



Anti-LGBTQ Violence Time Line in Tucson/Southern Arizona/And Related Collection

The following include a selection of public and government reports of Anti-LGBTQ (Gay) Violence in Arizona as reported in Arizona Publications, National News Sources, Court Records, Witness & Victims Statements, and Police Reports since 1974

1974, August 30 – Gay man Frank A. Zedar was beaten to death, his body was set on fire, found by a police officer near North Campbell Ave and E. Fort Lowell.¹⁰

¹⁰ Arizona Gay News, “Suspect held in Illinois in ‘74 Tucson slaying,” October 14, 1977, v. 2, Issue 41 and “Confession gets slayer 5-10 years,” October 23, 1977, v.2, issue 51, pg. 2.

1975 – A gay man was beaten to death by South Tucson Teenagers. The teen’s attorney’s used the defense that the man had flirted with the teens in a bar so the teens murdering the man was justified.^{3.2}

^{3.2} Pima County & Arizona Court Records

1976, June 5 – Richard ‘Dickie’ J. Heakin Jr., a 21-year-old Gay Man and Utility Company office worker visiting from Nebraska while on his vacation, was beaten to death outside in the dirt parking lot by local high school students after Heakin went to the Stonewall Inn Tavern Disco, a Gay Bar on the North Side of Tucson located at 2921 N. 1st Avenue, for a night of relaxing with his friends on the last night of his visit in Tucson. As Mr. Heakin and others were leaving the bar just after midnight, four (4) to thirteen (13) high school students, age 15 to 17, who had been waiting across the street attacked Heakin and beat him to death out in the dirt parking lot (only 4 were ever charged and all were given only simple probation and released right back to their parents). Mr. Heakin's killers later testified that they had gotten bored of cruising Speedway Boulevard after drinking alcohol/using drugs and not being able to find a fight that night so they had all gone to the Stonewall Tavern Inn on 1st Avenue to "Fuck Up Some Queers." Though the four attackers were initially charged with premeditated murder, the charges were all quickly dropped to involuntary manslaughter and then dropped to simple probation at home until their 21st birthdays and were asked not to drink alcohol again until the age of 21 by Pima Superior Court Presiding Judge Ben Birdsall who disregarded the large amount of legal evidence and testimony of the Premeditated 1st Degree Murder in the case. Mr. Heakin's death

brought together Tucson's LGBT Community after National News Publicity all around the United States finally pushed the Tucson City Council to pass a law prohibiting hiring and housing discrimination on the basis of someone's sexual orientation.¹³ Arizona Daily Star. "Justice not Served," staff editorial, October 23, 1976, 10/1. Also, "Sentence protested by gay group," October 24, 1976, 1 / 2

1976, September – The Tucson Gay Newsletter reported that "a Male Member of the Gay Community was badly beaten up on "A" Mountain The two attempted murderers who attacked our Gay brother...about 22..[and] 24." Police were notified.¹⁴ 11

14 Tucson Gay Newsletter, "Bad News," September 29, 1976, v.1, Issue 1, pg 2., the newsletter encouraged others to contact them with similar bad experiences to save one of your friends a similar experience"

1977, April – The Associated Students of University of Arizona made a formal apology to the Gay Student Organization for "prejudicial and derogatory remarks" made against a Recognized Student Organization. The Gay Student Organization (G.S.O.) had requested \$660.00 for a peer counseling program and for public relations costs. On April 22, a University of Arizona Student Senator Robert F. Semmens II stated in the Associated Students Of University of Arizona Office, "I Think We Ought To Take The \$660.00, Buy Guns, And Shoot All The Queers." The University of Arizona brought no disciplinary actions against Robert F. Semmens II, and he refused to resign his position. Semmens went on to say, "I don't even like them." (The Gay Student Organization and its members on the University of Arizona Campus)

¹⁵ Arizona Gay News. "Semmens apologizes but GSO calls on him to resign due to bias," May 5, 1977, v. 5, issue 10, pg.1. see also Arizona Daily Wildcat, April 26.

1977, October 23 – The Metropolitan Community Church (M.C.C.) of Phoenix was the victim of an Arson Fire after the congregation had all left from the Sunday evening services.¹⁶

¹⁶ Arizona Gay News, "MCC Church – Phoenix, Victim of Arson," October 20, 1977, v. 2, Issue 43, pg. 3. "The church has been subject to vandalism in the past with thefts of the church organ and all its chairs as well as the usual harassment of broken windows and obscene phone calls from time to time."

1980, Spring – Stepps Bar in Pima County north of Tucson located on Oracle Road was vandalized with Anti-Gay Graffiti ("Gays Go Home"), the Stepps Bar responded by erecting a large sign outside their business that stated "We Are Home."¹⁷

¹⁷ Arizona Gay News, March 8, 1980, v.5, Issue 10, pg. 5

1980, March – The Phoenix private residence of the Secretary of the Citizens for Constitutional Rights (CCR) is burglarized with the Gay Line Answering Machine System and other Office Equipment stolen and the building was vandalized with Anti-Gay Graffiti.¹⁸

¹⁸ Arizona Gay News, "CRC's Gay Line Vandalized," March 8, 1980, v.5, Issue 10, pg. 5

1981, June – Larry Mantz, in Phoenix, was beaten, strangled almost to death and then robbed in what the Arizona Gay News called a "Queer Bashing". The paper listed a description of the assailant and announced a community fundraiser to cover doctor's expenses.¹⁹

¹⁹ Arizona Gay News, "Phoenix Man in Queer Bashing," June 19, 1981, v. 6, Issue 24, pg. 2

1984, September – The 'Homo-Tel', a vacant two-story motel in Tucson adjacent to The Fineline Gay Bar was set on fire by an Arsonist on September 22nd.²⁰

²⁰ The Weekly Observer, "Arson Fire at Homo-Tel", September 26, 1984, v. 1, issue 11, pg. 1

1984, October – Charles Bush, an openly Gay Man 34 years old who resided in St. David, Arizona was robbed, stabbed to death and then his body dumped into some shrubs near the Freeway Fourth Street Rest Area in Benson, Arizona by two teenage boys he had picked up hitchhiking. The teens attorney alleged Bush had made sexual advances toward the teens so it was alright to rob him, then murder him, and then to hide the body, and then to steal his vehicle.²¹

21 The Weekly Observer, "Gay Related Murder in Benson," November 21, 1984, pg. 1

1984, October 28 – A man named Derrick was attacked and robbed by a group of men in the parking lot of the Fineline Bar in Tucson.²²

²² The Weekly Observer, "Benefit for Attack Victim Saturday," December 12, 1984, pg. 2

1985, June 10 – Johnny Collins, identified by police and local media as a Bisexual Transvestite, was last seen alive on May 31, 1985. His bludgeoned body was found near La Cholla Road in Northwest Tucson.²⁴

²⁴ The Weekly Observer, "Homicide Victim," June 12, 1985, pg. 3.

1984, December – Debbie, a Fineline Bar bartender, and Desiree, a bartender at Colette's West Bar, were both physically assaulted by a man making Anti-Gay Slurs in the Fineline Bar parking lot. Debbie required stitches on the lower forehead, and sustained a broken nose and two black eyes. Desiree sustained a broken cheek bone. Police gave the attacker a written citation and the attacker was released.^{23 12}

²³ The Weekly Observer, "Tucson Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee Report," v.1, Issue 20, December 5, 1984, pg. 1

1989 – A young Gay Man was Attacked and Beaten outside of a Gay Bar on Grant Road in the early evening by several Pima College Students.²⁵

²⁵ From January 27, 2005 Community Forum notes (Mark was a speaker at the forum), Lori Gershick.

1992 – Elton Naswood, a Gay Navajo Man from Window Rock was beaten and pounded with a rock by four men outside a Gay Bar in Phoenix, he did not go to the hospital or report the crime to the police.²⁶

²⁶ Pemberton, Mary. 'TWO-SPIRIT': Victims of gay-bashing seek solutions at HIV/AIDS conference," Associated Press, <http://www.nativeout.com/>, http://www.adn.com/life/native_culture/story/7699692p-7610642c.html

1993, August 22 – Candido Sanavria was strangled and stabbed to death in his Tucson home by Richard Bell. Bell first stabbed Candido with a knife from the kitchen until the blade broke, then strangled Candido to death with a telephone cord, then got another knife from the kitchen and kept stabbing him.²⁷

²⁷ Associated Press State & Local Wire, "Man who killed gay gets 20-year prison term," September 10, 2000.

1993 - Michael Anthony Senecal, was hacked and beaten with a machete and then left for dead by a carload of young men in Phoenix, Arizona.²⁸

²⁸ Lacey, Michael, "To the cops, some crimes just seem less important than others," in Phoenix New Times, July 28, 1994. <http://www.phoenixnewtimes.com/Issues/1994-07-28/news/columns.html>

1994, June – Michael Despain, a 24-year-old gay man, who sometimes went by Rolanda, was first Beaten and then Murdered in an Arson Related Hate Crime in Phoenix, Arizona.²⁹

²⁹ Lacey, Michael. "Why this young man's death matters," in Phoenix New Times, August 11, 1994.

http://music.phoenixnewtimes.com/Issues/1994-08-11/news/columns_4.html

Lacey, Michael, "To the cops, some crimes just seem less important than others," in Phoenix New Times, July 28, 1994. <http://www.phoenixnewtimes.com/Issues/1994-07-28/news/columns.html>.

1995, December 2 – John Pinto, a Gay man, was last seen leaving The Graduate Gay Bar located on University Boulevard near Stone Avenue just after 10:00 PM on December 2, 1995. Pinto was later found Beaten to Death the next morning. The crime has not been solved.³⁰

³⁰ Pima County & State of Arizona Court Records

2000, October 31 - Justin Fidelis Enos, 54-year-old Gay man, was Roped & Dragged Behind A Horse and then Beaten To Death with a Shovel on the Gila River Reservation because his murderers thought he "Danced Like A Girl"³¹

³¹ Associated Press, "Man pleads guilty to murder of gay man Phoenix," August 14, 2002 [online]

Dorian C. Brown pleaded guilty Tuesday in federal court to second-degree murder in the death of Justin Fidelis Enos on Halloween 2000.

GPAC. "Plea in Murder of NV Man Killed Because He "Danced Like a Girl"," August 13, 2002.

<http://www.gpac.org/archive/news/notitle.html?cmd=view&archive=news&msgnum=0423>

2000, February – Fabian Padilla was called derogatory Anti-Gay Names and then Beaten Repeatedly outside the Plush Bar in Tucson by a Tucson Fire Department firefighter Franchot Opela. ³² ¹³

³² Associated Press, "Firefighter's sentence in hate crime deemed light by some," July 11, 2001 [online]

2000, February 6th – A young Gay Male University of Arizona Student was stabbed outside the Rainbow Planet Coffee Shop, a Gay Establishment in Tucson. More than a thousand LGBT & Allied Community Members responded by staging a March Along 4th Avenue in Downtown Tucson to the University of Arizona Campus "Mall."³³

³³ at Rainbow Planet Coffee Shop, 606 N. Fourth Ave, Bustamante, Mary. "Gays and Jews Top Targets of Hate Crimes in Tucson," in The Weekly Observer, February 25, 2004, pg. 1

2001, December –An act of Anti-Gay Vandalism (Anti-Gay Slurs) was reported in Bridgeport, Arizona.³⁴

³⁴Associated Press, "Yavapai County Sheriff investigating possible hate crime," December 27, 2001. The victims, new residents to the area, were hosting a party when guests reportedly discovered the road in front of the house had been spray painted with a picture and a slur. The picture had two stick figures within a circle and a slash across the circle plus the words "No Fags."

2002, February 5 – F.C. Martinez a young 16 year old Arizona born Navajo Transgender Two-Spirit or *Nadleehi* was beaten to death by 18 year-old Shaun Murphy in Cortez, Colorado.³⁵

³⁵ TG Crossroads Staff, "Murphy Pleads Guilty to Murder of F.C. Martinez, Sentencing Set for May 16," TG Crossroads, February 8, 2002, <http://www.tgcrossroads.org/news/archive.asp?aid=168> In a court affidavit, investigators alleged that 18-year-old Shaun Murphy, who apparently did not know Martinez, encountered him on a Cortez street June 16, the night Martinez was last seen alive. According to the affidavit, Murphy was later heard "bragging" to friends that he had "Beat Up A Fag."

2002, February 16 – Amy Soos, a Transgender woman from the Salt River Pima Indian Reservation was found on a Phoenix road Beaten To Death. Excessive violence led investigators and others to indicate that the Murder was Bias/Hate Motivated.³⁶

³⁶ Southern Poverty Law Center. "for the Record," in Intelligence Report, Winter 2003, pg. 46

2002, March – Alejandro Ray Lucero, a Transgender Hopi person was strangled to Death in Phoenix, Arizona with such excessive violence that indicated that his Murder may have been Bias/Hate Motivated. ³⁷

³⁷ Southern Poverty Law Center. "for the Record," in Intelligence Report, Winter 2003, pg. 46

2002, June 12th – Philip Arthur Walsted, a 24-year-old Gay Man and American Airlines Employee was Robbed and Beaten to Death in Tucson by a recently paroled burglar from the Arizona State Prison System and self-proclaimed Nazi Skin-Head David Higdon using a metal baseball bat while his former girlfriend listened to music in the murderer's truck. Higdon was sentenced to the rest of his natural life in prison after an outpouring of letters for a Life Sentence Without The Possibility Of Parole Years from all around the United States sent to the Judge.³⁸

³⁸David A. Higdon was sentenced to life in prison (3/28/05) with no chance of parole for beating Philip Arthur Walsted to death with a baseball bat, Walsted was found June 12, 2002 on East Fifth Street and North Hoff Avenue, Echo, April 7, 2005, 10 (editor) and Bustamante, Mary. "Gays and Jews Top Targets of Hate Crimes in Tucson," in The Weekly Observer, February 25, 2004, pg. 1

2002, June – Wingspan GLBT Community Center was vandalized in Tucson when persons unknown tore out metal flag poles ten (10) feet above the sidewalk and stole Rainbow and other flags from the front of the building located on 6th Street ³⁹

³⁹ Everett-Haynes, LA Monica. "Area's gay community center vandalized," in Tucson Citizen, Wednesday, June 26, 2002.

2003, August 27 – A 37 year-old Gay Man was lured out of the Yard Dog Saloon Gay Bar in Tucson located at 2449 N. Stone Avenue and then attacked by five (5) men who stole his shoulder bag and fractured the Gay Man's arm. Tucson Police quickly recorded it as a Hate Crime and reported the incident to local Federal Bureau Of Investigations (FBI) agents in Tucson. ⁴⁰

⁴⁰ Associated Press. "Police investigate possible hate crime," Tucson September 23, 2003.

2003, September 16 – The Wingspan Community Center was vandalized with Hate/Anti LGBT graffiti which had been carved into the front door during the afternoon while the facility was open to the public.

2003 – A local religious group, protested and verbal harassed both the youth and the staff outside the EON LGBTQ Youth Center in Tucson. ¹⁴

2004 - Jheri Davis, a Navajo Man from Chinle, Ariz., was attacked with a baseball bat and a machete, while being called Anti-Gay Slurs by three young Navajo men who offered him a ride.⁴¹

⁴¹Pemberton, Mary. "TWO-SPIRIT: Victims of gay-bashing seek solutions at HIV/AIDS conference," Associated Press, <http://www.nativeout.com/>, http://www.adn.com/life/native_culture/story/7699692p-7610642c.html

"They called me a Queer, a Faggot," Davis said. "They said I Should Die." Davis' wrist was broken, his knee cap smashed and the back of his head split open. Jheri Davis spent two days in a Trauma Center of a Hospital in Maricopa County, Arizona. When he got out, he looked up the local prosecutor. The perpetrators, ages 16-21, received between one and five years in prison.

2004, January 13th – Mark Fontes, a Gay Man, was found beaten and unconscious (possible hate crime) in Tucson behind IBT's Bar on 4th Avenue ⁴²

⁴² Found on North Hoff Avenue in the same area near its „Bout Time, a Gay bar at 616 N. Fourth Ave. [“Fontes unable to recall what happened”, Bustamante, Mary. "Gays and Jews Top Targets of Hate Crimes in Tucson," in The Weekly Observer, February 25, 2004, pg. 1

2004, April – Anti-Gay Graffiti was painted at an abandoned property near Interstate 10 in Tucson. ⁴³

⁴³ Swedlund, Eric. "Anti-gay graffiti stirs concern," in Arizona Daily Star, July 21, 2004, B1.

2004, April – Julie Melson, 38 and Suzanne King, 32 were beaten by bar patrons, while Kings' dress was ripped and pictures taken of her exposed breast, patrons yelled Anti-Gay Slurs and crude comments at them outside of a Scottsdale, Arizona Bar. ⁴⁴

⁴⁴ Laxson, Toni. "Couple claim hate crime," in East Valley Tribune, Saturday, April 17, 2004.

2004, June 18th – Mark Fontes, a young gay man in Tucson, was threatened by another young man With a Gun while Anti-Gay Slurs and Hate Based Remarks were directed toward Fontes in a Tucson residence. ⁴⁵

⁴⁵ Swedlund, Eric. "Man may be victim of second hate crime," in Arizona Daily Star, Saturday, June 19, 2004, B4

2004, July – Two incidents in the middle of July were reported in which someone spray-painted an Anti-Gay Slur at a GLBT Youth Center and a Nazi Swastika at a GLBT-Oriented Church ⁴⁶

⁴⁶ Swedlund, Eric. "Anti-gay graffiti stirs concern," in Arizona Daily Star, July 21, 2004, B1.

2004, August 25th – A 26-year-old man in Tucson was attacked while being called Anti-Gay Slurs by two acquaintances in the alley behind a Coffee House on the N/W side of Campbell and Grant ⁴⁷

⁴⁷ Tucson Court Records.

2004, October 29th – Army Private First Class Kyle Lawson of a rural area in Missouri was assaulted (his nose broken) by a fellow soldier because he was Gay while at an off-base party in Sierra Vista, Arizona after the civilian employee Lawson worked with 'Outed' him at work to other soldiers in his unit ⁴⁸

⁴⁸ The Associated Press, "Gay soldier leaves Army after assault," in Arizona Daily Star, January 6, 2006 [online]

2005, April 2nd – The Prescott Pride Center was vandalized on April 2nd 49, 15

49 Rybka, Ted. "Mile high hate: Prescott's gay community center the target of vandals," in Echo, May 19, 2005, pg. 18 – see evidence photos

2005, May 27th – Amancio Corrales, a 23-year-old gay man who performed as a female impersonator under the name Dalila was found murdered in the Colorado River near Yuma, Arizona. This suspected hate crime has not been solved.⁵⁰

⁵⁰ Arizona Court Records

2005, September – A Gay Man in Tucson was attacked and Stabbed In The Neck by two men. One he had met on-line and had known for a week prior to the attack. ⁵¹ Pima County and State of Arizona Court Records

2006, June – A Gay Man was lured out from IBT's Bar on 4th Avenue and sexually assaulted by three (3) men. (Letter To The Community by the survivor, Observer, June 14, 2006), Pima County Court Records

2011, February 14, Valentine's Day – 23 year old Gay Man George Soto, a former EON Youth Group Member was punched to the ground and then stabbed to death by three (3) young Crips Gang affiliated men (unemployed Gabriel Israel Soliz a.k.a. Gabriel Bustamonte a.k.a. Gabriel O'Bregon a.k.a. 18...subject #2, and subject #3 [subjects listed at Tucson LGBTQ Museum Exhibit 2010's], on Stone Avenue across the street from Amphitheater High School. Only Soliz was ever charged in the Murder and received a Life With The Possibility Of Parole After 25 Years sentence after openly pleading guilty to the murder under a Plea Agreement with Pima County Prosecutor's thus avoiding a trial and the possibility of a Sentence of Death. Pima County & State of Arizona Court & Law Enforcement Records, [Crime is listed at the Tucson LGBTQ Museum '2010's Exhibit]

Tucson LGBTQ Museum Anti-Gay Violence Timeline Copyrighted Exhibit