major part of the nonprofit group's mission, performing at many local events in Tucson throughout the year at no charge. "We are well known for our two annual concerts," said Jeffrey Bracker, president of the board of directors of Reveille. "But the rest of the year we are reaching out to the entire Tucson community, Gay and straight, changing hearts and mind through our music. It seemed a natural for us to go one step further and take the message international." Previously Reveille has traveled to Hermosillo, Sonora three times to help raise money for ACSIDA, the local HIV/AIDS support and treatment center. "These groups receive very little assistance from the Mexican government. It's very rewarding to make beautiful music and help our neighbors at the same time," Bracker added.

Reveille will be performing five concerts in three cities: Guadalajara, Puerto Vallarta, and Mexico City. In each city the concerts are being sponsored by local LGBT and AIDS organizations. Every peso raised by the concerts stays with the groups organizing the events. Reveille travels at their own expense raising funds throughout the year for scholarships that enable all members, regardless of their financial situation, to on the trip. Conductor Lerner recently returned from a fact finding visit to Mexico, meeting with organizers, arranging venues, and coordinating media coverage. In each city Reveille members will be interviewed by local newspapers and the concerts will be covered by local television stations. "To our knowledge we will be the first openly Gay chorus to tour Mexico," Lerner said. "Here in the U.S. a Gay chorus is no longer news, and that shows the progress the Gay choral movement has made in 25 years. In Mexico we will be a novelty, that's for sure! I hope they will come to see what it's all about and end up enjoying the beautiful music."

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Tinky Winky Says Bye-Bye To Jerry Falwell

By King Kaufman

ISLINGTON, England (Observer Update) - Eight years ago the Rev. Jerry Falwell warned parents that BBC children's television star Tinky Winky was a hidden symbol of homosexuality. Falwell died Tuesday at 73, and the world wanted to talk to Tinky Winky.

"They're calling again, again, again," he said by phone from his home in Islington, in London. A spokesman said the former "Teletubbies" costar got more than 100 calls from reporters in the hour following news of Falwell's death.

"Oh dear, it's easy to say the wrong thing here," he said. "Tinky Winky sad whenever someone dies, but ..." He left it hanging there.

In a 1999 article in his National Liberty Journal headlined "Tinky Winky Comes Out of the Closet," Falwell pointed out that Winky could be taken as representing Gays.

"He is purple – the Gay pride color, and his antenna is shaped like a triangle – the Gay pride symbol," Falwell wrote. "The character, whose voice is that of a boy, has been found carrying a red purse in many episodes and has become a favorite character among Gay groups worldwide."

In the resulting media firestorm, Gay-rights activists called for Winky to come out while Christian groups demanded the BBC fire him so that he couldn't, in Falwell's words, "role-model the Gay lifestyle."

"It was traumatizing, really," says Winky, who now owns a holistic healing center and makes occasional appearances on British TV. "I'm a very private Teletubby. I just wanted to get away, go over the hills and far away. But when you're 7 feet tall and purple with an antenna on your head and a TV screen in your belly, where are you going to go?"

Winky says he tried to contact Falwell after the article came out, but the evangelist wouldn't take his calls.

"I wanted to know why he didn't talk to me first," Winky says. "It's not like I'm hard to reach. Have the pinwheel call me. But really I just wanted to clap him on the head with Tinky Winky bag."

The star never has clarified his sexual orientation, insisting on his privacy and denying rumors over the years that he had affairs with two of his costars on the 1997-2001 show, the male Dipsy and the female Po.

"We love each other very much," he says. "Big hug. But it's not like that. It was a kids show, know what I mean? And this Falwell guy and his followers wanted to turn us into something else. We weren't modeling a Gay lifestyle and we weren't trying to corrupt anyone's kids. We were just kids ourselves, really. Give us a little Tubby toast or custard and a film of some kids washing clothes or something, that's all we needed. We didn't give a shit about modeling a lifestyle."

Tinky Winky sounds angry. The wounds are still raw.

"I'm just practicing my craft, working for the kids, and all at once the tabloids are everywhere on me," he says. "I couldn't even go out. Was it a Gay club? Was I talking to a woman? It was bollocks."

The Irrepressible fag, Tinky Winky

Winky chuckles. "I must say, though," he says, "without getting into too many details, we had a girl in the group who ran around this kids show yelling, 'Cooter! Cooter!' And I'm the Gay one? Do me a favor."

Through a spokeswoman, Po declined to comment for this article.

Winky says the Teletubbies stay in touch, and he remains friends with both Dipsy, who owns a nightclub in West London where Winky is often seen, and Po. Winky says he and Laa-Laa never really got along during the show's run, but, "We're fine now. We've come to appreciate each other."

Asked about Falwell's death, Winky turns serious and chooses his words carefully.

"I'm not going to pretend I'm sadder than I am," he says. "There were late nights during the dark times when I wished to hear news like this. I'd be lying if I denied that. I don't feel that way anymore. I like to think I've grown over the years, gotten past all that pain.

"But at the end of the day, I'm not terribly sad, and I think a lot of people feel the same way. Jerry Falwell was a divisive person, a hateful person, and what I've tried to be all about, in the Teletubbies days and since then, has been love. I've got to keep it that way. I don't want anybody feeling good about it when it's my time for Tubby bye-bye."

(King Kaufman is a writer for salon.com and this article is reprinted from salon.com posted May 16.)

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‘Gay Pages’ Address The Business Of Tolerance

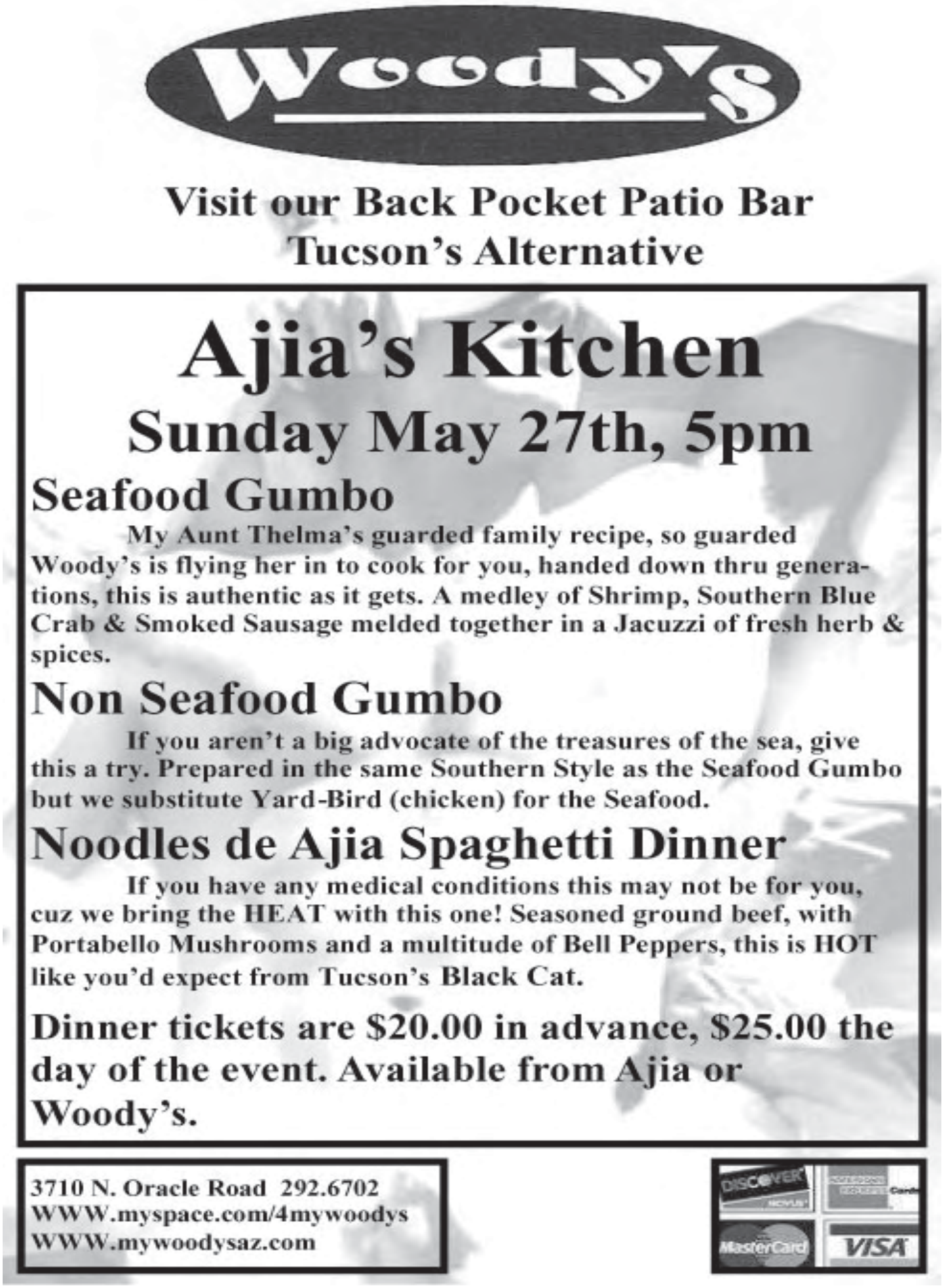
SALT LAKE CITY, Utah - Last month, Gay Pages phone books began appearing on doorsteps of homes across Salt Lake City, reported the Salt Lake Tribune (May 21). They came with a note explaining, “In our book you will find businesses that are gay-owned or gay-friendly. Please consider using our book no matter what your orientation, because it supports businesses that do not discriminate.”

The directory is the brainchild of Sean Wright, an entrepreneur who moved to Utah in 2005 after publishing similar gay-oriented phone books in Los Angeles and Las Vegas. Wright said he wasn’t planning on issuing a Salt Lake Gay Pages but was dismayed by such episodes as Larry H. Miller’s banning of “Brokeback Mountain.” “It’s really a different bubble here [in Utah],” he says. “I was shocked.”

His concerns were reinforced when he began selling space in the Gay Pages last summer and business owners repeatedly turned him down. “They’d tell me, ‘I’d love to be in the book but I don’t want to be boycotted by the Mormons.’ ‘’ Two callers left death threats. Two other would-be clients spat at Wright after he pitched the project. One was a real-estate agent who told him, “all you faggots should burn in hell.”

“The funniest thing about all this is that everybody always assumes I’m gay,” says Wright, who has a girlfriend. “I’m not. But I believe the gay community has the right to . . . be treated as equals.” Wright eventually recruited 120 advertisers for the Salt Lake Gay Pages, which is about half an inch thick. He printed 50,000 copies and so far has distributed about 12,000 around Ninth & Ninth, Liberty Park and Sugar House.

Why those neighborhoods? “I figured out which ones were the gayest,” he said. Wright says response to the published book is running about 10 to 1 positive. But that may change when he begins delivering the Gay Pages to more conservative suburbs such as Sandy. Regardless, he already has planned editions for 2008 and beyond. “There’s no gay agenda in this,” Wright says. “I want everybody to just get along. And the way you do that is to bring the unknown out of the closet.”



Labor Taking Increasing Role Fighting For LGBT Rights

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The trade union movement is taking a greater role in fighting for LGBT civil rights - from negotiating contracts with protections for Gay workers, lobbying Congress for rights bills, and speaking out in favor of same-sex marriage, 365Gay.com reported.

The Transport Workers Union of America is the latest union to announce its support for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA)

As previously reported in the Observer, ENDA was introduced in Congress last month. It would make it illegal to fire, refuse to hire or refuse to promote an employee based on the person's sexual orientation or gender identity.

"You can't just wish discrimination away," said Transport Workers Union of America President James C. Little.

"The civil rights movement taught us that. We need a federal law that protects workers not only from discrimination in the workplace but from the evil of discriminatory and antiquated state laws as well. The Employment Non-Discrimination Act is the law we need and we need it now."

Little said passage of ENDA has the full support of the unions 130,000 workers nationwide. The union represents workers in commercial aviation, public transportation and passenger railroads. The union is an affiliate of the AFL-CIO which has been a longtime supporter of LGBT rights.

Meanwhile, in New York, unions representing 850,000 workers in the state are urging the Assembly to pass a marriage equality bill.

The unions, including the New York State United Teachers, United Federation of Teachers, the United Auto Workers, the Service Employees International Union and the Retail, Wholesale, Department Stores Union/United Food and Commercial Workers Union, and nearly a dozen other labor groups have sent a letter to all New York State Assemblymembers calling for passage of the legislation.

"As unions, we have a particular responsibility to protect equal rights and promote economic justice in connection with collective bargaining, economic benefits, and legislation that affects our members," NYSUT Executive Vice President Alan Lubin said in his letter.

"I am urging you to continue to do the right thing and co-sponsor and vote yes on the Marriage Equality bill…As you make your decision, I want you to consider my full and unwavering support for this bill. I stand in solidarity with the supportive union leaders, local unions, and area labor federations on the attached list."

NY Gov. Elliott Spitzer last month introduced legislation to allow same-sex couples to marry in New York.

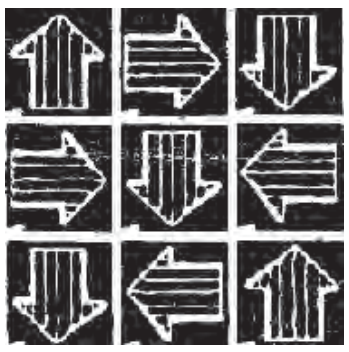
Poll: Most In U.S. Support Hate Crimes Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - A new Gallup poll indicates that a majority of Americans support the hate-crimes bill now before Congress, reported 365Gay.com. The bill would expand federal hate-crimes law to cover crimes committed against people because of their sexual orientation, gender, or gender identity.

According to the poll conducted May 10-13, support for the bill cut across partisan, ideological, and religious lines. The bill, known as the Local Law Hate Crimes Prevention Act, passed the House of Representatives on May 3. Its Senate counterpart, the Matthew Shepard Act, awaits a vote. The White House has released a statement saying that aides are advising the president to veto the bill. It would be Bush's third veto since taking office more than six years ago.

"This new national poll continues to reiterate how incredibly out of touch right-wing organizations are with the will of the American people and underscores the need for the Senate to pass the bill," said Human Rights Campaign (HRC) president Joe Solmonese in a written statement. "I hope President Bush will look at this poll and realize how unbelievably out of line a threatened veto of this critical crime-fighting piece of legislation is with a majority of Americans."

According to the HRC, when the poll was broken down by self-identified demographic subgroups, 60 percent of Republicans; 69 percent of independents and 75 percent of Democrats support passage of the hate-crimes bill. Regular churchgoers' support of the bill was less strong than others, but even they polled 64 percent in support. Seventy-three percent of people who attend church seldom or never said they support the bill.



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Spouses Celebrate Marriage Ruling

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - Michael Adams and his partner, Fred Davie, waited three years to find out whether their marriage in Massachusetts was legal, reported the Associated Press on the PlanetOut Network. On Wednesday (May 16), they got an answer: Their wedding rings can stay on.

A judge ruled that marriages of same-sex couples from New York who wed in Massachusetts before July are valid because New York had not explicitly banned same-sex marriages until then. "We've been in limbo," Adams said. "To learn that the marriage we cherish so much is legal, and recognized in Massachusetts and New York – well, we can't wait to get together to pop open a bottle of champagne."

Massachusetts became the first state in the country to allow same-sex marriage in May 2004, but couples are barred from marrying in the state if their marriages would be prohibited in their home states. Adams and Davie, from New York City, wed in Lowell, Mass., in 2004. The New York Court of Appeals ruled July 6, 2006, that New York law limits marriage to unions between a man and a woman.

The Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders had asked for clarification of the status of New York couples who married in Massachusetts before that ruling. In a May 10 decision, Suffolk Superior Court Judge Thomas Connolly found that those marriages are legally valid, saying that same-sex marriages became "prohibited" in New York only on July 6, 2006.

"We've come such a long way," said Adams. "We know that we have a legally recognized marriage, and it's going to open up new opportunities for us to be treated fairly, to get benefits we deserve as a couple."

It was unclear exactly how many New York couples married in Massachusetts during the two-year period, but GLAD said it was "in the hundreds." The group had previously said 173 New York couples were affected.

After Massachusetts legalized same-sex marriage, hundreds of couples from other states went there to get married. But former Gov. Mitt Romney directed municipal clerks not to give licenses to out-of-state couples, citing a 1913 law that bars couples from marrying in Massachusetts if the marriages would be prohibited in their home states. Eight couples from six states challenged the law.

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled in March 2006 that Massachusetts could use the 1913 law to bar Gay couples from Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont from marrying in the state because they had an "express prohibition" against same-sex marriage. The high court said it was unclear if same-sex marriage was specifically banned in New York and Rhode Island, and sent that part of the case back to Connolly.

Connolly ruled in September that same-sex couples from Rhode Island have the right to marry in Massachusetts because Gay marriage is not expressly prohibited there. Gay rights groups praised Connolly's most recent ruling.

But Michael Long, who heads New York's small but politically influential Conservative Party, predicted Connolly's ruling wouldn't hold up in New York. "It's wishful thinking by some homosexual couples that the interpretation of a particular judge will change their status," Long said. "The law in the state of New York is very clear – marriage is between a man and a woman." Long said the issue could wind up back in New York courts if the same-sex couples affected seek to press for marriage rights in their home state.

Mass. G/L Marriages Leveling Off

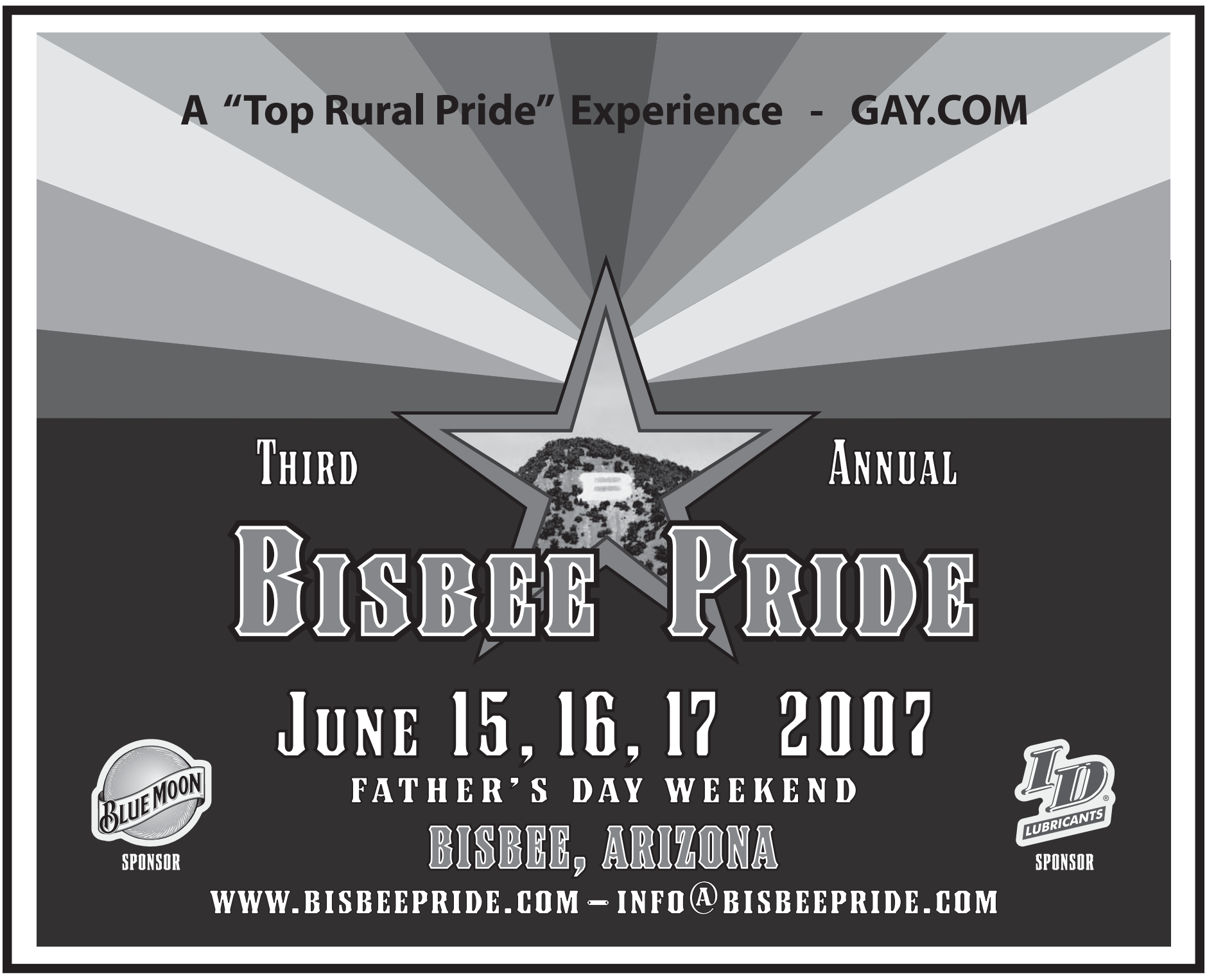
BOSTON (Observer Update) - The number of same-sex couples marrying in Massachusetts, the only state where Gay marriage is legal, has dropped significantly, 365Gay.com reported. Statistics released by the Department of Public Health which records marriages in the state in the first four months of this year only 87 same-sex couples have tied the knot in Massachusetts.

Same-sex marriage became legal on May 17, 2004. In the six months that year Gay and Lesbian couples were able to wed, 6,121 couples were married. In 2005 it dropped to 2060, and in 2006 1,427 were married. LGBT activists who fought for equal marriage rights say they are not surprised by the drop. Most of those couples who married in the first two years had been together for a long period of time creating a backlog. The current statistics they argue is likely more indicative of people who have begun relationships after the legalization of Gay marriage. On Thursday (May 17) same-sex couples throughout the state celebrated the anniversary of the legalization of Gay marriage.

On Beacon Hill, the state's three most powerful lawmakers made a surprise appearance at a State House rally. Gov. Deval L. Patrick,, proclaimed the day "Marriage Equality Day." He was joined by House Speaker Sal DiMasi and Senate President Therese Murray. All three are Democrats and used the occasion to press lawmakers to reject a proposed amendment to the state Constitution that would end same-sex marriage. "[I]f we don't lay this question to rest at the constitutional convention, all the other business that you and I care about, will be eclipsed by a poisonous debate over private choices that each of us ought to make," said Patrick. "See, I don't think you're asking for anything that I don't enjoy in my own straight marriage."

The proposed amendment is the result of a petition drive by conservative groups. Amending the Constitution requires just 50 votes in two consecutive joint sessions of the House and Senate, called a Constitutional Convention, in order to put the measure on the ballot. The measure received preliminary approval last January. The Legislature approved the measure with 61 votes in favor and 132 opposed. That was 11 votes more than needed to advance to a second vote this year. Earlier this month the Constitutional Convention met for less than a minute, deciding to put off a vote on the amendment until at least June 14.

Intensive lobbying by Gay rights groups along with Patrick, DiMasi, Murray and Attorney General Martha Coakley support for the amendment has been whittled down. A Boston newspaper reported it now is so close it is impossible to predict the outcome of next month's vote. Only three or four votes are in question.



COMMENTARY. . . .

Filling Falwell's Shoes

By Libby Post

The first thing that came to mind when I heard Jerry Falwell had died was "Ding, dong the preacher's dead."

But then I thought better of saying that out loud right away not wanting to give his supporters another reason to believe that we really are the devil.

There was a lot of back and forth among leaders of the LGBT community and media-types like me about how to handle the news. Should we go out and dance in the street? Or, should we be a little more tempered in our response by expressing our condolences to his family while at the same time pointing out that the LGBT community was not one of his favorites. Or, should we detail all the absurd, hateful things he's said about us in the past like blaming Lesbians and Gays, among others, for the 9-11 bombings.

Hmm, what a dilemma.

I'm not a big one for cavorting around in the street. Rising above Falwell's inhumanity with a little humanity of our own, however, lets us take the high road. I think Matt Foreman, executive director, of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, did this quite well for all of us when he released the following succinct statement.

"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."

Between the day he died and the day of Falwell's funeral at his Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, VA, the political guessing game of the week has been who of the Republican presidential candidates will attend. If you want to curry favor with the Radical Christian Right, a little face time at their founder's would-be canonization ceremony wouldn't be a bad idea. It doesn't matter if George or Dick show up–they're lame ducks.

I'd lay money that Sam Brownback, Mike Huckabee and Mitt Romney will be there. Brownback, a born-again Catholic, called Falwell a "true spiritual leader . . . His great words and actions will never be forgotten by the hundreds of thousands of people around the world that his life has touched."

Well, millions of LGBT people will never forget Falwell calling AIDS "the wrath of a just God against homosexuals." Those words touched the lives of thousands upon thousands who have died from the disease in this country alone because his decree gave justification to our federal government doing nothing to stop the epidemic in its early days.

Mitt Romney, who as we all know is working to be the Right's new poster child, called Falwell " An American who built and led a movement based on strong principles and strong faith" and that "the legacy of his important work will continue."

Are the strong principles Romney is talking about lying, anti-Semitism, purporting to speak for God and homophobia? If so, I can only imagine what type of presidency he'll bring to us.

We all know about the homophobia, but did you know that during a January, 1999 pastor's conference in Kingsport, TN, Falwell told the crowd that the Antichrist had been born and "of course, he'll be Jewish." Or that despite promising Jewish groups that he'd stop referring to America as a "Christian nation," he never did.

Or, that over the years, he illegally funneled money from his ministry to conservative political action committees? In 1987, the Federal Election Commission fined Falwell for transferring $6.7 million and in February 1993 the IRS did the same for taking money he raised on his show, the Old Time Gospel Hour, and giving it to his political favorites. The IRS fined him $50,000 and retroactively revoked his tax-exempt status for a year.

That's a pretty small price to pay for misleading donors and making illegal campaign contributions.

But it's Romney's contention that "the legacy of his important work will continue" that gives me pause.

Now matter how we may mark Falwell's passing, we need to remember that there are hundreds of Falwell-wannabes waiting in the wings to fill his shoes.

(Libby Post is a columnist for 365Gay.com from which this is reprinted from.)

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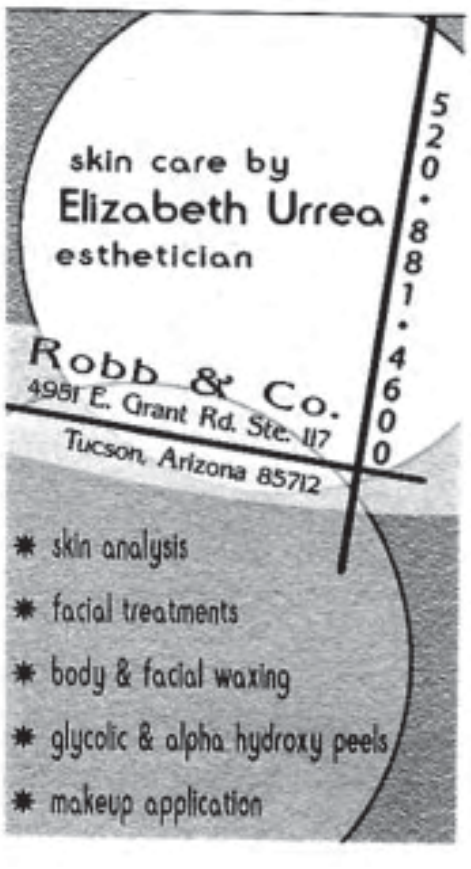

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POLITICS 2007

by Mark R. Kerr

"Matthew Shepard Act' To Be Considered In U.S. Senate

According to the Human Rights Campaign, the Washington D.C. based Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender rights organization, the U.S. Senate will soon take up legislation to expand federal hate crimes statutes to cover people based on sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and disability.

Introduced by U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy, D-MA, S. 1105, also known as the "Matthew Shepard Act," would expand the definition of hate crimes and the government's authority to investigate and prosecute them.

Kennedy's bill is named after the openly Gay, University of Wyoming student, Matthew Shepard, who was brutally murdered in 1998 in Laramie, Wyoming because of his sexual orientation.

Contrary to the misreporting and misrepresentation by corporate hack media and right-wing opponents, the proposed hate crimes bill don't penalize thought, since courts have ruled such local and state statutes.

Nor do the two bills have a penalty-enhancement statute since Congress already addressed the sentence enhancement issue by passing the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, which allows judges to impose harsher penalties for hate crimes, including hate crimes based on gender, disability and sexual orientation that occur in national parks and on other federal property.

As previously reported, S. 1105 (as well as its House companion bill, H.R. 1592) ensures a federal backstop to assist local law enforcement in those cases in which they request assistance or fail to adequately investigate or prosecute these serious crimes and also provides assistance to local law enforcement for investigating and prosecuting bias-motivated violent crimes.

A new Gallup poll shows that a majority of Americans support the hate-crimes bill with 60 percent of Republicans; 69 percent of independents and 75 percent of Democrats supporting passage of federal legislation.

S. 1105 has been assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee and is chaired by Senator Patrick Leahy, D-VT.

To take online action, go to: hrcactioncenter.org/campaign/matthew_shepard, thetaskforce.org/hatecrimes07/hatecrimes07.html.

Call your U.S. Senator at: (202) 224-3121 or try the following toll-free numbers: (877) 851-6437, (800) 862-5530, (800) 833-6354, (866) 340-9281 or (866) 220-0044.

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Gay Flamingos' Parenting Skills Recognized

SLIMBRIDGE, England - Carlos and Fernando, a same-sex flamingo couple famed for appropriating other birds' nests in a desire to become parents, have been rewarded for their tenacity with a chick of their own, reported Agence France-Presse in advocate.com.

Keepers at the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) thought of Carlos and Fernando when another flamingo abandoned its nest with an egg still in it. When the egg hatched in an incubator before the pair could take over, the keepers carefully taped the new chick into a discarded eggshell before delivering it chez Carlos and Fernando.

"Parents usually first bond with their chicks as they're hatching and calling from inside the egg," trust officials wrote on their Web site. "So to help Carlos and Fernando bond with their new chick, WWT staff took an old eggshell, carefully popped the newborn chick inside, taped it up and returned it to Carlos and Fernando's empty nest. The pair were soon seen "talking" to the chick inside the egg and a little while later the chick hatched for a second time – but this time to be greeted by its loving foster parents."

The new family lives at the trust's headquarters in Slimbridge, near Bristol, in an estuary of the River Severn that happens to be the world's only home to all six flamingo species. The site provides birds to zoos in lieu of captives from wild populations, which are severely stressed by urbanization and climate change. Experts there say Gay flamingos are not uncommon. "If there aren't enough females or they don't hit it off with them, they will pair off with other males," WWT spokeswoman Jane Waghorn told Agence France-Presse.

Lesbian Regains Custody Of Child

ATLANTA (Observer Update) - After almost three months, a seven-year-old girl has been reunited with the woman in whose care she'd thrived for almost a year before a court ordered she be sent to live in a foster home, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. The child had been held in foster care by the Wilkinson County Division of Family and Children Services since February 20, when a judge took her away from her home after he learned that she was being raised by a Lesbian.

"Emma and I missed each other so much while we were separated, and I hope she can put this painful experience behind her quickly," said Elizabeth Hadaway. "But I'm grateful to DFCS for recognizing that Emma's biological mother always had her best interests at heart in wanting her to live with me," said Hadaway, a 28-year-old paramedic who first took in the little girl when the child's biological mother asked her to raise and adopt Emma. "Emma and I are just so glad she's finally home." The little girl's biological mother, who had sole custody, asked Hadaway to raise and adopt the child after struggling for years to care for her in spite of a variety of problems that included financial hardships and a difficult life on the road as a truck driver.

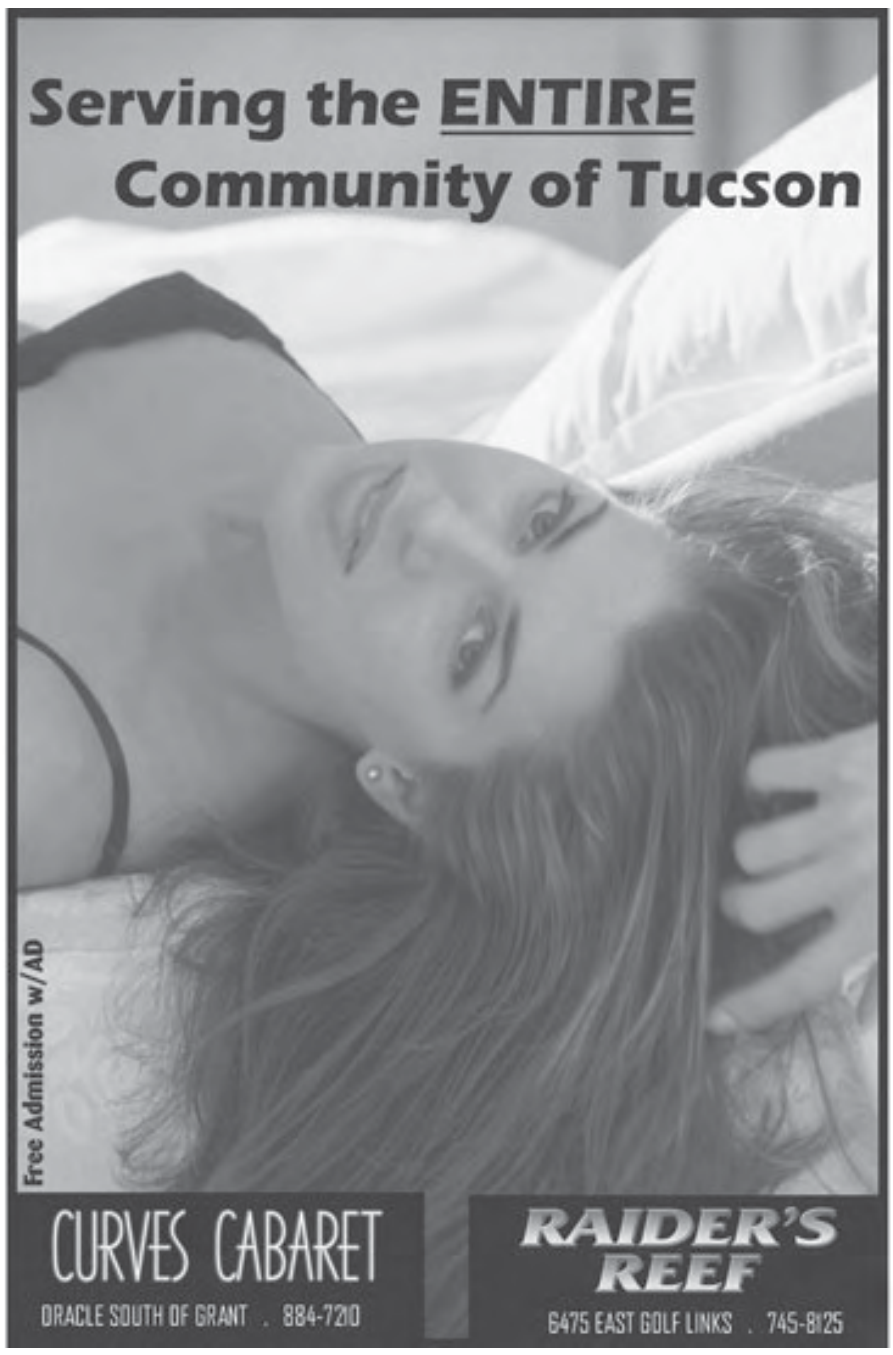
With the biological mother's blessing, Hadaway was granted legal custody in 2006. Under Hadaway's care, the child began making great strides in her schoolwork, self-confidence, and emotional well-being. Several months later, Wilkinson County Superior Court Judge John Lee Parrott appeared to be on the verge of granting Hadaway's request to permanently adopt Emma when he noticed in January in a home study report that Hadaway was living at the time with her same-sex partner of seven years. At that point Parrott abruptly denied the adoption, ordering that Emma be sent back to her biological mother.

Hadaway complied and met with the biological mother at a truck stop to hand over the girl. After accepting custody, the biological mother saw how distraught Emma was at being taken from Hadaway and again insisted that Hadaway should raise the girl, the ACLU which represents Hadaway said. Hadaway, who had ended her relationship with her partner, then moved with Emma to Bibb County, where she applied in a Bibb County court for custody with the biological mother's full consent. Shortly after that, on Feb. 20, Parrott found Hadaway in contempt of his ruling and ordered the little girl be taken from her home to live in foster care in spite of the biological mother's wishes.

In early Apr., a Bibb County judge then granted custody of the child to Hadaway, after hearing evidence from an expert commissioned by Wilkinson County DFCS to study Emma in her foster home. The expert found that the little girl is unable to get the individualized attention she needs in her foster home and experiencing emotional trauma because of the separation from Hadaway. Nevertheless, the child remained in foster care, with the Division of Family and Children Services uncertain of which judge's ruling to follow. DFCS agreed that the biological mother's wishes should be honored, and little Emma was reunited with Hadaway.

"The law serves families best when focused on the needs of children, rather than the prejudices or assumptions of adults," said Gerry Weber, Legal Director of the ACLU of Georgia. "We're glad that DFCS agreed that it must honor the decision of the biological mother to allow Elizabeth to raise Emma," said Ken Choe, a senior staff attorney with the ACLU's national Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Project. "Children like Emma shouldn't have to fear being torn away from their homes and families just because their parents are Gay." The contempt charge against Hadaway remains outstanding, however, and the ACLU will file a brief later this week seeking to have it overturned.

HATE IS NOT A FAMILY VALUE



British Gays And Lesbians Serving Their Country

Continued from Page Five

personnel officer is responsible for about 39,000 sailors. His speech was titled "Reaping the Rewards of a Gay-Friendly Workplace."

"Those individuals need nurturing, so that they give of their best and are, in turn, rewarded for their effort," he said of the Royal Navy's Gay men and Lesbians. "Nurture includes the freedom to be themselves. Our mission is to break down barriers of discrimination, prejudice, fear and misunderstanding."

Once the news is out there, the Gay Royal Air Force squadron leader said, the issue gets subsumed by the job at hand and by the relentless immediacy of war. At one point, his squad was working with a British Army unit. "I wouldn't go into a briefing room and face them and say, 'By the way, I'm Gay,' " he said of his British Army counterparts. "Frankly, I don't think they were worried, because we were all focused on doing a very, very hard job." He recalled something his commander had said, when advising him to come out to his squad: "The boss said, 'I think you will be surprised that in this day and age it will be a complete anticlimax, because as far as I'm concerned, homosexuals in the military are yesterday's news.' "

NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

Continuous War

by Lee Thorn

For people who worry about foreign affairs, it's time to stop worrying about when the Iraq war will end and start worrying about if it will end. Both neoconservative commentators and commentators who consider themselves moderate are beginning to make the case for continuous war in Iraq. The case is basically that the US can't get out of the war – not ever – because, if we did, things would get immeasurably worse. Thus, no matter which political party wins the next presidential election, we stay in Iraq.

In George Orwell's classic novel, NINETEEN EIGHTY-FOUR, the hero lives in a country where war is "literally continuous." Continuous war has its attractions in Orwell's fictional country as it does for whichever party is in power in our real one. The party in power can shovel tons of money to its friends through no-bid and cost-plus contracts, as well as no-show, no-work, no-perform, no-audit, etc. contracts. It can abolish spending limits because we have to give the troops whatever they need. It can silence opposition at home by calling it unpatriotic. It can illegally spy on opposition, put opposition in jail without charges, without even telling anyone, for that matter "disappear" opposition. After all, war is an emergency, so how about a convenient continuous emergency?

Best of all, the party in power never has to admit defeat. If we're still there, no matter how bad we're doing, things could always theoretically take a turn for the better. Never having to admit defeat means never having to admit bad judgment: everything could still theoretically work out for the best.

How do we know that things will be worse if we leave? We don't. A former Iraqi government minister made the case recently on the Charlie Rose TV show that, first, things probably wouldn't get worse if we left and, second, there's really no way to know one way or the other. One assumes that the 80% of Iraqis who want us out of their country don't think things would get worse, unless we believe that they just like things worse. With 680,000 dead and millions displaced, it wouldn't be easy for things to get worse. Iraqi kids can't even go to school because it's too dangerous to get there. Iraqis of all persuasions are wondering where the infrastructure that we promised is. Except for saying "ethnic bloodletting" the neocons are extremely vague about what could get worse. Don't look now but ethnic bloodletting of torrential proportions has been going on for a long time. What evidence is there that our presence is even influencing it in either direction?

While the it'll-get-worse argument is vague and unsupported by evidence, there are some very concrete things that would not get worse if we made an immediate tactical withdrawal. It would not be worse that our troops would no longer be dying there. It would not be worse for our national budget that the military spending could be drastically reduced. It would not be worse that the military industrial complex would have to go back to bidding for contracts and, ideally, would have to return some of the billions it's illicitly pocketed.

It would not be worse that the National Guard could come home and resume the duties it was invented for. It would not be worse that the regular army could start the long process of putting itself back together.

More important than all of the above, with the end of the war we could start getting our civil liberties back, start putting what Orwell called "Big Brother," limitless government power, back in its cage. You might well ask me, "What has Big Brother done in the present case that's been so harmful?" The answer is that Big Brother has dismantled the apparatus for monitoring what it's done. If human nature is the same here as in other countries around the world, some of Big Brother's secrets won't be pretty.

If continuous war isn't the answer, what is? We need to acknowledge the obvious, that there isn't always a military solution to every political problem. People have come to think of war as a last resort. If it doesn't get you where you want to go, it shouldn't be the last resort. Doing nothing might be a vastly more reasonable last resort. If we've learned nothing else, surely we've learned that the United States isn't the boss of the world. We've just got two choices in world affairs, war and diplomacy. War isn't working.

(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.)

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Orchestra Hits Sour Note For Oboist

BUFFALO, New York - The New York state Division of Human Rights is investigating a complaint by a former musician with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra that he was fired after complaining about homophobia by a fellow player, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. J. Bud Roach, who is Gay and was at the time the orchestra's former second oboist, filed the complaint alleging that in February 2003 first oboist Pierre Roy remarked during an audition for new musicians for the orchestra that, "We wouldn't want any more fags in the orchestra."

Roach's complaint says that when he complained to Music Director JoAnn Falletta he was urged drop the matter because "these things can get messy." Roach says in his filing that when nothing was done he filed a complaint with the Division and that following that, in the following year he was dismissed. The complaint alleges that his musicianship was never questioned until after his lawyer contacted the orchestra about his concerns over the homophobic remark. "When I first complained to JoAnn, I was making a commitment to trust the process," Roach tells the Buffalo News. "I was hoping it wouldn't go any further – that she would handle it. She didn't."

Falletta told the paper that the orchestra is not homophobic and that Roach was not fired because of his complaint against the BPO. Falletta said that Roach was on probation and his dismissal was the result of his work. "I felt very sadly, but strongly, that his playing was not up to the standard we expect," she told the News. Roach admits he did not hear the alleged homophobic remark first hand. It was related to him by another member of the orchestra. But he says he does not doubt its accuracy. The Human Rights Division has decided there is probable cause to believe Roach. It has scheduled a hearing for June 18.

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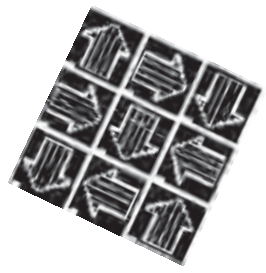

HOROSCOPES

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The Sun enters Gemini this week. Do you feel unbridled optimism, enthusiasm, general well being and overarching jolliness? Of course you do! What can I say except turn up the volume and dance, dance, dance!

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Although you are not known for your subtle conversational style, Gay Rams can become this season's glib master (well, at least for a short while) with Sun in Gemini. Say what you have to say sooner rather than later. This eloquent energy should turn even your biggest gaffs to bigger laughs. What a refreshing change of pace! Hurry before you turn into a lead balloon.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

It's a happy day for all queer Bulls with Sun in Gemini. The money bells chime and finances appear to turn the tide. Contemplate your nest egg rather than your navel; the attention that you now divert into more practical concerns will be an asset to you in the months to come. Remember that bulls and bears both make money but piggies can lose their shirts.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Gay Twins are in the pink when Sun enters their own sign. You feel a frenetic push and pull as the masses crowd into your air space and inhale your vibes. Get creative on them. Start new projects, meet new people, try a new look and get a new perspective on things. As you might have guessed, the keyword is "new". So nuh? What is taking you so long?

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

This week, as Sun enters Gemini, pink Crabs turn their attention to their cosmic senses. Meditate and embrace life. You de-stress and begin to feel more in control of even your most uncontrollable faculties. Try your hand at palm reading or some other psychic tool. You may find the answers to life hidden in dreams. Stop when you begin to talk to lamps, or they to you.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

As the Sun enters Gemini, proud Lions can't help but feel like the center of the social universe. Friends and even complete strangers gravitate to your orbit and gyrate to your rhythms. You call the tune so choose your music carefully. There is the temptation to manipulate others but it is the wise Leo who creates a utopia rather than a penal colony. Hmm however. .

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

Thoughts turn to professional matters with Sun in Gemini. It is high time to put those random thoughts into eloquent directed action. Take the bull by the horns, queer Virgin; this is your opportunity to make impressive strides in your corporate ascent. What you can't accomplish by pure pluck, you gain through clever manipulation. The more the better!

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

There is much to be gained from expanding your field of vision with Sun in Gemini. Proud Libras may be thinking about traveling or seeking a change of scenery. It's time to make it happen. Pursue legal remedies now and you may get your justice. If you are the injuring rather than the injured party, the punishment may be less severe, unless you request otherwise.

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

Are you daydreaming about sex? This week delivers on every lurid promise. Lucky and steamy proud Scorps can have their cheesecake and eat it too. But don't fritter this festive energy on just desserts, it is also a good time to turn a green eyeshade to your financial situation. Handling it now rather than waiting until the end of the year will be less, shall we say, taxing?

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

There is an extra kiss in store for those lucky Gay Archers with a partner to kiss. Sun in Gemini turns on your charm and enables you to sway those closest to you to your way of thinking. For those single Sadges with a hankering to connect, use the next few weeks to survey the field and stake your claim. Just be careful where you stick that stake, cousin.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

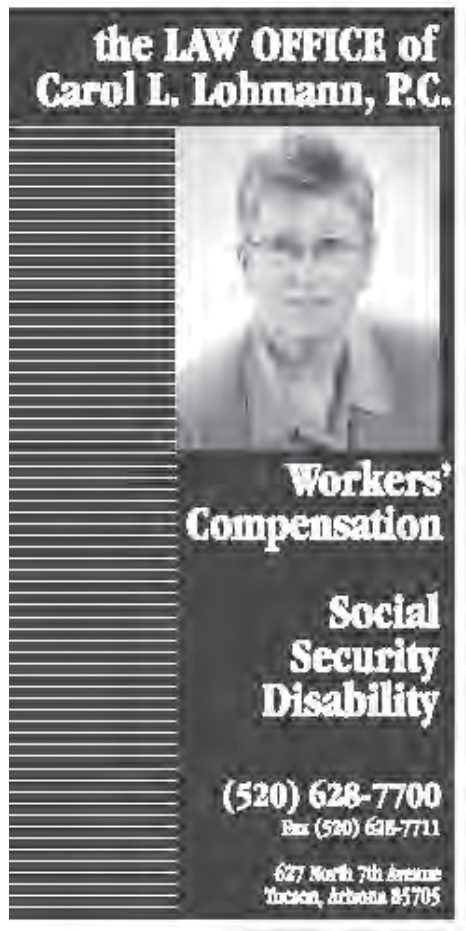
Pink Caps are in their element this week. Much can be accomplished on the job as the tasks that you carefully planned last week can be tackled and completed successfully. And don't be surprised if there is an extra reward to burning the midnight oil in your favorite cubicle. Hint, hint; pack extra oil so you can sharpen your pencil and push your paper clip.

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

Most of us have our noses pressed upon the glass windows of the finest parties but not so Aqueerians. They are the ones in the center of the action, sipping champagne out of various footwear and carousing with abandon. This is especially true when the Sun enters Gemini. Party heartily you party animal. And don't be surprised if one of the toads you kiss turns out to be royalty.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Manage your family affairs with Sun in Gemini. Guppies might have had a few passing thoughts about unresolved family issues last week. Now put your thoughts into action; Open that closet and clear the air. This is also a great month to entertain at home with a bunch of festive cohorts. It's never too late to roast chestnuts by the open fire. Just don't get singed.



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

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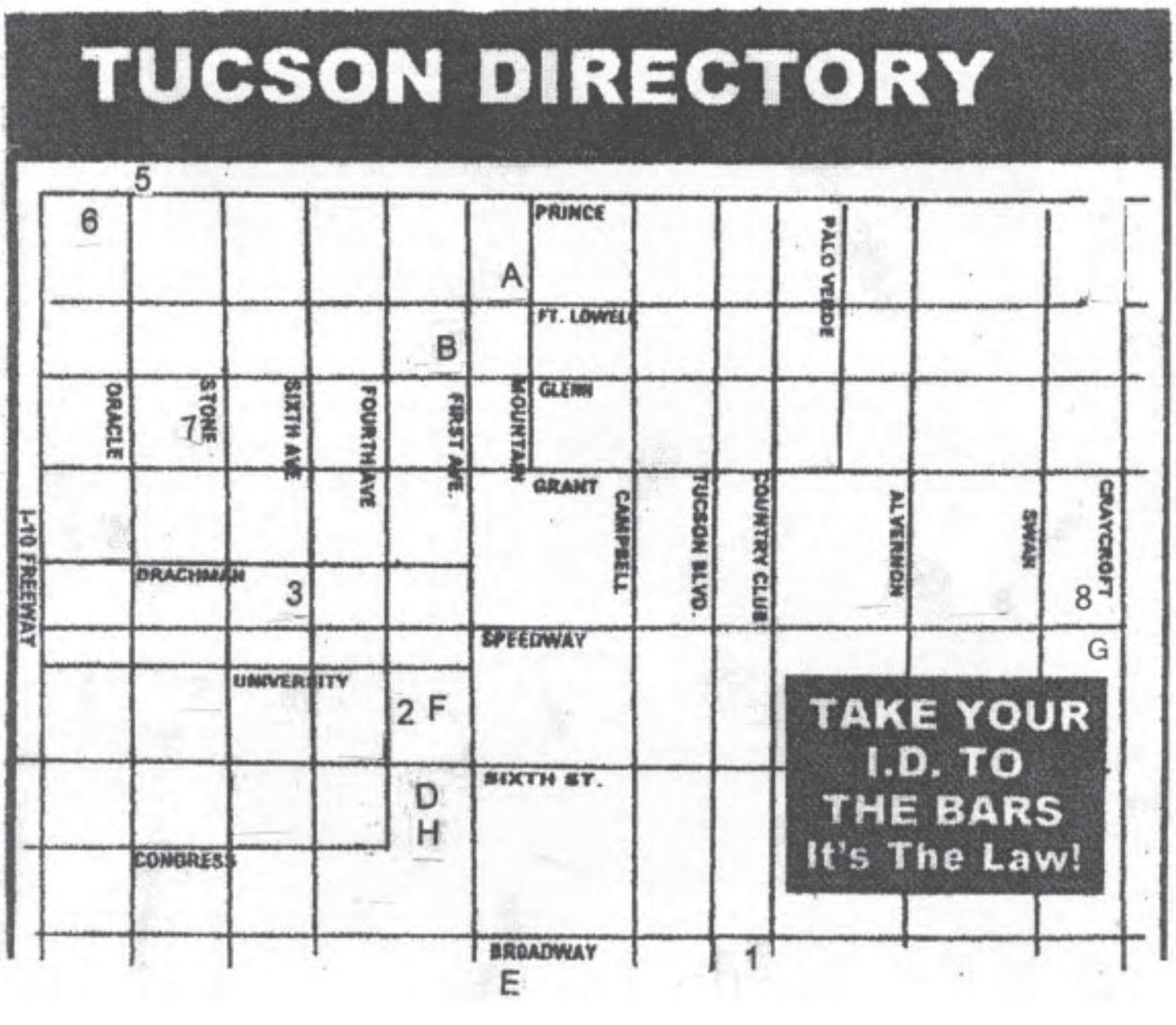


Community Bars

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

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

Monday, May 28
In observance of Memorial Day, Wingspan will be open the following hours 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Wingspan will be open for regular hours on Saturday and Sunday, (May 26 & 27) 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information call (520)624-1779.

#1Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m.Join Karol for Hearts by phoning to reserve your place at this limited seating event.Contact 744-9017.

Tucson Prime Timers, Lunch - 12:30 P.M., The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

Wednesday, May 30
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.

Thursday, May 31
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, June 1
Tucson Prime Timers Cocktails – 5:30 – 7:00, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Sunday, June 3
Tucson Prime Timers Brunch – Noon, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Monday, June 4
Tucson Prime Timers Lunch – 12:30 P.M., The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

Friday, June 8
Tucson Prime Timers Cocktails – 5:30 PM, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Saturday, June 9
Tucson Prime Timers Business Meeting – 11 AM, Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St.

Sunday, June 10
Tucson Prime Timers Brunch, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Monday, June 11
Tucson Prime Timers Lunch – 12:30 P.M., The Wildcat House, 800 N. Stone Ave.

Friday, June 15
Tucson Prime Timers Cocktails – 5:30 PM, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Sunday, June 17
Tucson Prime Timers Brunch – Noon, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Monday, June 18
Tucson Prime Timers Lunch – 12:30 P.M., The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

Friday, June 22
Tucson Prime Timers Cocktails - 5:30 PM, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Sunday, June 24
Tucson Prime Timers Brunch – Noon, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Monday, June 25
Tucson Prime Timers Lunch – 12:30 P.M., The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

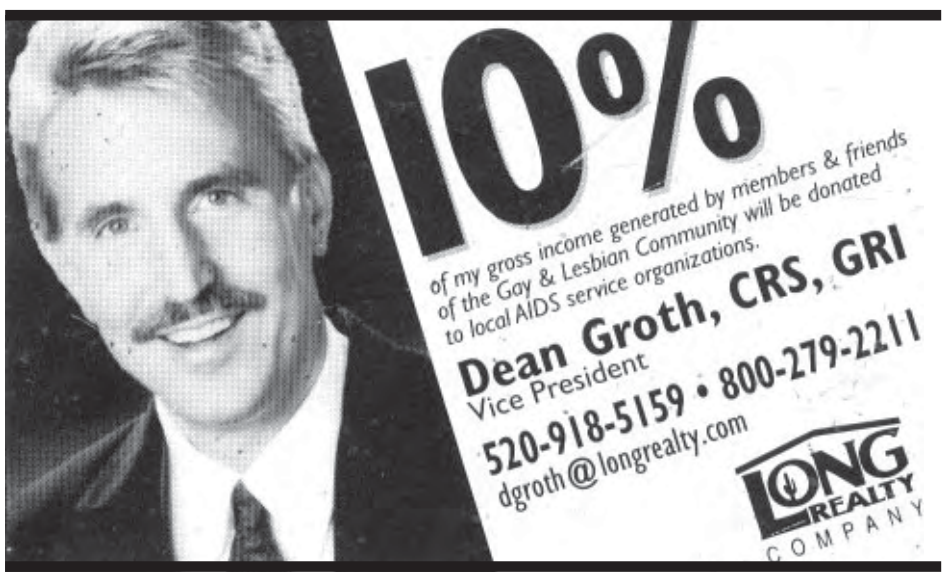
Friday, June 29
Tucson Prime Timers Cocktails – 5:30 PM, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Cult Classic "My Own Private Idaho" At Loft Cinema June 2

The queer cult classic "My Own Private Idaho" screens at the Loft Cinema, 3233 E. Speedway, Saturday, June 2 at 7:00 p.m. with one of the film's stars, William Richert in person.

After the movie, Richert (who in addition to his acting credits, is also an acclaimed director/writer,producer) will discuss making the film, his relationship with star River Phoenix and his own controversial career in the Hollywood studio system. Admission is $5.00.

When the film hit the movie screens in 1991, its stylish surrealism and striking queer storyline and imagery made it an instant cult classic.



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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 Watch for special events.

YARD DOG - Open 10am - 2am. Patio Bar opens at 7pm.

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

FRIDAY, MAY 25
YARD DOG - Memorial Day Weekend begins here tonight with food being served starting at 4:00 p.m.

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.

VENTURE-N - Yankee Bucky's Dandy Grill 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Then it's Military Uniform Night. Jell-O Shots and other Drink Specials and men in uniform(any military article accepted) are eligible to win prizes in drawings from 11:00 p.m. until 1:30 p.m.

YARD DOG - Burgers and Hot Dogs being sserved at 5:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 27
VENTURE-N - Beer Bust 3-7 p.m. plus Sunday BBQ - Hot Dogs, Hamburgers & Fries w/Mom's Apple Pie.

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.

YARD DOG - Mom's BBQ Rib Dinner served t 7:00 p.m. with Sonny and Band!

MONDAY, MAY 28 - MEMORIAL DAY
IBT'S - Traditional "Monday Morning Madness" Party here to celebrate the holiday. Bar opens at 10:00 a.m. with a free brunch buffet. 11:00 a.m. Drag Show with Bunny FuFu; 1:00 p.m. Karaoke on the Patio and free Sub Sandwiches. Enjoy music all day with DJ Q and stay for DJ Todd at 9:00 p.m.!!!

VENTURE-N - Bar-B-Que served from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

YARD DOG - Burgers and Brats at 5:00 p.m. with Drink Specials.

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.

WOODY'S - Arthur Migliazza and Julie Anne perform from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on the Back Pocket Patio.

SUNDAY, JUNE 3
WOODY'S - Drag Bingo

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

WOODY'S - Pride Week starts out here with a Luau Party and Bud Promotion.

FRIDAY, JUNE 15
WOODY'S - June Birthday Party. Register with the bartender to take part.

SUNDAY, JUNE 17
WOODY'S - Drag Bingo

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

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 info.

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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