

WOMEN'S CENTRAL NEWS

NUMBER 3

Arizona's Lesbian Newspaper since 1974

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A Message from the President

Dear Friends:

The Women's Central News Executive Board elections are coming up on March 10th at our monthly General Meeting, held at Insights, 333 W. Virginia, suite 106, Phoenix at 7pm.

The Executive Board President directs the organization through writing the monthly agenda; through fulfilling our bylaws as recorded with the Arizona Corporation Commission; through fulfilling the Reporters Team Leader position by recruiting and monitoring new writers for subject matter and writing skills and holding periodic meetings; through fulfilling the Sponsorship Team Leader position by recruiting new sponsors, and handling current sponsor calls/problems; and by recruiting and interacting with new volunteers. The Vice President takes charge of any and all tasks assigned staff cannot accomplish. The Secretary takes minutes at the monthly General Meeting, maintains a file of correspondence, picks up the printed newspapers from the printer and delivers them to the folding and stuffing site. The Treasurer keeps an exact accounting of all monetary issues affecting the organization, pays the organization's bills in a timely manner and stays abreast of IRS issues. Board Members fulfill the Distribution Team Leader position through

assigning distribution routes across the valley; through recruiting and managing staff for routes; through managing our secure mailing list by the addition of new members and deletion of expired members; through printing mailing labels and providing them at the monthly meeting where newspapers are folded and stuffed into envelopes; through delivering the envelopes to the Post Office for bulk mailing; and through managing all Postal issues including rate increases and meter payment.

All positions require at least one monthly meeting, possibly two, and solid interaction with other staff members. Tasks must be accomplished on a specific date in order to get the paper to distribution sites and in member's mailboxes by the first of each month. With the exception of Board positions, which are elected to a two-year term, all other positions require a commitment of one-year.

Should you wish to volunteer for any of these positions, you are invited to attend the General Meeting on March 10th. At the conclusion of normal business, members in good standing may become candidates and elections will then be held.

It is my pleasure to serve with so many outstanding women whose names are listed in our masthead on page three.

Equality Begins At Home Arizona

by Shawna Rae

The first nationally organized, state by state political action to demand equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people will take place during the week of March 21-27, 1999.

The Equality Begins At Home (EBAH) campaign was launched by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force to broaden the base of existing state organizations and direct focus on key state legislative issues. A major goal is to help counter recent anti-gay attacks by conservative groups.

1998 saw Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott compare homosexuality to sex addiction and kleptomania, and conservative Christian groups run national advertising campaigns purporting that homosexuals could change their lifestyle if only they wanted to badly enough.

In Arizona, the GLBT community has listened to hostile diatribes by elected officials. State Rep. Barbara Blewster compared being gay to "bestiality, human sacrifice and cannibalism." In one letter to a concerned citizen, Rep. Karen Johnson said "encouraging tolerance and acceptance" of homosexual activities will draw people into a "death style." Both of these representatives are in favor of bills that



would disallow domestic partner benefits within the state, and forbid schools to provide money and space for clubs supporting gay youth.

"The battleground for equality has moved to the states, and so have we," said Paula Ettelbrick, national coordinator for the EBAH campaign. "We are throwing down the gauntlet and demanding that state officials resist the right wing's efforts to deny us our basic rights as citizens."

The campaign in Arizona will focus attention on legislative goals such as repealing the states sodomy law and urging passage of the Arizona Employment Non-Discrimination Act. EBAH Arizona is coordinated by the Arizona Human Rights Fund.

"We won't sit still for punitive measures by representatives like Karen Johnson and Linda Blewster who are attempting to codify their morality into law," said ARHF board member Ron Passarelli. He added that letting elected officials know they have a gay and lesbian constituency is important.

continued on page 2

Measure to ban gay and lesbian school support groups

By Sherrie Nist, staff writer

Arizona state Representative Linda Gray (R-Glendale) is trying to resurrect HB 2051, which calls for school districts to ban any student organization that would promote a "specific sexual orientation," "sexual activity of any kind," or "criminal activity." The bill, which had been previously introduced by Gray had been pulled because it would be in violation of the Equal Access Act, which requires schools to accept all student groups or risk losing federal funding. To avoid violating the Equal Access Act, the bill has been modified to require students to get written parental permission before joining a group; to require all student groups to promote sexual abstinence; and to prohibit the student groups from doing any advertising or promotions.

According to Amelia Craig Cramer of the Arizona Human Rights Fund, the new proposal would effectively prevent gay and lesbian students to join a support club if they are not "out" to their parents. Cramer adds that it could be a tough legal battle to establish the new proposal to be in violation of First Amendment rights, since on previous occasions the court has ruled that having "age appropriate restrictions" on free speech was legal.

AIDS budget proposals

By Sherrie Nist, staff writer

Two budget proposals are before the Arizona Legislature that would provide funding for the state's AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP). The House Appropriations Committee is considering both of them.

Governor Jane Hull's budget calls for over \$1.7 million from the tobacco tax to be routed to ADAP. The Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) has proposed only \$1 million for ADAP, due to Arizona's increased AIDS funding from the federal Ryan White Care Act. The JLBC proposal would leave no provision for contingency funds in the case of increased expenses. Governor Hull will continue to push the Legislature to approve her budget's \$1.7 million allocation.

WOMEN WHO DARED - Julia Morgan

Julie Morgan - (b. 1872, d. 1957) was an American architect, famous for her design of William Randolph Hearst's San Simeon, Ca, castle. Morgan was the first woman ever to gain a certificate in architecture from the prestigious Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris.

Letters to the Editor

Editor:

Re: Casa de Christo (Valley church celebrates 28 years article... Nov. 1998 article). To correct the records:

Casa de Christo is not 28 years old. In 1970 I attended the first meeting and am a charter member of the original Phoenix MCC Church, which began as the third Metropolitan Community Fellowship Church in the United States. Mr. Fred Pattison had

built a new church of his own in 1978 of architectural plans which I drew. At that time he was no longer of the Metropolitan Community Church Fellowship. Casa de Christo is 20 years old and not 28 years old??? And it is not the oldest church with an outreach to the gay community in Phoenix, AZ. Phoenix MCC is the oldest???

BLESSED BE

The Reverend Calvin H. Vanness

To Your Health

By Boyd Foster-Burns
Department of Exercise and Wellness,
ASU

Forgettable Fads

Here's a notably nifty suggestion for 1999: forget the fad diets. You know what they are, you've seen the infomercials, or the boxes in the drugstore, or the posters pushing them in the supplement stores. The bestseller lists are filled with diet books aimed at every conceivable group, although women are a primary focal point. How to pare pounds! Lose fat forever! And so on.

Somebody, somewhere, probably once told you that "if it sounds unbelievable, it probably is". The funny thing is, while we may take it to heart regarding Rolexes sold on the street corner, we seem to ignore it completely when it comes to weight loss. One of the most recent touts apple pectin as a highly effective "fat blaster", you'll lose 2 or more pounds of fat a week. Why, the fat will just melt off! Well, those of you with a country homemaker's heart know what apple pectin is: it is the stuff used to help jelly jel. How is this a fat blaster?

I digress. People faithfully follow diets like no-fat, high-protein, sugar busters, or eating right for their blood type, body type, color palette. Sure, you can lose weight on a diet,

but usually it is simply due to a decrease in caloric intake compared to calories used up in a day. It isn't due to the grapefruit, or the supplement, or fewer carbohydrates, or more protein, or eating the right diet for your blood antigens. It's usually because of eating less calories, or because a supplement may contain something like caffeine or ephedrine designed to speed up your metabolism (and your heart rate, and your sweating) to burn more calories at rest. Haven't you ever noticed on those commercials, in the small print, that the weight loss pills work only if you follow the enclosed diet/exercise program? Shouldn't this tell you something?

Hundreds of women who haven't used any such fad have managed to lose more than thirty pounds and have kept the weight off for an average of five years. The National Weight Control Registry has recorded thousands of responses from individuals who have lost and kept off weight, asking them to describe their methods and what worked and still works for them. The "secret" was to put a reasonable limitation on calories and to increase physical activity. Most of the women consumed an average of 1300-1500 calories daily and expended the energy equivalent of walking three miles a day.

Research consistently demonstrates that while you may adhere to a

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detected in Pap smears. The ads encouraged lesbians to have annual Pap smears, perform monthly breast exams, stop smoking, and exercise.

The spots aired on radio stations KMPM and KMTT. KMPM originally ran them in 65 slots, but canceled a number of them because every broadcast generated 10 - 20 complaints related to the word "lesbian." KMTT also canceled the ads due to complaints, but their listeners took offense to the term "Pap smears." A new ad has been substituted which refers to "annual exams" instead. It is yet to be determined whether or not the cancellations are a violation of the radio station's contractual obligation, and/or local human rights laws.

mia, but binge eating and yo-yo dieting, in which one eats enough in a month to justify three months, then goes on another fad diet to lose it again.

If your goal is to lose a few pounds this year, why not reconsider: aim to get healthier by being more active and by selecting healthier foods. This kind of goal makes you feel better about yourself: there's nothing "wrong" with your weight, you just need to make better choices. You are not hanging onto a number on the scale to determine your mood for the day, calling you "worthy" or "worthless". Instead, you can revel in the recognition you are giving your well-being, doing something for yourself and your health. You'll feel better, and you may be surprised to find that you may end up losing some pounds to boot, even though that's not the stated goal.

March 21-27, 1999
**Equality
Begins
at home**

cials, and lobbying volunteers.

• Thursday, March 25: Call your legislators! Reinforce the message expressed in personal letters, petitions and personal contacts made to them so far. Please make these calls whether or not you were personally involved in Wednesday's lobbying efforts.

• Friday, March 26: Attend the Equality Begins at Home Celebration Reception at the Community Center from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

• Saturday, March 27: Write a letter to the editor of one of the daily newspapers expressing your support for the legislative priorities identified by AHRF.

A citizen's petition and sample letter are available. For further information please contact Equality Begins At Home Arizona headquarters at (602)650-0900 or e-mail AHRF at ahrif@aol.com.

Web Sites

The History of Women's Basketball - If you're a basketball fan, this site is for you. You can now learn about the lives of your favorite female basketball players. <http://httpsrv.ocs.drexel.edu/admin/vaughnmv/players.htm>

Classic Dykes Online - Award-winning cyber-network for lesbians in midlife and beyond, with online personal ads, chat, message boards, profiles, stories and more. <http://www.geocities.com/westhollywood/stonewall/7327>

Equality Begins at Home Arizona

Continued from page 1

"We want to have faces from their districts approach them and say, 'I'm here.' That we're deserving of more than second class citizenship."

The majority of debates and decisions about GLBT equality occur in state legislatures. EBAH Arizona provides everyone with the opportunity to have their voices be heard in unison with others across the country.

"This is an opportunity for people to be politically active when they never thought they could be," said Lyle Miller, executive director of The Community Center in Phoenix.

EBAH is intended to be an annual national grassroots organizing effort. The fifty state coordinated action was made possible by the Gill Foundation of Colorado through a grant to NGLTF.

"EBAH is not an end point but a beginning point," said Kerry Lobel, NGLTF executive director. "It is the organizing at the state level that will ultimately counter the hostility and gridlock we have come to know from our nation's capital."

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. Print Run 2,500 Memberships 300 VOLUNTEER EXECUTIVE BOARD President - Mary H. Vice President - Robin D. Secretary - Carolyn G. Treasurer - Winnie G. Board Member - Diane H. Board Member - Margot B. Board Member - Ginger B.

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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.

HOW TO REACH US

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Please call or e-mail us if you can give a few hours a month toward working on your community paper. Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor or articles by contributors are not necessarily those of the Women's Central News. Although the WCN has many terrific sponsors, we will not be responsible for any claims made pertaining to their product or services. Permission to reprint is granted when credit is given to the Women's Central News.

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Arcadia Cuts - 2303 N. 44th St.
Borders Bookstore - 2402 E. Camelback
Cash Inn Country - 2140 E. McDowell Rd.
Charles - 727 W. Camelback Rd.
Desert Rose - 4301 N. 7th Ave.
Gay and Lesbian Center - 24 W. Camelback Rd.
Incognito - 2424 E. Thomas Rd.
Insights - 333 E. Virginia - #106
Johnny Mc's - 138 W. Camelback Rd.
Marlys - 15615 N. Cave Creek Rd.
Movies On Central - 4700 N. Central Ave.
Nasty Habits - 3108 E. McDowell Rd.
Obelisk The Bookstore - 24 W. Camelback Rd.
The Park - 3002 N. 24th St.
Pookie's Cafe - 4540 N. 7th St.
Club Roxy - 4343 N. 7th St.
Roscoe's - 4531 N. 7th St.
Unique On Central - 4700 N. Central Ave.
The Wave - 998 E. Indian School Rd.
Willow Coffee House - 149 W. McDowell Rd.
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Clan Tatu - 1415 E. University - #4
Changing Hands Bookstore - 414 S. Mill
Gentle Strength Co-op - 234 W. University
Healing Waters Church - 225 W. University
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Antigone Books - 411 N. 4th Ave.

Holistic Health Corner

by Lyn Mineo

Whether you're a weekend warrior, a professional athlete, very active, or physically use your body for work, you too can benefit from a sports massage. When you hear the words "sports massage" the first thing you think of is "it must be used by athletes." That's true, but sports massage is used for any kind of activity that requires you to use the same group of muscles over and over again. With such a broad definition, a lot of people can be considered athletes, maybe even you!

You probably know what muscle soreness of an athlete feels like if you ever enjoyed activities such as softball, volleyball, golfing, bowling, cycling, hiking, jogging, etc. Parents of small children certainly are athletes; they have to be to keep up with them! You can also be included in this category if your job involves manual labor such as painters, plumbers, electricians, postal employees, etc.

Sports massage is different from a regular massage. When your muscles become tight or tense from physical exertion, sports massage can reduce muscle spasm and pain. It flushes out toxins or lactic acid from muscles that may cause stiffness and soreness. It also restores the suppleness and elasticity of muscles. This helps to keep your muscles healthy and flexible, so sprains (stretched or torn ligaments) and strains (torn muscle tissue or tendons) are less likely to happen. A regular massage is more superficial; it may relax you and make you feel great but it doesn't target specific muscle groups or body parts that you've used during your sports game or any other strenuous activities. It can also rejuvenate your mind as well as your body.

For anyone who loves to be active or if your sport is your passion, an injury is more than just pain and frustration, it can be emotionally devastating. For serious or chronic conditions, sports massage can be used in conjunction with proper rest and medical care. It increases circulation of blood and lymph fluids, reduces swelling, increases the supply of nutrients needed for healing and reduces recovery time. Sports massage stimulates the release of endorphins (your body's natural pain killers), giving you pain relief. It can limit scar tissue formation in new injuries and reduce (or make more pliable) scar tissue around old injuries, giving you greater range of motion.

The professional athlete usually receives brief massages before, during and after an athletic event. Pre-event massage is invigorating and helps reduce anxiety. Mid-event massage is just a quick fix. Post-event massage is calming, relaxing, helps ease soreness and reduces any inflammation.

The "Maintenance Sports Massage" is the most effective. It's for anyone who physically uses their body for work play. It is scheduled after any physical activity. A session is usually one hour, giving the therapist time to work on those recurring problems or new ones. Think of the "Maintenance Sports Massage" as giving your car a regular tune-up. It keeps everything in good working order. It can locate small problems and keep them from becoming bigger or chronic problems. Sports massage helps identify tender areas before they develop into major injuries. This may save you from breakdown or injury in the future.

Other changes to the language of the law was to modify the term "sexual or affectional preference" to "sexual orientation." The current minimum penalty for violations will be increased from \$50 to \$300. Local employers will be required to post notices informing workers of the anti-discrimination law and its penalties.

All these changes were recommended by the Mayor's Task Force on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Issues, which was called for by Mayor George Miller in the wake of the October beating death of openly gay University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard.

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Utah prohibits
unmarried couples
from adopting
foster children

By Sherrie Nist, staff writer

On January 22nd the board of Utah's Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), after 2 hours of public testimony, voted 7 - 2 to prohibit unmarried couples, both heterosexual and same-gender, from adopting children in state foster care. According to Board Chair Scott Clark, gay and lesbian parents create "gender confusion" for children. He went onto say that unmarried households are twice as likely to experience domestic violence.

Advisory council to the Board opposed the action because it would decrease the number of available foster parents. DCFS was recently hit with a class action lawsuit for failure to find permanent placements for children in foster care. Also testifying against the policy was the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Utah, a gay male couple who recently adopted a child, and a woman who was raised by lesbian co-parents. The American Civil Liberties Union of Utah, which also lobbied against the policy, charged that the policy is illegal, and Shannon Minter of the National Center for Lesbian Rights described the proposal as a "deliberate effort" by anti-gay groups, and said that she believed it can be challenged on 14th amendment grounds of due process and equal protection under the law.

Caseworkers will now have to verify that all adults in a prospective adoptive home and related by blood, adoption, or legal marriage.

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Heart to Heart

ABUSE: AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ISSUE IN RELATIONSHIPS PART ONE

By Dina Bachelor Evan, PhD, MFCC
Question: How can couples deal with the pain of a partner's childhood sexual abuse and still remain connected and loving?

Being in a relationship offers you the greatest opportunities for healing on the planet. Being in a relationship where one or both partners have been abused is like doing "Relationship 401" instead of 101. It's an accelerated, advanced course!

Each of us brings to our relationship, a little red wagon filled with pain and possibility that must be processed and worked through together as partners in a conscious relationship. As we empty out our wagons and deal with the content of our childhood, we not only become more authentic and present to ourselves, we also become more present for our beloved.

I believe at least 70% of the women in this country and 40% of the men have experienced abuse as children. Therefore, it is not unlikely that many of you will deal with healing the pain of childhood abuse. This abuse can loom between you as a painful, separating force or it can become the fire in your connecting process. Many couples who work through this issue find they have individually cut through their ego's and much of the false pride to find the gold inside of each other and in their relationships.

In writing this column, and in honoring the life commitment of so many to healing abuse, it seems important to state that there is no way

even in a two part format, to begin to address the enormity of this issue. Abuse effects nearly every aspect of relationship and our sense of safety as we create relationships. We can, however, share some ideas and thoughts together that may move you toward finding that special book, reaching out for a specially trained therapist, or talking with an especially understanding friend about your own issues in order give more energy to yourself and your healing process.

In the thirty-seven essays contained in the book, *Healers on Healing* by Carlson and Shield, there is one common denominator spoken of by every well known contributor. It is love. Inside the complex nature of healing there is this one truth and you will find yourself required to return to it again and again as you face this issue. When you feel rejected, when you feel small, when you feel vulnerable, when you feel confused, when you feel ashamed, when you feel frustrated, when you feel outraged, whether you are the survivor or the partner- there is but one question that can get you back on track toward healing. It is, "What would love do?" When you are doing what love would do, you are into healing.

It is not unusual to lead in the romantic process with the physical and then later bring the mind, heart and spirit to the party. That's why many couples find themselves dealing with these issues once they are well into their relationships. When we have finally reached a place of feeling safe, having connected more deeply, it is then that these issues emerge because we are feeling safe enough to deal with them. The fact that childhood sexual abuse comes up as an issue, instead of remaining suppressed, may be a very good indication your relationship is

working. Bitter sweet, but true.

The first step in your healing process is learning not to take everything personally. When survivors, male or female, are experiencing childhood memories that make them recoil or push away from the process of being sexual, it is not about you, partners!

When partners begin to feel rejected or as if they are "not doing it right, well enough, etc," it is not about you, survivors! Whatever response you may individually have to what is taking place in the sexual process comes directly from your own little red wagon of childhood experience, and as partners you don't have to be responsible or take the blame for each other's responses. I know that sounds confusing but let's look closer. If you push away from me because we have triggered a childhood memory of your abuse, I have lots of ways of responding to that. I can feel badly for you and hold you until the feelings pass. I can get angry that you are having the painful feelings. I can get angry with myself and stomp into the other room feeling dejected. I can move into "poor me" and choose to feel as if I am the victim. The choice that I make is about me and my life experiences, it's not about you! And furthermore, the choices that I make reflect what my work is in this process.

Everything in relationship is 50% - 50%. As a partner of a survivor it is important not to fall into the trap of thinking that the person who got abused is the only one who must heal and change! Challenges and issues in the relationship are not just the result of the survivor's abuse. On some level,

conscious or unconscious, you voted to be with a survivor! Why did you do that? What do you think you will learn about yourself from being in a relationship with these challenges? Your part and process in the healing is equally as important as that of your partner who is the survivor.

The second step along the path of healing is making a commitment to communication. Take time to talk about how each of you feels about dealing with this issue. As a partner and as a survivor, what are your fears, your hopes, what tools do you have that could be supportive? What tools do you need to cultivate or research? What support systems do you each individually have that you can turn to? What support systems do you need to locate? What feels frightening? What could make each of you feel safer?

Abuse brings equal opportunities for learning and growing! When you discover that and embrace it you will not feel nearly so separated, isolated or alone. The journey and the gifts that come from it belong to both of you. Watch for exercises in our next segment that will focus on how you and your partner can remain connected as you face the past together.

Dr. Dina 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.

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Greetings from gay sitcom "Paradise Inn."

While Rob and Mark have begun the New Year by sprucing up the inn, we've been busy re-decorating the PARADISE INN web site. If you haven't visited our site in a while, "Come out to the inn!" and check out the exciting changes to our web page. We've added the following new features to make your visit more fun and entertaining:

"PARADISE LOST" - We listened to those of you who are currently unable to see the television show in your area and are now making the complete text and selected stills of the pilot episode available in serial format over the next four months.

"PARADISE LOST" TRAILER - Real Player video of the original PARADISE INN trailer shown at the Twin Cities Pride Festival.

CONTEST - enter monthly for cool stuff, like T-shirts and mugs, with the PARADISE INN logo on them.

TRAVEL BUREAU/LINKS - Travel to other web sites that are connected to PARADISE INN.

BOY! OH, BOY! - John D. Trones (Rob Johannsen in PARADISE INN) and Doug Anderson (appearing as a guest star in a future PARADISE INN episode - see below) star as hapless roommates in this continuing musical saga.

And coming this Spring: NEW "PARADISE INN" EPISODES TO DEBUT ON THE WEB SITE! The new episodes will be added in serial format and promise to answer the questions posed by the pilot. The inn will also receive its first guests when Twin Cities actor/singer, Doug Anderson, and Cabaret performer/actor, Lori Dokken arrive. Could there be music in the air at the inn? In

addition to the text and still pictures of the new episodes, we're planning to add audio and video clips of selected scenes.

PARADISE INN is a gay sitcom that follows the everyday lives of a gay couple who run a Bed & Breakfast in rural Minnesota. In the pilot episode, "PARADISE LOST," fledgling entrepreneur Mark McClaine, and his partner of 5 years, Rob Johannsen, have opened their bed and breakfast in the small resort town of Paradise, Minnesota. Business is a little slow at the Inn, and then two unexpected guests show up, exactly the kind of guests Mark and Rob don't need: their mothers.

The show was created and produced in Minneapolis, Minnesota, by Greg Allen, directed by Bob Beverage, written by Kathy P. Anderson, and stars Blake Hambrick, John D. Trones, Barbara Fayth Humphrey, Marilyn Murray and Trudy Monette. The entire cast and crew are from the Twin Cities and the episode was shot on location in Alma, Wisconsin, at the historic Burlington Hotel.

Invite your friends and family to see this truly FAMILY comedy!

Contact: Greg Allen, Home Video Salon, PO Box 9161, North St. Paul, Minnesota 55109-9161 <http://www.paradise-inn.com-mail:greg@paradise-inn.com>

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Kathie J. Gummere
Attorney at Law

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Don't wait until it's too late,
HAVE PEACE OF MIND NOW!

Website memorializes trans dead

SAN FRANCISCO -- February 8, 1999 -- All Rita Hester wanted to do was live her life just like any other woman.

When Hester, a transgendered woman who lived in Boston, was found murdered by multiple stab wounds in her own apartment late last November, this was more than Gwen Smith, another woman living across the country, could bear. Ms. Smith, a professional Web designer living in the San Francisco Bay Area, did not want to do a project relating to violence and prejudice against transgendered individuals. She had to.

Ms. Smith's desire for justice led to her creation of the Remembering Our Dead website, a memorial to individuals killed for the simple "crime" of trying to be oneself. For

example, 9-year-old Steven Wilson, taunted for playing with "girl's toys," who was raped and drowned by a neighbor child. Or Tyra Hunter, taunted with racial and transphobic slurs and neglected by emergency personnel, who died from inadequate medical care. Or Debra Forte, who suffered multiple six-inch stab wounds to the chest, any one of which would have been sufficient to kill her. As Ms. Smith notes, "When one looks at how many transpeople are murdered, and considers how much complacency there is towards these murders, one realizes that something needs to be done."

Currently, the stories on the website date back as early as 1969, and as recent as February 6th, 1999. With a reported 60% of transgender individuals having been the victim of a violent assault, it is doubtful that this site will stop growing anytime soon. Hopefully, through public education and awareness, this issue will receive the attention it deserves, along with more well-publicized accounts such as

Gay Student Club

Will Save Lives

By Shawana Rae

The struggle for dignity as a human being begins with recognizing who you are and accepting yourself. I was reminded of that recently when I met two young people who are trying to retain their dignity in the face of bigotry.

Jesse and Melanie are two students from a high school in the East Valley who are embroiled in a controversy surrounding a "club" they helped to establish in their school. Jesse asked that I not mention the name of the high school or the actual name of their club. I'll call them "the alliance". The club is an alliance of gay and straight students who want to come together to provide a safe and supportive space for gay, lesbian, and questioning youth.

Precisely the kind of club that the state legislature is considering banning with HB2051, which would prohibit the use of school monies, property, resources and employees for any student club that "encourages criminal or delinquent conduct, promotes sexual conduct or sexual orientation or that contradicts the state's abstinence requirements" in dealing with public schools.

Jesse has a problem with the bill. "The Equal Access Act specifically prohibits banning clubs based on their content," he said. "The right to freedom of assembly and freedom of speech is guaranteed to all U.S. citizens, homosexual or heterosexual, under 18 or over 18."

Jesse said the visibility of an alliance of this type is important to be able to reach students who may be feeling the pain and isolation of growing up gay. "Our club will save lives," he said.

Studies consistently show that gay and lesbian youth are more likely than heterosexual youth to attempt suicide. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports that gay and lesbian youth account for up to 30 percent of all teens who commit suicide. They do so because they can not face the stigma of being a homosexual in this society.

As I sat listening to Jesse's gentle and convincing voice I was taken aback by some of the things he said. I had assumed that so much had changed since I was a teenager some

the murder of Matthew Shepard.

The "Remembering Our Dead" Website can be found at <http://www.gender.org/remember/>. Gwen Smith can be reached at gwen@gender.org.

decade plus ago. I'd forgotten that dark corner of isolation. Of not having someone to talk with that you could trust to understand. That darkness still exists for gay youth. Having a place to go where you can be yourself and feel valued and safe is an important part of lighting the way.

To Melanie, the alliance they've formed is that place.

"Without it you feel so alone. The emotional pain can be so extreme," she said. "We need to have the resources to help other people."

"The pain and self-loathing; the misconceptions you have about yourself are horrible," said Jesse, who admitted to himself in the ninth grade he was gay. "I thought that all gay people had AIDS and were child molesters. I remember that pain."

Both Jesse and Melanie said they have supportive, loving mothers to whom they are "out". Imagine the isolation of the young boy or girl growing up in a family where prejudice against "queers, dykes and fags" is an accepted part of everyday conversation. They need a place to find support and understanding.

The alliance faced some challenges.

"Our principle cares about his students," said Jesse. "The administration was sometimes unfair but out of genuine fear for us." It took many months for the administration to finally approve the paperwork for the alliance to meet at school, and that came only after Jesse threatened to sue the school under equal access laws. He then had to face an unsympathetic student council which eventually voted approval by a small margin.

The club has officially been in existence for two weeks. It meets twice a week, has more than 20 members and two teacher sponsors. There are great challenges ahead for the alliance. Parents who are upset that such a group even exists in their children's school. Oh yeah, and then there's the state legislature.

Arizona is one of three states with bills pending that are unfavorable to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered students.

I know of one school that is lucky to have people like Jesse and his friends who are willing to take a stand for their rights. Who will provide a place to rejoice in their freedom to express and be themselves. Who will be there to heal the wounds of intolerance with the salve of acceptance.

Web Sites

Lesbian Mothers' Support Society:
www.lesbian.org/lesbian-moms/index.html
Lesbian/Gay Parenting Home
Page: www.albany.net/~gelco/

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Valley of the Sun
Gay and Lesbian
Community Center
265-7283

<http://www.swlink.net/~vsglcc.net>

DENISE DAUP, M.A., C.P.C. (602) 921-3936

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and Group Counseling
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Willow Counseling Center
2131 E. Broadway Rd., Suite 8
Tempe, AZ 85282



"Rooted in truth, we are free to grow"

Desert Adventures campout

March 19-21

This is our first campout of the season and our 3rd annual to Usery. The Usery Mountain Recreation area is the perfect place to bike, ride your horse, hike or just kick back with a good book and enjoy our beautiful desert in springtime.

We'll check in Friday, (after 2:00 PM), and leave Sunday by noon. We have group areas A and B. Usery Mtn. Park is located just 12 miles Northeast of Mesa. Take the Superstition Fwy. to Ellsworth, go left (N), approx. 2 miles past McDowell Rd. turn right into the park. Pay your entrance fee of \$5 per vehicle per night camping or \$2 per vehicle for those of you joining us for Saturday's activities. This fee is not included in your DA trip cost. Follow the signs to Group site A and B.

Saturday evening we have some special entertainment planned for after dinner. Come get cozy around the campfire and enjoy The Social Event of the weekend. Saturday night DA will host dinner! Beverages will be served including soda and Tim's infamous Packin Punch.

Usery Mtn. Park encompasses 3,324 acres and is situated on the border of the Tonto National Forest to the Northeast. Our group sites are large private areas that will easily accommodate up to 100 people. We have our very own covered Ramada's (two) with six large picnic tables under each. Multipurpose lighted slabs are right next to the ramadas equal in size to the covered area (volleyball), power outlets (under the Ramada area only - not for use with RV's), a group sized grill and fire pit. There is plenty of parking and RV's of any size are welcome. We also have flush toilets and yes, even hot showers. There is a shooting range near by and an archery range in the

park as well as several horse trails. Portable water is available next to the Ramada.

As with our treks to the mountains during the summer months, plan on bringing the same gear for this trip. You will need warm clothes, (evening temps. range in the 40's and 50's), dress in layers with some light clothes for during the day. Temps range in the mid to upper 70's. When hiking be sure to wear good footwear, bring plenty of water and sunscreen and don't forget to bring your camera! Also, remember to bring your chairs to enjoy the inevitable camaraderie around the campfire in the evening.

Pets are welcome but please be sensitive to the other campers. Pets must be kept on a leash no longer than 6 ft., cleaned up after, and kept under control at all times.

Make your check payable to Desert Adventures and bring it to the next members meeting or mail to P.O. Box 2008 Phoenix, Az. 85001. Your trip leader is Tim Curtis who can be reached at 981-8951 or tcurtis@goodnet.com. In order to plan the meal, Tim needs to know that you're interested as soon as possible but no later than March 2nd. This is also the non refund date.

Costs: Camping Members: \$15pp (+ the entrance fee)

Camping Guests: \$25pp (+ the entrance fee)

Saturday and dinner only

Members: \$10pp (+ the entrance fee)

Guests: \$12pp (+ the entrance fee)

These fees cover the cost of the registration for the group site, the normal DA trip fees for overnight camping and day only events, dinner and cocktails for our Saturday Night Social Event, flyers, film and processing, firewood, etc.

Lorri L. Jean at ASU

The Arizona State University College of Public Programs, Dept. of Communications, presents Lorri L. Jean on Friday, March 5th, at 7:30 PM.

Lorri L. Jean's lecture will be "The Big Tent: Diversity, the politics of division, and the true meaning of leadership in the new millennium," and will be held at the College of Education Lecture Hall (Just North of Gammage Auditorium) at Arizona State University in Tempe.

Lorri L. Jean is a graduate of Arizona State University and the outgoing director of the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center, the largest gay and

lesbian organization in the world. Jean will speak on leadership and diversity in contemporary organizations. She will discuss what responsibility each person bears for leadership in building a world where liberty and justice for all is a reality.

This presentation is co-sponsored by the Valley of the Sun Gay and Lesbian Community Center and Ubiquity (ASU staff and faculty supporting lesbian, gay, and bisexual issues). It is free and open to the public.



WREN Dutchman's Club

The Dutchman's Club is not a club, nor are we Dutchmen. A few women thought it would be a good idea to hike the entire Dutchman's Trail in the Superstition Mountains and are looking for other women interested in doing the same. The entire trail is 18 miles, and we will be doing increasingly longer hikes to work up to 18 miles. Below is the schedule of hikes: All hikes are on the Dutchman's Trail. Meeting place for all hikes will be at the trailhead. We will plan a car shuttle for the last hike. Call Margaret at 464-8795 to RSVP or if you have any questions.

Date	Trailhead	Goal	Length	Meeting Time
3/6/99	Peralta	Entire Trail to First Water Trailhead	18 miles	To be determined

Desert Adventures

Membership information

Membership is open to men and women, 21 years of age or older within our community, for an annual fee of \$25. Guests are always welcome and are encouraged to attend activities before joining Desert Adventures. Guests pay a higher activity fee, but if you join within one month of the attended activity you will receive back the difference between the member and the non-member fee. Activity fees are structured to cover the costs of the activity, plus other minor expenses. Unless otherwise noted, fees for single day activities (hikes, movies, lunches, etc.) are \$2 for DA members and \$4 for non-members, plus incidental costs

of the activity.

Monthly social meetings

Learn about upcoming activities from the trip leaders and pick up their information flyers. Hear about recent trips, usually with pictures and slides. We meet at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month and socialize until 7:30 when the meeting begins. The location for our Monthly Social Meetings is The Hope Activity Center at 4400 N. Central Ave., in Phoenix. The Hope Activity Center is between Camelback and Indian School on the Northwest corner of Central and Turney. Parking is on the South side in the lot. Enter through the front doors on Central Ave.

Guests are always welcome at the monthly Social meeting.

Texas Lesbian Conference

The Texas Lesbian Conference is unique not only in the state of Texas, but throughout the United States. Texas is the only state that has had an ongoing annual statewide lesbian only conference in the country! The conference rotates between four cities, Dallas, Houston, San Antonio and Austin and was started in 1988. TLC is in Dallas from May 21-23rd and is a wonderful opportunity for women to gather for a weekend of empowerment and togetherness. Make new friends, discuss current issues, and be entertained. We are hoping and planning for a conference attendance between 250-500 lesbians!

The '99

conference this year has some wonderful speakers and entertainment scheduled. Speakers include Trisha Todd (Claire of "Claire of the Moon"), Jewelle Gomez (author extraordinaire), Robin Tyler (Millenium March), and Joan Garry of GLAAD. Entertainment includes Suzy Berger, the wonderful San Franciscan commedienne; the very talented & much acclaimed musicians Cris Williamson & Tret Fure. Between entertainment and

speaking events, there are workshops to participate in, vendor tables to browse (profit & non-profit) and a silent auction.

TLC, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) organization. Your donation is tax deductible to the full extent allowed by the law. There are many ways to become involved in TLC '99: sponsorship (cash donation), silent auction donation (item or service for bid), advertising in the conference program, ven-

dor table, workshops, and/or attending the conference! For more information on how you or your group can be involved in or attend TLC '99 please contact Cindy (aka Avalon, TLC web-mistress) at home/eve: (972) 752-9043 or email tlcinc@cyberramp.net. Please visit our web page at www.cyberramp.net/~tlcinc for more information as well.

1999 Mercury Pocket Schedule

Home games in bold ESPN * NBC # LIFETIME + All times local

June							July							August						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						12 @SAC 7:00							3 @MIN 5:00							
14 SAC 7:00						15 CLE 7:00							15 # LOS 1:00							
21 @ORL 4:30	22 @WAS 4:00		24 @CHA 4:30		26 # @DET 1:00		11 @LOS 1:00	12 @UTH 11:00					21 @LOS 7:30	22 @ORL 7:00						
28 * @CLE 4:30							25 WAS 7:00		27 UTH 7:00				29 MIN 7:00		31 # @HOU 1:00					

The Valley's Lesbian Calendar Pull-out

Events, Activities, & Announcements

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 Eggery restaurant, located at Central and Camelback. March's breakfast date is the 14th. For more information, call Cheryl at 780-3102 or e-mail sammie@psn.net.

Friends of Ellen

Friends of Ellen (FOE) will be meeting at Einstein's Bagel in their outside courtyard at the Albertson's Plaza on 16th St. and Camelback (SE corner). There are plenty of umbrella tables outside, and late arrivals won't stir panic in waitresses eyes! We will meet at 10:30. March's dates are the 7th and 21st (1st & 3rd Sunday). I'll have a small sign that says FOE in case some of you bashful types don't think you'll recognize us!

For information call Arlene 944-9432.

Women at the Movies

Join us for a day at the movies, every other Sunday, at the AMC Arizona Center 24, on Van Buren between 3rd and 5th Streets.

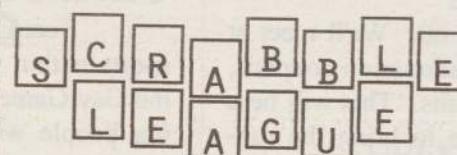
March's dates will be the 7th and the 21st. We will be going to early afternoon showings (around 1:00 PM) - for specific details regarding times and the movie selected, call Karla at 564-6752, or e-mail oceanwmn69@aol.com

Free 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!

New Jewish Lesbian Group

The newly forming Jewish Lesbian Group invites all Jewish lesbians to join us. We are gathering to share experiences, insights, traditions, and rituals. We have planned 4 Sunday morning meetings to occur during March and April in addition to our special Seder. On March 14th, we will discuss mothers and daughters. At our March 28th meeting we will discuss Jewish lesbians and money. We have not yet chosen topics for our April 11th and April 25th meetings. We meet at 11:30 a.m. in a Central Phoenix home. Please call Ellen at 222-9545 to RSVP and to get directions.



The Tuesday Night Lesbian Scrabble League, held at the Coffee Plantation on Mill Ave. and 6th St. in downtown Tempe, is growing! We meet at 6:00 PM, in the back room. 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 "paraphernalia," 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.

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.

Alternative Healers potluck / gathering

March 6 from 10AM till ????? This months topic is "Fears"- using 7th Level Reiki, kinesiology, aroma therapy and more. If you are curious now is the time to check it out. e/m at : kshaman@hotmail.com or call 485-0792. All welcome.

The Jewish Lesbian Group is holding our first annual Passover Seder on Saturday April 3, 1999. All Jewish lesbians and their adult female family and friends are welcome to attend. We will speak of escapes to freedom, eat well, and learn some new songs. We will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. We are accepting reservations for this unique event until March 31, 1999. The cost of the scrumptious Seder meal is \$15. Please send a check made out to Ellen Edwards to 2611 North 8th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85006. Please call Edna, 371-0843, or Batya, 543-6609, or email Ellen at eweniq@aol.com for further information and directions to the north central home where the Seder will be held.



Lesbian Night Out

A new social group for women has formed and is meeting on a regular basis.

Lesbian Night Out is an alternative to or before the night clubs. Join women from all over the valley for fun, games (board games, card games), videos, discussions,



networking, socializing and education.

Lesbian Night Out meets at The Community Center, 24 West Camelback Road at 7:00 PM every Friday night. For more information call 265-7283 and leave a message for Sue with Lesbian Night Out.

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 are 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!

Glenna's Community Potluck

The March Potluck will be held on the 20th at 6pm. We will meet at 5354 Colby-East Valley. Take US 60 to Higley-go left (N.); to 2 blocks past University, right to Colby and 54th. Bring a delicious dish, table service, drinks and of course a big smile. Any? Call Glenna at 671-4166.



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 Tucson Latina Group for future plans. Email Personnaly@aol.com or 803-9952 for further info.

Clogging Group

A new clogging group in Phoenix, called the Jalapeno Stompers, gets together every Wednesday 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.

An 8 week Clogging from Scratch Class (Beginner Clogging) will be conducted March 3-April 28 Wednesday evenings, 6:30 to 7:15 PM at the Augustana Lutheran Church. There will be a minimum charge (\$2-\$4) to cover the facility rental fees. Leather sole shoes, clogging shoes or tennis shoes with taps need to be worn.

Wednesday evenings are used to conduct classes and to get together as cloggers to have fun dancing and carrying on the tradition 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. 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

Have you learned everything you need to know by watching Xena? Well there's still more to learn because the Xena board, card, and role playing games are here! Come play the Xena games with 20 other lesbian and bi-women. Other activities may include: listening to hot lesbian fan fiction, viewing previous episodes and Lucy Lawless interviews.



For meeting dates and further information on the Phoenix Xenites Group, call XeenaFan at 813-8681 or e-mail me at xeenafan@worldnet.att.net and visit our website at <http://lavender.fortunecity.com/Kane598/>

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.

Verde Valley Support Group

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 520-634-4842 for more information.

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel**WREN**

WREN is an informal social outing group. There is no membership fees or obligations. Just show up to our events and have fun.



In March, we'll venture into days gone by as we take in the Renaissance Festival on Sunday, March 14th. Meet at the Home Depot at Power Road off of Route 60. We'll meet at 12:30. Fry's Supermarkets have discount admission coupons, but the typical admission is \$13.00 for adults. This will be a kid friendly event so Moms can feel free to bring the rug-bugs. Contact Donna for more details at 788-1687.

WREN's Hike 'o the Month

There will be a hike to the top of Flatiron in the Superstition Mountains on Saturday, March 20th. This is a difficult and strenuous 4.8 mile hike with an elevation change of 2,781 feet. There will be some bouldering necessary if you plan to join us all the way to the top. There is however a fair to moderate hike that takes you half way. All are welcome to join us and complete whatever suits their ability.

The trailhead is located in the Lost Dutchman State Park (6109 E. Apache Trail) at the beginning of the Superstition Mountains in Apache Junction. There is a \$5 fee to enter the State Park. Once in the park, follow the signs for the Siphon Draw trail. Please meet at the Siphon Draw trailhead at 9:00AM. Bring plenty of water and a lunch. Gloves are also helpful for gripping boulders and protecting your hands.

If you have any questions please call Sharon at 897-1261.

As always, we need more input and ideas for events. Thanks to those that have taken the reins so far. WREN exists for everyone's pleasure so please help us out and lead a hike or a trip....you know you'd love our company on your next outing....contact Kelly at 225-0940. If you leave a message, please include your phone number.

Spirituality Gathering

If you are interested in this year's Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Transgender Spirituality Gathering in New Mexico, it's a gathering of 70-100 queer folks of various spiritual bents who get together for 4-5 days each year to explore the mysteries and celebrate in all our queer glory. This year's gathering is from June 3 -7.

If you'd like to receive a brochure, which contains lots more info and a registration form, please send your name and snail mail address to --max at airborne@sirius.com

ARIZONA LESBIAN LIST

Wild and crazy e-mailers listen up! For those who love mail, and want to get out and meet others, check out the Arizona Lesbian List (ALL). There are no rules, no forms of decorum to be observed; the only rule is that there will be NO RULES on this list! It is for LESBIANS IN ARIZONA. Visit our web site, at <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Park/9700>, check out our members, see our short bios, and then send your bio and request for membership to azles@geocities.com See you in cyberspace!

Simplicity Circle

In March we are starting a 7 session course on voluntary simplicity. We will learn how life might be enriched through the practice of simplicity. Join us on March 9th at 7 PM. Call Robin at 848-0083 for directions.

TEAM ARIZONA

Team Arizona is a non-profit group promoting sports within the gay community. They participate in the Gay Games as well as producing local events, helping people within the community get connected with other gay and lesbians who have interests in the same sports. For further information on attending about Team Arizona, call 264-2645.

!!!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.

**Women's Spirituality Group**

We meet the 3rd Monday of every month

NEXT MEETING

Monday, March 15th 7:00 - 9:00 PM
Contact Kathy - 470-4518

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.

Raw Thunder Women's Motorcycle Association

All women are welcome to ride with us. Call or e-mail Char Zack, Road Captain, at (520) 634-9739 or azraw@sedona.net, for further information.

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.

TLC Chorale

The TLC Chorale rehearses every Thursday night at 7:00 PM at the Augustana Lutheran Church, on the corner of Virginia and 12th street.



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"Partners for Life"

As a collaboration of Gay & Lesbian owned and operated businesses, "Partners for Life" ~ Gay & Lesbian Wedding Showcase will return by popular demand. This prestigious event will take place on Sunday, March 14, 1999 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Westin Hotel in Long Beach. The 2nd annual "Partners For Life" Showcase marks the beginning of a new tradition for Gay & Lesbian couples in the Southern California area planning on getting married.

Whether considered legal or not, ceremonies celebrating love and commitment are becoming increasingly common in the Gay & Lesbian Community. The "Partners For Life" Wedding Showcase will feature many businesses who are "gay friendly" or desire to become more accessible to this new greatly expanding target market. This year's special guests are the co-authors of The Essential Guide to Lesbian & Gay Weddings. Tess Ayers & Paul Brown will be there to autograph copies of their newly released edition of the much sought after book.

Couples planning a commitment or re-

commitment ceremony in the near future will have direct access to a wide variety of businesses to help plan their special day. "Partners For Life" exhibits will include; Bakeries, DJ's, Caterers, Photographers, Formal Wear, Jewelers, Florists, Wedding Registries, Clergy, Ceremony & Reception Sites, and much more. Also returning this year will be the runway fashion show featuring the latest styles in formal attire.

Admission at the door is \$ 5.00 per person. Advance ticket prices are TWO for \$5.00 and available by sending payment along with a Self addressed

stamped envelope to "Partners For Life" 17300 17th St., Suite # J-335, Tustin, CA 92780. For additional information, call (714) 543-5897.

Sports minded women

I know you're out there, but I'm at a loss as to how to get us all together. Seeing how two attempts at Flag Football flopped, I've decided maybe that particular sport excluded too many people.

SO - this time we'll try it as a "Sports Afternoon at the Park." On Sunday, March 21st, we'll meet at the park just north of McDowell between Miller Rd. and 77th St. in Scottsdale. I will be there at 3:30 PM near the parking lots off of 77th St. We'll have some sort of rainbow flag so you know who/where we are. I can bring gear for basketball, frisbee, and flag football. I also have a volleyball if someone has a net. Bring any food and drinks you want. There are also grills at the park if you want to BBQ. The intent here is to have fun, play, be social, and have fun! If you have any questions, comments, or need directions, call M.E. at 654-3459.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!



Spring Equinox

by Karen L. Forrester, staff writer

Spring Equinox is on Saturday, March 20 this year. Just as at Fall Equinox, the day and the night are of equal length. However, since it is spring, we are in the waxing part of the year's cycle. From this point forward, the days grow longer and the nights shorter - the year is waxing into light, warmth and fertility.

At Spring Equinox, Persephone returns from the underworld to her mother Demeter, and all the earth blooms with rejoicing, notes Di-

ane Stein in her book *Casting the Circle, A Women's Book of Ritual*. The Goddess is a laughing child, inquisitive, and getting into everything. The growing Goddess plays with abandon, running wild through the fields and cities.

Correspondingly, Spring Equinox rituals are a time for reclaiming childhood and the child-within. Women go within to discover their child selves and heal the hurts that might still be there.

Eggs are the Sabbat's primary symbol, for fertility and fecundity and also for the great cosmic egg of the

Goddess, from which the universe was hatched. Other symbols are green growing things and children's foods, says Stein. The colors are pastels and the theme is childhood innocence. Use a rainbow of bright colors for this Sabbat, and a playful tone and mood, advises Stein.

Spring Equinox is a solar Sabbat, which means that its date changes with the solar year. So although it is on March 20 this year, it could be on any date in the range March 20-23 in other years.

According to Stein, Goddesses for spring are Mother Goddesses, of

ten shown with children from many cultures. Among them are: Isis (Egypt), Onddu and Oshun (Africa), Hina (Polynesia), Demeter and Gaia (Greece), Parvati (India), Copper Woman (Native America), Kwan Yin (China), Chalchiuhlique (South America), Mary (Christian), Lilith (Hebrew), Guadalupe (Mexico) and Eostre (Saxon) or Astarte/Ishtar/Esther (Semitic), from which the Sabbat gets its other name of Oestre. Easter and Passover are both derived from this Sabbat, says Stein.

March 1999

Community Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28 Same Time/Same Place Breakfast Club, pg. 7	1	2 Scrabble league, pg. 7	3 Verde Valley support group, pg. 7 Clogging group, pg. 7	4 Writers group, pg. 7 G/L literature group, pg. 7 TLC rehearsal, pg. 8 Health Talk, pg. 7	5 Lesbian Night Out, pg. 7 Lorri L. Jean, pg. 6	6 Susan Westenhofer, pg. 9 Open healing event, pg. 7 Dutchman's Club, pg. 6
7 Same Time/Same Place Breakfast Club, pg. 8 Friends of Ellen Brunch, pg. 7 Sunday women golfers, pg. 8 Women's movie day, pg. 7	8 	9 Scrabble league, pg. 7 Golf event, pg. 9 Simplicity Circle, pg. 8	10 Verde Valley support group, pg. 8 G/L literature group, pg. 7 Clogging group, pg. 7 WCN general meeting 333 E. Virginia #106	11 Writers group, pg. 7 TLC rehearsal, pg. 8 Health Talk, pg. 7	12 Lesbian Night Out, pg. 7	13 Breakfast w/ friends, pg. 7 Los Amigos Del Sol, pg. 8
14 Same Time/Same Place Breakfast Club, pg. 8 WREN event, pg. 8 Breakfast w/ Friends, pg. 7 Jewish Lesbian Group, pg. 7	15 Women's Spirituality Group, pg. 8	16 Scrabble league, pg. 7 Alternative Healing Workshop, pg. 7	17 Verde Valley support group, pg. 8 G/L literature group, pg. 7 Clogging group, pg. 7	18 Writers group, pg. 7 Health Talk, pg. 7 TLC rehearsal, pg. 8	19 Lesbian Night Out, pg. 7 Desert Adventures, pg. 6	20 Glenna's potluck, pg. 7 WREN event, pg. 8
21 Same Time/Same Place Breakfast Club, pg. 8 Friends of Ellen brunch, pg. 7 Sports women, pg. 9 Women's movie day, pg. 7	22	23 Scrabble league, pg. 7	24 Verde Valley support group, pg. 8 Clogging group, pg. 7	25 Writers group, pg. 7 TLC rehearsal, pg. 8 Health Talk, pg. 7	26 Lesbian Night Out, pg. 7	27 Ellen film fest, pg. 8
28 Same Time/Same Place Breakfast Club, pg. 8 Jewish Lesbian Group, pg. 7	1	2 Scrabble league, pg. 7	3 Verde Valley support group, pg. 8 Clogging group, pg. 7 Jewish Lesbian Group, pg. 7	4 Writers group, pg. 7 TLC rehearsal, pg. 8 Health Talk, pg. 7	5 Lesbian Night Out, pg. 7	6
7 Same Time/Same Place Breakfast Club, pg. 8 Sunday women golfers, pg. 8	8	9 Scrabble League, pg. 7	10 Verde Valley support group, pg. 8 Clogging group, pg. 7	11 Writers group, pg. 7 TLC rehearsal, pg. 8 Health Talk, pg. 7	12 Lesbian Night Out, pg. 7	13

Places to go, things to do!



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INSIGHTS: Exploring Mind & Body Connections

Is offering the following workshops:

March 20

Developing Your Intuition is an adventurous and fun workshop which will help you discover and expand your innate intuitive abilities and skills. We will explore avenues for strengthening trust in your personal use of intuition for guidance and direction. Saturday 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Cost is \$50.00.

March 23, 30, April 1, 6

Bioenergetics begins the study of energy channels and chakras. You will learn techniques to read your body's energies and energy leaks, as well as auric fields and how the body and mind integrate information and emotional experiences. This class is also a prerequisite to Reiki 1. Cost: \$25.00 per class. Classes are from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM.

April 10

Sex is Innocent, an opportunity for Lesbians to talk about the hidden, forbidden, no kiddin' pleasures of our sexuality. If you're curious, embarrassed, speechless, or numb this is the workshop for you. Informative, relaxed, and affirming, our discussions will spark interest and laughter. Cost: \$50.00. Saturday 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

April 29, May 6, 11

Understanding Your Dreams: learn to interpret your dreams, resolve unconscious material, awaken your inner voice to creativity, and reach your potential. This workshop is for those interested in developing a deeper understanding of the importance and power dreams have in your life. 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM. Cost is \$75.00.

May 1

Reiki 1 teaches the techniques for using this Tibetan healing art. The Japanese word Reiki means "universal life force." You will learn how to utilize this simple but powerful tool. Four energy attunements (clears and increases your energy to ready your body for healing) will be given to each participant. Cost: \$150.00. Class meets Saturday 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM.

May 15

Looking for a Needle in a Haystack is a fun and educational workshop for single Lesbians covering such topics as dating, relating vs. entangling, sex (you do remember what that is?), and many more topics. Cost: \$50.00. 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

June 5

Reiki 2 will build upon Reiki 1 by adding advanced techniques for scanning the body and giving treatments. You will also learn long distance healing techniques and additional hand positions. Two additional attunements are given. Cost: \$175.00. Saturday 9:00 AM until 4:30 PM.

June 1, 3, 8, 10

Bioenergetics begins the study of energy channels and chakras. You will learn techniques to read your body's energies and energy leaks, as well as auric fields and how the body and mind integrate information and emotional experiences. This class is also a prerequisite to Reiki 1. Cost: \$25.00 per class. Classes are from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM.

June 18 & 19

Straight Talk will educate couples in communication, family of origin patterns, unfinished business, intimacy, as well as provide an opportunity for couples to deepen their commitment to personal growth. Cost \$150.00 per couple. Friday 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM and Saturday 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM.

TBA

Reiki 3 initiates personal mastery of this healing art with additional attunements, training in advanced use of intuition, symbols, aura cleansing, and clinical supervision. Call Sandra to discuss your interest. You will need to demonstrate a complete understanding of Reiki 1 and 2 and conduct a full session with a client and Sandra before entering this class.

Call 257-1964 for registration and information.

**All classes will be held at Insights Exploring Mind Body Connections
333E. Virginia, Suite 106, Phx, AZ 85004**



Review of "Higher Ground" by Barbra Streisand

by Karen L. Forrester, staff writer

Barbra Streisand's musical offering *Higher Ground* is aptly named. The CD is a compilation of inspirational songs – 12 in all. Barbra uses her wide-ranging, soaring voice to sing about love lifting you higher, hope for peace in the world, lessons

learned in life and love of God.

The most familiar song on the CD is "Tell Him", Barbra's top 40 duet with Celine Dion. You can just change every "him" to "her" and sing right along. Another song in the love vein is the title track "Higher Ground" in which Barbra asks her love to "take my hand and lift me higher. Be my love and my desire . . . take my heart to higher ground." You won't need to change the pronouns on this one, as Barbra doesn't use any.

Most of the songs on the CD are not about romantic love, however. They fall into a more general inspirational category. In one of my favorites, Barbra sings of all the hearts beating in the world "At the Same Time". This song reminds us of all we have in common, and tells us it's time for us to be a family and protect our precious planet. Other songs in this vein include "Leading with Your Heart"

which tells us that feelings are wise and that "leading with your heart, you will find the way", a song that tells us we are all joined in a "Circle" of life and "Lessons to be Learned" in which Barbra tells us, "Like the seasons, there are reasons for the path we take, there are no mistakes, only lessons to be learned."

Barbra has done an excellent job on this musical offering. Her voice is as magnificent as ever. The words and music are well-matched, with instruments ranging from soothing piano to full orchestra, as appropriate. And she has carefully chosen songs that fit in with the theme of "higher ground." If the combination of Barbra's incomparable voice and inspirational lyrics and music appeals to you, you'll want to add this title to your collection.



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.

measure (SF 91) would have established enhanced penalties for bias-motivated crimes committed because of an individual's "membership in a group." Last week the full House voted against a bill similar to SF 84.

According to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, hate crime bills have been introduced in at least fourteen states this year. In nine states (CO, ID, MT, MS, MO, NY, OK, VA, WY) bills have been introduced to add sexual orientation to existing hate crimes statutes. In addition to Wyoming, the Idaho and Montana bills were defeated. In three states (IN, NM, SC) the bills would establish first-time hate crimes laws in those states. In Texas, a measure has been proposed to strengthen the state's existing statute by enumerating groups that would be covered under the law. The California legislature is considering a bill to equalize penalties for anti-gay hate crimes with penalties for other types of bias crimes. Other states likely to see hate crimes legislation this year include Michigan and Hawaii.

"This is a tragedy for the citizens of the Equality State. How many more people will have to be attacked before the legislature will take a stand and say no to violence and hate?" stated Wende Barker, coordinator for the Wyoming Bias Crimes Task Force.

Because hatred is not a family value

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GLAAD Alerts

GLAAD (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) is the nation's lesbian and gay media advocacy organization. GLAAD promotes fair, accurate and inclusive representation of individuals and events in all media as a means of combating homophobia and all forms of discrimination based on sexual orientation.



Matthew Shepard: His Parents Speak

Judy and Dennis Shepard, parents of Matthew Shepard, recently spoke for the first time in the press about their son, his murder, and the aftermath. They appeared on Dateline NBC on Friday, January 29, in an interview with Katie Couric. The Shepards, dignified and soft-spoken, talked about their son with love and sorrow in a deeply moving and respectful way. Unfortunately, the story itself was marred by poor writing, talking about how Laramie was no place "to live a gay lifestyle," and how Matthew, while at the University of Wyoming, was not one "to flaunt his sexuality." But this did not detract from the honest, straightforward way in which the Shepards spoke about their son.

The March issue of Vanity Fair magazine features a long piece on Matthew Shepard and the events and people surrounding his murder. Entitled "The Crucifixion of Matthew Shepard," writer Melanie Thernstrom talks to Shepard's parents, people who were Matthew's friends, those who were friends with his alleged assailants, and the residents of Laramie. Thernstrom has done an enormous amount of personal research, and it is obvious she spent a significant amount of time in the place where Matthew lived and died. There are choices that many may argue with: Thernstrom's discussion of Matthew's depression, his health and HIV status; and there are those who would say that these are as relevant as the facts of his murder, making him human and whole instead of a one-dimensional martyr.

GLAAD learned through a spokesperson that the Shepards have been upset at the response to their appearance on Dateline NBC, when they learned that some members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community felt that they weren't "supportive" enough of their son. How can anyone know what they have gone through, and how can anyone question their love? The Shepards are starting a foundation to do work in the area of human rights: one of these areas will indeed be for lesbian and gay rights. Their willingness to speak about Matthew, and to begin to try and further the work he had sought to do in the future is nothing but supportive. We can only hope that the community can continue to do that work as well, in the many ways and venues there are to do it in.

Please contact Dateline NBC and Vanity Fair, and tell them what you thought of their pieces on Matthew Shepard's life and family.

Contact:

- Sharon Scott, Supervising Producer, Dateline NBC, 20 Rockefeller Center #408, New York NY 10112-0002, fax: 545.664.7864, dateline@news.nbc.com
- Chris Garret, Managing Editor, Vanity Fair, 350 Madison Avenue, New York NY 10014-3704, fax: 212-880-6707

Teletubbies Hubabaloo: Children's Television "Gay Conspiracy"



Tinky Winky

One might have thought that the impeachment trial had ended with all the media scrambling that took place after the Associated Press reported that Jerry Falwell's National Liberty Journal had published "Parents Alert: Tinky Winky Comes Out of the Closet," alleging that the Teletubby Tinky Winky is intentionally being presented as a gay role model. Outlets local and national scrambled to cover the story and get reaction from LGBT organizations. The "Alert" included such brazenly obvious "gay clues" as:

- "He is purple - the gay-pride color"
- "his antenna is shaped like a triangle - the gay-pride symbol"
- Tinky Winky, who is played by a male, carries a red bag described by Falwell as a "purse"
- In a Washington Post "editorial" (see below), Ellen DeGeneres is pictured alongside Tinky Winky on a list of "who's in, who's out." (Note: Tinky's "In" not "Out.")

Falwell referring to a pop culture "hot list" as an editorial is questionable, if not downright wrong, but then other sources repeat the mistake, not checking the article in question.

Among the coverage of Tinky Winky's outing, some highlights were:

- ABCNews.com's Interactive Tinky Winky, that let you click on an area of the Teletubby's picture to find out what Falwell objected to about it.
- The Washington Post's Hanna Rosin opening her column about the controversy with "Maybe it was the time Tinky Winky gave that 'big hug' to Dipsy. Or maybe it was the time he 'fell on his back' if you catch the drift." She also gets a great quote from author Andrew Sullivan involving Bugs Bunny, Elmer Fudd, Pinocchio, Boys' Town and Batman and Robin.
- MSNBC.com had an unfortunately titled story, "Falwell endorses gay Teletubby story" (as if the story didn't originate with him), and a poll asking "Do you think Tinky Winky was created to promote the homosexual lifestyle?" Fox News, titled their coverage "Falwell: The Antichrist May Not Be Jewish, But The Purple Teletubby is Definitely Gay," referring to Falwell's apology last

week for a speech in which he stated that the Antichrist was alive, disabled, in his 30s and Jewish.

We invite readers to respond in any way they see fit to Rev. Falwell's "outing," remembering of course that it should entirely be Tinky Winky's choice as to if and when he will come out. Look for more breaking news about the controversy on most major news outlets, and minute-by-minute updates on The Cartoon Channel (just kidding.)

READ THE STORIES:

- National Liberty Journal Piece (Falwell's "Parents Alert"): <http://www.liberty.edu/chancellor/nlj/feb99/politics2.htm>
- Falwell's comments on the coverage: <http://www.falwell.com/jf2/state2.html>
- ABCNews.com Story with Interactive Tinky Winky: <http://abcnews.go.com/sections/us/DailyNews/falwell990210.html>
- Washington Post article by Hanna Rosin <http://search.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/WPlate/1999-02/11/2741-021199-idx.html>
- MSNBC.com story with poll: <http://www.msnbc.com:80/news/239986.asp#BODY>
- FOX News story <http://www.foxnews.com:80/etcetera/021099/tinkywinky.sml>

Contact:

- National Liberty Journal, c/o Liberty University, 1971 University Boulevard, Lynchburg VA 24502, lmsipple@liberty.edu, or jerry@falwell.com
- ABCNews.com: via Internet, <http://www.abcnews.go.com/service/abccontact.html>, click on "U.S." Under "Content"
- Robert G. Kaiser, Managing Editor, Washington Post, 1150 15th Street NW, Washington DC, 20071-002, e-mail via WWW: <http://www.washingtonpost.com>
- Colin Hurlock, News Editor, MSNBC.com. One Microsoft Way Building 25, Redmond WA, 98050-8300, fax: 206.703.0415, e-mail: world@MSNBC.com.
- Janet Alshouse, News Director, FOX News Channel, 1211 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036-8701, fax: 212.301.4229; email: letters@foxnews.com

Fox Files Update

While Fox has still refused to meet with GLAAD regarding the Fox Files segment "Undercover in the Night" (see GLAAD Alert 1/27/99), they have issued a statement of sorts online. To read it, go to: <http://www.foxnews.com/foxfiles/notice.sml>

Unfortunately, the statement does nothing but obfuscate, and continue to deny GLAAD the opportunity to discuss the problematic, sensational-

"My computer outed me!": That's one powerful chip!

Intel has announced that each of their new Pentium III computer chips, would have a unique serial number, which would be broadcast to help e-commerce (i.e. Web shopping) sites verify the user's identity, and helping prevent credit card fraud. Unfortunately, Intel seemed to have forgotten about the needs of those who use the Web and Internet specifically because of the anonymity of the medium.

Intel said that the "feature" would be turned on when a consumer received the computer containing the chip from the factory. The user could then turn the feature off for each individual user session, but upon restart, would then reinstate the serial number, making it available to other computers.

Upon learning of the release, electronic privacy groups EPIC (Electronic Privacy Information Center) and Junkbusters called for a boycott of Intel. GLAAD, John Aravosis of Wired Strategies, and Carl Pritzkat of Mediaopolis, issued a joint release calling for Intel to voluntarily remove the "feature," out of concern for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

Most often breaches of privacy online are due to human action. What Intel has done is make the threat to users' privacy much greater, as those who may not be technologically adept may not understand how to turn the serial number off, or may simply forget. This may track the user across the Net, broadcasting their identity to sites and helping them collect information on their visitors. Results could be disastrous: employees may be fired for contacting a LGBT informational site in a state with no job protection legislation; young people may be confronted about their sexual orientation long before they're willing (or able) to discuss it with parents or educators; identities may be stolen and used against the person.

Intel has announced that it will release the chip with the serial number turned off, however, they have not yet agreed to disable the feature completely. While this is a positive response, the full removal of the serial number is essential to preserving the personal privacy of members of the GLBT community, and others who don't want their computers to be tracked.

Please contact Intel and tell them that the Net is too important to our community to be lost to the threat of unwanted disclosure.

Contact: Andrew Grove, Chairman of the Board, Intel Corporation, 2200 Mission College Blvd., Santa Clara CA 95052-8119, feedback: <http://www.intel.com/feedback.htm>

istic and ultimately defamatory nature of the story.

Please write to Roger Ailes and urge him to hear the community's concerns about their story.

Contact: Roger Ailes, Chief Executive Officer, FNC/Fox News Channel, 1211 Avenue of the Americas, New York NY 10036, VOICE phone (212) 301-8224; fax phone (212) 301-4229; e-mail: comments@foxnews.com; <http://www.foxnews.com/foxfiles>

Attorney General Bill Lockyer removes California from Hawaiian same sex marriage brief

In April 1997 Attorney General Dan Lungren joined nine other attorney generals in filing a friend of the court brief with the Hawaii Supreme Court opposing any recognition of same sex marriage by the State of Hawaii.

On February 12, 1999 Attorney General Lockyer removed California from the lawsuit.

Mr. Lungren did this on his own in the name of the People yet the People through their elected representative in the Legislature had taken no position on the matter of same sex marriage.

Twice, Senator, then Assembly member, Pete Knight introduced a bill dubbed California DOMA - Defense of Marriage Act - very similar to Federal legislation passed by an eager Congress under pressure from the Radical Religious Right which bars recognition of same sex marriages by the Federal government.

The Knight legislation which would not recognize same sex mar-

riages licensed in other states passed the Assembly and was amended in the Senate to recognize benefits for domestic partners but not marriage.

Knight didn't like the amendments and withdrew the bills. He is now subjecting the state to an initiative approved for the March, 2000 ballot because he was not willing to grant same sex couple any kind of recognition.

The amicus brief filed in Hawaii by Lundgren et al, among other things said: "Legalizing same-sex marriage would be extremely divisive, impair interjurisdictional recognition of Hawaii marriages and related legal benefits, and severely strain Hawaii's relations with the other forty-nine states and the federal government. The State of Hawaii has a compelling interest in avoiding such consequences."

On January 11, 1999, Jerry Sloan of Project Tocsin contacted Attorney General Lockyer's office and asked him remove California's name from the brief and also contacted gay press and others asking them to contact the AG.

Upon hearing of Lockyer's action Sloan said, "It is fitting Attorney General Lockyer made his notification on Lincoln's birthday, a day when we celebrate freedom."

"This is an ideal opportunity for young artists who may not have exhibited their work to have it seen by thousands of people internationally at the premier queer art website," says QAR director Barry Harrison. \$1,000 in prizes will be awarded and there is no entry fee. Artists may be 23 years old, or younger. The deadline is March 22, 1999.

Artists may send up to five slides (individually labeled with name, title, media, dimensions, and year), an artist's statement, bio and self addressed stamped envelope to: QAR,

160 Chattanooga Street, San Francisco, CA 94114 USA. Digital art may be submitted to: expo@queerarts.org. For more information, please email expo@queerarts.org.

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Gay TV rating proposed

People For the American Way Foundation Wednesday reacted to an apparently serious proposal by the Christian Action Network that would require placing a scarlet letter on all television shows that contain "homosexual content."

"What they're proposing goes far beyond current warning labels that alert viewers to explicit

1998 exit polls show diverse picture of identified gay, lesbian, & bisexual electorate

WASHINGTON -- Voters willing to identify themselves as gay, lesbian or bisexual, representing 4 percent of the electorate, are one of the most diverse constituencies in America, according to an analysis of Voter News Service polling data released today. The poll, conducted on Election Day 1998, showed that gay, lesbian and bisexual voters are more positive about the direction of the nation and the future. The size of the G/L/B vote in 1998 was similar to the 1996 Voter News Service exit poll, which put the G/L/B vote at 5 percent.

"This poll underscores the diversity of the gay, lesbian and bisexual vote and establishes it as a key voting bloc," said HRC Communications Director David M. Smith. "Those seeking office from both parties should take notice, as this constituency becomes more and more identifiable and politically potent."

The poll revealed major demographic differences between those willing to identify as gay, lesbian or bisexual and the whole national electorate. More G/L/B voters are non-white, 32 percent vs. 18 percent, and the G/L/B constituency is younger, 88 percent under age sixty compared to 72 percent under age 60 among voters overall. The G/L/B vote consists of more men, 59 percent male among G/L/B voters, compared to 49 percent male among all voters. Gay, lesbian and bisexual voters also had lower family income, with 66 percent under \$50,000 vs. 52 percent for the entire electorate.

According to the poll, gay, lesbian and bisexual voters are more optimistic about the direction of the country with 68 percent saying things in the country are generally going in the right direction, compared to 59 percent of all voters.

Nationally, Democratic House candidates greatly benefited from the G/L/B electorate, receiving 65 percent of the vote, compared to only 32 percent for the Republicans. The Democratic leanings of G/L/B voters was even more pronounced in California where they chose Democratic gubernatorial candidate Gray Davis over Republican Dan Lungren -- 73 percent to 19 percent. In the California Senate race, G/L/B voters gave Democratic incumbent Barbara Boxer a significant boost over Republican Matt Fong, 68 percent to 28 percent (California was the only state where data was available).

Politically, 49 percent of gay, lesbian or bisexual voters consider themselves to be liberal, while 37 percent of G/L/B voters say they are moderate and 14 percent consider themselves conservative. In contrast, only 19 percent of voters overall consider themselves liberal, 31 percent conservative and 50 percent moderate.

G/L/B voters are also much more active on the internet. 60 percent claim regular internet usage vs. 40 percent of voters overall.

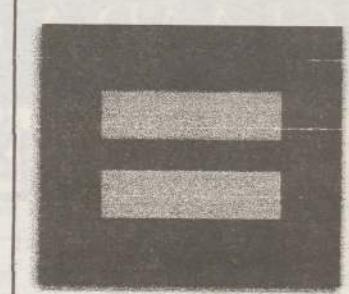
"Because of intense societal anti-gay bias, many people are still reluctant to identify themselves as gay, lesbian or bisexual," Smith said. "As result, this poll cannot be interpreted as a definitive look at the size or tenor of the gay vote, but it does offer an emerging picture of this often overlooked constituency."

The Voter News Service exit poll is conducted for ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, Fox and the Associated Press. The Human Rights Campaign purchased the data from Voter News Service.

adult content," said PFAWF President Carole Shields. "This is an obvious attempt to stigmatize an entire group of Americans."

The Christian Action Network announced that it would launch a grassroots campaign to have its "HC" warning label placed on all programming with "homosexual content." It claimed in a press release that "more than two dozen homosexual characters" are portrayed weekly on network television alone (presumably, this figure includes Tinky Winky the Teletubby, who was "outed" without his permission last week by the Rev. Jerry Falwell).

"The sad fact that groups on the fringe of American politics would seek to target gay and lesbian TV characters in this manner points out how far we still have to go to achieve the American dream of justice," Shields said. "With this proposed content rating, the Christian Action Network seeks to put a slanderous smear on gay and lesbian Americans."



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.

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The Whole Lesbian Sex Book

Coming to bookstores December 1999

Help research the first comprehensive lesbian sex book in a decade, *The Whole Lesbian Sex Book*, an informative and provocative guide for all lesbians. Written by lesbian publisher Felice Newman, *The Whole Lesbian Sex Book* will be in stores by December 1999.

In the tradition of other popular sex guides from Cleis Press, like *The New Good Vibrations Guide to Sex* and *The Ultimate Guide to Anal Sex for Women*, *The Whole Lesbian Sex Book* will incorporate brief descriptive quotes from a diverse sampling of lesbians and bisexual women. Quotes will appear anonymously throughout the text. Lesbians and bisexual women are invited to fill out an extensive questionnaire, available on the Cleis Press web site: www.cleispress.com.

Don't hold back! *The Whole Lesbian Sex Book* will be explicit and user-friendly. Here's your chance to share your experience, teach others what you've learned, rant about your difficulties, rave about your successes, celebrate your heat, and tell your favorite stories!

The *Whole Lesbian Sex Book* (Cleis Press, December 1999) will offer helpful, fun information, advice, and support for lesbian and bisexual readers of diverse experiences — young and old, partnered and single, transgendered and traditionally gendered, sexually experienced and new to sexual exploration....

Felice Newman co-founded Cleis Press in 1980. As publisher of Cleis Press, she has developed and edited many groundbreaking books on sexuality and gender. She recently completed the San Francisco Sex Information training. She is co-authoring a book on sex and disability. Felice Newman lives in San Francisco.

Indigo Girls to perform in Cuba

The Indigo Girls and over 30 other U.S. musicians, as part of a project sponsored by California songwriter Alan Roy Scott, will spend a week in Cuba songwriting in collaboration with Cuban artists. The visit will conclude with a free concert on March 28th in the Karl Marx Theater in Havana.

NOW endorses Millennium March

Following lengthy discussions over the last four months, the Board of Directors of the National Organization for Women (NOW) voted to endorse the Millennium March for Equality, based on assurances by March organizers that a number of NOW's concerns would be met.

"We are facing serious right-wing attacks on lesbian and gay civil rights. We must start the new century with unprecedented strength. To do so, we need a unified, progressive movement where everyone has a place at the table," said NOW President Patricia Ireland. "NOW's participation in the Millennium March depends on the inclusion of feminist concerns in the March agenda and people who represent the wide diversity of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community in the organizing process."

The resolution passed by NOW's Board anticipates that the March agenda will address discrimination based on not

only sexual orientation, but also sex, race, class, age and disability. NOW received assurances that the right to privacy and to control one's own body, implicit in the March agenda, would include the right to abortion and reproductive health care. NOW's endorsement is also contingent on a commitment that with its expansion, the Millennium March On Washington's (MMOW) board will represent the diversity of the LGBT community, including open lesbians of all races, colors, abilities, classes and ages. Finally, NOW's resolution recognizes the importance of the MMOW's board's taking steps to reconcile the differences that have arisen within the LGBT community over the March.

Organizing for the Millennium March got off to a rough start when key-players in the LGBT movement challenged the manner in which the march was called, and questioned what role people of color and issues of race and class would play in the event and the organizing process. While many individuals and organizations who fight racism have signed-on to the march, the controversy still exists.

"By signaling our willingness to participate in the Millennium March, we hope we can help facilitate a resolution to the existing problems. NOW wants to be part of the solution," Ireland said. "Now is the time to close ranks and fight our enemies -- not each other."

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 60008 Phx, Az 85082-0008, 898-4844, e-mail address wcn@swlink.net, website <http://www.swlink.net/~wcnews>

*Lesbian/Gay Community Switchboard: 234-2752

*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, 999 S. Main St. Suite A437, Cottonwood, Az. 86326, 520-634-4842, 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 JJKOPRY@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 Sheyltilley@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.

Arizona Central Pride: Phone: (602) 279-1771 for information

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 (602) 952-1612, P.O. Box 66904, Phx, Az 65082.

*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 Wimmin'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

*Connocion, Bi-lingual, bi-cultural, latina lesbian newsletter, 1521 Alton Rd, #336, Miami Beach, FL 33139, \$4 sample, \$13 for 3 issues.

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Women's Central News website:
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Bulletin Board

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.

Have you ever wondered "What's it all about?" Do you long for more peace, more happiness, more love, more energy, more meaning in your life? **LIVING SOULFULLY: A WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL RETREAT GROUP** is for any woman who would like to be a part of the safe and supportive environment of a healing circle of women seeking to explore and deepen their connection with Self and Spirit. The Living Soulfully Group will meet on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. beginning March 24, 1999. The cost for this eight-week group is \$200. Partial scholarships are available for anyone needing assistance to attend. The group will be facilitated by Denise Daup, M.A., C.P.C. To register or for further information, contact Denise at Willow Counseling Center, 921-3936.

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