Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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Tucson Observer Archives

Equality Arizona Announces 2008 Legislative Priorities

State Senator Paula Aboud

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - At a press conference on the House of Representatives Lawn at the Arizona State Capitol in Phoenix on Monday, February 11, Equality Arizona Executive Director Barbara McCullough-Jones and Public Affairs Director Sam Holdren announced the organization's pro-equality, pro-family legislative priorities.

Eight bills sponsored by several legislators have been introduced in this year's session of the Arizona Legislature. As a whole, according to Equality Arizona, they represent the diverse needs of Arizona's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community.

"These various bills demonstrate the many ways that Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people, their children and their families experience discrimination on a daily basis," said McCullough-Jones. "These bills also offer real solutions to real problems. They also express the values that the people of Arizona share: that all people and all families should be afforded equal protection and the human dignity of all people and all families should be respected, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.

The pro-equality and pro-family bills that have been introduced include:

HB 2775 (Bill of Rights for Children and Youth in Foster Care), which would provide protections for children and youth in the care of the state's foster care system.

SB 1371 and HB 2743 (Domestic Partner Registry and Rights), which would allow same- and opposite-sex couples to register as domestic partners and receive all the same state rights and responsibilities afforded to married couples.

To keep up with the times, Arizona should support equal rights among all of its residents by extending marriage benefits to same-sex couples, state Senator Paula Aboud said at the press conference. "This is not stepping on anybody," said Aboud, D-Tucson, in an interview. "This is a civil rights issue."

Aboud said it's time for policy to catch up with 21st-century society and recognize rights of same-sex couples and also of heterosexual couples who choose to live together but not marry. Aboud is a sponsor of SB 1371, which hasn't received a hearing date.

SB 1416 and HB 2712 (Civil Rights Protections), which would add protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expres-

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Arizona State University Chapter Of GBTS Allied Fraternity Makes History

TEMPE (Observer Update) - The Arizona State University (ASU) chapter of Sigma Phi Beta Fraternity, the nation's leading Gay, Bisexual, Transgeder and Straight (GBTS) college fraternity, was awarded the university's chapter of the year title at the annual Greek Life Awards Ceremony at the Tempe Mission Palms on February 5, 2008. Competing against 24 other fraternities at the one of the nation's largest university, Sigma Phi Beta came out on top.

To qualify for the award, Sigma Phi Beta Fraternity received the highest score in a variety of categories, including: community service, risk management, chapter management, academic excellence, member development, and campus/community involvement. Sigma Phi Beta Fraternity is likely the first Gay and allied fraternity ever to be recognized with such a prestigious award by a university. Over the past several years, members of the fraternity have served in leadership positions on the university's Interfraternity Council board and other philanthropic committees.

"Receiving this award speaks volumes about the type of change that Sigma Phi Beta Fraternity is creating in the lives of Gay and allied youth, and in the hearts and minds of their traditionally-conservative peers," said Steven Tran, the ASU fraternity's Transgender chapter president.

Sam Holdren, the fraternity's national president and chairman and one of the founders, added, "It is the perseverance and dedication of the members of Sigma Phi Beta Fraternity that won this award tonight. It is that same level of commitment we are carrying with us to create the same type of change on college campuses across the nation."

Sigma Phi Beta Fraternity, a 501(c)7 nonprofit corporation headquartered in Tempe, Arizona, is a

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Archives Exhibit at the Tucson Gay Museum

Arizona Republican Legislators Push G/L Marriage Ban

By Mark R. Kerr

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - On Monday, February 11, legislation was introduced to place before the voters on the November general election ballot a measure to amend the Arizona Constitution to ban governmental and legal recognition of same-sex marriage.

SCR (Senate Concurrent Resolution) 1038 is sponsored by sixteen state Senators, all Republicans, including Senate President Tim Bee of Tucson and the House companion measure, HCR (House Concurrent Resolution) 2065 is sponsored by 31 House Republicans, including House Speaker Jim Weiers of Phoenix and one Democrat.

For Concurrent Resolutions, both chambers would have to approve the measure in a vote for it to be included on the November ballot in this presidential election year.

Under the proposed amendment, "only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in this state." As of press time, neither bill had been first read and assigned to a committee for hearings.

Both proposals comes after Arizona voters narrowly rejected Proposition 107 in November 2006.

Proposition 107 included the same definition but also contained wording that was interpreted as prohibiting government recognition of civil unions or domestic partnerships. Seven other states approved amendments that day. Arizona Together and No on 107, the primary opposition, focused much of their campaign on the additional wording.

"When Arizona voters defeated Proposition 107 in 2006, they sent a strong message that the people of Arizona do not want to write discrimination into the constitution of this state. Arizonans overwhelmingly support equality. This renewed effort to place another anti-equality amendment on the ballot is an attempt by a small group of extremists to write their personal beliefs into the state constitution," said Barbara McCullough-Jones, Executive Director of Equality Arizona.

"At a time when the state is dealing with a budget crisis, the Legislature should be spending its time finding real solutions to real problems, not doing the dirty work of an extremist group. If the anti-Gay industry and their anti-equality forces want to place another amendment on the ballot, then they should have to spend their own time and money, not taxpayer money, to do so," McCullough-Jones added.

According to a wire service stories, a leading backer of both measures said the new one should be considered a "consensus measure" because it is intended solely to bar recognition of same-sex marriage.

"This amendment is about bringing Arizonans together on an issue enjoying widespread agreement - that marriage is a union of one man and one woman," said Cathi Herrod, president of

Arizona Senate President Tim Bee

the Center for Arizona Policy, a conservative anti-LGBT organization, in an interview.

Arizona already has a state law that defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman, adopted and signed into existence in 1996 (Arizona Revised Statutes 25-101 and 25-112).

In 2003- 2004, Arizona's DOMA (Defense of Marriage Act) withstood a court challenge by a Phoenix Gay couple. That statute was ruled constitutional in 2003 by the state Court of Appeals, a decision the Arizona Supreme Court left untouched in 2004.

But Ron Johnson, who lobbies on behalf of the Arizona Catholic Conference, said in an interview, the initiative still is necessary. At some point, a court (or) the Legislature could overturn our statute," Johnson said. "So we want to let the people decide whether to put this in the constitution."

State Rep. Kyrsten Sinema, a Phoenix Democrat who led the opposition campaign to the 2006 measure, said in an interview she opposes the new proposal. "I don't think it's needed. I don't think it's necessary," she said. "We've already had this fight a couple of times."

Sinema also questioned why the issue was being raised. However, many also "didn't see the need for putting something in the Constitution that was already in statute and had already withstood a court challenge," Sinema said.

Herrod said there is no ulterior motive, such as trying to bring "traditional-values" backers to the polls where they also would support like-minded candidates for state and federal office. "I really try to avoid playing those games," she said in an interview.

To speak out against SCR 1038 and HCR 2065 and let your state legislators know of your opinion, go online to eqfed.org/campaign/dontamend.

UPDATE

Southern Arizona Stonewall Democrats Meet Feb. 18

TUCSON - Southern Arizona Stonewall Democerats wll meet Monday, February 18 at 6:30 p.m. at Howl At The Moon, 915 W. Prince. The program will include Les Krambeal, Regional Representative to the National Stonewall Democats who will be updating the NSD National Convention in Tucson this May.

Also a report from the local young Democrats. Come join the group and get iinvolved. This is an important year for our community and our nation. For more information: sasdtucson@yahoo.com or call Maurice 520-323-2293

Free Beginners Coomputer Classes For Seniors, February 16

TUCSON (Observer Update) - If you have always wanted to know more about using a computer and your friends are bugging you to wade into the cyberworld, this is a perfect opportunity to learn from the proven OASIS model in the company of other LGBT seniors in Wingspan's computer lab. Classes are being taught by the talented and knowledgeable Wingspan volunteer, Rick.

There is a class on Saturday Feb 16, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Never tried a computer before? Wondering what all the excitement is about? Join this two hour class and find out a bit about computers. This is a hands-on class that will acquaint you with a computer for the first time.

Space is limited so contact Penelope Starr at Wingspan, (520) 624-1779 x122, to reserve a spot for you.

Water Of Life MCC Valentine's Ball February 16

TUCSON - Water of Life MCC (Metropolitan Community Church) cordially invites everyone to their Valentine's Ball, Saturday, February 16, 7:00 p.m., 3269 N. Mountain Avenue.

Come enjoy a great Valentine's Ball with friends, old and new, at the Water of Life MCC. Vote for your favorite King & Queen, or Queen & Queen or King & King! Great tunes throughout the evening, raffles and scratch-offs, and possible an appearance by the one and only Zelda! An evening you don't want to miss.

A requested donation to attend is $15 but organizers won't turn anyone away. Attire for the evening is casual to dressy. For more information, go online to wolmcc.com.

Wingspan Celebrates Freedom To Marry Week

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Join the Wingspan Anti-Violence Project on Friday, February 15, 2008 at 7:00pm at Wingspan (425 E. 7th Street) in a community event to commemorate the 11th Annual Freedom to Marry Week.

The event will feature Cindy Jordan-Nowe of the City of Tucson Commission on LGBT Issues and past co-chair of No on 107. Come down for free refreshments and learn about the anticipated battles for equality on the horizon in the Arizona legislature and elsewhere. This is an opportunity to celebrate and share our stories, reflect on the values of equality and love, while also engaging our neighbors in the movement for equality and fairness.

Immediately following the Freedom to Marry event, stick around for a very special session of Front Porch Music honoring Luanne Withee.

LGBT Seniors Wanted For Arizona Oral History Project

TUCSON - Pan Left Productions is looking for LGBT seniors in and around the Tucson community to participate in an Arizona Oral History Project.

Would you be interested in telling your personal story on camera to be a part of our Arizona LGBT Archives? Or would you be interested in learning the video production skills to document your LGBT community's oral histories?

Please email Jamie A. Lee, Co-Executive Director of Pan Left Productions, at jamie@panleft.org to get your name on the list.

Commission On GLBT Issues Meeting Feb. 19

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The City of Tucson Commission on GLBT Issues will be holding their monthly meeting, Tuesday, February 19, 5:30 p.m., at the EOO Conference Room, first floor, 100 North Stone.

The mission of this commission is to foster conditions that promote the welfare of GLBT people of metropolitan Tucson, Arizona through education, advocacy and collaborative and advisory relationships with government, community organizations, businesses and individuals.

The City of Tucson Commission on GLBT Issues was originally formed in November 1998 as a mayoral task force, and became an independent city commission in July 1999.

For more information, go online to tucsonaz.gov/clerks/boards.php?board=40.

Borderlands Theater Looks At Violence/ Queer Connections

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The Borderlands Theatre presents the world premiere of Peter Gil-Sheridan's "Topsy Turvy Mouse", winner of the Smith Prize, running February 14 - March 2, at the Cabaret Theatre, Temple of Music and Art 330 S Scott Ave.

When Richie discovers a disturbing photo of his parents military involvement in Iraq in his locker at school, a series of events whirl him into the middle of a local murder mystery. "Topsy Turvy Mouse" reveals the connection between violence and abuse in our daily Lives, including abuse toward teenagers see as "queer," and US military incarcerations and torture in today's headlines. Directed by Barclay Goldsmith.

Produced in conjunction with community partner American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. (Please call for details concerning the panel and dinner). Supported in part by the LGBT&S Alliance Fund of the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona; the Arizona Humanities Council; the Smith Prize; Tucson/Pima Arts Council, and the Arizona Commission on the Arts.

Preview: February 14 - 7:30 p.m., students $10.75 - seniors $13.75 - general $15.75. Opening Celebracion: February 15 - 7:30 p.m., students $10.75 - general & seniors $19.75 Post-Performance reception plus meet-and-greet with playwright, director and actors. Tickets available through the Borderlands Theater box office (520)882-7406, 40 W. Broadway Blvd (enter through Jackson St.). More Info is available at borderlandstheater.org.

Arizona State University

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Gay and allied college fraternity operating within the traditional Greek system. The fraternity formed in July 2005 as a "national" organization when the founding chapter at Arizona State University, which has been in existence since 2001, elected to create a parent organization. The purpose of Sigma Phi Beta Fraternity is to build character in Gay, straight Bisexual and Transgender male college students though social and meaningful activities that will empower them in their future endeavors, while upholding the bonds and true meaning of brotherhood.

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P.O. BOX 50733,
TUCSON, AZ 85703
(520) 622-7176 (Voice)

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EDITOR/PUBLISHER:
Bob Ellis
ARTS & GRAPHICS:
Gary Clark
MANAGING EDITOR:
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The Observer

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Hate And Public Health Don't Mix

By Kevin Cathcart

Here we go again – with the right wing targeting Gay men by claiming we are bringing on a public health crisis.

Anti-Gay groups and some newspapers recently seized upon a wildly misinterpreted study about drug-resistant staph infections among some Gay men in San Francisco to proclaim a full-blown epidemic. And they're blaming Gay men for a disease that has been around for a long time in the general population and has no particular leaning toward any sexual orientation.

Recently I received an email blast from Matt Barber at Concerned Women for America – the right-wing women's organization that proclaims it is "concerned with the health and well-being of all God's children." The email implored Lambda Legal and other Gay organizations to "publicly condemn those specific 'high-risk behaviors,' which this study has concluded are "responsible for the spread of MRSA among homosexuals." (MRSA or Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus is the name of the drug-resistant staph infections.)

One big problem: this was not the actual result of the study in question. Moreover, the information directly contradicts information released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). But once again hate groups have purposefully misinterpreted the data to fuel irrational fear and hatred of Gay people. As someone who's lived through the AIDS epidemic, I take personal offense at their response. And as the head of an organization that has spent decades fighting to eradicate discrimination against people with HIV, I believe we have a responsibility to counter their efforts to demonize our communities.

The study in question by the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) found that about 1/6 of 1 percent of Gay men in Boston and San Francisco had contracted MRSA – a small percentage, but significant in comparison to the rest of the population. For a long time, MRSA has been commonplace in hospital settings. Several years ago, public health officials noticed an increasing number of MRSA outbreaks outside of hospital settings. Indeed, before the hysteria created by the UCSF report, the Center for Disease Control had published fact sheets regarding how to prevent outbreaks of MRSA in the workplace, in schools and among athletes.

After the UCSF study surfaced, the CDC released a statement explaining the actual facts regarding MRSA. They clarified that the strain of MRSA in the study has been seen before, and that it should be addressed by the simple prevention steps recommended for all MRSA, which include covering wounds, washing hands, not sharing personal items such as towels or clothes, and consulting a doctor promptly if you think you have contracted MRSA.

The CDC's discussion of the report strikes the proper balance: it explains why attention should be paid to this strain of MRSA, especially among those with weakened immune systems, while explaining that this strain is nothing new and can be prevented in the same way that all MRSA can.

UCSF issued a statement of regret about the potentially misleading information in the report, deploring the "negative targeting of specific populations" that occurred in its wake. This episode taught certain public health officials a lesson that the LGBT and HIV communities knew all too well: The imparting of valuable health information about our communities must be done with care to prevent distortions and targeting by those who oppose us.

At Lambda Legal, we have been fighting prejudice and discrimination against people with HIV for years, and also fighting for fair and appropriate health care services. This year, we added "Health Care Fairness" as a specific priority for our work because we recognize that bigotry hurts us in many ways as we seek care in doctors' offices and hospitals, or require fertility or other reproductive health care.

We've seen this kind of fear mongering before and we know how harmful it can be. Hate has no place in solving a public health problem. Let the public know the facts – and they won't fall for the bigotry. And we'll all be healthier for it.

(Kevin Cathcart is Lambda Legal Executive Director. This article is reprinted from 365Gay.com.)

Lesbian Mom Convicted In Murder Of Infant Son

NEW YORK CITY - A woman has been found guilty of killing her 23-month-old son. Her partner is already serving a sentence for her part in the murder, reported 365Gay.com. Zahira Matos, 23, faces a sentence of 15 years to life behind bars for the death of Yovany Tellez who was beaten to death in September 2004 while being reprimanded for soiling himself.

Matos' partner, Carmen Molina, 35, is serving a 15 year sentence after pleading guilty last May. Matos stood silently, showing no emotion, as the jury read its verdict. She will be sentenced next month. Each woman had blamed the other for the boy's death. Molina delivered the fatal blows in a drunken stupor. Matos waited almost five hours before calling 911. An autopsy found the infant suffered broken ribs, a broken leg and a pulverized liver. He was bruised extensively over his body and was covered in feces when found.

In his summation to the jury Assistant District Attorney Kerry O'Connell said that Matos was on trial "for what she did not do." Matos' lawyer, Arthur Friedman, said that he will appeal the verdict. Her two surviving children are in the care of their grandmother.

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Equality Arizona Announces 2008 Legislative Priorities

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sion to state civil rights laws pertaining to housing, employment, and public accommodations.

SB 1342 and HB 2708 (HIV/AIDS Prevention Education), which would repeal an existing state statute that prohibits schools and educators from providing medically-accurate HIV/AIDS prevention education to Gay and Lesbian students.

SB 1483 and HB 2752 (Amancio Corrales Act), which is named after a Gay man and gender performer who was murdered in Yuma in 2005 in an apparent bias-motivated attack based on his gender expression. This bill would add gender identity or expression to the existing hate crimes statute to allow law enforcement officials to prosecute anti-Transgender and anti-gender variant crimes as hate crimes.

SM 1004 and HM 2001, which would urge Congress and the President to enact the Military Readiness Enhancement Act, federal legislation that would end the discriminatory "don't ask don't tell" policy that prohibits Gays and Lesbians from openly serving in the military and Arizona national guard.

SM 1002 and HM 2002, which would urge Congress and the President to enact the Matthew Shepard Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act, federal legislation that would add gender, gender identity, sexual orientation and disability to existing federal hate crimes statute, granting local law enforcement agencies additional resources to combat bias-motivated crimes.

SM 1003 and HM 2004, which would urge Congress and the President to enact the Uniting American Families Act, federal legislation that would strengthen American families by allowing U.S. citizens and permanent residents to sponsor their same-sex non-citizen permanent partners in the same manner that heterosexual couples can.

For more information about Equality Arizona and their activities, go online to equalityarizona.org.

Bravo's 'Millioinaire Matchmaker' To Go Gay This Tiime

NEW YORK, CITY - "Next season is going to be different," says "Millionaire Matchmaker" star Patti Stanger, "because we're going to do Gay millionaires."

Although Bravo's newest reality romp hasn't been officially re-upped, it's a good bet it will be. "[The network] is telling me to look at June," says Stanger, referring to a tentative shooting schedule.

"We talked about having a Gay millionaire. A millionairess. Maybe a celebrity. And somebody who's recovering from cancer. I want to do real people." And why is that? "Because this season we showed a particular kind of millionaire," says Stanger.

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Bill Intended To Stop Domestic Partner Registry Passed By Utah Senate Committee

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH (Observer Update) - Salt Lake City may have given a unanimous nod to a domestic partner registry, but a Senate panel took a first step toward blocking the city's action, after hearing testimony that the registry is aimed at eroding the foundation of marriage, deseretnews.com reported.

The Senate Health and Human Services Committee voted unanimously to send SB267 to the full Senate for a vote. Key to the debate was whether or not the city's registry, aimed at giving private companies a way to recognize domestic partnerships and granting hospital visitation rights, violates a state constitutional ban on same-sex marriage and domestic unions.

The version of the bill approved is a substitute version aimed at keeping in tact Salt Lake's benefit program that allows city employees to choose an adult designee for benefits, said Sen. Chris Buttars, R-West Jordan, the bill's sponsor. "We have never challenged that," Buttars said of the existing city program. "It does not favor or designate a particular group or class of people." However, he said the domestic partner registry "is nothing more than an open checkbook" toward future benefits unique to marriage and that already "mimics Utah's marriage recognition policy to a T."

But Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker and other city officials questioned whether the bill would nullify both Salt Lake City policies, even with the changes. And, they asserted that since the domestic partner registry is modeled after the city benefit provisions, that both fall well within state law. "We want to make it clear to those (companies) looking for some formal recognition of that relationship, that domestic relationship exists," Becker said, adding that while the legislature does have the right to override the city, "that would be a big mistake. Salt Lake City has a population that wants passage of a domestic partner registry."

Sen. Scott McCoy, D-Salt Lake, who had sharp questions about whether or not a family pass to the city ice rink would be prohibited, was absent for the vote because he was presenting a bill before another committee. After the hearing, he said when the bill comes before the full Senate, "I would just ask them to judge each piece of legislation on its merits ... rather than engage in the paranoid idea there is some sort of grand conspiracy under foot."

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Haggard Ends His Heterosexual 'Recovery Program'

Outed Rev. Ted Haggard

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DENVER, Colorado (Observer Update) - Rev. Ted Haggard who was outed by a former male prostitute and subsequently fired from the Colorado Springs mega-church he founded has terminated the "recovery program" that was part of his departure from New Life Church even though the church says it is premature for him to leave, reported 365Gay.com.

Little has been said about the substance of the program. Some Gay activists have suggested it is akin to programs in the so-called ex-Gay movement. An outspoken critic of homosexuality Haggard was outed in 2006 by former hustler Mike Jones in the days leading up to a vote in Colorado to amend the state constitution to ban same-sex marriage. The story broke when Jones brought tapes of conversations with Haggard to Denver TV station KUSA. Jones told the station that he had a long term pay for ex relationship with Haggard and had helped the pastor buy crystal meth. After first denying the affair and drug purchase Haggard admitted both. He was subsequently fired by the church and forced to resign as president of the National Association of Evangelicals, a position which had given him unbridled access to the White House.

Haggard was placed under an oversight committee of outside pastors and lay people who ran the "recovery program". Haggard is now a member of First Assembly of God in Phoenix. It's pastor, Rev. Tommy Barnett, is overseeing an "accountability relationship" New Life said in a media statement this week. But the terms of the "relationship" were not revealed. It is not known why Haggard ended the "recovery program" and he has not commented. New Life in announcing Haggard had ended his participation in the program said the fallen pastor should not be allowed to return to the ministry. "New Life recognizes the process of restoring Ted Haggard is incomplete and maintains its original stance that he should not return to vocational ministry. However, we wish him and his family only success in the future," the statement said.

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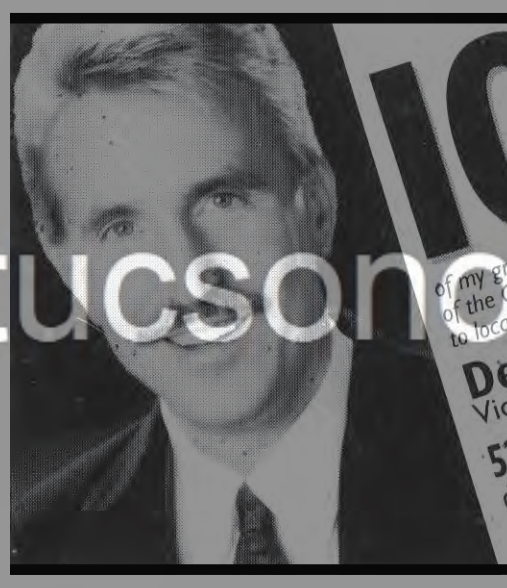

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GayPedia.Com Launches With Hope Of Becoming The Largest Database Of Travel Destinations For Gay And Lesbian Travelers

NEW YORK CITY - A new online travel information and social networking portal - called Gaypedia - has launched and hopes to become the largest database of destinations, venues and events specifically designed for Gay and Lesbian travelers.

It's a user-generated and editorially produced travel information site that allows users to search for venues and events in a given location during specified dates. Visitors who sign up for membership can also add content, upload photos and videos, and post about events and vacations which can be shared with Gaypedia members. The site celebrated it's launch by giving a lucky couple a romantic two-night stay in Dublin, Ireland.

"The Gay world changes so quickly that we were finding information in travel guides to be constantly out-of-date or inaccurate," explains Gaypedia's Ryan Haynes. "With such a large international Gay community and pride festivals getting bigger and bigger we designed a site where Gays and Lesbians can find everything in one place."

While the Gaypedia team will continue to add content, members can share their knowledge on the site. Venue owners and managers will also have special privileges to update and add relevant information about their property including event details. Gaypedia.com launches with over 45 destinations, 1,500 venues and nearly 100 events worldwide; its fully integrated mapping service identifies where all venues and events are within a chosen city.

Haynes says, "It was essential we included a section detailing legislation and equality for homosexuals in each destination, many countries still discriminate against us however there is often a strong underground Gay scene. Gaypedia will give travelers the insider information."

The portal also provides the current top five destinations, venues and events; review, rating and blogging capabilities; member profiling and social networking tools including chat; and a unique Gay Googling tool.

Lutherans Prepare Sexuality Statement

CHICAGO, Illinois (Observer Update) - The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will soon release a draft of its social statement on human sexuality, including proposed teaching on Gay relationships, reported 365Gay.com.

The document "Free in Christ to Serve the Neighbor: Lutherans Talk about Human Sexuality" is scheduled to be made public on March 13 by the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality. Like many other Protestant groups, the ELCA has been struggling for decades to reconcile different views of what the Bible says about same-gender relationships.

Current church standards require clergy to "abstain from homosexual sexual relationships." But last year the Churchwide Assembly adopted a resolution that "urges and encourages" bishops to refrain from disciplining clergy in "faithful, committed" same-sex relationships. The task force has been working on the issue for years. The final version of the document is expected to be on the agenda for the next Churchwide Assembly, August 7-13, 2009, in Minneapolis. With about 4.8 million members, the ELCA is the largest Lutheran group in the United States. The 2.5 million-member Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, based in St. Louis, believes the Bible is literally true and does not ordain Gays.

Play Safe!

Local Fauna At Risk This Valentine's Day

By Jimmy Petrol

Far away in Roma, or Italy if you prefer, a romantic feast day approaches. In Italy, the very language is all about amore and the men are not bashful or slow. In our town, the clouds persuade us to stay indoors a bit longer, rather like a tribe of bi-polar groundhogs. We fear the water more than the killing sun. Rain. The oddly familiar desert-darkness covers Tucson and enchants it with the fresh scent of springtime as she sneaks out from her winter's cave. All 'round, living things are growing, breeding and generally coming into rut. The spring running is upon us. For those who have come through the winter alone, having suffered the cold bed and solitary dinner for too long, the cleansing, nourishing rain and the rut of springtime that follows is happy news. For them, lone wolves from lone dens, the world begins to take on something of a finer shade of color. With Valentine's day fast approaching, these interlopers are hard pressed to find a mate and will resort, as we all know too well, to anything.

For those of us who are happily paired, these pathetic, solitary souls can seem tragic, almost comical. There they go, we say, to another McDonald's dinner and another night in front of the idiot box sucking Bud Light instead of....well, in stead. We have watched them, stumbling in the winter chill, roaming from coffee shop to bagel stop, sipping java and cruising the net instead of casting one. Smug in our secure little relationships, we pity these lost souls, perhaps a little, but rather more often than not, we simply wag our heads and say, "Ah, well. If you dress like that, well, expect to sleep alone!" or some such rot. Springtime arrives and we that are happily paired (WAHPs) roll over from our own winter's slumber, complacent in our security, feeling loved and wanted. In reality, more often than not, we have become lazy and inattentive; after all, winter is the same for everyone. We do less, go out less, are tireder at night; you know the drill. So here comes spring, we start to feel a little randy (no, not a little Randy) and reach out for our lover(s), full of happy expectations that they are waking up and eagerly reaching out for us as well.

WAHPs all over will be caught off guard by the thousands of singles who, aroused by the Goddess of Springtime Rut, flood the nightspots, cruise spots and gyms in search of what we have been keeping to ourselves all winter....our mates. "So?" you tend to say, and perhaps for a large part you are right....sucking Bud Light is a hard habit to break. Nevertheless, some do, if only to answer the siren's call to love and sex each spring. These hearty souls have a store of pent-up yearning and driving hormones that sometimes overcome the stupor of television cum Internet. For them, springtime means get some, and get it now! It is these heady guys and gals that lurk about our town, waiting for our slightest miss-step, to steal our bedwarmers, our cooks, our helpmates, our best friends. Ah. Something should be done, you say. So right. And do it we must, for justice must be served and righteousness preserved.

To wit, I call on all the WAHPs that deserve a mate, by virtue of attentiveness and loving-kindness, to batten down the hatches and put in some heavy footwork; keep your honey happy. For the rest, those of us who have neglected, abused or ignored our lovers for too long, I say "Tough luck" and invite the singles, the lurking, lonely wannabe WAHPs to steal those sweethearts away this Valentine's day. Here's how. It is no mystery who these sweetmeats are; we hear their stories all the time...."he stays out so late all the time..." and, "she just sits there at her computer at night. I go to sleep alone all the time" and "My lovers drink so much all the time...it is hard to imagine actually having an orgasm". Sound familiar? No? If not, you are not befriending anyone.....most relationships go from one crisis to the next, with one party on top now, another later, each more concerned with him or herself than the pretty bauble they share a bed with. The first step then, is to be a friend; listen for the dissatisfied cries of the neglected cutey, the forgotten hottie. Concentrate on listening until you find a couple of these poor babies.

Having identified some of these, we simply smile, nod and say things like, "Oh, my. How terrible."
After a few sessions, begin to roll your eyes and say things like, "Oh, my. I can't understand how anyone could take you so for granted. I wouldn't!". Always be sure to give a lot of hugs to your new friend....they have a deficit of love; fill it (no groping in this stage). Having your ear is next best to sitting in your lap. Put them there figuratively, by supplying some of the romantic accouterments that a fun lover would supply. Buy them flowers. Hand them over with a nonchalant flourish and say, simply, "Oh, here, you know. For you. I couldn't stand it that someone as wonderful as you never gets flowers." Don't forget to smile a sad little smile and get really close when you hug. It is very important during this quasi-courtship that you exude a level of self-sufficiency that is probably impossible in normal humans. You must pretend to be quite happy alone, being content to wait for just the right sort of bird to come along before you feather your little nest. Sigh little bitter-sweet sighs when your next-ex asks you why you are living alone. Roll your eyes heaven-ward. Shake your head a little and look longingly into their beady little eyes and tell them with all your soul that they are the one you await. Out loud, just sigh and say something like, "Oh, it's not so bad. There is always the next life..." Smile bravely and squeeze their hand. If things are going along really well, add a little something like, "I'm just so grateful to get to spend this time with you." Don't forget the brave little smile.

Pushing things along about now might occur to you as a good thing. Forget it. Blow it now and you'll just send them crashing back into the competition's arms, all a-twitter over their growing feelings for you. Feeling confused and guilty, they may even confess you to the blight you seek to eradicate. The only course is to be a real friend, have no expectations, to make no moves. They have to come to you, and it has to seem like they had the idea, not you. You may even be called upon to buck up the image of the human blight they are sleeping with; don't despair. Find a few things about them that are truly marginal and present them as shining examples of virtue and beauty. Your intended will see you as noble and kind; the praise you give is faint praise, which, of course, is damning. Trust me; this really works well. If you already know a couple of these fauns, you may be able to get in enough of the right sort of footwork before Valentine's day to be poised to board ship directly after the holiday. The setup, of course, is critical. As the day approaches, be sure to have the local paper out and folded to display all the fancy and expensive Valentine's day excursions one can spring for. When they notice them, ask cheerily where they think they might go. Be prepared to sweep the paper off the table and adopt a conciliatory and apologetic attitude; if you have a live one, they ain't going nowhere and they know it. It may be a little hard on your gentle soul to see them suffer so, but buck up and take it like a man. It might hurt them, but it is, in the end, going to come out alright. After all, you are going to take them nice places, right?

In the aftermath of the probably unhappy holiday, it is time to close the deal. Take your sad and lonely friend out for an after-Valentine's day lunch. I would suggest the Arizona Inn. This old and venerable institution is a cheater's haven. Tucked away in the center of the old town, habited by only the rich and oddball snowbirds, you are certain to have your intended's full attention without the worry of unwonted exposure. The Piano bar is cozy and not too expensive. Now is the time to spill your heart. Wear it on your sleeve, but bravely, without the slightest hint that you think it may be your turn at bat. Remember, they have to come to you. Good luck. For more ideas, Google Faust's Day.

(Jimmy Petrol can be reached at Jpetroulisx@yahoo.com.)

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COMMENTARY. . . .

by Wayne Besen

Where Is The Gay Jesse Jackson?

As the nail biter of a presidential race becomes more uncertain, the only thing guaranteed is a good cry on Inauguration Day. Electing our first woman or black president will bring sobs of joy, just as the election of a Republican will usher in wallowing wails of woe.

However, there is one more issue that is worthy of tears, and that is how few Americans could imagine a Gay President of the United States. At the age of 37, if I proclaimed that one day I would run for president, people would offer patronizing or quizzical looks, before they suggested a random drug test. They would say, "We won't see a Gay president in your lifetime."

However, if John McCain wins the prize he will be inaugurated at the age of 71. If I ran for president at the same age as McCain, that would mean I could count on 34 more years of social change, which may be enough time for a Gay or Lesbian American to be a viable presidential candidate.

If this sounds implausible, consider that it was 34 years ago that homosexuality was removed from the American Psychiatric Association's list of mental disorders. The APA decision was only four years after the Stonewall riots. Since this time, we have lived though AIDS, passed a multitude of Gay rights laws, have had openly Gay members of Congress and witnessed same-sex marriage become a reality in Massachusetts.

Clearly, it is not inconceivable that in 34 years - 2042 - a Gay person could theoretically become president. It is likely that our Barack Obama is now in grade school. This gifted Gay individual will be charismatic and able to appeal to mainstream Americans to win the greatest prize in politics.

The question is, how are those of us who don't have a snowball's chance in hell of becoming president, paving the way for this young man or woman to achieve his or her dreams?

In order for our Obama to fulfill his or her potential, it is essential that the GLBT movement runs serious presidential candidates in the next election cycle. That's right, "candidates" in the plural – meaning we run a Democrat and a Republican.

The Democrat would play the role of Jesse Jackson – a trailblazer that will lose badly, but earn respect and lay the groundwork for the future. This sacrificial lamb will be known as "the Gay candidate," so when our Gay Obama is finally ready – he or she can transcend sexual orientation and win – or lose – on the merits.

It is also crucial we run a credible Republican, in order to articulate the case for Gay rights in front of conservative audiences. This not only would make the other candidates uncomfortable in their Gay bashing, but this candidate could serve as a role model.

However, as the old sports cliche goes, "if you stay on the sidelines, you aren't in the game." By not having a Gay candidate run, we accede the field to all heterosexual candidates and we are therefore largely invisible. Now, I can understand not running a Gay candidate this time around in the Democratic primary, since the field was already crowded with history makers. But in the future, this is unacceptable and we ought to aim for fair representation in the next election cycle.

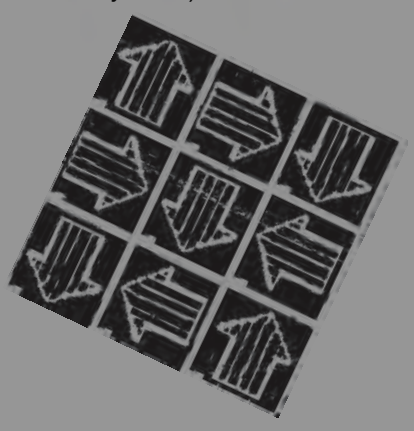
The bottom line is, that until we first have our Jesse Jackson, we will never have our Barack Obama. Just having an openly Gay person on-stage allows young people to dream and imagine a world of unlimited possibilities.

The GLBT political groups ought to make it a priority to find the best Republican and Democratic candidates to run next time around. Aside from the historical aspect, it would be amazing publicity. Each time a Gay candidate walked on-stage to debate, it would be worth millions of dollars of free advertising for the GLBT movement. I can't think of a better investment and use of our advocacy dollars.

There are three hundred million people in America, so no on can credibly argue that we can't find at least one Gay or Lesbian person up to the task. After all, you can't convince me that Rep. Barney Frank or former Human Rights Campaign leader Elizabeth Birch can't do a better job than Gary Bauer or Alan Keyes.

One stereotype is that Gay people like theatre - so it is past time we come out from behind the curtain. By playing supporting on-stage roles in the next presidential election, our leaders can set the stage for our leading man or woman in the future.

(Wayne Besen is a writer, public speaker, activist, and founder of Truth Wins Out. This article is reprinted from 365Gay.com.)



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POLITICS 2008

by Mark R. Kerr

When A Bee and 'Turd Blossom' Met

At a fund raising event for the Pima County Republican (GOP) Party, on January 23, a momentous event happened when a Bee and a "Turd Blossom" met.

Karl "Turd Blossom" Rove met with Arizona Senate President Tim Bee, R-Tucson and gave some advice to Bee about his upcoming run for Congress against Democratic incumbent Representative, Gabrielle Giffords.

"Turd Blossom" told Bee that he will have to motivate the GOP base and those like-minded and get them to the polls in November, adding that the Rove's surefire, time tested campaign successful way would be the key to Bee - Gay marriage.

Rove's strategy of placing constitutional amendments or state laws paved the way for the Bush Crime Family to continue their pillaging for another four years in 2004 when 11 states passed such measures, thanks to the ultra-conservative, theocratic GOP base voter, who turned out and cast their ballots for discrimination.

Bee said it was tried in 2006 in Arizona and failed, but "Turd Blossom" said that was so long ago, since the general public has the attention span of a gnat, thanks to the Bush Crime Family's friends in the corporate media. Just mention threats, tradition, family, values and you will get your voters to the polls, "Turd Blossom" blathered.

Of course the above-mentioned was a fictional account but considering the actual time frame, it could have happened.

Just less than two weeks later, an E-mail went out on February 5, from Equality Arizona urging people to notify their legislators about a proposed strike-everything amendment by state Senator Jack Harper (R-Surprise) to SCR (Senate Concurrent Resolution) 1007, putting on the November general election ballot a measure to add an amendment to the state constitution defining marriage."

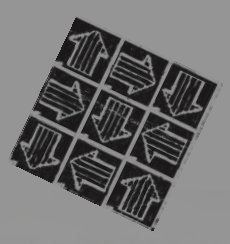
SCR 1007 was to be considered at the Senate Government Committee (chaired by Harper) meeting on Monday, February 11 but was pulled.

Meanwhile, on the same day, word went out that the Arizona House and Senate would be introducing legislation to put on the November presidential election ballot, a measure to add an amendment to the state constitution defining marriage as between "one man and one woman."

SCR 1038 was first out of the blocks, entitled "marriage," is sponsored by sixteen state Senators, all Republicans and the prime sponsor is none other than current Senate President and Congressional candidate, Tim Bee.

HCR 2065 soon followed, entitled "marriage," and is sponsored by 31 Republicans and one Democrat, state Representative Jack Brown from St. John. HCR 2065's prime sponsor is Speaker of the House and rumored Congressional candidate for District 3, Jim Weiers.

As of press time, neither measure had been first read but that won't be the case and there will be a ballot proposition on the November ballot dealing with this, thanks to a "Turd Blossom's" advice to make Gays and Lesbians a "wedge issue" for political gain.



Favorite Books Of The New Queerlenium

The GLBT Services Committee was established in 1997 to better serve southern Arizona's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender library users.On a daily basis they review, order and make GLBT materials available for all users, regardless of age, location or sexual orientation.

More and more books reflecting the strength, experience and vision of GLBT people appear on the shelves of book stores and libraries. The Pima County Public Library's GLBT Services Committee are proud to offer our favorite recent books that are by and about GLBT people. We hope this offering inspires you to read one or more of these marvelous books

Empress of the World Sara Ryan, (Viking). While attending a summer institute, fifteen-year-old Nic meets another girl named Battle, falls in love with her, and finds the relationship to be difficult and confusing.

Rainbow Boys, Alex Sanchez. Three high school seniors, a jock with a girlfriend and an alcoholic father, a closeted Ggay, and a flamboyant Gay rights advocate, struggle with family issues, Gay bashers, first sex, and conflicting feelings about each other.

Rainbow High, Alex Sanchez. Follows three Gay high school seniors as they struggle with issues of coming out, safe sex, homophobia, being in love, and college choices.

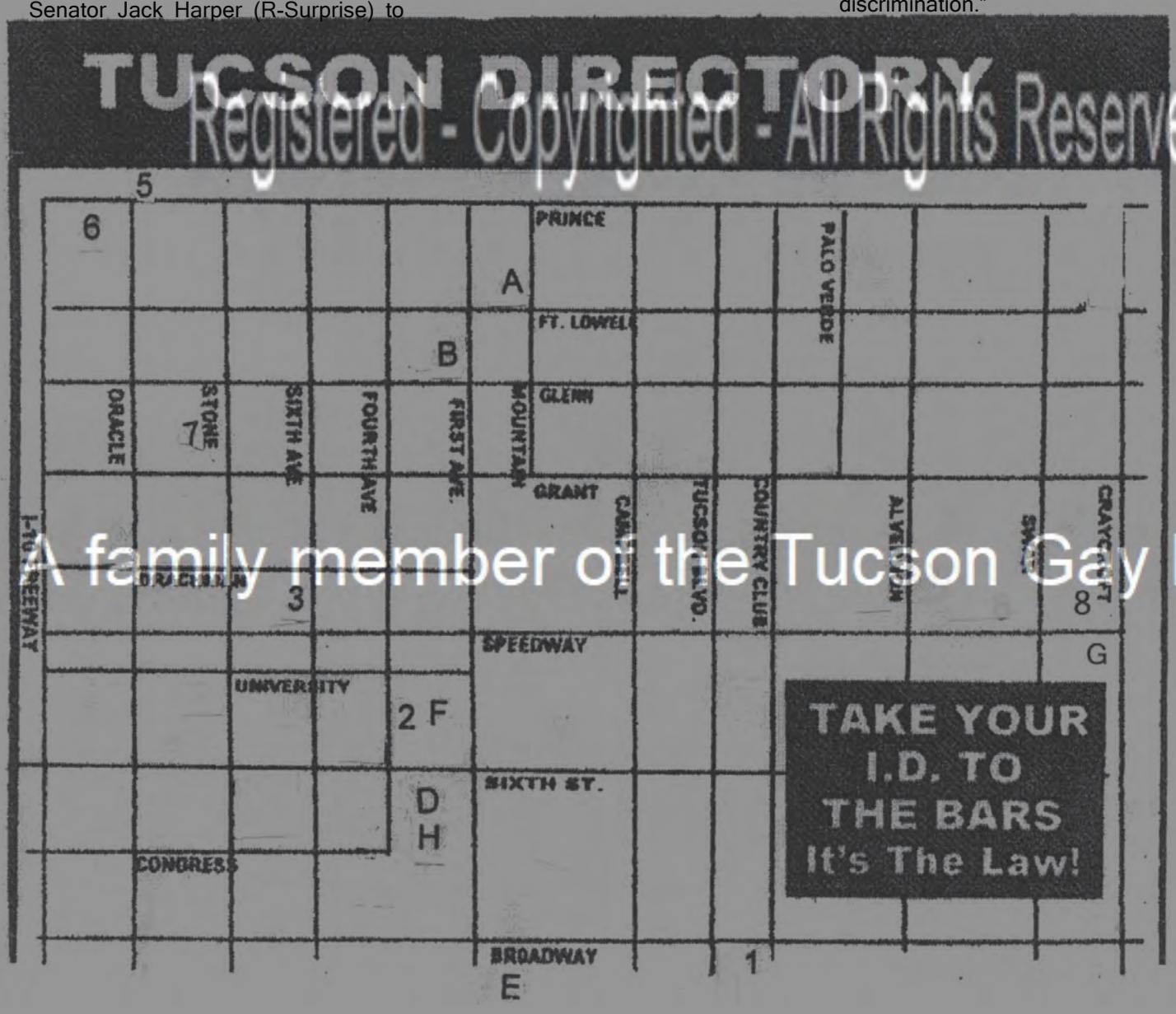
For more information, visit your local Pima County library or go online to tppl.org/community/glbt/index.cfm.

Tom Lantos, Congressional Ally To LGBTs, Dies

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Rep. Tom Lantos (D-Calif.), the only survivor of the Holocaust to serve in Congress and the founder of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, died Monday (February 11) in Maryland of cancer of the esophagus. He was 80 years old, reported advocate.com. Lantos was a congressional ally for LGBT voters, as he voted against a measure that would have amended the U.S. Constitution to ban same-sex marriage and even stumped for marriage equality for Gay and Lesbian couples. He also campaigned to allow adoption for LGBT couples and supported hate-crimes legislation and antidiscrimination employment protections.

Human Rights Campaign president Joe Solmonese released a statement following the congressman's death at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. "Congressman Lantos will be remembered as a tremendous advocate for all people, including the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender community," he said. "As the only survivor of the Holocaust to serve in Congress, he had a deep understanding of the consequences of hatred and discrimination."

Lantos was the chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee. He was born in Budapest in 1928 and was 16 when the Nazis occupied Hungary. He was sent to a labor camp and escaped twice, eventually going to a safe house run by Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, according to the San Jose Mercury News. Lantos eventually came to the United States in 1947 on a scholarship to study economics. He taught at San Francisco State University before winning a congressional seat in 1980.



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Gay Men Cast As Love Interests In U.S. 'Big Brother 9'

Tucson Observer Archives

HOLLYWOOD, California - CBS announced the cast of the 9th season of Big Brother, and like last season there are not one, but two Gay men amongst the roommates and, once more, we're promised the potential for Gay relationship drama.

Neil, at the left, and Joshuah, at right, are both openly Gay, and the twist of the season seems to be that the producers are playing matchmaker.

All of this year's hopefuls were asked to fill out a "love match profile" as part of their application and when they enter the house they will be surprised with the discovery that one of the houseguests is meant to be their soul mate.

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Love is in the air as Mercury, Neptune and the Sun rubadub this Valentines week. Let your heart be your guide and take a leap of faith. Will the clouds of love send you aloft? It depends how much hot air you expel. Ahem.

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Proud Rams are able to charm and woo any number of their platonic pals this Valentines week. You are a charmer with the gift of gab. In the heat of the moment however, you may spill a personal secret that has folks looking at you in a new surprising way. This is not necessarily a bad thing. Sometimes vulnerability is an aphrodisiac. Sometimes, but not always.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

This may be the week that you find love on the job. Bring your valentines ardor to work and see who heats up your coffee. And there is more to office life than a quick fling now. Queer Bulls may find that a well placed compliment will open up new doors of opportunity and possible advancement. So choose your mark, pour it on and try to look sincere.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Travel and see who might be waiting for you in some far corner of the world. Broadening your horizons can result in an intriguing and somewhat surprising distant romance. As Neptune, Sun and Mercury conjunct, pink Twins also find that they are true diplomats who can bring any warring parties to the peace table. So make love not war while the world is your oyster.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Gay Crabs are even more seductive than usual. The Sun, Mercury, Neptune conjunction unleashes your sexy beast and helps you gather a boatload of valentines. The temptation will be to seek quantity rather than quality but that would be a waste of a unique opportunity. Be discerning. Seek the true apple of your eye and take a big bite.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

If you are a proud Lion on the prowl, this valentines week is the time to set out and hunt for your soulmate. You can catch any quarry you set your sights on. If you are currently in a relationship, use the Sun, Mercury and Neptune conjunction to spoil partners with an excess of love and attention. Things between the two of you get better and better .... if you want it to.

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

Your work environment is fertile ground for excitement this valentines week. Mercury, Neptune and the Sun conjunct and send love missives through the internal mail system. Queer Virgins never know who is there to sharpen their pencil or push their paperclip. So keep your eyes open for a certain secret admirer and file it away in your personnel cabinet.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

This is not the week to sit at home and contemplate your navel. It is time to pursue anything that is fun, creative or romantic. Or a combination of all three! Proud Libras are encouraged to party hearty and see who boogies along. Move in new circles, try something artistic or open yourself up to new stimuli. There is plenty of time to sleep next week.

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

If you find yourself spending more time at home, it may be because there is a lot of romantic excitement there. Proud Scorps should seize the moment and either invite a stream of potential love interests over or feather their nests for their current chickadee. The mood is good, the company is perfect and you are in top form. Find any excuse to cocoon, cook and coo.

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

You are eloquent, compelling and charming this valentines week. Why ask why? Don't be shy while Mercury, Sun and Neptune conjunct. Gay Archers seem to know just what to say to get their way and advance their personal cause, whether in love, career or some other endeavor. Will you use this gift for goodness or nastiness? Uh oh.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

Money is honey, pink Cap. At least that is what you believe. It can buy lavish gifts that can sway any heart. This valentines week you find that you can use your financial acumen to get anything and anyone you want when it comes to love. Does this mean that you will have to pay for it? Let's hope not but a nice dinner and flowers certainly couldn't hurt.

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

Aqueerians might be called love magnets this week. Mercury, Sun and Neptune seem to conspire to draw people to you from all corners. Get out there and meet as many new people as possible. Spread yourself thin. You are not only charming and welcoming, you are also considered very attractive and sexy. This is a nice change of pace for you. Don't blow the opportunity.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

You seem to have a bevy of secret admirers who make themselves known to you this valentines week. Guppies not only can divine all sorts of romantic intrigue, they get into a bunch of mischief with a range of possible love liaisons. Will you mix up your dates? Will you double dip? Will you enjoy every savory moment? Probably, possibly and definitely.

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Cher Agrees To Three-Year Deal In Vegas

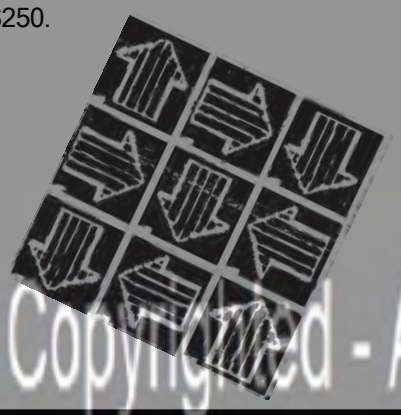
Tucson Observer Archives

LAS VEGAS, Nevada (Observer Update) - She has released 25 albums that have sold more than 100 million copies and has enjoyed a career that has included concerts, recordings, Broadway, TV, film acting and directing, and books. Now she's taking her show to Las Vegas Cher announced Thursday (February 7) she'll be one of the headline acts at Caesars Palace, reported the Associated Press on advocate.com.

''I started in Vegas at Caesars, so I've come full circle,'' she said. ''I'm back, and I plan to give my fans the best experience yet. I think everybody knows I only do things in a big way.'' The Oscar-, Emmy-, and Grammy award-winner said in a statement that she will begin a three-year, 200-show engagement May 6. ''Cher's name in one word encapsulates icon, award-winning legend, and captivating performer,'' said Caesars Palace president Gary Selesner. ''Caesars is pleased to welcome Cher back.''

''Cher at the Colosseum'' is scheduled to include hit songs from her career of more than 40 years, with choreography, costumes, and special effects. It is a partnership with AEG Live. Cher will alternate performances at the 4,300-seat Colosseum with other headline acts Elton John and Bette Midler. In December, Céline Dion ended a five-year run at the theater, which opened in 2002 as home of her show, ''A New Day...'' John, who began playing at the Colosseum in 2004 when Dion's show was dark, is now booked there to play his show, ''The Red Piano,'' through 2008. Midler's ''The Showgirl Must Go On'' is set to open February 20 for a two-year run of 100 shows per year.

Cher's 90-minute show will feature choreography from Doriana Sanchez, lighting and special effects, plus costumes by Bob Mackie. Engagements will run four nights a week on Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday. Ticket prices are from $95 to $250.



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NEED TO RELAX? Come to my home and get a full-body massage. I'm young and attractive. Noon to 6 p.m. Call Mike for quotes. 546-3110. Near Speedway & Kolb. 1229

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NON-BAR CALENDAR

Wednesday, Feb 13
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Hand and Foot with Marvin at 745-0304.

Thursday, Feb 14
#1Men'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.

#2Please call Lloyd at 792-8537 before Noon today to reserve for tomorrow night's
MSN Pizza Night!

Friday, Feb 15
Join the Wingspan Anti-Violence Project this evening at 7:00 p.m., 425 E. 7th Street in a community event to commemorate the 11th annual Freedom To Marry Week.

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. MSN Pizza Night! Did you phone in your reservation on time? Then join Lloyd for a great MSN Pizza Night!

Tucson Prime Timers, invites you to our weekly Friday no-host Cocktail Mixer at 5:30PM Colors, 5350 East Speedway

Saturday, Feb 16
Water of Life MCC (Metropolitan Community Church) cordially invites everyone to their Valentine's Ball at 7:00 p.m., 3269 N. Mountain Avenue. A requested donation to attend is $15 but organizers won't turn anyone away. Attire for the evening is casual to dressy. For more info go online to wolmcc.com

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

Sunday, Feb 17
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:00p.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, welcomes guests to our weekly Sunday Brunch at 11:00AM Colors, 5350 East Speedway

Monday, Feb 18
#1Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:30p.m. Meet Stephen and the group monthly for dinner and discussion of an agreed upon work of gay fiction. Currently, the group meets the 3rd Monday. Contact Stephen at 241-7854 to add yourself to their e-mail list.

#2Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Newsletter Night & Movie! Help us bend, fold, spindle, mutilate, and mail the MSN Newsletter, and enjoy snacks and this month's movie. Info at 323-7414.

Tucson Prime Timers, welcomes you to our weekly drop-in Luncheon at 12:30PM The Wildcat House 1800 North Stone

Tuesday, Feb 19
The City of Tucson Commission on GLBT Issues will be holding their monthly meeting today at 5:30 p.m. at the EOO Conference Room, first floor, 100 N. Stone.

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Join Bruce for Canasta. Phone 743-3890.

Wednesday, Feb 20
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Hand & Foot with Jack 887-3736

Thursday, Feb 21
#1Men'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.

#2 Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Play Bridge with Ike and company! Call for info: 207-6264

Friday, February 22
Tucson Prime Timers, Invites you to our weekly Friday no-host Cocktail Mixer at 5:30PM Colors, 5350 East Speedway

Saturday, Feb 23
Winter Tea Dance for LGBT Seniors and their friends 4 to 8 p.m. at Howl at the Moon, 915 W. Prince Rd (SW corner at Fairview) Join us to celebrate ourselves and have some dancin' fun. The music will be a DJ mix of 40's big band, 50's/60's oldies, country western, and the best of disco. Food items will be available for purchase, including a "Howl/Senior Pride" food and drink special. Mark your calendars; you don't want to miss this! This is our first event, and if successful we'll have more! For more information contact: Penelope Starr, pstarr@wingspan.org, 624-1779 x 122. This event is sponsored by: Wingspan's Senior Pride, The LBT Breast Cancer Health Project funded by Susan G. Komen For the Cure, Puertas Abiertas, and Howl At The Moon.

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Shuffle over for Floating Pinochle every Saturday of the month except for first Saturday MSN Monthly Pot Luck. Contact Marvin at 745-0304.

Sunday, Feb 24
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:00p.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, welcomes guests to our weekly Sunday Brunch at 11:00AM Colors, 5350 East Speedway

Monday, February 25
Tucson Prime Timers, welcomes you to our weekly Monday drop-in Luncheon at 12:30PM The Wildcat House, 1800 North Stone

Wednesday, Feb 27
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, Feb. 28
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, February 29
Tucson Prime Timers, invites you to our weekly Friday no-host Cocktail Mixer at 5:30PM Colors, 5350 E Speedway

Blue Cross Stoops To New Low

SAN FRANCISCO, California - Blue Cross wants to know about your preexisting conditions ... and it will stop at nothing to find out - even pressuring doctors to squeal on their patients, gfn.com reported.

In an effort to hold down costs, Blue Cross is asking California physicians to look for conditions it can use to cancel their new patients' medical coverage.

Blue Cross is sending physicians copies of health insurance applications filled out by new patients, along with a letter advising them that the company has a right to drop members who fail to disclose "material medical history," reports the Los Angeles Times.

Fortunately, the doctors find the insurers' tactics reprehensible.

One of the conditions noted in the letter that could force a new patient to be dropped by Blue Cross – pre-existing pregnancies.

Surely, there's a special room in hell for the twisted harpies who run Blue Cross. Yet another reason we need a Democrat in the White House who will once-and-for-all stop kissing the behinds of these blood-sucking companies.

Play Safe!

Humane Society of Southern Arizona
3450 North Kelvin Boulevard
Tucson, AZ 85716
(520) 327-6088
http://www.humane-so-arizona.org

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NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

WRITE NOW is an LGBT writers' group that meets at Wingspan, twice monthly, on the 2nd and 4th Sunday afternoons, 2:30 to 4:00. For more info please call 323-2465 or email evynrubin@yahoo.com.

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.

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 in Tucson for sharing, support and information. You are not alone. For more info call Wingspan, 624-1779.

Start getting more out of life with TUCSON PRIME TIMERS. We're the local chapter of Prime Timers Worldwide, the preeminent social organization for mature gay and bi men as well as younger (21+) men who enjoy their company. Each month we sponsor a wide range of dining events, cultural enrichment activities, parties, meetings, bowling, day trips, picnics, tours and much more. Visitors are always welcome. For info call our message phone 520 731-3485. Visit our website: www.tucsonprimetimers.org

TUCSON 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 325-2111 - 7am-7pm M-F - 9am-5pm weekend and holidays.

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 19 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, contract TEAM ARIZONA at their website: teamarizona.org

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

THE MEN'S MASSAGE GROUP meets the 2nd 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 OUToberFEST. Inquiries about support groups and individual needs should be directed to Wingspan and other local agencies listed here. For more information call 622-3200 or visit the TPI website at www.tucsonpride.com

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

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

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

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.

THIS WAY OUT, 1/2 hour national GLBT show. 4:30 p.m.Sundys only on 91.3 FM, Community Radio KXCI.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 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 3 Jewels, 314 E. 6th 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 toSAGE-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 BROTHERS OF THE COMPASSIONATE WAY. Pagan spiritual group for gay, bisexual, transgendered men. Box 41623, Tucson, AZ 85717.

Ending the violence.

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

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

WINGSPAN
Southern Arizona's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center
www.wingspan.org

Tucson Gay History Archives
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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am; L Word Sundays. L Word shows at 7pm on two 51" flatscreens. Beer Bust 5pm-10pm. DJ HILL following til 2am.

COLORS - Open 10am - 10pm Champagne Brunch 10am - 2pm with choice of complimentary mimosa, Bloody Mary or Screwdriver included. Happy Hour 4-7pm $3.50 Skyy Cocktails, $2.75 Domestics and well. Appetizers ½ price 4-6. Brunch served until 2pm. Full menu served until 10;m. Nightly dinner specials.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open 11am. Wear an NFL team t-shirt or jersey and get 50¢ off your drink. Smirnoff Vodkas $2.50. Texas Hold-'Em Poker at 3 and 6 pm. Play for points and prizes - no cash involved. $1 hot dogs, $2 chili dogs during game. SIN Nite Drink Discounts for Service Industry employees with ID or payroll receipt. Latin Dance Music 8:30 to close.

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-2am. Peter's Build Your Own Bloody Mary Bar 11am-2pm. Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excluding special events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-8pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar 2pm-2am. Beer Bust 2pm-7pm. Karaoke with Michael D 9pm-Close. Drag Bingo every other Sunday 8-9pm. Check our Ad for Special Events or Parties

YARD DOG - Open 10am - 2am. Mimosas & Bloody Mary Bar (Build your own)

MONDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Poker Pub...FREE. No Happy Hour on this day. Games at 6:30 and again at 9:00pm. 21 and up.

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7. $3.50 Skyy Cocktails, $2.75 well & domestics. Appetizers ½ price 4-6m. Full menu served until 10pm.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open 3pm. Happy Hour all day $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. Texas Hold-Em Poker at 6 & 8:30, Play for points and prizes. No cash involved.

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 11am-2am. Happy Hour 11am--8pm (excl spec events) Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-10pm Back Pocket Patio Bar 8pm-close. Karaoke with Michael D. 9pm-close.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. Beer Bust 4-8pm.

TUESDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. No Happy Hour on this day. Spin Tuesdays with Karaoke. Spin the drink wheel every hour for incredible drink prices...nothing over $2!! Karaoke at 8pm. 21 and up.

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7 $3.50 Skyy cocktails, $2.75 Domestics and well and ½ price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open 3pm. $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints.$3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. Pitcher. $2.50 well margaritas and tequila. 75¢ off call tequilas. Ladies Only Texas Hold-Em Poker at 6:00 p.m. Play for points and prizes - no cash involved. $2 U-call-it drink special 9pm to midnight (some restrictions apply).

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 11am- 2am. Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-10pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar open 8pm-close, Caribbean Party Night with Woody's own Specialty Mojitos, Caprioskas and Martinis with Tucson's Hottest Bartenders.

YARD DOG - Open daily. .Beer Bust 4-8pm.

WEDNESDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. 1/2 Price Happy Hour til 8pm. Wild Wednesdays. DJHill Spins til 2am. This is an 18 and over event..

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3.50 Skyy cocktails, $2.75 Domestics and ½ price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials. Every Wednesday is "Cabaret Open Mic Night". Sign up at 6:30 - Show starts at 7. MC: Cabaret Diva Liz McMahon. Music Director: Marilyn Harris.

HOWL AT THE MOON -Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. Pitchers. $5.00 Jager Bombs and Long Island Ice Tea. Texas Hold-'Em Poker Tournaments at 6 & 8:30 pm Play for points & Prizes. No cash involved.

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 11am-2am;. Happy Hour 11am-8pm excl. special events). Ful Kitchen open 11am-10pm. Back Pocket Bar open 8pm-close. Service Industry Employee Special All Day Long - $1 off all drinks except schnapps and draft. Different Themed Underwear Party 9pm-close with $1.00 off for those who participate (excl. Schnapps and Draft). Retro 80s & 90s Dance with DJ Clint 9 til close..

YARD DOG - Open daily Beer Bust 4-8pm.

THURSDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. 1/2 Price Happy Hour til 8pm. 20/20 Thursday's a night guaranteed to F*UCK,, with your vision!! $20 at the door we take care of the rest (premium top shelf not included). DJHill spins hip hop & R&B all night. 21'n up

COLORS - Open 4pm-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm,$3.50 Skyy cocktails, $2.75 Domestics and Well and ½ price appetizers. Full menu served until 10. Nightly dinner specials.. .

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg.. Pitcher. Mexican Beers $2.50 all day, all night. Starting 1/17/08 TNT Thursday Night Temptation for 18 & over. Eat-drink-dance Music with DJ Shorty v2.0

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 11am-2am; Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl Spec Events); Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-10pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar open 8pm-close. Cheap Party Day **FREE POOL**, $1.00 PBR Longnecks, $2.00 Tecate Longnecks. Techno and Top 40 Dance with DJ Jeff 9pm - close..

YARD DOG - Open daily. Beer Bust 4-8pm..

FRIDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. NOCHE de CALOR. 1/2 price Happy Hour til 8pm. Every Friday DJ Hill spins the best norteno, Cumbias, Salsa, Bachata Reggaeton, Rock en Espanol and anything else that makes you shake your hips!!

COLORS - Open 4pm-midnight. Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3.50 Skyy cocktails, $2.75 Domestics and Well and ½ price appetizers. Finlandia martinis $5.50 open to close! Full menu served until 10. "Hot Jazz, Cool Martinis" with Susan Artemis & Craig Faltin 6:30 to 9:30. "Guys & Dolls" drag show hosted by Lucinda Holliday at 10pm. Nightly dinner specials. Drink specials during the drag show.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. $3.,50 Sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. Pitcher. $2.50 Smirnoff Ice. Triple Black, Green Apple and Raspberry Twisters. Free Country dance lessons at 7:30p.m. DJ Pat plays classic country 8:30 to close..

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 11am-2am; Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-11pm Back Pocket Patio Bar open 5pm-close. Enjoy the Live Blues/Motown/Soul sounds of Simon Crown 6-9 p.m.; Request your favorite Music Dance Night with DJ Clint 9pm-close. Monthly Birthday Party every 2nd Friday Night of the month.YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. Beer Bust 4-8pm. Patio Bar Opens 8pm

SATURDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm - 2am. $2.00 U-Call-Its til 11pm. Saturday night dance party with DJ Hill9pm. Patio Bar opens at 10:30pm.

COLORS - Open 4pm-10pm, Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3.50 Skyy cocktails, $2.75 Domestics and Well, ½ price appetizers 4-6. Pianist/Vocalist Marilyn Harris 6:30-9:30. Full menu served until 10. Nightly dinner specials.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 2pm. Happy Hour 2-8pm, $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. $4.50 cheeseburger & fries.$2.50 Captain Morgan or Malibu Rum all day, all night. Check our calendar for the Saturday Night Special Entertainment.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, 5-8pm karaoke and Teryaki Kabobs on the patio. 8:30pm Show time w/ Bunny FuFu 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 11am-2am; Happy Hour 10am-8pm (excl spec events); Full Menu Kitchen open11am-11pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar open 5pm-close. Techno and Top 40 Dance with DJ Jeff 9pm til close. Check our ad for Twice-A-Month Special Events or Themed Parties.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. Patio Bar Opens 8pm.

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13
WOODY'S - Valentines Underwear Party. 9pm.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14
BIZ - Happy Valentines Day Party with DJ Hill from 9:00 p..m. to 2:00a.m. R&B, Slow Jams, and the sexiest sensations ever. 2-4-1 Thursday!!!

IBT'S - Valentine's Day Red Party. Bar staff in their underwear; Go-Go Boys, drink specials and DJ Hurricane spinning the hottest top 40 and R&B. Come, feel the love.

WOODY'S - Valentines Day XOXOXO Party.

YARD DOG SALOON - 7th Year Anniversary 4-Day Party begins tonight with Rice, Beans pllusdrink specials at 4:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15
WOODY'S - Simon Crown 6-9 pm. Fetish Ball 9:00 .m.

YARD DOG SALOON - 7th Year Anniversary Party continues with Hot Dogs and Chips at4:00 p.m. and Karaoke with Troy at 9:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16
HOWL AT THE MOON - A fundraiser to send Anson Reign and Freddy Prinze Charming to the Mr. US-of-A Male Illusionist Pageant. 10:30 p.m. Special guests Boys-R-Us Luke Mighway and Ben Eatiner.

YARD DOG SALOON - 7th Year Anniversary Party continues with BBQ Brisket Dinner at 5:00 p.m. "TwoSons" band at 9:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17
WOODY'S - Karaoke with Michael D. 9:00 p.m. Rock, Paper, Scissors Contest with the Bud Crew 10:30 p.m. Prizes and lots of Giveaways.

YARD DOG SALOON - 7TH Year Anniversary Party winds down with Brunch with Chef Jude at 11:00 a.m.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18
WOODY'S - Karaoke with Michael D. 9:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20
WOODY'S - Camouflage Party 9:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22
WOODY'S - The live Blues/Motown/Soul sounds of Simon Crown 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23
HOWL AT THE MOON - Winter Tea Dance for LGBT Seniors and their friends 4 to 8 p.m. 915 W. Prince Rd (SW corner at Fairview) Join us to celebrate ourselves and have some dancin' fun. The music will be a DJ mix of 40's big band, 50's/60's oldies, country western, and the best of disco. Food items will be available for purchase, including a "Howl/Senior Pride" food and drink special. Mark your calendars; you don't want to miss this! This is our first event, and if successful we'll have more! For more information contact: Penelope Starr, pstarr@wingspan.org, 624-1779 x 122. This event is sponsored by: Wingspan's Senior Pride, The LBT Breast Cancer Health Project funded by Susan G. Komen For the Cure, Puertas Abiertas, and Howl At The Moon.

WOODY'S - Male Dance Review Show

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24
WOODY'S - Drag Bingo with Janee Starr and Stella Virgin 8:00 p.m. followed by Karaoke with Michael D at 9:00 p.m.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25
WOODY'S - Karaoke with Michael D 9:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26
WOODY'S - movie nite

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27
WOODY'S - Sarong Party 9:00 p.m. with your favorite bartenders Chris and Ryan.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26
IBT'S - Janet Jackson CD Release Party. Listen to her new album and enter to win the CD.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 29
IBT'S - Leap Year Party. A party 4 years in the making.

SUNDAY, MARCH 16
THE BIZ - God-Des and She from the 'L Word' will be performing live following the 'L Word'. Live at 9:00 p.m. Tickets on sale now!! 18+ $15 Adv. $17 @ door. 21+ $10 Adv. $12 Door. All ages show.

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The National Conference on LGBT Equality
Creating Change

Challenging The Status Quo: Creating Change Turns 20

DETROIT, Michigan (Observer Update) - With attendees that included homeless youth, LGBT and straight elders, civil rights leader Julian Bond and New Hampshire Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson, the National Conference on LGBT Equality: Creating Change celebrated its 20th anniversary, 365Gay.com reported.

At the opening plenary, civil rights leader Julian Bond said, "Sometimes it is the simplest of acts: sitting at a lunch counter, going to a new school, applying for a marriage license, casting a vote, that can challenge the way we act, the way we think."

Bond, who helped integrate Atlanta's movie theaters, lunch counters and parks, said that rights for Gays and Lesbians are not special rights in any way. "It isn't special to be free from discrimination. That's an ordinary and universal entitlement," he added. "That's why when I'm asked, are Gay rights civil rights, my answer is always: 'Of course they are.'"

During the annual event, a 2000-strong mix of university students, young activists and senior activists were part of forums aimed at forming coalitions and acquiring leadership skills.

There were also workshops focused on immigration, LGBT Latinos and the growing senior population, including one hosted by SAGE (Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders) that addressed aging with HIV.

"In our churches we have so much erroneous information on how you get HIV and how it is transmitted," said Rev. James Curry, from Detroit, during the forum. Rev. Curry – who's affected by the disease and also lost his own sister Pattie Jean, an intravenous drug user, to the epidemic in 1987 – said that "many churches deliver a message of hell and damnation. They have so much erroneous information."

The Task Force also granted an award for activism to Mandy Carter and one for community service to Barbara Satin to recognize her work as a Transgender activist in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area.

The 73-year-old helped make possible the ongoing construction of 41 housing units for LGBT seniors above the Minnesota church "City of the Lakes" and she's also a member of the executive council of the United Church of Christ, the first Transgender woman to hold such a high title in that denomination.

Matt Foreman also delivered his last speech as executive director of the Task Force, highlighting that the percentage of the U.S. population protected from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation has risen from zero in 1970 to 52 percent now.

Foreman and Satin also talked about ENDA (the Employment Non-Discrimination Act) and stressed the need to continue the fight for a bill that will not exclude gender identity.

During the Foreman accused "our friends" (members of the LGBT coalition to pass ENDA) for doing the "enemies' dirty work for them" by taking out gender identity protections before that part of the bill was even put on the floor by anyone in Congress last year.

Foreman asked the audience, "Is something wrong with that? You bet! If we want to pass an inclusive ENDA we need to do it together."

Creating change was held at the Marriot Hotel in downtown Detroit and the plenaries were hosted by comedic political commentator Kate Clinton, who hilariously took on radio talk show host Rush Limbaugh and President Bush among others.

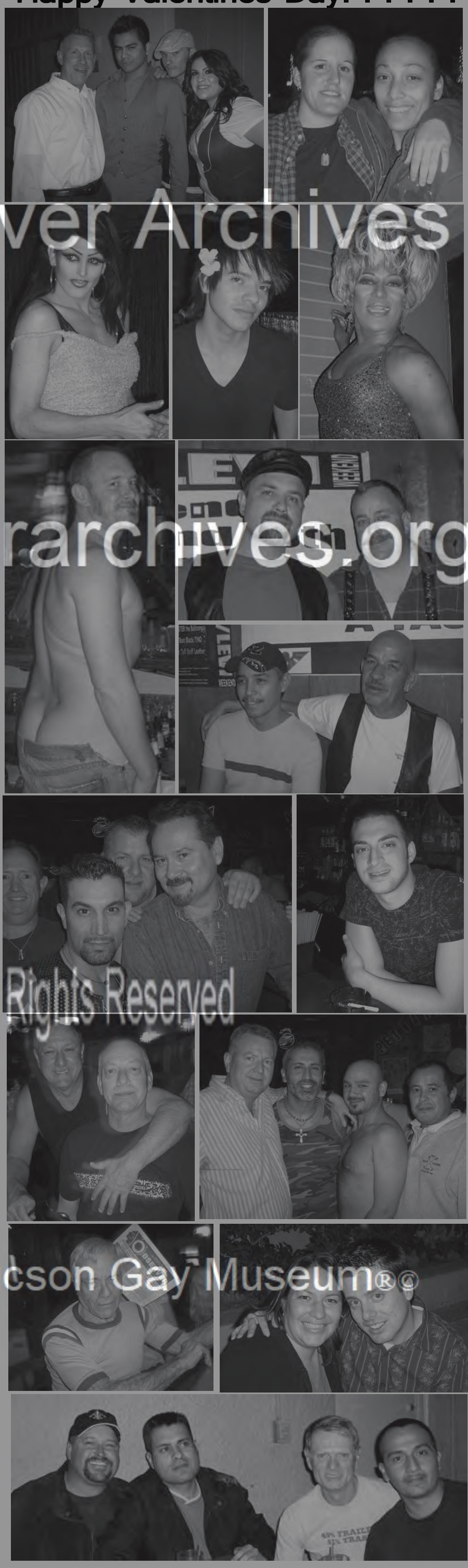
Gay Adverts To Be Displayed Acxross Britain

LONDON, England (Observer Update) - For the next two weeks people across the country will be confronted with a positive message about Gay people from 600 billboards, Pink News reported. The advertising space in England, Scotland and Wales has been donated to Gay equality organization Stonewall by Titan Outdoor Advertising Ltd.

The message - 'Some people are Gay. Get over it!' - will be displayed in giant, tabloid-style capital letters, on a bright red background. The campaign, originally designed for schools, was developed in collaboration with 150 secondary school pupils and teachers for Stonewall. In November 2007 it was launched by television actor John Barrowman as part of Stonewall's Education for All campaign to tackle homophobic bullying in schools.

The posters, stickers and postcards, distributed to all 5,000 secondary schools across England, were so well-received by pupils and teachers that the message has gone beyond the school gates.

Happy Valentines Day. . . . . .



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