

WOMEN'S CENTRAL NEWS

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Reaction to hate crime significant; the world mourns

by Margot Marie Bronski, staff writer

Sometimes the reaction to an event tells us more about a society than the event itself. By now the basic facts are well known. On the night of Wednesday, Oct. 7, Matt Shepard, a 21 year old, openly gay student at the University of Wyoming got into a truck with two men. The two drove him to a remote area outside Laramie, Wyoming. There they pistol whipped him, tied him to a fence and left him in the freezing night. He was found more than 12 hours later by a passerby. He was taken to the hospital in nearby Fort Collins, Colorado, and kept on life support until he died on Oct. 12, without regaining consciousness.

Two men are being held on charges of first degree murder, kidnapping and robbery. Their girlfriends also face related, accessory charges. Many of us remember a time, not long ago, when this story would have gone virtually unnoticed. It would have been one of those "Body Found" stories in the Laramie newspaper, and not much more. If there had been any mention at all of homosexuality, it would have been negative. But times have changed - reaction to the brutal crime was swift and worldwide. News of the beating was in the media and on the internet within hours of the grisly discovery of Shepard's body.

By Saturday, Oct. 10, Poudre Valley Hospital was posting medical and other updates on their web site. Additionally they set up an e-mail address where wellwishers could send messages to Matthew and his family. By Oct. 15 more than 15,000 e-mails expressing

sorrow and condolences had arrived from throughout the United States and internationally from as far away as Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Japan, the United Kingdom. Between Oct. 10 and 14, the website received more than half a million hits for information.

On Oct. 10, The White House issued a statement condemning the brutal attack and calling on Congress, again, to expand The Hate Crimes Prevention Act. Speaking to reporters on Oct. 12, President Clinton said "The public outrage in Laramie and all across America today, echoes what we heard at the White House Conference on Hate Crimes last year..."

The New York Times ended an Oct. 13 editorial with "...his death makes clear the need for hate-crime laws to protect those who survive and punish those who attack others, whether fatally or not, just because of who they are."

A Christian Science Monitor editorial contained this disturbing observation, "The problem of hate crimes against homosexuals would seem to require more than a few stern statutes. After race and religion, sexual orientation is the third most common factor in American hate crimes. What is surprising about this fact is not only the prevalence of such crimes for such a small segment of society, but also the increase in attacks at a time when overall violent crime rates continue to drop."

USA Today wrote on Oct. 15, "It

takes little imagination to see this for what it is: a grisly, post-modern crucifixion." Addressing hate-crimes laws, the editorial went on to say "such statutes help punish crimes that are committed because of who or what the victim is: black or brown; Muslim or Mormon; male or female; gay or straight. If that's part of some mysterious "homosexual agenda," then so is thereamle to the Declaration of Independence and the equal-protection clause of the Constitution."

The murder was the lead segment on ABC TV's 20/20 on the night of Oct. 14. Local media stayed on top of the story from the beginning. Live reports from the murder site, the hospital and the funeral were included in several local TV broadcasts. The Arizona Republic ran an announcement of plans for the candle light vigil held at ASU; they followed up with a front page photo. Benson weighed in with a cartoon.

Vigils and memorials were held around the country. More than 1,000 attended a vigil at the University of Wyoming. Additionally, UW athletic teams voted to wear a yellow and green symbol during each competition this fall.

According to according to the Anti-Defamation League, only 18 states have anti-hate laws based on sexual orientation. Arizona is one of those states. Wyoming has no hate crime law of any type, however Gov. Jim Geringer has stated that it's time to revisit the issue. Geringer also referred to anti-gay protestors at the funeral as "a bunch of wing nuts."

The technique involves injecting technetium-99 into the breast around the tumor. About 1 percent of the radioactive material eventually makes its way to the lymph nodes. Doctors then use a handheld gamma ray counter to find the nodes that absorbed it.

Doctors routinely take out the lymph nodes around the armpit in case the cancer has spread to them. The new technique precisely locates compromised nodes sparing women some of the pain and possible complications.

South Africa ends gay bias

by Robin Dee, staff writer

President Nelson Mandela's government is pushing to end all forms of bias and on Oct. 9th South Africa's Constitutional Court ruled down laws banning homosexuality.

Panel member Judge Albie Sachs wrote that the ruling is 'part of a growing acceptance of difference in an increasingly open' nation.

The National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality hopes that the ruling will open the way for adoption, marriage and other rights.

New breast cancer surgery

by Robin Dee, staff writer

Doctors from the University of Vermont published a study in the New England Journal of Medicine of a new procedure which could dramatically reduce the number of lymph nodes removed during breast cancer surgery.

WOMEN WHO DARED - Marian Lane

Marian Lane (b. 1905 d. 1998), Arizona's last living legend, passed away on October 22st, 1998. Marian Lane touched the lives of thousands of people, from lowly children committed to the Arizona State Hospital to the rich and famous. Marian was an inspiration to all who knew her, a beautiful spirit sent from heaven to overcome life's obstacles with love. Until we meet again.

Coming Out and friendship

Commentary by Robin Dee, staff writer

I have a new friend...well, an old friend who became a 'new' friend. I have worked at the same place for about 10 years and have crossed paths with virtually all 700 or 800 employees.

In all that time, among all those people, I have come 'out' to just one, and now, two. The second one is my friend Al. Al is the Albert Einstein of my world. He knows everything. He can fix anything. He is charming, fascinating and rational. In other words, he is exceptional.

I had the heebie-jeebies after I told him last year during national Coming Out month...I knew he wouldn't keep my secret. I knew he would begin to treat me 'funny' and so would everyone else he told. I knew I had made a very bad mistake. Since Arizona employers can fire gays for being gay, I knew personnel would call me in, and *thud*, the ax would fall.

Many straight people who are sympathetic to gays do not understand the potential and very real consequences of coming out in an unsafe environment. Matthew Shepard is today's poster death. *Be Gay And Die*. We ARE physically hurt and sometimes killed for no reason other than our sexual preference. Five years ago I saw a lesbian who had stepped outside at a lesbian nightclub and got the crap beat out of her. A few months ago there was an ASU West professor

who received death threats and her car was vandalized and grafittied.

But still, it is very hard to not be yourself in the workplace. I distance myself in personal conversations or play the 'name change', 'Larry' instead of "Laurie", game. I am very cautious and I'm always looking over my shoulder.

Last year during Coming Out Month I told Al. I did the heebie-jeebie thing for a few months. I've discovered that my work world hasn't collapsed. Al is still my friend and we are becoming better friends, I think because I can be a 'real person.' Sometimes when we go to lunch we make comments about how cute a waitress is. It's like...normal!

Many lesbians are totally out of the closet and swear that they would never again hide who they are. They go into job interviews and blurt out, "I'm a lesbian. Do you have a problem with that?" Maybe I'm an old dog who isn't too swift in learning new tricks. The best I can do is, once a year during national Coming Out month, stretch my emotional boundaries and try to trust one other human being.

Last month I speculated about who I could trust coming out to, who could hold my fear in one hand and my heart in the other, (it would put a knife right through me if someone I called friend used the information against me). I looked but did not find. That's ok...there's next year.

Aftermath of the Shepard Murder

by Sherrie Nist, staff writer
Candlelight vigils

Across the nation, mourning continues for Matthew Shepard, the gay University of Wyoming student who was brutally beaten to death (article on page 1) on October 12th. Thousands paid their respects at candlelight vigils and hoped that out of this vicious crime, motivated by anti-gay bigotry, would come renewed efforts to fight for change, to protect our civil rights, and to call on our legislators to pass laws that would make federal prosecution of hate crimes easier.

Vigils were held in over two dozen cities Sunday, including Portland, Maine, Chicago, Dallas and Miami. In Dallas, Yellow ribbons were tied to a fence (similar to the one Shapard was tied to by his attackers), outside the Church of Hope, where the vigil was held. In Miami, the vigil was held after the second annual Miami Pride March and Pridfest.

In New York City, charges of police brutality at a Matthew Shepard vigil are being investigated. Over 100 people were arrested, including a woman in a wheelchair, a woman Episcopal priest, a foreign tourist who had no idea what was going on, and two of the legal observers at the event, many of those who had organized the event and had been trying to maintain order, as well as renowned veteran activist Sylvia Rivera and authors Leslie Feinberg ("Stone Butch Blues") and Minnie Bruce Pratt.

Also in New York, one to two thousand attended a more peaceful candlelight vigil on October 20 at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine.

Calls to Action

Shepard's death has become a rallying point for gays and lesbians across the country seeking state and federal protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation.

In Washington, the House pledged to fight prejudice and intolerance as it voiced outrage over the beating death of a gay University of Wyoming student.

President Clinton, meanwhile, opened a White House conference on school violence Thursday by calling once more for a new hate crimes law and by ordering the Education Department's civil rights office to step up its enforcement to stop discrimination and harassment of students.

Legislation pending (H.Res. 597) in the House and Senate would broaden existing law to include offenses motivated by gender, disability and sexual orientation. It also would make it easier for federal authorities to prosecute such bias crimes. Democrats and Republicans are urging Congress to act swiftly.

"May the meaning of his life be that we pass a hate crimes act in this Congress before we leave," House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt, D-Mo., said of Shepard.

President's Message

Dear Friends:

Phoenix gay community organizations are shrinking... over the last year we have lost Valley Career (Community) Women, and the Lesbian Resource Project. Other activity organizers have stepped in, such as the many small, less-structured groups which meet for pot-lucks, hikes, theatre-going, cards, scrabble, etc. These groups serve us well and offer an opportunity for lesbians to meet in safe environments.

However, the Women's Central News must remain a very structured organization...one that can produce a 16-page publication each and every month. WCN staff has been called 'invisible volunteers' because we work mostly alone out of our homes for our community. Most of us have served you for 4 and 5 years. When the WCN holds elections in March of 1999 many of us will not accept candidacy for offices.

This month we celebrate Thanksgiving...a time to enjoy all that we have and be thankful that we have it. If the Women's Central News has made a difference in your life, if we have aided you and you are thankful for it, please consider taking on a leadership role within our organization next March.

Vice President,

ROBIN

Waking the Watchdog

When did we get a church of America?

by Laurie Heinrich, community submission

"Religious freedom," in our country, is in danger of becoming a hollow platitude. Our elected officials routinely ignore the rich diversity of religious belief among the people they've been chosen to serve, passing laws that force their own narrow creed upon us all. This is a violation of the constitutional mandate of separation of Church and State. It is a threat to all Americans, but as those perhaps most under siege, lesbians and gays must be the first to point it out. In attempting to create state-sanctioned religious policy, the Right Wing is trying to establish what is tantamount to an official American Church.

Surely there is nothing wrong with living life according to one's deepest convictions. But those we put into public office exert a form of tyranny over us when they their convictions to run our lives. Our supposedly free and unbiased press is supposed to serve as "watchdog" over our religious and other freedoms, but Fido has fallen asleep. Lazily and complacently accepting the Religious Right's claim to speak solely for God, and ignoring the existence of alternative beliefs both inside and outside of traditional religion, the media play directly into conservatives' hands, helping to squelch debate.

The American public — thanks to what passes for the press — so totally buys the Right's boast of representing Ultimate Truth that it is no longer even challenged. Apart from the fact that this alienates more people than it attracts, this mindset's failure is further guaranteed by its insecurity. Lesbians and gays of faith do have a legitimate case to make, and it won't go away because others are challenged by it. We will be heard — the media love nothing more than a good fight, and once we determine to show it one, it will cover our cause with glee.

Nobody in this country wants a theocracy, with the likes of Jimmy Swaggert and Jerry Falwell in charge. America must wake up about what's going on here. We in the lesbian and gay community stand in the best position to sound this call.

Unmarried couples bill killed

by Robin Dee, staff writer

On Oct. 9th France killed a proposal to give legal status to homosexual and other unmarried couples. If passed the proposal would have allowed any two unrelated people to file joint tax returns, gain inheritance benefits and be a part of the other's social security coverage.

Prime Minister Lionel Jospin says he will make some changes to the proposal and return it to Parliament.

A majority of religious leaders and other groups concerned with keeping the traditional family 'sacred' fought hammer and tong to keep the measure from succeeding.

As the population ages there will be less and less resistance to unmarried couples benefiting from living together. The homosexual aspect of the issue will disappear as the need for people to pool their resources to survive grows.

Gay Yellow Pages Fraud

by Sherrie Nist, staff writer

Chapter 2 Publishing, the Phoenix based company that published the Gay Yellow Pages in cities across the United States, has vanished, along with checks from would be advertisers in the of the Charlotte, N.C., edition of the Gay Yellow Pages. The directory was never published, and the advertisers, who paid in advance, have been unable to locate the company or its publisher, Marci Alt. Chapter 2 has published directories in other cities, including Phoenix.

The Women's Central News is a community-based lesbian monthly newspaper published by an all-volunteer staff for the not-for-profit Women's Center, Inc.

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SUBMISSIONS

You are encouraged to send in your event announcements, book reviews, dining experiences, news analysis, commentaries, poetry, coming out stories or anything of interest to the lesbian community. WORD LIMIT: Letters to the Editor: 200 words; Articles: 350. Submissions must include name and address. You may request that your name be withheld. Submissions cannot be returned. We reserve the right to edit for clarity, brevity and spelling. Copyright remains with each contributor. Deadline - 15th of the month.

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Marian Lane, Arizona Legend

by Robin Dee, staff writer

I met Marian half a dozen years ago through the woman I was dating. We were driving toward the home where Marian was living when my girlfriend said, "Can I tell you a secret? Do you know who Marian really is? She's Winnie Ruth Judd. Do you know about her?"

I remember my stunned silence at this revelation. I have lived in the Valley since there was dirt and I had read in the newspaper about the infamous Trunk Murderess every time she escaped from the Arizona State Hospital. Of course, I knew about her!

Various accounts of Marian's life and the 'Tragedy' as she called it, have surfaced, none of them including Marian's own recollections, are totally reliable. "After all," Marian would say, "that was a long long time ago and I don't want to remember the bad...I only want to remember the good."

In a nutshell, the 'Tragedy'; On the morning of Oct. 16th, 1931, after spending the night with her two best friends, alleged lesbians, Marian, who was 26 years old, and they began to argue. The argument escalated into one of her friends bringing out a gun. In the ensuing minutes Marian was shot in the hand while struggling with the weapon and her friends were shot and killed. The 'Tragedy' was compounded by her gentleman friend, a Phoenix lumberyard owner who had friends in very high places, who Marian called after the event. He took actions and made decisions that eventually put Marian on death row. These events conspired to take away 40 years of Marian's life. *Forty years*; some of them in Florence prison awaiting death and 29 years spent in the Arizona State Hospital caring for the mentally ill.

When I met Marian she was in her 80's and my most solid memory will always be her lack of bitterness at, to me, the wholly unacceptable 40 years of incarceration. She was full of love, with a heart so big that she could take me in.

I remember Marian, I, and several friends going to hear Gloria Steinem speak at a downtown political fundraiser on Halloween. It was planned that the six of us would go in costume. Marian had sewn an upside down clown suit; her feet were hands, and her hands were feet. When we arrived at the event we found, one, we had a large table directly in front of the podium and, two, we were the only attendees in costume. Gloria gave a dynamic speech only occasionally making eye-contact with the clowns at the front table.

Marian remembered me with small gifts when she returned from her many travels and adventures. She would throw the most dazzling dinner parties I have ever attended; eight course meals, served as though we were heads of state of foreign countries. She made her guests feel as though they were the most important people in the world, and to her, we were.

Marian is the last of Arizona's legends and will be remembered by most as the major player in a double murder that took place 67 years ago. Lesbians and friends that have loved and cared for her over the years will remember a woman who was an inspiration; a woman who could only love others, who remembered the good in her life and who refused to live with hate.

When something unfair happens to me and bitterness floods my heart I think of Marian and her oft repeated, "remember the good." I can see her face now, her spritely smile and twinkling eyes. Goodbye Marian, until we meet again.

Community Center seeking Board members

The Community Center announces that it is currently engaged in an active, open search for qualified applicants to serve on its Board of Directors. The Center works to provide space, programs, services and social activities to the gay, lesbian, bi and transgendered community living in the Valley of the Sun.

Specific expertise in the areas of finance, fundraising, technology, programming and volunteers is being sought. Women and people of color encouraged to apply -- ALL applications will be reviewed. To receive an application, please call 265-7283.

LESBIAN FICTION TO STIR THE IMAGINATION

NO ESCAPE

Nancy Sanra

This edgy whodunit set in San Francisco, is a story of love, drugs and jealousy. Late one rain-drenched night, nurse Melinda Morgan is found dead in her bed. Who cut her life short, plunging a scalpel into her heart, then disappeared into the night? As lesbian PI Tally McGinnis and partners, Cid and Katie, sort through the bizarre evidence, they can almost sense the evil Marsha Cox lurking in the shadows. Together, the brilliant and tenacious trio muster all their expertise to uncover the shocking secrets behind the grisly murder. \$11.99

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Methodist Pastor's trying to make difference

by Robin Dee, staff writer

The greatest of the United Methodist's pastors are becoming ex-pastors. The Rev. Jimmy Creech threw down the gauntlet when he performed a Union Ceremony for gays last year. That cost him his job.

Now United Methodist pastor Rev. Gregory Dell continues the war against discrimination and gay hate by performing another Union Ceremony at his church in Chicago on Sept. 19th.

Of course, no good deed goes unpunished and a formal complaint has been filed against him. An August ruling by the denomination's Judicial Council states that performing same-sex marriages is against church law. It is all but certain that he will be summoned to a church trial where, as the church's past actions indicate, Pastor Dell will be fired.

In our bumper sticker culture, all church's need have just one law: God is Bi, he loves everyone.

Schools not addressing anti-gay bias, according to report

by Sherrie Nist, staff writer

The Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network recently released a report detailing the lack of effort on the part of schools to promote positive policies regarding gay/lesbian issues. The report rated 42 school districts nationwide on whether they have anti-gay harrasment policies, provide curricula featuring contributions from gay people, and support the formation of gay/straight student alliances. On a grading scale of A to F, about half of the districts received an F. The average score was a D. One school district in New Orleans claimed they had no gay students! Over 2/3 of the school districts provide no training for staff members to learn how to deal with issues affecting gay and lesbian students.

That Time Of the Month!

Semi-Coherent Opinion by Margot Marie Bronski

If you have to drive more than 40 feet to work, you're probably familiar with ADOT, AKA the Arizona Department of Transportation. They're part of the conspiracy that keeps the roads around here screwed up. I'm positive that periodically secret government agents and various private sector types get together to plot the most inconvenient combinations of road repairs and closures. It has to be a plot - random chance couldn't keep things this perpetually fouled up.

Anyway, ADOT has actually gone and done something kinda nifty. It's called EZ RENEWAL and it lets you renew your car registration by phone(1-888-713-3031) or on the Internet at www.servicearizona.ihost.com. You can even save a whole dollar by using the service; actually \$1.32 if you normally mail in your renewal, or 6.48 days if you're dumb enough to stand in-line at the DMV. And while we're talking about savings, as of August 1, the vehicle license tax has gone down - considerably. My own renewal was over one hundred dollars less than last year. The reduction is a gift from (check one): The Republicans, The Democrats, Symington's replacement, Tex Earnhart.

I finally got around to seeing *Titanic*. I remember reading that there were people who saw it dozens of times - they should be rounded up and sterilized. It was long and boring. With better editing it could have been short and boring. I can only guess that in theatres it was big and boring, along with loud and boring. I found myself cheering for the iceberg. I did sit through the whole thing, but I was home sick with an upper respiratory infection and we all know what daytime TV is like. You know you're in trouble when you've already seen that episode of *Mannix*... three times.

And speaking of icebergs, The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced that a berg broke off the Ronne Ice Shelf and is (at least for the time being) floating adjacent to the shelf. They named the new berg A-38, proving that those long Antarctic nights have a negative impact on human imagination. The iceberg is 92 miles long and about 30 miles wide with an area of 2,751 square miles. They compared the size to *Delaware*, which has an area of 2,044 square miles - more proof of that imagination problem. Experts say it's another sign of global warming. As if my APS bill wasn't evidence enough.

(Assuming she's not stuck in traffic, and hasn't been struck by an iceberg, Margot can be reached at margotm@swlink.net)

Online study finds "family values" are important to gays & lesbians

By Sherrie Nist, staff writer

In the first national study of the gay community since 1996, "family values" and the gay work environment emerged as the two issues gays and lesbians are most concerned about.

The study, conducted online, questioned 948 participants about many areas of their daily lives. The results may surprise those that believe the gay community does not have traditional values. In reality, lesbians and gay men are surprisingly settled and want to be portrayed as "no different than anybody else."

Although the study was conducted before the Matthew Shepard murder, respondents placed "being in a safe environment" high on their list of priorities. Seventy-nine percent agreed with the statement "It is important to me to work in a gay-friendly environment."

In other results, the study found that almost 70% agree with the statement "family values are important to me." Thirteen percent have children in the household and 17% are planning to adopt. Fifty-five percent of gay men and 68% of lesbians describe themselves as monogamous. Eighty-two percent consider themselves open-minded, and 54% agree with the statement "I am very settled."

Although online lesbians and gays have an average household income of \$57,300 (according to the generally accepted annual Georgia

Tech Graphics, Visualization, and Usability Internet survey) - just slightly higher than that of the general Internet population - 92% of lesbians and gays questioned agreed that they represent "a powerful economic force." Fifty-eight percent agree with the statement that "I'm part of an unrecognized market that needs to be tapped," 56% say that they plan to travel in the next quarter, and 51% plan to buy a new car in the next six months.

Eighty percent of those participating in the study said they prefer to do business with companies that are known to be "gay-friendly", and 44% of these respondents will but from businesses that gear their advertising toward the gay market, even if the prices are somewhat higher.

The respondents were: 68% men, mainly between the ages of 25 and 44, and 32% women. Thirty percent are living in a domestic partnership.

All economic levels were represented; 47% have household incomes under \$45,000 and 31% have incomes above \$65,000.

The study was conducted by Greenfield Online and Spare Parts, Inc., two market research companies. Greenfield Online is a pioneer of Internet-based marketing, and Spare Parts, Inc., is a New York based marketing firm that specializes in the gay and lesbian consumer market.

Alaska and Hawaii gay marriage issue

by Sherrie Nist, staff writer

On November 3rd, Alaska and Hawaii will vote on constitutional amendments banning gay marriage.

Alaska's measure would amend it's constitution to define marriage as the union of a man and a woman. The question was put on the ballot after a Superior Court judge ruled in favor of two homosexual men who challenged the state ban on same-sex marriage.

The Hawaii initiative is an attempt to sidestep the state Supreme Court's 1993 ruling that the state had no constitutional right to ban homosexual marriages.

The Hawaii measure is half of a compromise devised 18 months ago. The other half was a bill granting same-sex and other unmarried couples some legal rights enjoyed by married couples, including inheritance rights and spousal medical benefits. Lawmakers hoped to satisfy the court while also preventing homosexuals from marrying.

Polls show the majority of voters in both Alaska and Hawaii oppose giving marriage licenses to homosexuals.

Online Lesbian Tour

by Sherrie Nist, staff writer

Search Engines make life on the internet a whole lot easier.

Instead of stumbling around blindly, following interesting links as you come upon them, you can use a search engine to ask for exactly what you want. Some search engines are all inclusive, connecting you to any topic imaginable, including lesbian listings, although they are not specifically designed to focus on that information. There also exists specialized search engines dedicated to a specific area of interest, covering that area in more depth than the general internet search engines do. I found many "gay/lesbian/bi/trans" search engines, and even a few devoted exclusively to lesbian topics, links, and lists.

Pridelinks, at <http://www.pridelinks.com/> is billed as the "Internet's premiere gay, lesbian, bi and trans search engine," and I wouldn't argue with that. It's not the biggest in terms of listings but I like it the best. They have (at the time of this writing) 7,855 links in 21 categories ranging from education, entertain-

ment, ethnic groups, sports and recreation, news, and sexuality, to "not queer but cool."

Gayscape, <http://www.gayscape.com>, is a search engine with an interesting feature. They have a drop down list box with categories of sites to help you avoid searches where you get all kinds of irrelevant matches because one or more of your search words are in the keywords of sites that have nothing to do with what you are looking for. If your category isn't listed, then you start with the regular search tool. Gayscape has 52,000 indexed web sites in their database, and is updated weekly. Although it is a "gay, lesbian, and bi search tool," it seemed to me to be more heavily gay male weighted than some of the other similar sites.

The Queer Resource Directory (QRD) has 22,245 searchable files relating to all things queer. You can start with a subject tree, or choose from 12 headings. Trying to determine how lesbian oriented it is, I searched for "lesbian," and was presented with "at least 901 matches, from a total of at least 51 files." It will only give you 50 results, so narrowing your topic is recommended.

Freality Internet Search, http://www.freality.com/lesbian_search_engine.htm listed 19 search engines

you could search right from their page. there were a number of specialized topic search engines that I haven't run into anywhere else.

My favorite exclusively female search engine is FeMinNa, at <http://femina.cybergrrl.com/>, a comprehensive searchable directory of links to female friendly sites and information. Their home page has 12 categories and a search tool. Femina features a "Site of the Week," (this week was "Women's Internet Information Network"), and you can subscribe to Femina Net and Femina Mail. Femina Net is a list where you can ask other women online for help finding sites for your personal requests, academic research, and work related needs. Femina Mail is a weekly list of recent additions to the Femina database. It's not exclusively lesbian but I found it under a list of lesbian links and lesbians are very well represented.

There are many more - every time I go looking I discover new ones. going to any of them will lead you to others. Some of the mainstream search engines have extensive lesbian/gay coverage also. I've found Yahoo to be particularly good.



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HEART TO HEART

by Dina Bachelor Evan, Ph.D., staff writer

WHY GOD CAN'T GET A LICENSE!

It occurred to me this morning that God could never be a lesbian therapist. No licensing body in any country would be crazy enough to certify someone with so little motivation for creating change. God just sits back and expects us to do all the work. After all, She has only one major publication, no references or foot notes in it, and no proof of authorship. She has had no special training, has never given a workshop at the Center, claims to know everything and takes credit for the entire universe for Christ's sake!

Even if it's true that God created the world, just exactly what has She done since? People still aren't using God tools, and who could possibly master such concepts when you are told to simply read the book and then follow your own instincts. No individual sessions. No personal instruction. And, I hate to break it to you -- She takes and offers no insurance.

I think God, if She were licensed, would be standing before an ethics committee right now. I hear stories all the time about how She touches people, connects with people and creates these weird occurrences with no solid explanation at all for how they take place. As a matter of fact, I don't recall God ever applying to the ethics committee for permission to use human subjects for all these studies.

I understand God was recently caught during one therapeutic hour using something you can't see on Her patients called love. Right, as if something invisible could have any power to heal. I heard people were asked to chant some Om sound that is supposed to be Her name. Is that an ego the size of Milwaukee or what? By the way, did you hear God kicked the first two clients She had out for growing too much? And one of the most recent causalities told me she was told to throw out those old ten commandments and just treat everyone as a part of her own self! Sure. All those straights are a part of me and I am a part of them and we are all a part of God. Get real.

I seem to recall one of my clients telling me that God actually told her that her only job was to become God. The audacity! She actually left screaming out the door when God told her that she could actually do anything she wanted so long as it was loving. What a disaster! This same client was told if she wanted to see God in color she could look at a flower. If she wanted to see God in flight she could watch a bird and if she wanted to see God with intelligence she could look in the mirror. Well, I tell you, that God just thinks She is everywhere!

I remember the last time I had lunch with God. What an experience that was. I was just sitting there feeling flat, quite exhausted from my week-end. Like some flash of light She just shows up. Within a few minutes I was so filled up with love that tears were streaming down my cheeks. Everyone in the restaurant noticed. It was that embarrassing. What nerve. Frankly, I don't even know why we are friends anymore. It's getting so I can't get away from God.

You know I could never say this to just anyone, but the truth is that when I am with God I really do feel good. It's as if all the little annoying stuff just disappears and something sweet takes its place. I would never tell God that, given that already humongous ego, but it's true. You know how some people make you feel small? Well, God always makes me feel bigger, as if I can do anything and frankly, She as much as told me that was true. Amazing thing is, I believe it. There's something about being in the same space with God that picks you up and makes you feel like anything is possible. I have felt at times like that old coot has sort of crawled right in next to my heart and could really be a part of me.

I heard it's been so hard for God lately. She's been getting blamed for everything that people do. She's even changed Her name to Spirit. That has a nice ring to it. Not so churchy, but you know what? She still will never get a license!

Dr. Evan is a psychotherapist in Phoenix. To contact her directly call (602) 230-7570. Please send questions or topics you would like Dr. Evan to address along with your comments to Women's Central News.

Allergy-Proofing Your House

compiled by Robin Dee, staff writer

INDOOR ALLERGENS such as dust mites, mold or pet dander are present year-round. You could be allergic to dust if you sneeze and wheeze noticeably more in the winter when you're spending more time indoors. Mold could be your problem if you develop allergy symptoms when you're in a damp basement or raking wet leaves. You're probably allergic to cats and dogs if allergy attacks suddenly occur when you're around these animals.

The following strategies can help you avoid the most common indoor allergies.

DUST ALLERGIES - Clean your home heating and cooling systems twice a year. Change your system's filters monthly. Consider purchasing electrostatic filters; they're expensive but can attract dust particles more effectively than paper filters. Keep doors and windows closed to reduce indoor exposure to outdoor allergens. Vacuum at least twice a week. Change bags often and consider purchasing a vacuum with an allergy-controlling system. Consider removing wall-to-wall carpeting and cloth curtains. Clean them often if they can't be removed. Treat carpets and upholstered furniture with tannic acid or benzyl benzoate to kill dust mites. Ask a professional furniture cleaner for rates. Depending on the severity of your allergies, consider replacing your upholstered furniture with wooden, vinyl or leather furniture. Exterminate regularly for roaches and other pests. Cover all mattresses and pillows with impermeable, plastic covers. Use synthetic products instead of feather pillows and quilts. Wash sheets, mattress covers and blankets in hot water. Remove dust ruffles, heavy drapes, knickknacks and stacks of books and papers from your bedroom. Clean and dust the bedroom at least twice a week.

MOLD ALLERGIES - Clean and disinfect bathrooms weekly. To reduce mold, always run the exhaust fan during and after a shower. Keep under-sink areas dry. Eliminate carpet

and upholstered furniture in bathrooms or basements. They provide a perfect environment for mold and mildew to grow. Fix leaky faucets immediately. Wash towels often using hot water and if possible dry towels in a dryer. Use a dehumidifier in your basement, bathroom and any other room that's damp.

PET ALLERGIES - Wash your pets regularly with anti-allergenic pet shampoo, which is available from veterinarians. Ask your vet's advice for the safest product for you AND your dog. Wash your hands after playing with a dog, cat or other pet. Keep your distance from pet birds. Their cages contain numerous allergens.

Americans spend more than \$6 billion annually on allergy treatments. Keep these guidelines in mind when looking for a treatment: Nonprescription antihistamines and decongestants in pill form can help dry and open up your nose. But most of these medications will make you drowsy, so take them when you won't be driving or working with machinery. Follow the package instructions exactly. You may be taking a decongestant that's too strong or a dosage that's too high if you experience agitation or insomnia. Switch to a different medication or reduce your dosage. Prescription antihistamines and decongestants are generally more effective than nonprescription ones, and many don't cause drowsiness. Discuss possible side effects with your doctor. Nonprescription nasal sprays or drops may make you feel better for a while, but they have a "rebound effect" that can increase your sensitivity to an allergen. They can also produce side effects such as nosebleeds, rapid heartbeat and agitation, so use them for only a few days at a time. It's safe to use them again after giving your nose a few days' rest.

If your allergy is severe and doesn't respond to oral medications, you may need to build up your resistance with regular allergy shots from an allergy specialist. This treatment works for 80% of hay-fever patients who try it.

For more information: American Academy of Allergy and Immunology, 1-800-822-ASMA. Call for brochures and a list of allergists in your area. The Allergy and Asthma Network/Mothers of Asthmatics, 1-800-878-4403. Call for brochures regarding allergy control and treatment.

“ We use the pink and black triangles to remind us that all our lives and all our stories must never be forgotten if the atrocities of the past are to be never again. ”
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The Coalition for the Passage of the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act calls for passing of and naming Hate Crimes Prevention Act to honor brutally slain Matthew Shepard

A call for congress to enact the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and rename it the "Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act" was announced by Miki Jackson, Activist and President of "Project Return", at the culmination of an October 12th march and rally in West Hollywood in response to the malicious slaying of the Gay youth in Laramie, Wyoming. Jackson is a spokesperson for the Coalition for the Passage of the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

A petition for the passage and naming of the act can be found on the world wide web at auntbees.org.

"We urge everyone who is concerned about the plague of hate in America today and the horrible crimes that come from it to sign this petition. We ask them to call and write their Congress member and urge immediate passage of this bill," said AIDS Healthcare Foundation president Michael Weinstein.

The petition, dated October 12, 1998, specifically states: "We the undersigned, demand immediate passage of the Federal Hate Crimes Prevention Act and that it be named 'The Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act' in honor of Matthew Shepard."

President Clinton has issued a statement asking congress to pass the act in the wake of the brutal murder of Shepard. Weinstein read the President's statement to the grieved and shocked crowd gathered in front of the WEHO Lounge for the protest.

"In the name of Matthew Shepard, we call on all Americans to join with us to escalate passage of anti-hate crime legislation. We must do this, that this young man will not have died in vain," stated Morris Kight, Gay and Lesbian Rights Activist and Human Relations Commissioner for the County of Los Angeles. Kight further stated that statistics have shown Gays and Lesbians to be the second largest target of such crimes.

Weinstein and other speakers at the march placed a good deal of the blame for the proliferation of hate crimes on the incendiary rhetoric of right wing Republican leaders in Congress as well as other extremists

who use condemnation of Gays and Lesbians to raise votes, enthusiasm and money from their followers.

"When national leaders in congress like Trent Lott use their office to defame Gays and Lesbians, they legitimize hate and that leads to people like these young men in Laramie feeling justified, even protected, in carrying out brutal crimes like this. Congress' culpability in this crime places a deep moral burden on them to pass this bill to let the citizens of our country, indeed the world, know that the chief law making body of our nation condemns, not condones, crimes of hate," Jackson said.

The activists plan to invite President Clinton to join with them in asking for the Act to be passed and named in Shepard's honor.

Michael Weinstein is founder and president of AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) the nation's largest HIV/AIDS medical provider, serving over 3400 Greater Los Angeles patients regardless of their ability to pay at 4 out-patient health care centers and 2 residential facilities located throughout Southern California.

Miki Jackson is the founding president of Aunt Bee's Project Return, a non profit grassroots organization that does advocacy and other activities with a focus on helping People with AIDS get back into the mainstream of life. She is an artist and a feminist and has been an activist in Gay/Lesbian rights and civil rights for many years in Los Angeles.

Morris Kight is a recognized national leader and pioneer in the Gay and Lesbian movement. He is a founder of the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center and many other community institutions. Kight, a pacifist and humanist, has been deeply involved in civil and human rights activism of every sort for over sixty years. He is a Commissioner of Human Relations for the County of Los Angeles.

Censure and Move On

Online petition campaign begins "Million Move-on March;" aims to collect 1 million signatures by Election Day; 100,000 already collected in first week

Censure and Move On, a bipartisan online petition campaign promoting a common ground solution to the current crisis in Washington, on September 30th launched an ambitious effort to collect one million signatures by election day. The "Million Move-on March" campaign will begin with a first-stage goal of collecting 250,000 signatures by the week of October 4th, when the House of Representatives is expected to vote on impeachment hearings. The campaign, started by a husband and wife team, has already collected more than 100,000 signatures in the first week.

"We're just looking for a common-sense solution to end this impasse," said Joan Blades, co-founder of the software firm Berkeley Systems. "As Republicans, Democrats, and Independents, we don't necessarily agree on everything. But we do agree on one thing -- it's high time to move on. And, if Congress and the President can't figure out how to do this, we'll give them a million reasons to try just a bit harder."

Censure and Move On began its initial signature gathering effort on September 22, aiming to collect 10,000 signatures. With 100,000 signatures in the first week, the campaign has already far exceeded expectations. This success spurred the group to dramatically increase its signature goal to one million.

"Frankly, we've been blown away by the response," said Wes Boyd, also a co-founder of Berkeley Systems. "We spent \$89.95 on a Web site, and sent out a few dozen e-mails. And now, a week later, we've got 100,000 signatures. However, we are a 100 percent volunteer effort. So, if we are truly going to reach our goal of 1 million

signatures, it's essential that campaign supporters continue to spread the word."

The Comments section of the petition has been surprisingly popular. "Enough is enough!" and "Enough already!" compete for the honor of most frequent comment. The campaign has posted the first 100 comments at <http://www.moveon.org/comments.htm>. Another surprise is the number of individuals who have volunteered to give time to the campaign. More than eight hundred supporters have offered to help.

"The response from across the country reflects a deep concern for America's future, and expresses a powerful commitment to revitalize democracy through the active participation of its citizens," said Blades. "With more than 100,000 signatures, and with hundreds of people volunteering their time and skills, we hope that politicians in Washington will pay heed and act in the best interests of their constituencies and of our nation."

About Censure and Move On

Censure and Move On is a bipartisan "flash campaign," made possible only through the organizing capabilities of the Internet. Using e-mail and the Web, the campaign aims to translate a broad and deep consensus in the American public into swift action by Congress and the President. The campaign began with an online petition drive to highlight public opinion.

However, if the issue remains unresolved, the campaign intends to promote the issue in this fall's election, and mobilize its supporters to electoral action.

The Censure and Move On petition can be found at <http://www.moveon.org>. The petition simply states that "Congress must immediately Censure President Clinton and Move On to pressing issues facing the country." In addition, the site includes directions for sending campaign e-mail to friends and associates, and directions for becoming more involved in the campaign. Censure and Move On is a 100 percent volunteer campaign.

LESBIAN EVENTS
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Rainbow Alliance:
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Creative Writing Group

Q: What did the master say to the hot dog vendor?

A: Make me one with everything.

Creative writer seeks more of the same to explore "The Artist's Way." Ren Northup will facilitate Julia Cameron's well-known program to greater creativity. Novice and seasoned writers, all genres and genders welcome.

Group meets Mondays from 7pm to 9pm beginning October 5 at The Community Center, 24 West Camelback, Suite C. The workshops are free but space is limited to eight. Call Ren at 266-0939 or Anne at 256-2365 to reserve your seat.

Breakfast with Friends

Join us every 2nd Saturday of the month for Womyn To Womyn's "Breakfast with Friends." We meet at 10:00 AM, at the Egery restaurant, located at Central and Camelback. November's breakfast date is the 14th. For more information, call Cheryl at 780-3102 or e-mail sammie@psn.net.

Glenna's Community Potluck



For ladies 100 and under!

The November Potluck will be held on the 19th at 6pm. We will meet at 47165 Taylor (Tempe). To reach Taylor - take highway 60 to McClintock, go South to Freemont, left 3 streets and right on Taylor - 3rd house. Bring a dish to pass, table service, favorite drinks and a smile. Any questions? Call Glenna at 671-4166.

Theater Group

by Joyce Ratner, community submission
Call Joyce at 395-1579 for information on seeing the play "Long Days Journey Into Night" on Nov. 12th.

WREN

Ann has retired from coordinating the Women's Recreation and Entertainment Network (WREN) events. She worked hard to make sure we had some outdoor activity to do each month. If you're ever on a WREN hike or camp-out and you see Ann, say thanks and let her know how much fun you had.

I'm taking over for her and I want to know who would like to be contacted about events that don't make it into the WCN due to time constraints, or spur of the moment ideas. There are often impromptu hikes. If you'd like to be included on the contact list, call Kelly at 225-0940 or e-mail KELSTR@aol.com. I'll begin a phone list.

Also, I need some women to take the ball and plan some hikes or camps for the upcoming months...if you have an idea or are already planning a trip



The Tuesday Night Lesbian Scrabble League, held at the Coffee Plantation on Mill Ave. and 6th St. in Tempe, is growing! We meet at 6:00 PM, in the back room. Usually we play two or three games, switching opponents, until we have the winner for the night. Our players cover all levels of skill, and everyone is welcome. Whether you just play for fun, or are viciously competitive (all in fun, of course), or anything in between, come join us. If you have a Scrabble board, or any other Scrabble "paraphenalia" bring it along. It's a great way to have some fun, meet new people, and make friends all at the same time. Drinks are half-price until 6:00 PM, and food is available. For more information, call Sherrie at 946-5570, or e-mail SHNIST@AOL.com.

Friends of Ellen Brunch

The Friends Of Ellen brunch meets every 1st and 3rd Sunday morning at 10:30 at the Good Egg restaurant at Park Central Mall, between Thomas Road and Earll. November's brunch dates are the 1st and the 15th. We try to get a large table outside. If you don't know anyone, just tell the hostess you are with Ellen's group and she will point you our way! For questions and further information call Arlene at 944-9432, or e-mail Abitcrazy@aol.com.

Health talk

Free health talk every Thursday, 8-9 PM at Dr Susan Rayeski's office A Chiropractic Place, 5527 N. 27th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85017 602-242-2370. All are welcome!

and wouldn't mind some company, let me know. If you're insecure about planning an event, I'll be happy to do the legwork for you... I just need some good ideas and some knowledgeable guides. Get in touch with me.

For this month's event, Robin has planned a Horseback trail ride and dinner at South Mountain Park. We'll meet at All Western Stables on Sunday Nov. 15th at 4:30pm. Directions to the stables; Take Central Street into the Park...the stable will be the only one on the right hand side just before the park entrance.

We'll take a 90 minute guided trail ride, then our Wrangler (that's horse talk for the guide) will cook dinner for us. The meal choices are steak, chicken, or vegetarian -- we didn't want anyone to get left out because of the food. The ride and food will cost \$27.00 per person. Robin at 848-0083 will need your reservation and food choice no later than Nov. 12th.

Latina group

Latinas wanted for a new organization for cultural/heritage get togethers.

Seeking women in the community that miss La Familia in their lives.

We're planning festivities, concerts, outings, mexican food, possible Spain/Mexico tours, and lots of fun. We'll be collaborating with the Tuscon Latina Group for future plans. Email Personnaly@aol.com or 803-9952 for further info.

S.C.A.M.P.

New Lesbian E-mail Club

Singles! Couples! Meet people in your area! Join S.C.A.M.P. (Scottsdale, Chandler, Ahwatukee, Mesa, and Phoenix, and surrounding areas) - the lesbian e-mail club for Arizona women only! We are especially looking for lesbians who live in the Chandler/Ahwatukee areas to even out the mix, but all areas are welcome.

Express your opinions, have a laugh, help make policy, attend SCAMP events, and maybe find your dream dyke - who knows! For more information, visit our homepage at <http://members.home.net/beeswax>, and don't forget to check out the Member Pics and Bios. There's also community links to the Womyn 2 Womyn event calendar, the Women's Central News, Az Women's News, and member's personal home pages. Get connected!

Saturday Morning Hiking Group

Do you enjoy the outdoors, meeting new people, and hiking? If so, join our hiking group for a morning hike. Our next hike is Sat. Nov. 21st at Dreamy Draw Park at 9:00 am. We will meet at the park which is located off of Northern Ave. and the Squaw Peak Freeway (HWY 51). After you exit on Northern Ave. go east which will take you directly into the park. We will meet at the pavillions by the sand volleyball courts. This is an easy to moderate hike. Remember to bring water and snacks. If you have any questions call Deb at 396-8068.

Support group in Verde Valley

Women's Chat in the Verde Valley is held every Wednesday night from 5 to 7 PM at the Huff n Puff Straw Bale Inn near Sedona. Call 520-567-9066 for more information.

Alternative

Healing Workshop

Join us for our highly successful Alternative Healing Workshops & Networking Meetings, where Reiki, Chiropractic and other Alternative Healing Practitioners get to work and learn together. Third Tuesday of every month at the Hand of Love Ministry, 6605 N. 14th Street, Phoenix (between Maryland and Glendale). Expand your abilities and gain new insights with the experts.

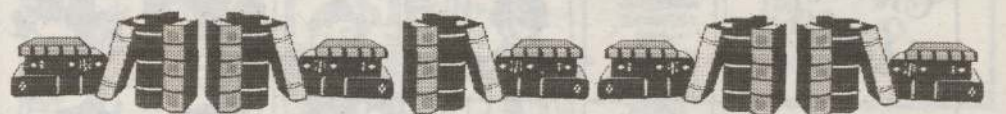
Admission by good-will donation. Adepts of all disciplines of Healing therapy are welcome. For more information call (602)264-1470.

New Clogging Group

A new clogging group in Phoenix, called the Jalapeno Stompers, get together on Monday and Wednesday of each week, except for holidays and special events.

We are clogging at the Augustana Lutheran Church from 7-9:30 PM. The Church is located on the corner of 14th Street and Virginia, just south of Thomas. The address is 2604 N. 14th Street. There is a large parking lot in the back of the church; pull in and enter the facility through the door titled Larson Hall.

Monday evenings are used as practice nights for the group to work on routines for performances. Wednesday evenings are used to conduct classes and to get together as cloggers to have fun dancing and carrying on the traditional of clogging. All are invited. We have a nominal fee in order to cover the cost of renting the facility. If interested come on by: e-mail me at: clogaz@aol.com or leave a message on the pager: 560-4833. Contact is Sherry.



Gay & Lesbian literature groups

There are several Gay & Lesbian Literature book discussion groups that meet at "mainstream" book stores around the valley. Call the store for date, time, and the title of the next book.

In Phoenix, Bookstar at 2030 E. Camelback has a group that meets every first Thursday of the month at. Call 957-2001.

Border's at 2402 E. Camelback has a group that meets every second Wednesday of the month. Call 957-6660.

In Mesa, at Borders at 1361 S. Alma School Road, the group meets every third Wednesday of every month. For more information, call 833-2244.

Xena

Do you thrill to the weekly adventures of Xena, Warrior Princess and her devoted Bard? Come meet with other lesbian and bi-women who share your passion for the dynamic duo, our "Amazon" heroes for the 90's.



Xena group activities include: reading lesbian fan fiction from the Internet, viewing early episodes, interviews, and bloopers, and sharing information about posters, articles, books, and merchandise.



For information on activities, call XenaFan at 813-8681 or e-mail me at xeenafan@worldnet.att.net

Telephone Tree

Let's keep the messages flowing. The way to send any message of interest to the community, at no charge, is by using the Telephone Tree. Tell us what you have to sell, or what you want to buy; ask for a roommate or a place to live; or announce a new business. Call me with your news and it will be passed down the line.

Volunteers are needed to make just one call. The more people on the tree, the more people who will hear your message. Call Jean at 954-8007 for news or to volunteer.



"Los Amigos Del Sol"

Now 22 years old, Los Amigos Del Sol continues to benefit its members and the community as a social organization of men and women working together for the fun of it.

For information on the location of business meetings held the 2nd Saturday of each month at 3pm and the social events call GB at 997-2411.

Simplicity Circle

In November we will share ideas for simple gifts to give at the holidays. We will meet on the 10th at 7:00 pm. Please call Lainie for directions. 264-2741

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

Theater SOMEONE'S KNOCKING

In Mixed Company presents "Someone's Knocking," by Jeff Orloff, the Southwest premiere of an odd little comedy that takes an absurdist look at an agoraphobic American housewife (afraid of 'out there') whose marriage and life change radically when Opportunity literally knocks on her door. Directed by IMCO's Artistic Director Kevin Kerrigan (director of The Shadow Box, Keely and Du, and Desdemona). Featuring: Cathy Dresbach, Terry Gadaire, Ginny Harman, Robbie Harper, John Haubner, and Mel Reid.

Call 252-8497 to make your reservations.

Performance Dates & Times:

November 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, and 21 at 8pm. November 8 and 15 at 2pm.

November 8 is a special 2 for 1 performance. Buy one general admission ticket and get one free.

Location:

Playwright's Theatre, 1121 N. 1st Street, Phoenix, two blocks north of Roosevelt, one block south of Moreland (Access via 3rd St) between Central and 3rd St.

Tickets:

\$16.50 for General Admission
\$14.50 for Seniors & Students
\$11.50 for groups of 10 or more

Tickets on sale beginning October 1st at the Herberger Box Office and all Dillard's outlets!

Same Time/Same Place Breakfast Club

WOMEN: Please join us at the Coffee Talk, 48 N. Robson, Mesa (east of Country Club and North of Main). We meet every Sunday at 10 AM to talk, eat, talk, drink coffee, talk and talk. For more information call Robin at 848-0083.

Author Laura Antoniou to read at Obelisk and APEX

Noted s/m author and leatherwoman Laura Antoniou will be reading from "The Academy: Tales From the Marketplace," on Sunday, November 1st, at 6:00 p.m. at Obelisk Books, 24 W. Camelback, in Phoenix, and will also be a special guest speaker at the Monday, November 2nd meeting of APEX, a leather S/M educational and social group serving the Phoenix community.

Antoniou is the author of the "Marketplace" series of books, and editor of the Leatherwoman anthologies, as well as a contributor to in many other anthologies and erotica collections.

For more information on either of these events, call Obelisk Books at (602)266-2665, and APEX at (602)415-1123.

JACQUI GEE 970-5442

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1998 Ride Calendar

November 8th Sunday - to be announced
If you are interested in joining us on any scheduled club ride or event call Deb at 279-9228 for times and meeting locations. Desert Hearts Motorcycle Club wishes you happy and safe motoring.

East Valley gathering

Tired of going into Phoenix to network? I see you all the time in the stores, at the movies and just driving down the street. A new networking group is gathering once a month in the East Valley.

For our first gathering in October we had a dessert night and all ended up on a sugar high all night long. I am pleased to say 40 women arrived to meet and get to know each other. For the most part these were women who didn't know one another and it has provided a connection to other women in the area.

On Friday November 13th at 7PM we will have a potluck. So if you are kicking yourself for missing last months mark your calendar. If you would like more information and or directions call Sheryl at 986-6679 or e-mail sheryl@swlink.net



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MEETINGS

*****NEW MEETING DAYS***** WE WILL MEET THE 1st & 3rd TUESDAYS of the MONTH

NOV. 3RD - "DEATHING" DISCUSSION & DEATH PREPARATION PACKET
Contact Sue - 253-8498

NOV. 17 TH - " ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE" POTLUCK & MEDITATION
Contact Sandy - 245-0235

DEC. 8 TH - FIRE RITUAL / BOWL BURNING
Contact Carla - 258-4467

DEC. 20TH - SPECIAL DAY & TIME **SUNDAY - 12 NOON** 'WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION' HEALING CIRCLE - GIVEAWAY CEREMONY - POTLUCK SEVEN SPRINGS AREA
Contact Barbara - 488-0329



TLC Chorale seeks members

The only all women choral group in Phoenix, TLC Chorale, is seeking new members for the '98-'99 season. Incorporating as a non-profit group, the chorale offers members a varied diet of songs and concert dates. "We sing some feminist music, as well as traditional seasonal standards-everything from P.D. Q. Bach to Broadway show tunes," says Terry Gunn, membership chairperson.

TLC is currently open to anyone with an interest in music. No formal auditions are held and anyone who sings, plays and instrument or just enjoys camaraderie with women is encouraged to attend a TLC gathering.

The group provides a forum for lesbians while also participating in various community events. "The goal is to have fun and encourage a sense of community while developing skills," said Stacy Mitchell-Alto.

Practices are held every

Thursday, 7PM, Augustana Lutheran Church, 2604 N. 14th Street, Phoenix. For more information, please contact Conductor Kim McCreary at 246-2545 or Operations Manager Barbara Wodrich at 878-5430 or e-mail: tlchorale@hotmail.com.

TLC Chorale is a member of GALA, the international organization of gay and lesbian choruses.

Scheduled events:

November 14 7PM: *Carol Eagleheart concert* — TLC joins popular artist, songwriter and environmental/feminist Carol Eagleheart at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Phoenix, 4027 E.Lincoln Drive, Paradise Valley.

December 12 7:30PM: *Holiday concert* — TLC presents the, gala performance of the season! Special guest appearance by valley soloist Tracey Cruz, who will add a big band flavor to her Broadway and country stylings. Negotiations are also underway for an appearance by the Grand Canyon Men's Chorale.

Spring, 1999: Details to be announced.

Casa de Cristo celebrates 28 years

Casa de Cristo is the oldest Christian church with an outreach to the Gay community in Phoenix. The church has gone through many changes in its 28 year history. Under the leadership and instruction of its current pastor, Ronnie Pigg, Casa is experiencing a Spiritual renewal not unlike being experienced by main line churches throughout the world. Casa has also recently undergone a physical facelift as well.

Pastor Ronnie Pigg and the con-

gregation of Casa de Cristo extends an invitation to all to help them celebrate these changes with - The 28th Anniversary Renovation Celebration - on November 15th at the church (1029 E Turney - north of Indian School, between 7th street and 12th street). The celebration begins after morning worship service at 1:00 PM with a Sunday dinner on the church grounds, followed by an Old Fashioned, Gospel Singing and Praising Good Time at 2:00 PM. For further information the church can be contacted at (602) 265-2831 or check out the website at <http://www.casadecristo.org>.

Womyn2Womyn Breakfast

Womyn2Womyn will be hosting a breakfast in Mesa on Saturday, November 7th at 10:30 AM, at the Good Egg located on Dobson Rd just south of the Superstition (US60). It is on the East side at the intersection of Dobson and Isabella (there's a light there). Weather should be nice so we'll probably ask for a table outside.

Please RSVP, if possible, by Friday 11/6 at 10 pm either by email or by phone (777-8132: please call after 11 am) so that we'll know how big a table to get. Also, if you need directions, please contact us. All are welcome.



"Absolutely OUTrageous" One Night Only

Back from its sold-out shows in April, Gay Hollywood returns to Tempe. Wet International, in association with ANT and Susan B. Clark, bring the finest in 'alternative' comedy back to the Tempe area for another night of unforgettable laughs!

"Absolutely OUTrageous" brings together an enthusiastic audience for big laughs while benefiting AIDS Project Arizona and big bucks! On Wednesday, November 11th, the nations' best gay and lesbian comedians - Robin Greenspan ("Out There III"), Marilyn Pittman ("All Out Comedy"),

Scott Capurro ("Mrs. Doubtfire"), Sabrina Matthews ("Out There III") and ANT (WB's "Unhappily Ever After"), as the MC - will appear at the world famous Improv in Tempe.

This ONE NIGHT ONLY extravaganza comes to Arizona from Los Angeles where it continues its yearlong sold-out run.

The Improv is located at 930 E. University Drive in Tempe. Tickets are \$17.50; show date and time are November 11th at 8 pm. Each paid guest receives a gift bag filled with items donated by Geffen Records, Hennessy Liquor and many others. This event is guaranteed to sell out, as did the previous two shows. Proceeds benefit Project Lifeguard - A Program of AIDS Project Arizona. Seating is limited and reservations are strongly suggested by calling 602-921-9877.

Lesbians on Film

"Everything Relative" is a provocative and sexy romantic comedy about a group of women who went to college together and reunite. Lots of sparks fly between these old college chums. This film has been described as the lesbian "Big Chill," and was a big hit at lesbian/gay film festivals.

Also, Lucy Lawless in a pre-Xena role as a lesbian tow-truck driver, in the sensuous and aptly titled film short, "Peach."

The video presentation of these films is sponsored by the Phoenix

Xena Fan Group for lesbian and bisexual women and will take place on Saturday, November 14, 8-10:30 PM at Augustana



Lutheran Church, Phoenix (14th St. & Virginia). This event is open to the lesbian/bi-women's community and a \$4.00 donation is requested. "Peach" will be shown first, with a break following for time to eat some special Xena cake and socialize with other film buffs and/or Xena fans.

For further information, call 813-8681.

Gay night at Knott's Berry Farm

Disneyland is no longer hosting private parties, so Knott's Berry Farm will be the new location for the 11th Annual "Gay Night". The date is November 13th and the time is 8:00 pm to 1:00 am. Prices are: \$26 in advance if you mail in payment (checks & money orders before 10/30; money orders only until 11/6), \$28.50 if you choose to use a credit card & \$29 the night of the party (there are also outlets in CA where tickets can be purchased for \$28). The price includes admission, parking and entertainment.

If you'd like more information and the ticket order form, please check out Odyssey Adventures home page at www.odysseyadventures.com No plans have been made yet for a group get-together, but suggestions would be welcome. A volunteer has already come forward to get info on hotels in the area and I'll pass that along as soon as possible.

!!!Golfers!!!

Come join Sunday Women Golfers for relaxed and fun golf. We play around the valley on the first Sunday of each month. For more information, call Judy at (602) 732-0754.

Games Night!

Join us and friends on November 14th, 7PM for a night of fun and games. We attended last month at Anne's game night and had a great time. We would like to invite new friends (couples & singles) to join us for games. You may bring your favorite game and please bring your own drinks and a snack if you like (alcohol ok).

RSVP Gynger2002@aol.com or call Claudia or Colleen at 944-2967. We live at Promotory Point across from North Mt.

Verde Valley Resource Directory

Want to know what's going on in the Gay and Lesbian community in the Verde Valley? The Verde Valley Alternative Lifestyles Directory is now available to provide resource, social events, and friendly services available to the Gay and Lesbian community. For info call 520-634-1405 or e-mail martimac@sedona.net.

Echo night at the movies

Echo Magazine and The Community Center are pleased to announce the November 12, 1998 Echo Night at the Movies will be the theatrical re-release of The Wizard of Oz. Details will follow. Mark your calendars now.



The latest on Ellen

The ABC affiliate in Birmingham that refused to air the historic coming out episode did air the repeat of the episode. And Betty DeGeneres, the mother of Ellen will serve as spokesperson FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS Campaign's National Coming Out Project.



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November 1998

Community Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Same Time/Same Place Breakfast Club, pg. 7 Friends of Ellen Brunch, pg. 7 Sunday women golfers, pg. 8 Laura Antoniou at Obelisk, pg. 9	2 Creative writing group, pg. 7 Laura Antoniou at APEX, pg. 9	3 Scrabble league, pg. 7 Women's spirituality group, pg. 8	4 Verde Valley support group, pg. 7	5 Writers group, pg. 7 G/L literature group, pg. 7 "Someone's Knocking," pg. 8	6 "Someone's Knocking," pg. 8	7 Womyn2Womyn breakfast, pg. 9 "Someone's Knocking," pg. 8
8 Same Time/Same Place Breakfast Club, pg. 7 Desert Hearts motorcycle ride, pg. 8 "Someone's Knocking," pg. 8	9 Creative writing group, pg. 7	10 Scrabble league, pg. 7 Simplicity Circle, pg. 8	11 Verde Valley support group, pg. 7 "That's Outrageous," pg. 9 G/L literature group, pg. 7 WCN general meeting 333 E. Virginia #106 7PM	12 Writers group, pg. 7 Theatre Group, pg. 7 Echo night at the movies, pg. 9 "Someone's Knocking," pg. 8	13 Far East Valley network, pg. 8 "Someone's Knocking," pg. 8	14 Los Amigos Del Sol, pg. 8 W2W Breakfast with Friends, pg. 7 TLC Carol Eagleheart concert, pg. 9 Lesbian film night, pg. 9 Games night, pg. 9 "Someone's Knocking," pg. 8
15 Same Time/Same Place Breakfast Club, pg. 7 Friends of Ellen brunch, pg. 7 WREN hike, pg. 7 Casa de Cristo anniversary celebration, pg. 9	16 Women's Spirituality Group, pg. 8 Creative writing group, pg. 7	17 Scrabble league, pg. 7 Alternative Healing Workshop, pg. 7 Women's Spirituality Group, pg. 8	18 Verde Valley support group, pg. 7 G/L literature group, pg. 7	19 Writers group, pg. 7 Community potluck, pg. 7 "Someone's Knocking," pg. 8	20 "Someone's Knocking," pg. 8	21 Saturday morning hiking group, pg. 7 "Someone's Knocking," pg. 8
22 Same Time/Same Place Breakfast Club, pg. 7	23 Creative Writing group, pg. 7	24 Scrabble league, pg. 7 Alternative Healing workshop, pg. 7	25 Verde Valley support group, pg. 7	26 Writers group, pg. 7	27	28
29 Same Time/Same Place Breakfast Club, pg. 7 Friends of Ellen brunch, pg. 7	30 Creative writing group, pg. 7	1 Scrabble league, pg. 7	2 Verde Valley support group, pg. 7	3 Writers group, pg. 7	4	5 
6 Same Time/Same Place Breakfast Club, pg. 7 Friends of Ellen brunch, pg. 7 Sunday women golfers, pg. 11	7 Creative writing group, pg. 7	8 Scrabble League, pg. 7	9 Verde Valley support group, pg. 7	10 Writers group, pg. 7	11 	12 TLC holiday concert, pg. 11



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Comments:

Gay & Lesbian Media Awards

An investigative report on bareback sex and a Pride cartoon from a popular syndicated comic strip won the top awards in the 2nd annual Vice Versa Awards for excellence in the gay and lesbian press, which were announced last night at a ceremony in Las Vegas.

Two publications from the South took home the Best Publication trophies: Atlanta's Southern Voice in Division A (weekly or biweekly publications) and Houston's Outsmart in Division B (monthly publications).

Also announced at the ceremony were Best Special Issue (The Out 100, Out Magazine); Best Publication Web Site (www.betweenlines.com); and Best New Publication (Masque, Stanford).

The ceremony, which was attended by more than 75 journalists, was held in Las Vegas to be convenient for participants attending the National Gay and Lesbian Journalists Association annual conference. Highlights of the ceremony included celebrity host Patrick Bristow's reflections on his experiences as a featured actor on Ellen; and the reading of remarks and a poem by Lisa Ben, who was originally scheduled to attend the ceremony but had to cancel for health reasons. Lisa Ben founded the North American gay and lesbian press in 1947 with her hand-typed lesbian newsletter Vice Versa, whose 50th anniversary sparked the creation of the Vice Versa Awards program last year. The ceremony was co-sponsored by Q Syndicate and Gay.Net.

The Randy Shilts Award for Outstanding Achievement, which comes with a \$250 cash prize and the opportunity to be reprinted in dozens of publications around the country, went to

"Sex and Sensibility: Why are some guys losing the latex?" by Eddie James of the Baltimore Alternative.

The piece discussed the controversy over bareback (unprotected) sex by interviewing several men who engage in barebacking. One judge described the subject as "highly emotional and politically important. Instead of avoiding such a difficult issue, [James] gives a fair hearing to both sides. He provides insight into the reasons men engage in risky sex."

Another judge called "Sex and Sensibility" a "well-researched, balanced, and informative report on one of the most important sexual trends among gay men."

Winning the Sappho Award was "Letting His Pride Slide," an installment of Eric Orner's ongoing comic strip, The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green." One judge called the cartoon "a great mix of humor and politics, with just the right touch of sentiment."

The Best Publication Trophies went to the Southern Voice (Division A) and Outsmart (Division B). Judges called the Southern Voice "newsy, comprehensive and eye-appealing." The noted the publication's "regional feel" and praised its layout in particular. Outsmart was cited for its balance, with both conservative and liberal political columns. "It appears to serve the Houston community extremely well," the judges wrote. "It has a local feel, but brings up national issues."

The Best New Publication Trophy went to Masque, a student-run arts and literature publication from Stanford University. "It's a new

publication that should be brought to people's attention," the judges wrote. One of them added, "If I were in the arts, I would be very excited to see this magazine."

The other two awards announced at the ceremony were Best Special Issue (the Out 100, Out Magazine) and Best Publication Web Site (www.betweenlines.com). One judge called the web site of Michigan's Between the Lines "simply terrific" while another praised its comprehensiveness and ease of navigation.

Eighty publications from 29 states, two provinces, and the District of Columbia participated in the 1997-98 awards program.

The Vice Versa Awards are coordinated by Q Syndicate, North America's largest content provider to the gay and lesbian press. Judges were drawn from the ranks of talented gay thinkers, mainstream journalists, and journalism professors. They included columnists Richard Rodriguez, Deb Price, and Andy Tobias, author and activist Torie Osborn, publisher Barbara Grier, journalism professors Larry Gross (Penn), Lisa Henderson (U Mass), and Bob Jensen (U Texas) as well as journalists from the Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times, the San Francisco Examiner, and the Orlando Weekly. For categories such as best publication web site and best illustration, judges included specialists such as PopcornQ creator Jenni Olson and DC Comics artist Phil Jimenez.

The deadline for submissions for the 1998-99 Vice Versa Awards is tentatively set for July 10, 1999.

A complete list of 1997-98 top award winners is below. For more information, contact program

coordinator David Bianco at 1-888-383-7911 or ViceVersa@aol.com.

Randy Shilts Award for Outstanding Achievement

First Place: "Sex and Sensibility: Why are some guys losing the latex?" comprehensive coverage by Eddie James, Baltimore Alternative

First Runner Up: "HIV-Positive Behind Bars" by Todd Martinez-Padilla Simmons, Watermark

Second Runner Up: "Gabriel's Horn," news interview by Sean Bugg, Metro Weekly

Sappho Award for Creative Expression

First Place: "Letting his Pride Slide," cartoon by Eric Orner, IN Newsweekly.

First Runner Up: "Politics 'lite': Activism Made Easy" humor piece by Joel Perry, Frontiers

Second Runner Up: "Exuberance!" editorial from the Baltimore Alternative

Best Publication, Division A

First Place: Southern Voice, Atlanta

Second Place: Between the Lines, Michigan

Third Place: Outlook, Columbus

Best Publication, Division B

First Place: Outsmart

Second Place: Q Monthly

Best New Publication: Masque, Stanford

Best Special Issue

First Place: The Out 100, Out

Second Place: 1997 in Review Issue, Between the Lines

Third Place: Year in Review #2, Metro Weekly

Best Publication Web Site

First Place: Between the Lines: www.betweenlines.com

Second Place: Lesbian News: www.lesbiannews.com

Third Place: In the Life: www.inthelife.com

Stopping the violence against gays and lesbians

Violence and injustice have been in the lives of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people on a daily basis, but it takes the shocking beating death of gay University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard to bring this ugly reality to the nation's attention.

Hate fueled this anti-gay violence; however, violence against sexual minorities can also be subtly present in the most-respected of social institutions including schools, churches, and the workplace.

Violence and Social Injustice

Against Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual People, edited by Lacey M. Sloan, PhD, and Nora S. Gustavsson, PhD, takes a stunning look at the struggles of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered (GLBT) people against the multiple forms of violence and injustice in their lives. Although physical assaults and hate crime incidents may seem most obvious, sexual minorities are victimized in many other ways: oppressive laws, sexual harassment, and societal attitudes that can lead to self-hatred.

A recent study of Uniform Reporting Officers on training materials and perceptions on hate crimes against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered persons produced startling results. Responses ranged from "it's not a problem here" to "we don't address that in [name of state]."

The school environment, often thought to be a safe haven for gay

youth, is also a source of violence. Gay students can be victimized, verbally and physically, by their classmates and even their teachers. Homophobic messages communicated through mass media, peers, and family members often serve as the basis for discrimination among school-aged youths.

By proposing ways to stop injustice and violence, the contributors to Violence and Social Injustice Against Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual People inform readers how to wage a non-violent war of fairness and mutual respect against daily practices that threaten to make sexual minorities battered citizens in their community. Establishing legislation, pending legal actions to prohibit discrimination, better training and awareness, and learning firsthand about gay and lesbian individuals from advocates and service providers

in the community are just a few of the solutions offered here for turning the ugliness of communal violence into social justice.

Dr. Lacey Sloan is a professor in the graduate school of Social Work at the University of Houston and serves as the President of the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault. Dr. Nora Gustavsson is Associate Professor in the School of Social Work at Arizona State University in Tempe, AZ.

Violence and Social Injustice Against Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual People is available in hardcover for \$29.95 (ISBN: 0-7890-0650-2) from The Haworth Press, Inc. 131 pages with Index. Related Haworth books of interest include Batters, Baiters, and Bigots: Homophobia in American Society (1985) by Dr. John DeCecco and Violence in Gay and Lesbian Domestic Partnerships (1996) by Claire Renzetti.



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Music Review

"Country Blessed" by Cris Williamson and Teresa Trull

by Karen L. Forrester, staff writer

Start with the soaring, angelic heights reached by singer Cris Williamson. Now add in the strength, versatility and depth of Teresa Trull's voice. The result is *Country Blessed*. From the bouncy opening tune "Keep On" to the melodious favorite of line dancers "Fertanga", this joint offering by these two talented vocalists is thoroughly enjoyable, and inspiring to boot. And since it was produced by Teresa, the quality is outstanding, featuring excellent musical accompaniment, well thought-out arrangements and, of course, awesome vocals. I have yet to hear a Trull-produced CD that wasn't of sterling quality.

Although the title of this disc includes "country", I would not characterize its offerings as country music. "Keep On", "Calamity Jane", "The Shady Glen" and "Fertanga" definitely have a country flavor. But not enough to be unbearable for someone like me, who doesn't care much for country music. As a matter of fact, both "Keep On" and "The Shady Glen" have me up and dancing every time I hear them. So if you're not a country music fan, don't let the "country" in the title keep you from buying this disc. It is a truly incredible offering from two incredible talents.

Other upbeat tunes include the title track, with vocals by Cris and Teresa, and "The Love We Take", which is also quite inspirational as Cris tells us that "love has to be remade

every day or it's over" and asks "Why wait for the perfect time . . . to give and take love".

In the inspirational category are two ballads that bring out the goose bumps for me. They are the heartfelt "For Molly's Sky" in which Teresa sings about leaving a living earth for the children and "Mother, Mother", in which Cris, taking the viewpoint of a child with AIDS, yearns for her mother to "Keep me safe from harm. Come into my room tonight and hold me in your arms".

Other Titles by the Artists

Cris Williamson: *The Changer and the Changed, Strange Paradise, Blue Rider, Prairie Fire, Wolf Moon, Best of Cris Williamson, Circle of Friends: Cris Live.* With Meg Christian, *Meg/Cris Live at Carnegie Hall.* With Tret Fure, *Postcards from Paradise, Between the Covers.*

Teresa Trull: Not all her titles are available. The ones I'm aware of are *A Step Away*, plus two collaborations with Barbara Higbie: *Unexpected* and *Playtime*.

Where to Get this Music

Obelisk and Unique on Central carry women's music and what they don't have in stock, they'll order for you. Most titles are available in either CD or cassette. You can also order from Ladyslipper Music online at www.ladyslipper.org or by calling 1-800-634-6044. Additionally, you can order Teresa's titles through Barbara Higbie's web site, www.barbarahigbie.com or by writing/faxing to Slowbaby Records, P.O. Box 7242, Berkeley, CA 94707, fax 510-527-0087.

Wheel of the Year

by Karen L. Forrester, staff writer

In Wiccan terms, we are at the beginning of a new year. It seems fitting, then, to look to the year ahead and explore what is known as the Wheel of the Year – the Wiccan "calendar" of major holidays, or Sabbats. Several authors have explained the concepts very well. Rather than try to rephrase what they have said, this article features direct quotes from books written by three. Diane Stein explains in *Casting the Circle, A Women's Book of Ritual*, that the Wheel of the Year "is a circle without beginning or end. It follows the agricultural growing cycle through the seasons, and the themes of the Sabbats are the themes of passage through life and death."

"The Goddess is born at Yule (Winter Solstice, Dec. 20-23), is a fragile new hope at Candlemas (Feb. 2), a child at Spring Equinox (March 20-23), a Maiden discovering sexuality at Beltane (May 1), the Mother of all life at Summer Solstice (June 20-23), the maturing matron at Lammas (August 1), in menopause at Fall Equinox's harvests (Sept. 20-23) and the ancient Crone at Hallows (Oct. 31)."

Stein notes that Candlemas, Beltane, Lammas and Hallows are considered *lunar* Sabbats and their dates are fixed. They are the cross-quarter holidays between the Solstices and Equinoxes. The Solstice and Equinox holidays (Spring and Fall Equinox, Winter and Summer Solstice) are considered *solar* Sabbats and their dates change with the solar year. That's why a specific date is listed for the cross-quarter Sabbats (such as Feb. 2 for Candlemas) and a range of dates is given for the Solstices and Equinoxes (such as March 20-23 for Spring Equinox).

Says Stein, "To ritualize the Sabbats is to ritualize life – the life, death and rebirth of the Goddess, of the year, of all growing things, and of women. The essential message of the Wheel is life unending, a process from

birth to death and birth again, continual movement and continual change."

In *The Spiral Dance*, Starhawk says this about the Wheel of the Year: "Winter, Spring, Summer, Autumn – birth, growth, fading, death – the Wheel turns, on and on. Ideas are born, projects are consummated, plans prove impractical and die. We fall in love; we suffer loss; we consummate relationships; we give birth; we grow old; we decay."

"The Sabbats are the eight points at which we connect the inner and the outer cycles: the interstices where the seasonal, the celestial, the communal, the creative, and the personal meet. As we enact each drama in its time, we transform ourselves. We are renewed, we are reborn even as we decay and die. We are not separate from each other, from the broader world around us; we are one with the Goddess, with the God. As the Cone of Power rises, as the season changes, we arouse the power from within, the power to heal, the power to change our society, the power to renew the earth."

And finally, here is what Zsuzsanna Budapest says about the Wheel of the Year in *The Holy Book of Women's Mysteries*: "Study the Great Mandala of our lives: the Wheel of Karma, the Wheel of Life, the Way. All is encompassed by it. Nothing escapes the ordered, complicated, sensitive and effective chain of events – the Wheel of Change. All that is alive must change. That is the Law. What does not change dies, and thus changes. All is subject to the Law of the Way."

"Contemplate the Great Mandala in terms of your internal life. Contemplate yourself as a part of the Great Design. You belong here. This is your spaceship. Nobody leaves to ascend to "heaven" or descend into "hell," because they both exist simultaneously in the here and now. You can move into heaven now, if you wish; you've probably already visited hell. Redemption is like responsibility; you cannot pass it on. It is you, and it is us, makers of Divine Choices, makers of Karma, makers of Change and maintainers of the Wheel."

Legal Briefs from the National Center for Lesbian Rights Fall 1998 Case Docket Update

Lesbian co-parenting

In re: Thomps, Tennessee New Case, NCLR authored brief, Decision Pending

NCLR has filed an amicus brief on behalf of two non-biological co-parents in a consolidated appeal to the Tennessee Court of Appeal. Last year, in two separate cases, lower courts found that neither co-parent had standing to seek visitation with the biological child of their respective former partners. In each case, the non-biological co-parent, with her partner, jointly decided to have a child and actively participated in planning the insemination. Both non-biological partners supported their partners before, during and after the pregnancy, and both were encouraged by their partners to develop close parent-child bonds with the child. Upon dissolution of their relationship with their partners, the partners unilaterally terminated both co-parents' visitation with their children. NCLR is working with Nashville attorney and NCLR Advisory Board member Abby Rubenfeld on the amicus brief on appeal.

Equal benefits

Air Transport Assoc., et al. v. City & County of San Francisco, NCLR brief joined, California Preliminary Victory

In May 1998, the Northern District Court ruled that the San Francisco ordinance requiring all employers who do business with the City of San Francisco to provide equal benefits to lesbian and gay employees is valid except with respect to ERISA plans providing ERISA-covered benefits under certain circumstances, including all Airport contracts. Additionally, the ordinance is invalid "if the burden of complying with the ordinance is so great that air carriers would be forced to stop flying out of the airport." NCLR filed an amicus brief in support of the ordinance with the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California and Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

The National Center for Lesbian Rights'

docket pursues the agenda of lesbian civil rights in administrative and legal arenas. Their advice and counseling service provides legal assistance to callers from across the country and technical assistance to attorneys.



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News from the National Organization of Women

Violence Against Women Restoration Act

The VAWA Restoration Act, H.R. 4291, sponsored by Rep. Connie Morella (R-MD) would restore protections for battered immigrant women that were lost when so-called immigration reform legislation passed in the 104th Congress. Many of the provisions of H.R. 4291 were incorporated into the State/Commerce/Justice Appropriations bill (S. 2260) which passed the Senate in July. The House will soon vote on the appropriations measure and may not include the battered immigrant women protection provisions that are in H.R. 4291.

Essentially, the Morella bill allows battered immigrant women to escape from their abusive U.S. citizen or permanent resident spouses without fear of deportation or other adverse consequences. Current law and practice results in many women being left without protection of U.S. laws, court order, custody degrees and law enforcement assistance. The legislation would give immigrant DV survivors the ability to 'self-petition'(for permanent residency) without leaving the country and offers other important protections.

Action needed: Urge your House member to advocate for incorporation of H.R. 2491 in the Commerce/Justice/State Appropriations bill. In Arizona, House Representative Jim Kolbe, especially needs pressure.

Senators Murray and Wellstone offer new VAW bill

A new bill, the Battered Women's Economic Security Act of 1998 (BWESA), was introduced on Oct. 6th by Sens. Patty Murray (D-WA) and Paul Wellstone (D-MN). It contains all those provisions not included in the Biden/Specter VAWA II bill, S. 2110, such as programs which provide housing certificates for battered women, legal protection from insurance discrimination and grants to improve legal representation for domestic violence survivors.

Additionally, the bill features a section establishing programs to aid domestic violence/sexual assault survivors who encounter employment discrimination and offers a bonus for states to help DV survivors who are participants in the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF, formerly AFDC) program.

Violence Against Women Act

With very little time left before the 105th Congress adjourns, the question remains as to whether the Senate will approve of House-passed portions of the Violence Against Women Act of 1998 (parts of H.R. 3514, referred to as the Conyers' Amendment). About a billion dollars worth of funds (for a five year period) for many effective anti-violence programs was authorized by the House, but there must also be Senate approval as well or some programs will expire and others will have no funding. Additionally, various Department of Justice programs are targeted for reduction in a separate appropriations bill. Affected programs include the all-important grants to encourage pro-arrest policies which are designated for a \$29 million reduction.

NOW President Patricia Ireland sent a letter on behalf of the organization to members of the Senate urging that they pass the House-approved portions, plus add a number of provisions from several Senate anti-violence bills. Upwards of 25,000 postcards have been collected from women all over the country in support of passage of VAWA II and will be presented to Congressional leaders. If we are not successful in getting those parts of VAWA II passed, then activists will focus on the 106th Congress and, hopefully, a much better possibility that this key women's bill can be passed. Advocates have come close to the goal of securing 150 House co-sponsors for the Violence Against Women Act of 1998, signing up 144 members as of October 6th.

ACTION NEEDED: Please call your senators and urge them to pass the House-approved sections of VAWA II; stress that no funding cuts should be made and that all any VAW programs due to expire this fiscal year must be re-authorized. Ask senators to include in their action approval of the newly-introduced Battered Women's Employment Security Act.

Also, if your House member is not a co-sponsor, please urge him or her to sign on. In AZ, Rep. Pastor is

“They're trying to take away my pride, they're trying to hurt me inside. I ain't been knocked down yet; I was born to fight.”
Tracy Chapman

NGLTF reports on the ex-gay movement

WASHINGTON, DC---The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) recently announced the upcoming release of the most in-depth study ever done on the political character and role of the ex-gay movement. The report, *Calculated Compassion: How the Ex-Gay Movement Serves the Right's Attack on Democracy*, comes on the heels of the latest assault by the ex-gay movement. Today right-wing groups announce an anti-gay television ad series seeking to "change" people under the guise of love and compassion. *Calculated Compassion* will be released next Thursday, October 15 at the New York Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC.

The ex-gay movement portrays itself as a haven for 'hope and healing for homosexuals.' The report documents that the ex-gay movement actually serves as a camouflage for a retooled and reinvigorated assault by the religious right on the legal protections against discrimination for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons. *Calculated Compassion* is a

publication of NGLTF, Political Research Associates, and Equal Partners in Faith.



"We are not surprised by this latest assault, and we are not fooled by it. It's as dangerous and hurtful as it is aggressive and disingenuous," said NGLTF communications director Tracey Conaty. "It is about hate, and it is about hope - hope to rid our country of the democratic ideals of equality, diversity, and fairness. We are confident that our report, *Calculated Compassion*, four years in the making, will reveal for once and for all the disturbing truth about the ex-gay movement." added Conaty.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has worked to eliminate prejudice, violence and injustice against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people at the local, state and national level since its inception in 1973. As part of a broader social justice movement for freedom, justice and equality, NGLTF is creating a world that respects and celebrates the diversity of human expression and identity where all people may fully participate in society.

Harvard reports on homophobia

Perpetuating prejudice: A study published this month by Harvard University finds that while reporting on lesbians and gay men over the past fifty years has improved dramatically, serious problems remain in the coverage afforded the community. Lisa Bennett, a recent Harvard fellow and faculty member at New York University, wrote the report surveying the past 50 years using *Time* and *Newsweek* magazines as a window into how the issues have been framed and discussed. Among the findings of *The Perpetuation of Prejudice In Reporting on Gays and Lesbians*: the significant imbalance in reporting on lesbians versus gay men

up until the 1990s; the continuing equation of the lesbian and gay community with sex, and the unquestioning acceptance of "experts" on these issues. Bennett's recommendations include: questioning derogatory comments, instead of letting them stand on their own; insistence upon evidence supporting stereotypes and allegations; challenging powerful sources who may be given credence without having to defend statements based on bias or personal prejudice. To order a copy of the report, contact the Joan Shorenstein in the Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government at (617) 789-0692. Lisa Bennett may be contacted via e-mail at Benscribe@aol.com.

Legal Briefs from thr National Center for Lesbian Rights Fall 1998 Case Docket Update

Lesbian and gay adoption

In the Matter of T.R.C., NCLR case, Idaho Decision Pending

NCLR is still awaiting a ruling in this case that will determine whether Idaho will allow second-parent adoptions for lesbian and gay couples. NCLR has petitioned the Idaho Court of Appeals to reverse the denial of a second-parent adoption by an Idaho District Court. The petitioners are a lesbian couple who are parenting two children, one of whom has already been adopted by the non-biological mother in a second-parent adoption while the couple lived in California. The children's biological mother is a stay-at-home mom and the children's second mother is a highly respected Boise physician. The District Court denied the adoption on the grounds that Idaho recently passed a law forbidding the state from recognizing same-gender marriages.

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HRC's "Ray of Light Project" highlights abuses of ex-gay ministries

WASHINGTON -- The Human Rights Campaign launched the "Ray of Light Project" on October 8th at a press conference at the National Press Club. The project will highlight the abuses of so-called ex-gay ministries and compile the latest research on the deleterious psychological effects of these ministries. The press conference followed an earlier press conference by the Family Research Council where a national television ad campaign featuring "ex-gays" was announced. The messages offered in the TV ad campaign announced October 8th by religious political extremists are nothing new. "Ex-gay" ministries and reparative therapy have been around for decades. However, based on their alarmingly high failure rates, they have traditionally been ignored by even the most outspoken opponents of equality for gay men and lesbians.

Earlier this year, James Dobson met with Republican Party leaders and threatened to bolt the Republican party and "take as many people with him" as he could if the leadership did not appease his extreme political objectives. Shortly after this meeting, America saw an unprecedented flurry of anti-gay rhetoric and legislation, at the expense of the business of the American people.

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott compared gay people to kleptomaniacs and sex addicts. Led by Rep. Joel Hefley R-Colorado, who lives in Dobson's district, Republicans unsuccessfully tried to overturn President Clinton's executive order banning job discrimination in federal agencies, based on sexual orientation. A vote on James Hormel's nomination to be the Ambassador to Luxembourg was also blocked by a few Senators pandering to the Right, despite Hormel's impeccable credentials and impressive array of bipartisan endorsements. It was in this venomous atmosphere that it became fair game to prop up these failed "ex-gay" ministries for the sake of opportunistic political gain.

At first glance, these ads appear threatening, a direct challenge to American families who have gained a new understanding and learned to accept their gay and lesbian sons and daughters over the past several years. But in embracing these so-called "ex-gay" ministries for the sake of political expediency, the Religious Right may have made a mistake. They have gambled much of their credibility by

jumping on the so-called "ex-gay" bandwagon and it could prove to be very embarrassing in the long-run.

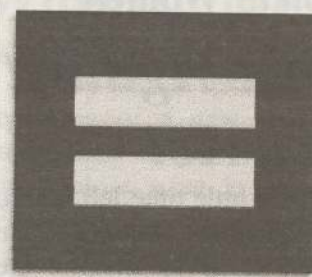
All credentialed mental health and medical organizations will tell you that these ministries are harmful. The only consistent success rate they have had is consistently damaging lives by preying on the vulnerable. Each day, desperate parents and religious gay people place faith in these miracle "cures," only to eventually find that they were sold snake oil for the soul.

The Ray of Light Project seeks to shine the spotlight on these ministries so people can see beyond the rhetoric and hear from the vast majority of people who have been through these ministries and now call their techniques psychological terrorism. This project will invite former ex-gays from around the nation to share their stories with the Human Rights Campaign and lift the veil of secrecy surrounding these ministries. The Ray of Light will:

- 1) Actively seek and chronicle the stories of former ex-gays in all 50 states
- 2) Share these stories with the public and the media. Compile information by leading mental health and medical experts on the most recent studies
- 3) Examine the literature of the ex-gay ministries to look for flagrant abuses and fraudulent claims

Unfortunately, this project is necessary because these ministries refuse to take part in scientifically accepted studies because the results would prove enormously embarrassing, and because the power brokers behind this advertising campaign are disingenuous and duplicitous when discussing their true intentions. The Ray of Light Project also seeks to expose the dangerous methods used to "treat" gay people. For instance, famed reparative therapist Joe Nicolosi told Newsweek in the August 17th edition that he treats gay patients as young as three years old. Is it moral to introduce sexual content of this nature to three year olds? Incredibly, in their quest for political power, the Religious Right endorses and regularly cites the work of Dr. Nicolosi.

The origins to the Ray of Light Project can be traced to HRC Education Director Kim Mills' August report, "Mission Impossible," which chronicles the misinformation and deception perpetuated by religious political extremists about these ministries.



HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

The Human Rights Campaign is the nation's largest national lesbian and gay political organization, with members throughout the country. HRC effectively lobbies Congress, provides campaign support, and educates the public to ensure that lesbian and gay Americans can be open, honest, and safe at home, at work, and in the community.

Congress passes legislation for colleges to report hate crimes statistics, including sexual orientation

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Senate voted 96-0 to pass the Higher Education Reauthorization Act. A part of this bill, which was taken from the Campus Right to Know Act, will require campus police to report incidents of hate crimes on the basis of sexual orientation, disability, religion, gender and ethnicity. The bill is an important step in providing students access to information allowing them to choose a school in which they will be safe, according to the Human Rights Campaign.

"This legislation sends the clear message that hate crimes are serious offenses and should not be swept under the carpet. This open policy allows gay and lesbian students to know if they may be at higher risk by attending certain schools. This legislation also allows schools with a high incidence of hate crimes to identify their problems and fix them," said HRC political director Winnie Stachelberg.

The House passed the bill the day before by a voice vote and now it will go to President Clinton who is expected to sign it into law. Before this legislation, existing federal reporting requirements only mandated colleges and universities to report hate crimes that result in murder, rape, or aggravated assault. This was inadequate because the majority of hate crimes on campuses are not this extreme. Most incidents come in the form of assaults, or lesser crimes. Unfortunately, vandalism and intimidation as incidents that campus police must report to the Department of Education were not included in this bill.

In 1990, Congress enacted the Hate Crimes Statistics Act (HCSA) in an effort to measure the extent of the hate crime problem in America. In 1992, Congress enacted the Campus Security Act to require colleges and universities to annually report crime statistics in an effort to measure campus crime and increase security awareness. With the passage of this section of the Higher Education Reauthorization Act, campus police will now also report incidents of hate crimes on the basis of sexual orientation, disability, religion, gender and ethnicity.

"The first step to solving a problem is acknowledging it exists. This bill will provide the necessary tools for college administrators to recognize that their institutions may be incubators for hateful activity," said HRC senior policy advocate Kris Pratt.


Anti-gay Riggs Amendment dumped

WASHINGTON -- The House overwhelmingly passed the VA-HUD Appropriations Conference Committee report today, by a vote of 409 - 14. The report did not include the controversial anti-gay Riggs Amendment. If enacted, the Riggs Amendment would have prohibited the city of San Francisco from using any VA-HUD funds to enforce that part of its anti-discrimination ordinance which requires city contractors to offer domestic partnership benefits to its unmarried employees. The conference report also dropped the Hilleary amendment, which sought to freeze spending on the Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA)

program at FY '98 levels. The final VA-HUD bill increases HOPWA funding by \$11 million. The HOPWA program helps people living with HIV and AIDS find housing.

"The Riggs Amendment represented an unprecedented federal intrusion into local affairs. Today's elimination of the Riggs Amendment was a responsible action by House and Senate conferees who did not want the federal government to micro manage local affairs and impose narrow beliefs in far away cities," said HRC political director Winnie Stachelberg.

The Committee's \$11 million increase of HOPWA brings total funding for the program to \$215 million and will help thousands of people with HIV/AIDS find adequate housing.



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Second Circuit Court of Appeals Upholds 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

Judges dodge challenge to anti-gay policy by six active military personnel

The American Civil Liberties Union and Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund said Wednesday that a federal appeals court, deferring to military authority, upheld "don't ask, don't tell."

A three-judge panel of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously ruled in *Able v. USA* that courts owe total deference to Congress regarding military policies and that "don't ask, don't tell" was not in violation of the First Amendment nor the Equal Protection Clause of the United States Constitution.

Lambda Legal Director Beatrice Dohrn said, "The court abdicated its constitutional responsibility by refusing to even examine 'don't ask, don't tell.' Lesbian and gay service members are prepared to defend the Constitution with their lives, but the court today says they are not entitled to basic protections simply because Congress and the military say they aren't."

"Tomorrow or the next day, just like yesterday and the day before, the government will discharge five or seven or ten loyal, brave Americans who it will admit have served their country well. The day after that, they'll do it again. And so it will go for the foreseeable future," said Matthew Coles, director of the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project. "The shame and disgrace in this belongs not to these good people, but to those in government who passed this law and those who allow it to govern the military," he added.

The 23-page decision does not analyze the rationale behind "don't ask, don't tell." It begins with a strong

presumption of the policy's validity and then narrows the scope of the equal protection review customarily afforded discriminatory government action. The Court concluded that where the military is concerned, "...we will not substitute our judgment for that of Congress."

The decision reverses a ruling by U.S. District Court Judge Eugene Nickerson that had handed the anti-gay military policy its most comprehensive defeat. In July 1997, Nickerson said that the special rules that the military imposes on lesbian and gay service members serves only to accommodate the anticipated anti-gay feelings of other military personnel.

Nickerson's decision was hailed by civil rights advocates for its insightful analysis of the government's defense of "don't ask, don't tell" as nothing more than euphemisms for discrimination against lesbian and gay service members.

"Don't ask, don't tell" prohibits any off-duty sexual and affectionate conduct by lesbians and gay men, but not by heterosexuals. The military policy also prohibits gay personnel from making statements that indicate their sexual orientation.

It remains for the government to decide whether to expel the six plaintiffs because they disclosed their sexual orientation in order to challenge the policy.

Able differs from previous challenges in that the service members pro-actively sued, asserting that both the conduct and speech portions of the ban are unconstitutional. Other cases regarding don't ask, don't tell have been in response to discharge proceedings and most have focused on the 'speech' portion of the ban and its presumption that anyone who speaks out also engages in prohibited conduct.

On August 4, 1998, Judge Robert Patterson heard arguments on the company's motion to dismiss the case. Bell Atlantic argues that the sexist domestic partner benefits program violates no federal law. The judge's ruling on the motion is expected soon.

"Domestic partner benefits should be available to everyone -- regardless of sex," NOW President Patricia Ireland said. Ireland will be available to comment on the case when the decision is handed down.

It's tragic that there are some who believe it isn't wrong to beat up lesbians + gays. If any other group were being deliberately killed, there would be public outrage.

Dianne Hardy-Garcia

Judge's opinion expected in landmark domestic partner suit

A federal judge in New York is expected to hand down a decision in a landmark suit which challenges the legality of domestic partner benefits denied to opposite-sex couples. In *Furray v. Bell Atlantic*, Paul Furray accuses Bell Atlantic of denying health care coverage to his domestic partner, Jeanine Muntzner, solely based on the fact he is a man.

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NCLR Legal Briefs Fall 1998 Docket Update

Marriage
Baker v. State, NCLR authored brief, Vermont Decision Pending
In one of the first same-sex marriage cases to reach an appellate court, NCLR submitted an amicus brief to the Vermont Supreme Court in support of three same-sex couples who were denied the right to marry by a trial court in

RESOURCES

This is a PARTIAL list of non-profit groups. If your group would like to be included please write or call us at 898-4844. We are looking for groups supportive of and of interest to Lesbians.

INFORMATION:

- *Women's Center, Inc. publisher Women's Central News PO Box 26031 Tempe, Az 85285, 898-4844, e-mail address wcn@swlink.net, website <http://www.swlink.net/~wcnews>
- *Lesbian/Gay Community Switchboard: 234-2752
- Lesbian Resource Project: P.O. Box 1917, Tempe, AZ 85280-1917, 266-5542 (voice).
- *Valley of the Sun Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 24 West Camelback, Phx 85013, 265-7283
- *The Gay and Lesbian Community, based out of Flagstaff, (520)526-6098.
- *Verde Valley Alternative Lifestyles Directory, 989 S. Main St. Suite A437, Cottonwood, Az. 86326 520-634-1405 e-mail: martimac@sedona.net

SOCIAL GROUPS:

- *Desert Adventures: Indoor/Outdoor social activities 266-Camp(2267).
- *Desert Valley Squares, Ltd.: Lesbian/Gay Square Dance Club, PO Box 34615, Phx 85067. Contact C.J. at 252-0048.
- *Same Place Same Time Breakfast Club, Sundays at Coffee Talk, 48 N. Robson, Mesa 10AM
- *Desert Hearts Motorcycle Club: Monthly rides. Deb at 279-9228.
- *Lesbian and Gay Seniors Group: 241-1604
- *Camelback Business & Professional Assoc., Business networking, socialization, 225-8444.
- *Scuba Diving Club, Phoenix, 957-9399 or Tucson digital pager, 261-9602.
- *Parents By Choice-Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Parents Group. Family gatherings 1st and 3rd Sat of every month. Call 252-3393 or 924-9974 for info or e-mail at JKOPRY@swlink.net
- *Arizona Amazons BD/SM organization. Contact Sheryl Tilley at Bobby Cook Studio (602) 254-4513 or E-mail at azamazon@juno.com or Sheryltilley@juno.com find us at www.geocities.com/westhollywood/heights.3231
- *Latina Social Group, Contact Anita at 803-9952 or e-mail personnaly@aol.com
- *Womyn 2 Womyn Connection Call Cheryl: 780-3102 or e-mail Anne at sammie@psn.net

SUPPORT NETWORKS:

- *Women Veteran's Support Network: VIRAGO!, PO Box 1171, New Market, VA 22844.
- *Rainbow Alliance: meets Tuesday at 7:30pm in the Memorial Union at ASU. Contact 965-9756.
- *Phoenix Chapter of the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Veterans of America meets the first Monday of every month at the Community Center. For more information contact Wally Straughn at 864-6092 or E-mail PGLBVA@aol.com.

POLITICAL GROUPS:

- *Arizona Human Rights Fund (AHRF), P.O. Box 25044, Phoenix, AZ, 85002, Phone:(602)650-0900, Fax:(602)650-0901, E-mail: ahrf@AOL.com
- *Lesbian & Gay Public Awareness Project: PO Box 60881, Phx, 85082. Call 351-3080.

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS:

- *Casa de Cristo Evangelical Church: 1029 E. Turney, Phx 265-2831.
- *CCL/Conference for Catholic Lesbians: Donna 947-8187 (Phx area) or Pat at 326-8379 (Tucson).
- *Dignity/Integrity: PO Box 21091, Phx 85036. Bill 258-2556.
- *Gentle Shepherd MCC: Quality Inn, 2nd Ave & Osborn, Phx., 10AM Sundays.
- *Goddess Womyn Network: Meetings & quarterly newsletter. Call 266-4111.
- *Healing Waters Ministries: 225 W. University Dr., Tempe 85281, 894-8681.
- *Lutherans Concerned: Phoenix, Frank 870-3611
- *Aviv (Jewish lesbian & gays): Call Gene, 996-8622.
- *Augustana Lutheran Church, 2604 N. 14th St, Phx, 265-8400
- *In His Steps Christian Fellowship, call 209-8155.
- *Community Church of Hope, Sunday 10AM, Turney & Central, Phoenix, 234-2180.
- *Affirmations (Mormon), 553-8674
- *Universal Church of Love, Pastor Joyce Cascio, Chandler, 917-5671
- *Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Phoenix, 4027 E. Lincoln Drive, Paradise Valley, 840-8400.
- *Hand of Love Ministry, 6605 N. 14th St, Phoenix, 602-264-1470.

NEWSLETTERS OF INTEREST:

- *Rubyfruit Journal, Tucson Womyn's Community Newsletter, 517 E. Gay St., Tucson 85705. \$15.00.
- *Flagstaff Women's News: Aradia Bookstore, PO Box 266, Flagstaff, Az. 86002. \$18.00
- *Connoción, Bi-lingual, bi-cultural, latina lesbian newsletter, 1521 Alton Rd, #336, Miami Beach, FL 33139, \$4 sample, \$13 for 3 issues.

Vermont. NCLR's brief challenged Vermont's prohibition on same-sex marriage as a violation of the Vermont Constitution, which prohibits discrimination based on sex. Their brief was joined by the Vermont Organization for Women, the National Organization for Women (NOW), NOW Legal Defense & Education Fund, and Equal Rights Advocates.

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I'm in my early 40's and weigh 135. I'm intelligent, sincere, quick witted, and love to laugh. I'm looking for a height/weight proportionate woman between 35-45 who likes movies, plays, exploring, sports, animals. If you're interested in any of this, write

me at 7017 N. Litchfield Rd #348, Glendale, AZ 85307.

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| Faith house, Glendale,
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944-4999 |
| New Life Shelter, Litchfield Park,
935-9161 | Sojourner Center, Phoenix,
244-0089 |
| Autumn House, Mesa,
835-5555 | Chrysalis Center, Scottsdale,
481-0402 |
| | Faith house, Glendale, 939-6798 |

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Roommate wanted to share 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo in Mesa - near Southern and Gilbert. \$250 includes utilities except L.D. phone calls. This 58-year old teacher would love to share with a responsible professional woman. Call 926-0498 E-mail REETO222@AOL.com.

Room Needed N.S. Resp. Gay Female looking for a quiet, clean lg. room or guesthouse to rent in N.W. or Cent Phx. Please be small caged animal friendly; can pay \$330 util inc. 202-2916.

Women Helping Women Heal: A therapy Group for Lesbians. This is an ongoing group for women seeking support for their personal growth and healing. This group meets on Mondays from 7:00-8:30 pm at Willow Counseling Center. For further information, call Denise Daup, M.A. at 921-3936.

Aromatherapy: Classes, information, and experience the vast world of aromatherapy. Discover the benefits of using essential oils for mental, physical and spiritual balance. Blending and instruction available. Contact: Equipoise Personal Growth Center@230-2000. Located: 216 E. Thomas Rd. Beginning Nov 8 and 9.

Roommate Wanted: New house built May, North Phoenix, Happy Valley/35th Ave., mountain view, community pool, spa, vaulted ceiling, cable/phone in each bedroom, gated community, seeking responsible nonsmoking gay male or female to share with 32 year old gay female. No pets. \$475 month includes all utilities. Kelly 506-4503.

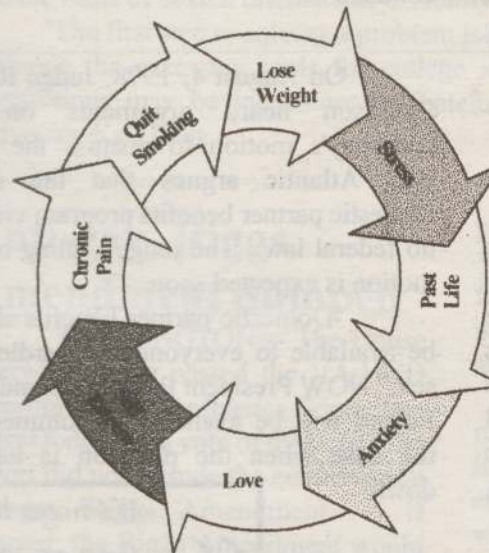
Room needed: NS Responsible Gay Female looking for a quiet, clean large room or guesthouse to rent in NW or Central Phoenix. Please be small caged animal friendly. Can pay \$330 including utilities. 202-2916.

Roommate Wanted for Central Phoenix home. Mature responsible woman. No smoking, drugs or pets. \$275.00 + utilities and some watering. Washer, private yard and carport. AC and Evap. Country Club Park Historic (and friendly) neighborhood. Will want deposit and references. Leave message at home/office voice mail. 241-1441.

Roommate wanted for Phoenix home. Come share my little gingerbread house with me, my dog, and 2 cats. No drugs, social drinker OK. \$300 a month includes utilities. Washer/dryer, pets welcome (deposit with pet). 5 minutes from Biltmore, 5 minutes from 7th ST. Leave message. 273-7844.

Bulletin Board notices - \$5.00 up to 50 words and \$5.00 for each additional 50 words.

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