



Observing Tucson And  
The Greater Arizona Community

# OBSERVER

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WEEKLY OBSERVER

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## New Details Emerge About Gay Hero's Battle With 9/11 Terrorists

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The 9-11 Commission's report details new information about the final minutes of United Flight 93, the flight on which Gay businessman Mark Bingham and other passengers prevented the plane from being used by terrorists as a weapon on Washington, reported 365Gay.com.

Among other things the report answers the question was it the passengers or the terrorists who put the plane into that put the plane into a nose dive that sent it crashing into a Pennsylvania field that fateful day.

The plane had taken off from Newark, New Jersey. Loaded with more than 11,000 gallons of jet fuel it was a flying bomb in the hands of the hijackers. The 9-11 report says the intended target was White House or the U.S. Capitol.

The report shows that the passengers began their attempt to retake control of the plane at 9:57 a.m., nearly 30 minutes after the four terrorists aboard commandeered the Boeing 757.

At 6-foot-5 Bingham was formidable. The owner of his own public-relations firm Bingham played rugby for the San Francisco Fog, a Gay team where he earned a reputation for being an aggressive player. He had run with the bulls in Spain and business associates and friends call him a natural born leader.

As passengers charged the cockpit door terrorist Ziad Jarrah was at the controls. He began rolling the plane to the left and right, "attempting to knock the passengers off balance," the 9/11 commission report said. Jarrah told another hijacker in the cockpit to block the door.

By 9:59 a.m., Jarrah switched from rolling the plane and "pitched the nose of the airplane up and down to disrupt the assault."

"The [flight] recorder captured the sounds of loud thumps, crashes, shouts and breaking glass and plates. At 10:00:03 a.m., Jarrah stabilized the airplane," the report says.

"Five seconds later, Jarrah asked, 'Is that it? Shall we finish it off?' A hijacker responded, 'No. Not yet. When they all come, we finish it off.'"

Jarrah resumed pitching the plane up and down.

"In the cockpit. If we don't, we'll die," a passenger is heard saying.

"Sixteen seconds later, a passenger yelled, 'Roll it!' " the report says.

By 10:01 a.m., Jarrah stabilized the plane and said, "Allah is the greatest! Allah is the greatest!"

He then asks another hijacker in the cockpit, "Is that it? I mean, shall we put it down?" "Yes, put it in it, and pull it down," the other responded.

The passengers continued with their assault, trying to break through the cockpit door. At 10:02 a.m. and 23 seconds, a hijacker said, "Pull it down! Pull it down!"

"The hijackers remained at the controls but must have judged that the passengers were only seconds from overcoming them," the report concludes.

"The airplane headed down; the control wheel was turned hard to the right. The airplane rolled onto its back, and one of the hijackers began shouting, 'Allah is the greatest. Allah is the greatest.'"

"With the sounds of the passenger counter-attack continuing, the aircraft plowed into an empty field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, at 580 miles per hour, about 20 minutes' flying time from Washington, D.C.," the report concluded.

The report gives no indication that passengers ever broke through the cockpit door, but it makes clear that the passengers' actions thwarted the plans of the terrorists. The report does not identify any of the passenger's voices but their families were allowed several months ago to hear tapes of the plane's cockpit voice recorder.

Even then it was impossible to identify individual voices. But, Bingham's father, Jerry, of Wildwood, Florida is certain his son was one of the leaders in the counter attack.

"The report is a good thing," he told the Sun Sentinel. "But it's only good if they utilize it."

But, he said, he expected the report would lead to political infighting.

"Mark my words," he told the paper. "They'll start bickering over this whole thing. Two years from now, they'll still be asking, 'Who's in charge of all this?'"

And, he said that the country needs to maintain its resolve against terrorism.

"My son and the others on Flight 93 fought back," he said. "We need to continue that fight."

At a memorial service in 2002 U.S. Senator John McCain paid tribute to Mark Bingham

"I may very well owe my life to Mark," McCain said. "I love my country and take pride in serving her. But I cannot say that I love her more or as well as Mark Bingham did."

In June, Bingham's team, the Fog, won the highest prize in Gay international rugby at a tournament in London, a cup named in his honor.

## Groups Monitor Anti-G/L Church Voter Campaigns

OVERLAND PARK - A recent Sunday found Tina Kolm changing her morning routine. Instead of attending a Unitarian Universalist service, she was at the Lenexa Christian Center, paying close attention to a conservative minister's sermon about the importance of amending the U.S. Constitution to ban Gay marriage, the Associated Press reported on 365Gay.com.

Kolm is one of about 100 volunteers for the Mainstream Coalition, a group monitoring the political activities of local pastors and churches. The coalition, based in suburban Kansas City, says it wants to make sure clergy adhere to federal tax guidelines restricting political activity by nonprofit groups, and it's taking such efforts to a new level.

The 47-year-old Kolm, from Prairie Village, said keeping church and state separate is important to her. She doesn't want a few religious denominations defining marriage — or setting other social policy — for everyone.

"What it's all about to me is denying some people's rights," she said.

But some local clergy think the Mainstream Coalition is using scare tactics designed to unfairly keep them out of the political process.

"Somebody is trying to act like Big Brother when there's no need for Big Brother," said the Rev. James Conard, assistant pastor at the First Baptist Church of Shawnee. "It's obviously an intent to intimidate."

Kansas isn't the only place in this election year where church-state separation has become a hot issue, but the Mainstream Coalition's efforts are more intense than most.

Americans United for Separation of Church and State filed a complaint this month with the Internal Revenue Service against the Rev. Jerry Falwell over a column endorsing President Bush on his ministries' Web site. Falwell said the group was waging a "scare-the-churches campaign."

Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United, said local chapters have sent volunteers to church services the Sunday before an election, but he said the Mainstream Coalition's efforts are more sustained.

"To my knowledge, there's no other state organization doing what the Mainstream Coalition is doing," said Lynn, himself a United Church of Christ minister.

Some conservatives are upset.

"These people will stop at nothing to silence churches," said Andrea Lafferty, executive values of the Washington-based Traditional Values Coalition, which says it represents 43,000 churches.

The catalyst for the Mainstream Coalition's campaign in Kansas was the debate over Gay marriage.

In May, the Kansas House rejected a proposed amendment to the state constitution to ban Gay marriage. Dozens of pastors then joined a statewide effort to register 100,000 new voters and elect more sympathetic candidates — a move similar to one in Washington state, where an Assembly of God pastor is leading an effort to register 60,000 new voters and re-elect Bush.

Charles Haynes, a senior scholar with the nonpartisan First Amendment Center in Arlington, Va., said Mainstream's tactics only added to the tension in Kansas. "If we want to escalate a cultural war, this is a good way to do it," he said.

But Mainstream's executive director, Caroline McKnight, said her organization is only trying to make sure that churches follow federal law. The group has not yet filed any complaints, she said.

According to IRS guidelines, churches cannot endorse individual candidates, and their pastors cannot use the pulpit or church newsletters to do so.

Churches can compile voters guides — though such guides are supposed to be unbiased. Pastors can preach on issues and, as individuals, endorse candidates. McKnight said her group was reacting to pastors being public — "brazen," in her words — about political activity.

McKnight said the IRS does not have the resources to monitor churches' activities, something an agency official confirmed during a recent seminar on political activity by nonprofit groups.

Lynn said complaints to the IRS are uncommon, though his group has filed 50 during the past decade. He said 19 of those complaints involved improper endorsements of Democratic candidates.

McKnight said Mainstream Coalition volunteers visit houses of worship of all types. But conservative groups don't take such assurances at face value.

Said Jay Sekulow, chief counsel for the conservative American Center for Law and Justice, of Virginia Beach, Va.: "Who deputized this group and its members to be thought police in Kansas — or elsewhere?"

**Every Vote  
is critically  
needed in  
the  
upcoming  
November  
Elections**

# UPDATE

## Wingspan Dinner September 18

TUCSON - On Saturday, September 18, LGBT, people living with HIV/AIDS, as well as straight supportive individuals from the Old Pueblo, Southern Arizona, across the state and other points will gather at the Tucson Convention Center for the Wingspan Seventh Annual Benefit Dinner - an evening of celebration, socializing, and enlightenment.

Wingspan is honored to have Evan Wolfson as keynote speaker for the event. Evan is the Executive Director of Freedom to Marry, the gay and non-gay partnership working to win marriage equality nationwide. Before founding Freedom to Marry, he served as marriage project director for Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, and was co-counsel in the historic Hawaii marriage case, Baehr v. Muike, and the Vermont civil union case, Baker v. Vermont.

Three community awards will be presented during the dinner. The Godat Award, which honors a lifetime of service to the LGBT community, will go to Dr. Alan Storm, Assistant Superintendent for the Sunnyside School District. Among other contributions, Alan has improved the climate for LGBT students and faculty at Sunnyside immensely, and founded the local chapter of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN).

The Community Ally Award is Wingspan's "thank you" to allies outside the LGBT family, and will be presented to Dr. Kevin Carmichael, Unit Chief at El Rio Community Health Center's Special Immunology Associates, who has been raising the standard of care for HIV patients in Tucson for 14 years.

The Steve Hall Award, named in memory of the past Wingspan board president, honors a person who demonstrates outstanding contributions toward the mission, values and work of Wingspan. This year's Hall award goes to David Eyde, a devoted, longtime Wingspan volunteer and past board member who passed away in June.

There will be a Silent Auction during the reception from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Items up for bid include entertainment packages, restaurant certificates, jewelry, artwork and accessories for the home in a variety of price ranges.

After the Awards Ceremony there will be dancing with live music provided by the 16-piece Big Band Express.

Tickets for the evening are \$80 per person, or \$800 for a table of ten with recognition as a table host. Tickets will be available for purchase after invitations are mailed in late July, by calling (520) 624-1779. ASL interpretation will be provided for the Dinner and Awards Ceremony.

Philanthropic supporters may donate tickets (or tables) for youth, Wingspan volunteers, or others who would otherwise be unable to attend. For more information, call Wingspan at the above phone number.

## Vote With Unity Seeks Volunteers

TUCSON - Never before has it been more important for Arizona's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) citizens to become involved in the political process. It is crucial that the LGBT voice is heard on Election Day. We must establish and reaffirm ourselves as first-class citizens, and we must protect our right to equality, while striving to gain the recognition of the rights are guaranteed to all Americans.

The goal of Vote With Unity, a collaborative effort and program sponsored by LGBT organizations and businesses, is to register 500 people in Southern Arizona and 5000 people in the state. That means we need to register 50 people per week in Southern Arizona between now and October 4; this is the last day to register to vote to be eligible to cast a vote in the General Election.

Volunteers will be at churches, bars, coffeehouses and events at high-traffic times registering people to vote and for mail-in ballots. We will be asking LGBT owned and friendly businesses to help register clients, customers and employees. We will be asking LGBT and ally citizens to walk their neighborhoods and register their neighbors, register their families and friends and take voter registration forms to work and ask their coworkers to register to vote.

Volunteers are needed in all stages of the plan. Volunteers will be making phone calls, walking neighborhoods, attending events, helping with data-entry, picking up voter forms from establishments registering their customers, and many other things. Whatever your skill set or comfort level we will find a volunteer job for you! The only think you need to be is willing. We will train all volunteers on how to register voters and make sure you have the answers to frequently asked questions.

If you are interested in participating in Vote With Unity please contact Kristen Felan by phone at (520) 245-9009, or by email, [kfelan@ahrf.org](mailto:kfelan@ahrf.org).

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## PARKS ALERT!

TUCSON - Many of you are already aware that uniformed and undercover police have increased their presence in local Tucson parks, especially Greasewood Park and Kennedy Park.

They are making arrests for "lewd acts," "public sexual indecency" and "indecent exposure." Be aware that if you go to the parks it is illegal to engage in any sexual behavior and you may be arrested.

If you have been harassed by the police, unfairly arrested by the police, or subjected to unprofessional comments by police, the Anti-Violence Project (AVP) wants to hear from you. If this is occurring, the only way we can act on these unfair and unwarranted acts is to base our advocacy on reports that can go forward. Please contact AVP staff at (520) 624-1779 or on the 24 hour crisis line at (520) 624-0348.

## LETTERSLETTERSLETT ERSLETTERSLETTERS To The Community:

Once again, we have asked you to come through in support of one of our major organizations, T.I.H.A.N., and you have with flying colors.

This past Sunday Night (July 25) was the 5th Annual Tucson Sidewinders Benefit for TIHAN, and as always we broke more records.

We had the largest attendance and raised the most money of any of the previous five years.

Of course, as always, this is not achieved by just one person, it takes a collaborated event.

To our sponsors, The Tucson Sidewinders, who once again stepped up to donate not only a beautiful air-conditioned skybox, and a great victory on the field, we thank you.

Mr. Zucker and Mr. Moss of the Sidewinders made every effort to make sure that this fundraiser was a success. I truly recommend that anyone holding a function or benefit to hold the event at the Sidewinders. The food is fantastic, the atmosphere is terrific, the service is top notch and your enjoyment will be totally fulfilled, not to mention a great baseball game.

Meridian Mortgage, Steve Barreto and his processor who each donated tickets to allow some clients to attend the event, thank you. They not only got people to the game, but also offered discount services for mortgage services. If your in need of a mortgage, refinance, etc., please contact Steve. He has always been a huge supporter of our community and deserves some referral business as a thank you for always stepping up to the plate.

Dave and Frank, Woody's and IBT's, same thing, always hitting home runs to make sure our benefits are successful. We truly appreciate it.

The Observer and Ricky Norman for our great advertising, which helped build the enthusiasm of our clients to purchase the tickets, a job well done.

Gary, Ernie and Willie, you guys rock at selling those raffle tickets off, and to the winner of the 50/50 drawing, Pete Peterson, thank you for donating your winnings back to TIHAN!

Peter Sittig thanks for your assistance in the selling and promoting of the event. Not to mention the fantastic staff at TIHAN who also assisted as always.

And most of all, non of this would be possible without you the supporters who purchased tickets and game to the game. Let's spread the word and see if next year we can set another record.

Dave Locke  
TIHAN Board Member  
Sidewinders Event Chair.

♥ Want to do something positive with your leisure time?

♥ Interested in helping people while learning about HIV/AIDS issues?



If so, the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation wants you to consider becoming a volunteer!

Volunteer orientations are open to all those interested and are held once a month at our main office, located at 375 South Euclid Avenue.

Sign up today!

Contact Jess Pabón at 628-7223 or [jpabon@saaf.org](mailto:jpabon@saaf.org)



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# Bound By Love

TUCSON - The debate over marriage rights for Gay Americans has opened up hearts and divisions and loopholes all across the country, reported the Arizona Daily Star.

And the debate is not likely to go away, despite the defeat of the constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriages.

It has forced us to explore boundaries and prejudices. It has made us weigh our comfort levels with one of the last vestiges of separate-but-equal treatment. It has left us mulling definitions of successful unions and has made us ponder our inconsistencies: We love Carson, the fashion savant of "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy," but polls show a number of Americans apparently don't want to see his taste in wedding rings.

But the fact remains that hundreds of Tucson couples live committed lives in a society that doesn't recognize that commitment. Arizona, according to The Gay and Lesbian Atlas, ranks 10th in the nation for states with the highest concentrations of same-sex couple households. The 2000 census showed that same-sex couples are found in 99 percent of U.S. counties, and roughly a quarter are raising children.

For them, the issue comes down to one incontrovertible fact. Sanctioned or no, they're in love.

They aren't pregnant yet, but Julie and Susana Dorley plan to be in Massachusetts for the birth of their baby.

In Arizona, only Julie's name would go on the birth certificate. They just don't feel comfortable living in a place where Susana would have to go to court to claim her own child if anything ever happened to Julie.

That's the big reason Julie took Susana's name. There will be no questions at day care about whether the baby belongs with Susana. The two already had a commitment ceremony at Tucson Mountain Park last October, but were legally married in Massachusetts last month so that at least there - and at least for now - they're bestowed with the legal rights of a married couple.

Susana, a 39-year-old educator, has come full circle on the subject of marriage. When the two women first became friends, long before they were dating, civil unions were just coming into vogue. They talked generally about marriage, recounting the sad tale of straight friends who spent \$10,000 on a wedding and broke up before they ever paid it off. Susana was an avowed homosexual separatist, convinced marriage was for straight people.

Julie, a 34-year-old programmer, on the other hand, always liked the idea. In a previous, 11-year relationship, Julie said she always felt cheated. "There was nothing that said, this is the day. What do you celebrate? Your first date? Your first kiss? Should it be based on sex? There was no defining moment."

But visiting Julie for Thanksgiving in 2001, Susana changed her mind. "I just got this feeling that I'd never had before and I asked, 'Will you marry me?' It came out of my mouth before I knew what I'd said. It was pure, gut feeling."

Then came the hard part. Susana wanted a just-them ceremony on the beach - particularly since her mother, a traditional woman from Ecuador, disapproves of her daughter's orientation. But Julie always dreamed of being a bride, surrounded by family. So when she bought the full-sized chiffon dress, Susana wasn't thrilled. She doesn't like dresses and she didn't want to wear a tuxedo and have people whispering,

"Oh, she's the guy in the relationship." But once she found a three-piece woman's suit in ivory, the rest was cake, although Susana's mother didn't attend.

Susana wasn't prepared for how much the wedding changed her.

"It was the moment I realized, 'This is going to be forever. We'll work it and shape it and mold it for the rest of our lives.'"

Julie, for her part, said she hopes society will one day focus on commonality.

"I have a mortgage. I have a partner. I want children. And I want those children to have a good education," she said adding: "Believe me, we're boring. We don't have a chandelier to hang from and if we did, it would probably be too dusty to touch anyway."

The two might as well have come from different planets.

Mark Rosenbaum, a 47-year-old who works for the Superior Court, is the talkative, outgoing half of the partnership. He's been out since 10th grade.

Bruce Cameron, a 57-year-old curriculum specialist, is the more pensive of the two. A Mormon, he fathered eight children in a 29-year marriage. After a suicide attempt, he finalized his divorce six years ago. When he came out, he came out running, telling his family and colleagues.

"I hid who I was for too long already."

Cameron said his orientation cost him membership in his church. His relationship with his children is strained; he presumes it's partly because they don't know how to explain grandpa to his nine grandchildren.

"There's a belief that this is

something you choose to be - where had you been paying attention, you'd know that being Gay is no party. I struggled with it for quite a while trying to rid myself of it until I came to the conclusion that it's not something you choose."

Rosenbaum and Cameron have been together six years now. "It became apparent that first year that this was the type of person you wanted to make a commitment toward," said Rosenbaum. "Bruce showered me with attention and love in everything that he did. In every way, we shared a life."

They took up bowling together. They joined the Gay chorus together. They garden. They bought matching bear rings - a symbol of a Gay subculture of older, hirsute, slightly spreading men.

In 2001, they held a private ceremony outside the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco. A camera on a tripod captured the moment they exchanged rings. "It was an expression of love and unity," Cameron said. "As far as I'm concerned, on that day, we got hitched."

Rosenbaum remains perplexed about the opposition to their union.

"I grew up in the '60s when you heard that all homosexual men think about is sex, and that's why it was so easy to make us an object of disdain. But here we are, asking to express that we are driven to love another human being and we're told we can't. I find that a horrible irony."

They tick off the objections to their union. It's just for men and women? Standards change, just as racial and religious intermarriage used to be banned. Marriage is for having children? That rules out couples who can't or choose not to have children.

Rosenbaum said straight people

Continued on Page Sixteen

## TUCSON'S HOTTEST GAY NIGHTCLUB



# this week:

**SUNDAY AUGUST 1st**

## IBT's 13th Anniversary Party "the Blue Ball"

**11AM** Troy's Blue Room Recovery Bar with bloody mary buffet

**4:30PM** Blue Karaoke on the Patio with Michael D.

**5:30PM** Benefit Bar-B-Que/Beer Bust for TIHAN

**8:30PM** BlueBoy Contest Sign Up & contest \$100 1st Place

**9PM** Hot dance with DJ Tim B. from Phoenix

**SATURDAY JULY 31st @ 8:30PM**  
THE "Bunny Fu Fu Revue"  
8th Episode of "Drag Survivor"  
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**WEDNESDAY AUGUST 4th @ 9PM**  
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**FRIDAY**

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7:30 - 8:30 pm

DJ Pat plays your favorite  
Country Dance Music  
8:30 - close

**WEDNESDAY**

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Draught Beer Specials all day

Beginning Couples Dance Lessons  
with Amanda from 7:30 - 8:30 pm

DJ Jake plays country  
from 8:30 pm - close

**SUNDAY**

10:30 am - 1:30 pm

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Breakfast with  
All the Fixin's

\$2 Smirnoff Sunday

Country DJ  
8:30 - close

**SATURDAY**

Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm

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8:30 pm - close

## Marriage Protection Act Passes Republican House

WASHINGTON - One week after the Senate lacked the votes to pass a proposed constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage, the House of Representatives voted 233 to 194 on July 22 to pass a bill that would bar federal courts — including the U.S. Supreme Court — from deciding whether the Defense of Marriage Act is constitutional, reported 365Gay.com.

Wisconsin Congressman James Sensenbrenner, the Republican chair of the House Judiciary Committee, said the bill was needed to ensure that federal courts don't force states to recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states.

"Integral to the American constitutional system is each branch of government's responsibility to use its powers to prevent overreaching by the other branch," Sensenbrenner said.

Civil rights attorneys say the bill, H.R. 3313, the Marriage Protection Act (MPA) appeared unconstitutional and would set a dangerous precedent by altering the balance between the legislative and judicial branches of government.

"The legislation seeks to forever slam shut the federal courthouse doors to Gay and Lesbian couples challenging an anti-Gay federal marriage law," the American Civil Liberties Union said in a statement.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) said, "This bill will impact the very foundation of our government — it impedes the uniformity of federal law, it sets a dangerous precedent, and it does grave damage to the separation of powers."

In the vote, 206 Republicans and 27 Democrats voted for the bill while 176 Democrats, 17 Republicans and one independent voted against it.

"On the positive side, 194 members of Congress rejected this mean-spirited, divisive, disgusting and clearly unlawful bill," said Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force.

Gay rights attorney Paul Smith, who successfully argued the Lawrence vs. Texas Supreme Court case, which overturned state sodomy laws, said the scope of the proposed law was unprecedented because it targets Gay citizens as a single minority group.

"If you deny the Supreme Court the power to decide minority rights, you dramatically alter the balance of power between the court, which exists to protect constitutional rights, and the Congress, which addresses political issues," Smith said.

## Adoption Ban Upheld Again Thanks To Bush Appointee

ATLANTA - For the fourth time, Florida's Gay adoption ban — the most restrictive in the United States — has survived a challenge in court, reported the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

Florida's adoption law was unconstitutional, and in strong language condemned the law.

The sharply divided U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit in Atlanta ruled 6-6 in declining to rehear the case by the full court. A three-judge panel from the 11th Circuit upheld Florida's Gay adoption ban in January.

One of the three judges who wrote the original opinion in favor of Florida's adoption ban seemed to soften his stance in this round. He wrote that "on a purely personal note" he considered Florida's adoption law misguided. But he added he wouldn't let his personal feelings interfere with his judicial duty. He did write that he admired the "courage, tenacity and devotion" of the couples involved in the case.

"Neither child molesters, drug addicts nor domestic abusers are categorically barred by the statute from serving as adoptive parents," Barkett wrote. "In a very real sense, Florida's adoption statute treats homosexuals less favorably than even those individuals with characteristics that may pose a threat to the well-being of children."

Florida is the only state that completely bans Gay people from adopting. Mississippi law forbids Gay couples from adopting; it does not prohibit individuals who are Gay from adopting.

The ACLU said it is considering its options on the case. It could appeal the case to the U.S. Supreme Court

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) had brought the case on behalf of four Gay men who had lived in Florida at the time of the case (one man has since moved to Oregon). The ACLU argued that Florida's adoption law violated these men's constitutional rights to equal protection. The men were allowed to serve as foster parents and guardians for the children involved in the case, but they were never allowed to adopt them. Yet they are the only parents the children in this case have known.

"The law was enacted merely out of impermissible hostility to Gays and Lesbians, and that kind of law violates the Constitution," Howard Simon, the executive director of the ACLU of Florida, said in a press release.

Attorneys for the state of Florida argued that the current law encourages married couples to adopt kids. However, Florida law does not prohibit single heterosexual parents from adopting. According to the ACLU, 30 percent of Florida adoptions are by single parents, and Florida has 3,400 children waiting to be adopted.

Writing a 50-page dissent on the case, Judge Rosemary Barkett wrote that

## Puertas Abiertas Meets Aug. 4

TUCSON - 'Puertas Abiertas', Wingspan's LGBT Latino/a social group will be meeting from 6:00 to 8:00p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 4. Guest speaker will be Jennifer Allen from the human rights group Border Action Network (BAN). The group will be discussing potential coalition work with BAN and the upcoming move to a new night and space.

Join your Latino/a brothers and sisters in a space where the doors are always open. The group currently meets every other Wednesday at 1200 E. Ajo Way, Suite 109. It is located on the Southwest corner of Ajo Way and Benson Highway.

For more information contact Daphne at Wingspan, 624-1779 ext 17 or e-mail daphne@wingspan.org.



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# POLITICS 2004

by Mark R. Kerr

## 'In Their Own Words'

Two-hundred fifty five openly Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) citizens from 37 states and Puerto Rico are attending the Democratic National Convention in Boston - the most ever for the caucus, which will officially nominated Massachusetts Senator John Kerry as its presidential nominee, and North Carolina Senator John Edwards as its vice-presidential nominee.

On July 25, U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-MA, welcomed the gathering and reminded them of "how far we've come." At the 1984 convention, he recalled, he was a Gay delegate but not particularly open about it.

"We didn't pick this fight ... to have same-sex marriage transcend all other issues" in the presidential election, said Frank. But if Kerry wins in November, he said, Gay-bashing as a political strategy will have backfired.

A platform for the party has been adopted, which supports "full inclusion" and seeks "equal" benefits for Gay and Lesbian families. The platform also opposes the Federal Marriage Amendment and says the marriage issue should be left to each state.

Progress has been made, the causes have been advanced, perhaps not as far as preferred but this is politics, not reality and work must be done to achieve the goals. There is only one choice in this upcoming presidential election, and that is Senator John Kerry should be the next President of the United States because GLBT citizens, as well as all citizens cannot afford four more years of Dubya.

If those in the GLBT community are doubtful, thinking a protest, write in vote or worse, not voting is the option, consider the following from members of this year's GLBT Democratic caucus and those attending the convention:

Bonnie Winokar, a 60-year-old retired teacher from Maynard, Mass., is one of the oldest members of the GLBT delegation. She and her partner of 17 years, Mary McCarthy, 65, were a high-profile couple during this year's legislative battles over same-sex marriage in the Massachusetts statehouse, attending every session of the constitutional convention at which a state constitutional amendment to ban Gays from marrying was debated. And they plan to legally wed on Saturday, July 31, just after the convention wraps up. She is not angered by Kerry's anti-Gay marriage stance: "We must take baby steps on an issue like this, or we will lose everything." Winokar pointed to the fact that Kerry voted against the anti-Gay federal Defense of Marriage Act in 1996 as proof that he supports Gay men and Lesbians. "He's a hell of a lot better than Bush," she said.

John Hoadley and Allison Waithe, both 20, say they don't hold Kerry's opposition to equal marriage rights against him, although they say it's an extremely important issue for college-age voters. That age group is the most likely to support full equality for Gay men and Lesbians. "We see activists throwing up their hands and saying, 'We can't support this ticket because they don't support marriage,'" said Hoadley, a South Dakota native who is a junior at Michigan State University. "But that's exactly what the Republicans want them to do. Plus, we know that we can work to change the Democrats' minds in the future, especially compared to George W. Bush, who is attacking our families. Is either party there yet? No. Can the Democrats get there? Yes."

Barbra Casbar, a 61-year-old Transgendered delegate from Edison, N.J.,

whose wife of 35 years passed away in 2001, feels the same way. While Casbar acknowledges that Kerry could be bolder on the issue of equal marriage rights, she understands his need to be a little more conservative than she would like. "Society moves very slowly," said Casbar.

Openly Gay Chicago Alderman Tom Tunney put it: "It's a unified message to replace President Bush. ... The worst result is another four years of Bush."

"The election is so close. Kerry has to appeal to the independent voters. This is not an issue that is necessarily going to appeal to them," said Troy Liggett, a delegate from Indiana. Liggett said that he is not at all disappointed in Kerry, in part because "anyone would be better than George Bush on Gay issues. I'm so angry at George Bush. ... He didn't need to be at the forefront of stopping progress."

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) Executive Director Matt Foreman agreed. "I think every GLBT person in America has to understand that George Bush's re-election would be a catastrophe for our community," he said. "It would set us back for generations to come, and not just around freedom to marry, but HIV prevention, school-safety issues and basic non-discrimination protection.

"No candidate is perfect," Foreman said. "John Kerry is really good on 11 out of 12 [GLBT] issues. The fact that he supports the state anti-marriage amendment in Massachusetts is disappointing. No politician is perfect. This one is pretty damned close to it."

Indeed, name one politician who was perfect on the issues and who could win? Voters have spoken and there is John Kerry, who has a good record and Dubya, whom California Senator Barbara Boxer summed up in a speech.

"George Bush has decided that this year, you are the scapegoats," Boxer said to the GLBT caucus meeting, Monday July 26. "This hurtful politics is not going away," Boxer continued.

## 'Gay Course' Banned

SPOKANE - An outcry from conservative Christian parents has forced the Spokane School Board to shelve a plan to teach students about homophobia, reported 365Gay.com.

A 25-minute videotape, "Being Gay: Coming Out in the 21st Century," and a four-page booklet to go with it called "Dealing with Homophobia" were recommended for use in ninth-grade health classes.

The program, aimed at curbing Gay bashing and verbal abuse of LGBT students had been recommended by a committee of teachers and administrators, a 14-person citizens advisory committee and a group of principals.

A dozen people addressed the board, saying they were offended by the course, with some parents calling the material "homosexual propaganda."

"I cannot approve something that condemns one point of view to promote another," board member Terrie Beaudreau said.

Board member Barb Richardson supported the materials, characterizing them as "another tool to help teachers present a balanced perspective."

Had the materials been approved, parents would have the right to preview

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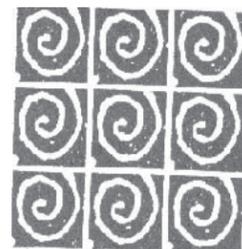


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them and excuse their child from class when they were used.

Following the vote to reject the educational material, Superintendent Brian Benzel urged administrators to continue searching for educational materials to address sexual-orientation issues.



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# Gay Bishop Attracting New Members To Episcopal Church

CONCORD - Unable to accept their bishop's homosexuality, some Episcopalians have left their church, 365Gay.com reported.

107 dioceses and more than 30 congregations have joined the Network of Anglican Communion Dioceses and Parishes, a traditionalist group opposed to Robinson's consecration.

To others, Gene Robinson's consecration last year served as a powerful magnet.

Members of the Church of the Redeemer in Rochester cut ties to the diocese and now hold services in the basement of a nearby Baptist church.

"It was a very strong symbol to us of the inclusiveness of the Episcopal Church, and that is important to us," said Martha McCabe.

A small group continues to meet every Sunday at the Church of the Redeemer and several faces are new.

McCabe of Bow said she left the Catholic church over the priest sex abuse scandal. She and her husband, who was raised a Methodist, had started looking at other denominations for a church their family could attend.

April Pirsig of Dover has been attending services for a month, ever since the majority left. Raised a Lutheran, Pirsig had attended Unitarian churches for years, but decided to start attending the Episcopal Church to show support for Robinson. Last week, she filled out a card to become a member.

Robinson's consecration drew them in as it did Maria Easton of Hillsboro.

Pirsig says the furor over Robinson is a growing pain similar to the outrage over women becoming ministers.

Easton had stopped coming to the church, but returned after Robinson became bishop. Her sister is Gay, which made the decision personal.

"It makes me angry that people would leave the church over something like this," Pirsig said. "As far as I'm concerned, it's the kind of attitude that goes back to the Civil War, when blacks weren't considered real people, or women weren't allowed to do certain things."

"For me, it was really a reminder of one of the things I like so much about the church: its inclusiveness," she said. "I always loved the fact that women could be leaders in the Episcopal Church."

Years ago, her mother was forced to give up her position as a Lutheran pastor when it was discovered she was Gay, reported the Associated Press.

Church officials say don't have a count, but they don't think a large number have joined because of Robinson.

"It's a mix," said the Rev. David Jones, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Concord. "Some are old members who have just started attending again. Others have never been to the Episcopal Church, or to church at all."

"To me, it doesn't make any sense," said Pirsig. "God loves all his children. I've never seen it written, 'Unless they're Bisexual or Gay.'"

Robinson's election and consecration last year as the Episcopal bishop of New Hampshire caused a stir inside and outside the Anglican community. Religious leaders and church goers in several denominations denounced the move and said it would cause the church to split.

McCabe said she definitely likes what she's seen of Robinson. As far as she's concerned, he is a quintessential spiritual leader: wise and thoughtful, kind and well-spoken.

So far, about nine of the country's

"I think people's obsession with his homosexuality is so out of proportion it borders on ridiculous," she said.

## COMMENTARY . . .

### Muzzling The Courts?

Following the Senate's burial of a proposed constitutional amendment to ban Gay marriage, foes of same-sex marriage are back with another radical proposal. This time they are pushing a bill that would prevent federal courts from hearing challenges to a federal law that limits Gay marriage. The bill, scheduled for a vote tomorrow, is an attack on the basic function of the courts in American society. Making this attack all the more ominous is House Majority Leader Tom DeLay's stated intention to promote similar bills to bar court challenges to the Pledge of Allegiance and, potentially, on other social issues. This is as wrong as wrong can be. The House should not strip courts of their authority in order to protect bad policy — or even good policy — from constitutional scrutiny.

At its broadest level, the debate over Gay rights — and marriage rights particularly — is a debate over whether discrimination according to sexual orientation is a civil rights issue. Gay marriage is, at one level, a policy question, but it also presents legal issues: Must marriage rights, under state or federal laws, apply equally to partners of the same gender? The federal Defense of Marriage Act says that no state can be forced to recognize Gay marriages performed in another state. An inevitable question after Massachusetts legalized same-sex marriage is whether this federal law can withstand constitutional scrutiny. The new bill would prevent the courts from answering that question — effectively shutting them out of the debate over Gay marriage and permitting Congress to act as it pleases, whatever the Constitution may say.

Continued on Page Eleven

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There is magic in the air when the Sun moves into dramatic Leo now. Abracadabra. We are suffused with a radiant glow that gives us the appearance of confidence and strength even as we quake in our boots. Let's put on a show! What's my motivation?

**ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)**  
How much rip roaring fun can Gay Rams possibly have? I don't know but you are sure to test your party hearty limits when the Sun deposits in Leo. There will be ample opportunity to let loose and relax with a range of pleasurable pastimes. Romance may be in the air for those with a keen sense of smell. Don't be too full of your own aroma to catch the whiff of a certain wallflower.

**TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)**  
Rather than fight the fates on this one, use the next weeks or so to enjoy the confines of your home rather than trot afar. Sun in Leo not only infuses you with the will and the way to improve your surroundings, it also makes you a happy homemaker and entertainer extraordinaire. Queer Bulls might consider planning a family reunion to show off who they are and what they can do.

**GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)**  
Pink Twins are fairly boisterous when the Sun lollygags in Leo. Shout it out loud, proud and queer, compadre. Your opinions must be unleashed and disseminated. No one will have the heart to ask you to pipe down and you may even find that there is a troop of happy campers willing to follow your every lead. As long as you have the crowd, crowd into your favorite bar.

**CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)**  
Reap your just rewards with the Sun in Leo. Proud Crabs are usually careful with their dough. It is nice to note that scrimping and saving pays off. Let a few pennies shake loose and enjoy your gotten gains. Yet there will always be a hint of need even with your financial flush. There is nothing so comforting as to feel that big bulge in your wallet. Hmm or is it in your pocket?

**LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)**  
Who is that celestial presence who outshines all us mere mortals? Okay, it's just proud Leo hogging the spotlight as the Sun heats up their sign. So what else is new? Use the next weeks to launch new projects, get new ideas rolling and meet scads of new people. There is nothing that you cannot do. You are infused with spit and fire and you start spreading it around. Yuk.

**VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)**  
There are things that go bump in the night. There are spooky ghouls that rise up and surprise you. But queer Virgins are fearless, feckless and fancy free, at least while the Sun shines in courageous Leo. Toss off your "straight" jacket. Fight all dragons and set your course for a new proud you. If that path happens to take you on a cruise through the islands, that's not bad either.

**LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)**  
Sun in Leo gathers the masses and makes all your moves a group effort. How did you get so popular, Gay Libra? Don't waste this powerful energy on just playing around. You have a way of capturing the social dynamic and having it dance to your own tune. Choose your marching music and get ready to implement your grand plan - happy hour, on the hour, every hour.

**SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)**  
Professional opportunities seem to fall into your lap when the Sun settles into Leo. Proud Scorps are encouraged to make a grab for power. You feel invincible and unstoppable. Try to do it unobtrusively and covertly as is your wont rather than rely on the obviously pushy Leo surge. To your own self be true and be your truest in a corner office surrounded by your closest cadre.

**SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)**  
If you feel closed in and suffocating, welcome the liberating energy of Sun in Leo. Gay Archers feel the urge to break free and explore the universe. Plan a grand getaway or, if money is tight, cruise some new neighborhoods or websites. The most important thing is to get out of your own skin and into someone ... er... something brand new. How tight a fit do you need, pal?

**CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)**  
Kootchi coo Gay Cap; you are too cute for words. Sun in Leo infuses you with confidence and makes you especially sexy and alluring. You manage to catch the eye of every desirable suitor. Gosh, what a change of pace! Dive into the scene and make a splash. Ah, if you could only bottle it and save it for the next drought. But you now find yourself chronically parched.

**AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)**  
Do you feel the need for connection when the Sun enters Leo? Aqueerians suddenly do not want to be alone and yearn to be part of a pair. Those currently in a relationship find ways of making the bonds even tighter. Those who are currently unattached manage to cast their vote for a few electable candidates. Who will win your loyalty? Explore and probe their positions.

**PISCES (FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)**  
Work and exercise are highlighted for the next four weeks. Guppies get into the swim as the Sun floats in Leo. There is nothing that you cannot accomplish now if you set your mind to it. Do not waste precious time. Tackle all unresolved issues, handle all long standing projects and transfer the pile of "to dos" from your in box to your Out box. Sounds good to me!

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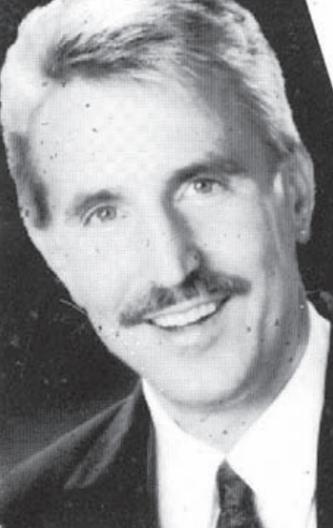
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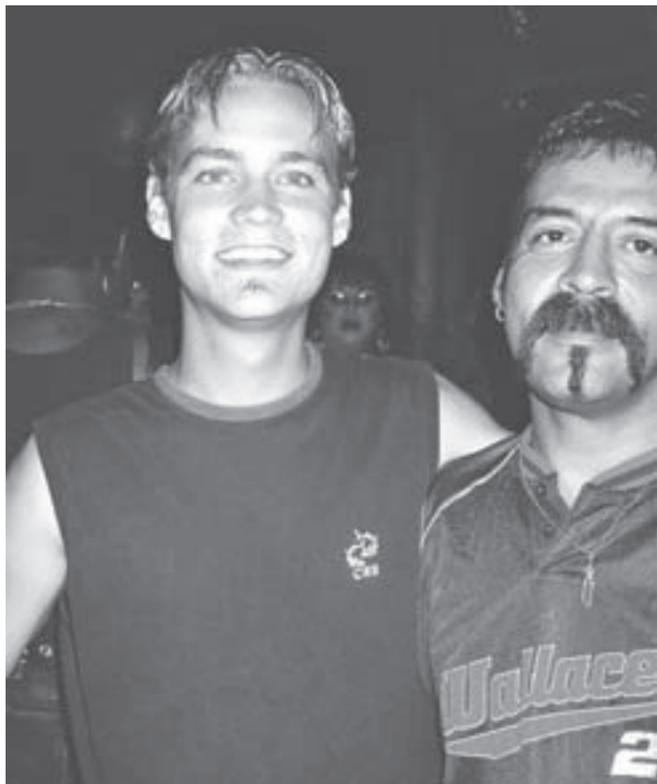
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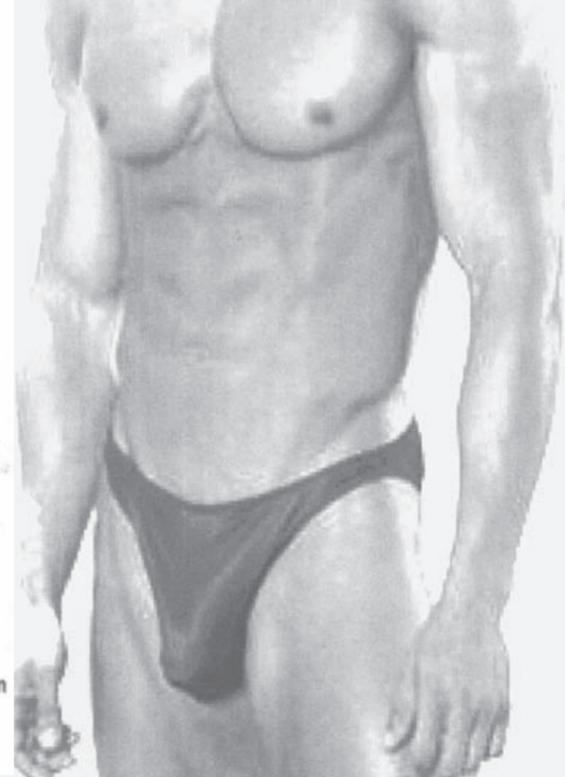
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## Stamp Honors James Baldwin

LOS ANGELES - The US Postal Service has unveiled a new stamp honoring Gay African American writer James Baldwin, considered one of the greatest writers of the 20th Century, reported 365Gay.com.

The 37-cent commemorative is part of the Post Office's Literary Arts Series and went on sale Friday, July 23.

Baldwin was born in 1924 in Harlem. His experiences as an African American and as a Gay American are inextricable interwoven.

In his writings Baldwin trenchantly demonstrates the necessity of recognizing our sins: not just racism and homophobia, but our refusal to really know other humans, to accept differences, and to love. The point is not guilt, but taking up responsibility.

It is impossible to underestimate the importance of Giovanni's Room. Baldwin's 1956 novel about Gay love has come to symbolize the confining space occupied by Gays in the past.

Beautifully written, it is perhaps the finest example of Gay prose ever created.

Convinced of his own ugliness, small and shy, Baldwin was nurtured by his mother, and by some of his school teachers, who provided an avenue of escape through reading - particularly one Orilla "Bill" Miller. Of Miller Baldwin said that it was "certainly because of her, who arrived in my terrifying life so soon, that I never really managed to hate white people."

Not hating whites was of paramount importance to Baldwin who believed it was one of the most devastating effects of racism - a persistent Baldwin theme.

He said it was not the external oppression and consequent hardships which racism imposed, but its inward effects, not just the crushing of the victim's spirit, but the hate and rage that arises in response, which can itself tear a person apart.

In his first book of essays, Notes of a Native Son, Baldwin describes his own experience with this "dread, chronic disease" of the victim: "There is not a Negro alive who does not have this rage in his blood-one has the choice, merely, of living with it consciously or surrendering to it."

With \$40 in his pocket Baldwin fled America for Paris.

His first novel, Go Tell It on the Mountain, appeared in 1953 to excellent reviews and immediately was recognized as establishing a profound and permanent new voice in American letters. "Mountain is the book I had to write if I was ever going to write anything else," he remarked. Baldwin's play The Amen Corner was first performed at Howard University in 1955 (it was staged commercially in the 1960s), and his acclaimed collection of essays Notes of a Native Son, was published the same year. A second collection of essays, Nobody Knows My Name, was published in 1961 between his novels Giovanni's Room (1956) and Another Country (1961).

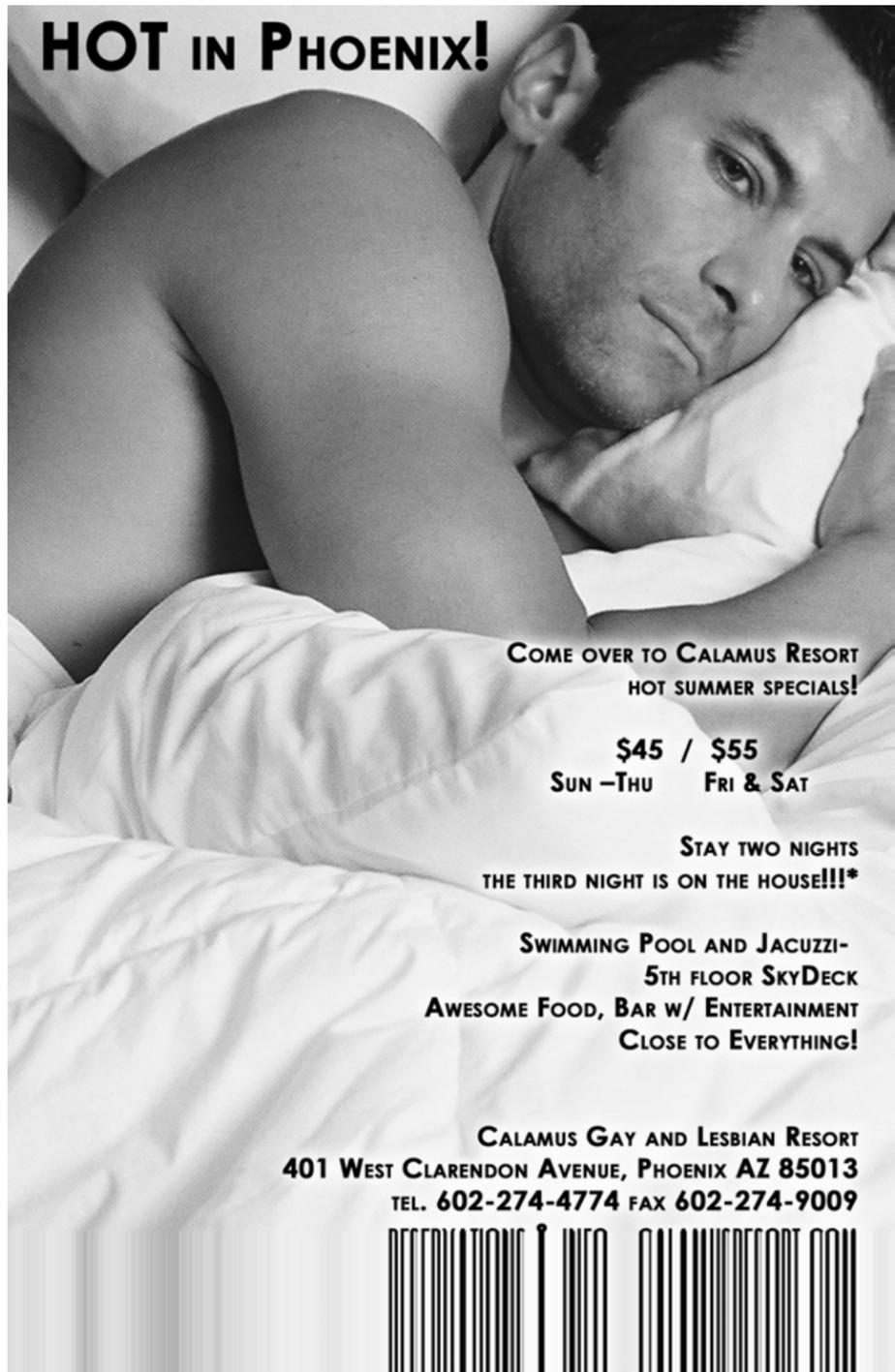
The appearance of The Fire Next Time in 1963, just as the civil rights movement was exploding across the American South, galvanized the nation and continues to reverberate as perhaps the most prophetic and defining statement ever written of the continuing costs of Americans' refusal to face their own history. It became a national bestseller, and Baldwin was featured on the cover of Time magazine. Critic Irving Howe said

that The Fire Next Time achieved "heights of passionate exhortation unmatched in modern American writing." In 1964 Blues for Mister Charlie, his play based on the murder of a young black man in Mississippi, was produced by the Actors Studio in New York. That same year, Baldwin was made a member of the National Institute of Arts and Letters and collaborated with the photographer Richard Avedon on Nothing Personal, a series of portraits of America intended as a eulogy for the slain Medger Evers. A collection of short stories, Going to Meet the Man, was published in 1965, and in 1968, Tell Me How Long the Train's Been Gone, his last novel of the 1960s appeared.

In the 1970s he wrote two more collections of essays and cultural criticism: No Name in the Street (1972) and The Devil Finds Work (1976). He produced two novels: the best-selling If Beale Street Could Talk (1974) and Just Above My Head (1979) and also a children's book Little Man, Little Man: A Story of Childhood (1976). He collaborated with Margaret Mead on A Rap on Race (1971) and with the poet-activist Nikki Giovanni on A Dialogue (1973). He also adapted Alex Haley's The Autobiography of Malcolm X into One Day When I Was Lost.

In the remaining years of his life, Baldwin produced a volume of poetry, Jimmy's Blues (1983), and a final collection of essays, The Price of the Ticket. Baldwin's last work, The Evidence of Things Not Seen (1985), was prompted by a series of child murders in Atlanta. Baldwin was made a Commander of the French Legion of Honor in June 1986. Among the other awards he received are a Eugene F. Saxon Memorial Trust Award, a Rosenwald fellowship, a Guggenheim fellowship, a Partisan Review fellowship, and a Ford Foundation grant.

James Baldwin died at his home in Saint-Paul-de-Vence in France on Decem-



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# Pulse Update

By Jerry D.

Pulse took over the Flash Gallery downtown again Saturday for its latest party "Olympiad". Lights resembling a rave lit up the gallery as participants danced to the high energy music provided by DJ Juan Porras.

The gallery served as party headquarters, but was also there for services provided by Pulse such as program outreach and recruitment, education on drug abuse and information for resources for treatment in Tucson. HIV testing was done either on site, or by appointment throughout the evening. Party favors included safe sex packets and information pamphlets discussing the truth about club drugs. Participants had several members of Pulse as well as SAAF and Wingspan available for answers to questions regarding club drugs and safe partying.

The Flash Gallery will serve as the location for the next forum held by Pulse. The forum will be held on Thursday, August 5 at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free for all Pulse events and there will be refreshments as usual. The subject of this latest forum is Sex, E & Club Drugs. The Pulse gang hopes to answer questions and shed light on the growing numbers in Pima County regarding Ecstasy and its use in the community and it's impact on HIV, STD's & STI's transmission.

Pulse is a cool, innovative prevention program for Gay men who attend the club and after hours' scene and would like to have the opportunity to be leaders in their community by learning and educating their fellow overnights about E & Club Drug abuse.

The first stage of the program is holding after hour parties in which we will approach the individuals invited to the party who have previously been identified as potential leaders of the Gay community. Pulse will engage them further into the program for training and education on E & Club Drugs, harm reduction, HIV prevention and safer sex. Our first POL training will be taking place on Saturday July 31st at the Arizona Inn.

Pulse advocates a safe party environment, but by no means are we an ally of drug use. Pulse is aware of the current substance use & abuse problem in Pima County and conducts research and collaborates with various local and county agencies to aid in our cause. The overall goal rests with the training and advocacy of leaders in the community who will go out and spread the word regarding club drug use & abuse and other issues that affect our community. Pulse aims to initiate the development of new behavioral trends thus creating a healthier, well-informed and empowered community.

Pulse wishes to thank Gary Rhine, Jack Rice, Melissa Friesenborg, Scott Davey, Sotero Cruz, Glen Stockenberg, Waylon Reinhard, Jessica Stapp and Julisa Arrieta, for helping with the latest party. All of the work involved in putting on such a large event is only possible with their help. Thanks go again to Chrissie and John of Flash Gallery for the use of their space. Pulse hopes you attend the forum and any upcoming events held by Pulse. Information can be obtained on our website: [www.pulsetucson.org](http://www.pulsetucson.org), or by contacting Jerry Diaz, (520) 624-1779 via phone or [jerry@wingspan.org](mailto:jerry@wingspan.org) via email.

## GLBT Channel Reveals Program Details

LOS ANGELES - Cher and her Lesbian daughter, Chastity Bono, are two of the celebrities with television projects in development for Logo, the forthcoming GLBT-targeted cable channel from MTV Networks, reported the [Gay.com/PlanetOut.com](http://Gay.com/PlanetOut.com) network.

Details of the new channel's programming were announced Frida, July 23, in Los Angeles, on the last day of the semi-annual Television Critics Association press tour.

Brian Graden, president of MTV/VH1 Entertainment, and Matt Farber, executive consultant for MTV Networks who is spearheading the channel's launch, revealed that Logo has acquired more than 150 movies and documentaries, and 20 projects are currently in development.

One of the projects is a show that focuses on the coming-out stories of famous people, with Cher and Chastity Bono as executive producers. The working title is "Family Outing."

Openly Gay comedian Scott Thompson, formerly of "Kids in the Hall," is working on a reality series that focuses on same-sex couples who are planning their weddings. Other celebrities attached to developing Logo shows are Alan Cumming, Margaret Cho and Kathy Griffin.

The basic cable channel is scheduled to launch on Feb. 17, 2005.

First-person documentaries, talk shows and a newsmagazine show are among the original programs in development. Logo is also partnering with the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) to televise the annual GLAAD Media Awards, starting next spring.

The film titles acquired by Logo include "Philadelphia," "The Birdcage," "Priscilla, Queen of the Desert" and "Go Fish."

"The programming we're developing will speak in an authentic voice to this audience," said Farber. "We're building this brand to reflect their diversity and tastes through an array of genres, all informed by a Gay point of view."

While Logo, backed by entertainment giant Viacom, has received much attention, other television projects are racing to attract GLBT viewers. In fact, two potential competitors made announcements.

Trio, a digital cable and satellite channel from NBC Universal, said that it will add a weekly Gay programming block to its schedule. Q Television, a new premium channel, announced a distribution deal with RCN Corp. to make the channel available to RCN subscribers in six major cities in September.

In addition, here!TV, a growing pay-per-view service, plans to launch a 24-hour cable channel in the fall and is developing original GLBT-themed programming

## Commentary

Continued from Page Six

Just how far Congress can go in preventing judicial consideration of its actions is a thorny constitutional question. But even if Congress were to have it within its power to enact this law, it should refrain. Considering the constitutional validity of congressional enactments is a central function of the federal judiciary. Congress should not be in the business of obstructing that. Congress has considered stripping the courts of jurisdiction over abortion and other polarizing issues, but it has stopped short of testing its own power to block judicial review of constitutional questions. In their zeal to stop Gay weddings, legislators shouldn't drive off the cliff this time either.

[The above was an editorial from the July 21, 2004 edition of the Washington Post.]

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- 2. IBT'S: 616 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. 882-3053
- 3. VENTURE-N: 1239 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. 882-8224
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**NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE**

by Lee Thorn

**Molly and Me**

I saw columnist Molly Ivins on C-Span the other day saying that she blames her fellow journalists for just about everything that goes wrong in the world. It was nice to know I wasn't the only person consistently and indiscriminately blaming the media.

Still and all, how can anyone possibly not be disappointed with our financial journalists? They didn't notice the dot com bubble until it burst.. Said it wasn't a bubble at all - it was "the new economy."

They didn't notice the epidemic of corporate corruption until the wave of collapses that started with Enron's and ended with the financial destruction of millions of American families. Of course the corruption hasn't ended, just the security of those families.

And the financial journalists are still a bit confused about why anyone with a high-skill job would be upset about its being sent overseas. After all, we still need hamburger flippers. They can't send those jobs to India.

How can you not be a little annoyed with financial writers when they're still using the phrase "CEO compensation?" Before the dot com meltdown, the money press justified outrageous "CEO compensation" packages by creating the mythology of the super businessman who possessed indefinable skills and knowledge that permitted him to expand company earnings at unprecedented rates. Comes the blowup and the myth of the super businessman goes the way of The Wizard of Oz.

But "CEO compensation" just

keeps going up. What are they being "compensated" for? Is it the sadness they must surely feel at the sudden awareness that they're now marching down the street to bankruptcy court in their birthday suits?

According to a recent "Harper's" article by John Ralston Saul, in the last 30 years CEO salaries have gone from 39 times the pay of an average worker to more than 1,000 times that average pay. Is it reasonable for us to expect this little spike to have inspired a few questions in the minds of our money reporters?

First question, what are today's CEO's giving up that's so much more valuable than what the older CEO's gave up and had to be "compensated" for? Are the new guys being forced to eat their lunches at their desks or what?

Second, what would it require for an honest member of the financial press to stop using the phrase "CEO compensation" and start using the word "rape?" Would the CEO's have to get 2,000 times what the average workers get? Would 3,000 times do it? Is there any limit at all at which the polite language would give to the brutal reality?

But it gets worse. Some financial journalists are now arguing that CEO's can't be blamed for raping their companies because the boards of those companies have approved their "compensation packages." That's about as ridiculous, ethically speaking, as an uncle caught raping his niece and saying, "You can't blame me; the girl's parent said it was okay with them." Simple justice in both cases would consist of hanging all the parties from the same tree.

People like me who believe in a free market that's generally self-correcting do not favor government regulation unless and until it's been well established by actual experience that a given malady of the marketplace is completely out of hand and that said marketplace is powerless to solve the problem. This is exactly the situation that any objective observer can see we've come to with regard to the CEO's ongoing rape of corporate America. "Compensation" my foot!

I would love to see just one financial journalist with the gumption to suggest, only suggest, that we may have come to the point at which the marketplace is so obviously incapable of stopping CEO rape that - fasten your seatbelts - it's time for the government to regulate CEO pay.

After a few deep breaths, it will be seen that there is no downside to this modest proposal. The corporations will save a ton of money. Plenty of qualified people will be more than willing to be CEO's for no more than a couple million a year. Come to think of it, there really are no qualifications for being a CEO. You don't need a college degree, a license, an apprenticeship or even any experience. If we can believe the former CEO or Enron, you don't even have to know what the company you're CEO of is doing.

It's always been basically a matter of who you know, etc.

[Thorn welcomes comments, suggestions for future columns, and tips on local skulduggery that ought to be exposed. Write to Box 85571, Tucson, AZ 85754.]



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## NON-BAR CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. The Circle of Men is a support group that helps you deal with yourself and your relationships with others. For directions and reservations, please call Tom at 591-2828.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Richard for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Richard at 881-7919.

FRIDAY JULY 30

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Karol hosts Trivia Night. If you don't know how to play, we'll teach you; it's an easy game to pick up. For more information, please call Karol at 744-9017.

SATURDAY, JULY 31

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Karol hosts Pinochle Night. If you don't know how to play, but would like to learn, this is the place. For more information, please call Karol at 744-9017.

Tucson Prime Timers, Food & Drinks - 5:00 p.m., Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd.

MONDAY, AUGUST 2

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4

PUERTAS ABIERTAS: Puertas Abiertas, Wingspan's LGBT Latino/a social group will be meeting from 6 - 8 p.m. on Wednesday, August 4th. Guest will be Jennifer Allen from the human rights group Border Action Network. We'll be discussing potential coalition work with BAN and our upcoming move to a new night and space! Join your Latino/a LGBT brothers and sisters in a space where the doors are always open. We currently meet at 1200 East Ajo Way, suite 109; located on the SW corner of Ajo Way and Benson Hwy. For more information contact Daphne at Wingspan, 624-1779 ext.17 or e-mail daphne@wingspan.org

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7

Tucson Prime Timers Food & Drinks- 5:00 p.m., Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd.

MONDAY, AUGUST 9

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11

Tucson Prime Timers Luncheon - 12:30 p.m., Hidden Valley Inn, 4825 N. Sabino Canyon Rd.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14

Tucson Prime Timers Food & Drinks- 5:00 p.m., Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd.

MONDAY, AUGUST 16

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21

#1 Tucson Prime Timers Lunch/Business Meeting - Noon, Home Town Buffet, 5101 N. Oracle Rd.

#2 Tucson Prime Timers Food & Drinks - 5:00 p.m., Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd.

MONDAY, AUGUST 23

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25

Desert Coyote Bowling League meeting at 7:00 p.m. at Santa Cruz Lanes, 3665 S. 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue (16<sup>th</sup> and Ajo). 622-2186. For more information call Santa Cruz Lanes or call Dan at 404-3591.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28

Tucson Prime Timers Food & Drinks - 5:00 p.m., Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd.

MONDAY, AUGUST 30

Tucson Prime Timers Lunch - 12:30 p.m., The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Avenue.

## BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28

IBT'S - 9:00 p.m., the "Diva-Licious" Show hosted by Lucinda Holliday, starring Janee Starr, Stella Virgn and Samantha White.

FRIDAY, JULY 30

IBT'S - Live Jazz on the Patio with the Susan Artemis Quartet. 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 31

IBT'S - 8:30 p.m. THE "Bunny FuFu Revue - 8<sup>th</sup> episode of Drag Survivor.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4

IBT'S - The DivaLicious Show hosted by Veronica Halliwell and starring Venecia, Angelique Houston and Crystal Abrams.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - The official Miss Latina Arizona National Capitol Cities 2004 Regional Preliminary Pageant . 7:00 p.m. sharp. For more information call Crystal Abrams, (520)409-0134 or in Phoenix call (602)486-6182.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27

VENTURE-N - Get ready for the annual Jungle Party!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1

IBT'S -13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party "The Blue Ball" 11:00 a.m. Troy's Blue Room Recovery Bar and Bloody Mary Buffet. 4:30 p.m. Karaoke on the patio with Michael D. 5:30 p.m. Benefit Bar-B-Que/Beer Bust to benefit TIHAN. At 8:30 p.m. Blue Boy Contest sign-up and contest. \$100 First Place. 9:00 p.m. Hot Dance with Tim B. from Phoenix. Door Give-aways 8:00 p.m. til close.

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## DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

HOWL AT THE MOON -Open at 10:30 am.

Chuckwagon Breakfast 10:30 am - 1:30 pm, includes Bloody Mary or Mimosa. \$2 Smirnoff Sunday. DJ Jake playing country favorites 8:30 pm to close.

IBT's -Open Noon \$1.75 Bloodys, Screws or Mimosas.. Sangria Party \$2.50 from 4-1 Benefit B-B-Q and Beer Bust for community organizations 5:30-8pm. Karaoke with Michael D. on the patio 4:30-7:30. 8:30 shows or special events or Hi energy dancing w/DJ 'T.C. Wildman'. 9-close. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 4pm. Free Pool all day. Pool Tournament 5pm. Surf & Turf w/baked potato & salad 5:30-8:30

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio open 3pm. \$1.75 Bloody Marys or Screws til 3pm Patio Beer Bust 3-7. Burger BBQ 5-7. Selection of burger meats to choose from. \$2 proceeds go to Pet Watch (helping HIV/AIDS clients with their veterinary bills).

WOODY'S - Open 11am. Sunday Brunch 11:30 - 2:30. Eggs and meat du jour plus BMs, Mims or Screws \$5. \$1.50 Bloody Marys, screwdrivers, Mimosas; Happy Hour 11am-8pm \$2 well or domestic beer Patio Bar open 5-close. Pick-up Beach Volleyball games 5-?. \$2.50 sirloin burger w/salad 5-9pm. Karaoke with Michael D. 9pm

YARD DOG - Open Sundays 10am - 1am. Bloody Marys or Screwdrivers \$1.75 from 10am - 3pm.

MONDAY

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. Monday Munchies 3 - 8 pm with reduced prices on appetizers. Pool Tournament 6:30 pm - \$3 entry fee, bar matches pot. Draught Beer Specials for players.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-7pm, All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 1pm. Happy Hour 4-7. Free Pool all day. Transgender Nite with Tranny Sabrina. White Russians \$3. Finger Foods til midnight.

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 6pm. Free pool til 4pm. \$2.75 Skyy Martinis 4-8. Free Hot Dogs.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic beer til 7pm. Karaoke w/Michael D. 9-1

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Scotch until 7pm. Beer Bust 3-7pm.

TUESDAY

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy

Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. Tequila Tuesday: \$2.00 well margaritas, 50¢ off call tequilas. Karaoke with Calabaza Cabeza Karaoke 8 - 11:30 pm

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-7pm, Bare Chest Nite- Bare it and get happy hour prices from 9 to close. Progressive/Retro '80s dance with DJ Q. 9 to close

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 1pm. Happy Hour 4-7. In house Karaoke/Open Mic 9pm w/Tranny Sabrina. Finger foods til midnight. Come and see Leonard.

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic til 7pm. Bartender Calls It drink specials..

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Tequila until 7pm Beer Bust 3-7pm.

WEDNESDAY

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. Free Pool all day. Draught Beer Specials all day. Beginning couples dance lessons with Amanda 7:30 - 8:30 pm. Country DJ Jake plays 8:30 - close

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hours Noon-7pm, 9pm "Diva-Licious" show w/Lucinda Holliday and guests. HiNRG Dancing with DJ-Q. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 1pm. Happy Hour 4-7 Karaoke w/Kimberly 8pm Finger Foods Til 12am. Come and see Julie

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Draft Special 12-4pm. \$2.75 Cuervo Margaritas 4-8pm

WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic beer til 7pm. Free Hot Dog Buffet 5-11pm. Underwear-fetish- leather nite w/Gary and Chris along with GMHP. \$1 off any drink or bottled beer.(Excludes draft & schnapps) for all in leather or underwear.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Vodka until 7pm Beer Bust 3-7pm.

THURSDAY

HOWL AT THE MOON -Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. \$2.00 Mexican Beers all day. Karaoke with David Z from 8 to midnight.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hours Noon-7pm, DJ 9-1 All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 1pm. Happy Hour 4-7.

Come and see our sweet bartenders Dennis & Leonard. Finger foods till 12am.

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio open 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Pool Tourney 7pm. \$3 entry (Pot Matched) Special prices for players. Steak Nite (4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month). Bring your own or get it here \$5.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic beer til 7pm. Free Pool 8 to close. Volleyball Court is Open. See bartender.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Bourbon til 7pm. Beer Bust 3-7pm.

FRIDAY

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. Line Dance Lessons 7:30 to 8:30 pm. DJ Pat plays your favorite country dance songs 8:30 to close

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hours Noon-7pm, Live Jazz on the patio with the Susan 6-9pm. Patio Bar 5-1pm. GoGo Boys and Dance Party with DJ 'T.C. Wildman' 9 to 1. All drink specials not available during

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open Noon. Happy Hour 4-7. Fish Fry & Shrimp Fry Noon to 8:30pm. Drag Show every Friday with Crystal Abrams and Bunny FuFu 8:45 pm No Cover. Now serving fresh Oysters oly \$4 3-5pm.

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio open 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. DJ 9pm to close.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic beer til 7pm. Martini Party - Well Martini's \$2.00 4-8pm. Call Martinis \$3 from 4-8pm. Complimentary Shrimp Cocktail 4-8pm. Patio Bar Open 7pm - midnight.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Gin until 7pm. Beer Bust 3-7pm. Kennel open 9pm.

SATURDAY

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 10:30 am. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. \$3.00 Burger & Fries all day. Country DJ with the best in country dance music 8:30 to close

IBT's - 10am-5pm \$4 Martinis and Daquaris. Happy Hours Noon-7pm. Dance Party 9-1 w/DJ-Q. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 1pm. Steak with Fries and Salad \$5.99 5-8 p.m. Latino Nite every 'first' and 'second' Saturday of the month, w/DJ Eduardo. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday is Super Disco Mix with DJ Bing Bing

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio Bar open 3pm. Patio Beer Bust 3-7pm. DJ 9-1.

WOODY'S - Open 11am \$2 well or domestic beer. Til 7pm. Patio Bar opens 5pm. 5-9pm Steak or Mahi Mahi BBQ with all the trimmings \$5.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. Beer Bust 3-7pm. 75¢ glass, \$2.25 pitcher. 50¢ off any Rum 1pm to 7pm. Beer Bust 3-7pm. Kennel Open 9pm.



will say they know Gays and "they're lovely people." They'll say Gay people have the prettiest yards in the neighborhood. They'll say they love "Will & Grace."

"Well," he said, "it's difficult to feel good about people who admire my yard, but aren't willing to honor my commitment to the person I love."

Angie Tilghman and Cherie Frainé say they're tired of being seen as walking sex organs.

Sometimes, when they're out together, they can almost feel the whispers and see the oh-my-gosh-those-women-sleep-together looks.

"We're people just like anyone else," said Frainé, 56. "We have our own personalities and our own spiritual aspects. There are all sorts of things that define who we are - and they want to boil it down to who we sleep with."

Both reform Jews, God is a big part of their lives. When they were just friends, and the 45-year-old Tilghman would slyly ask what kind of woman Frainé was looking for, she would respond, "Whatever God puts in front of me" - a statement that was as infuriating as it was reassuring.

They sing in their temple choir and bake hamantashen cookies in the spring and volunteer at the temple bazaar to bake cranberry and challah bread. They finish each other's sentences. The two have a sweat lodge in their back yard where people of all colors and sexual orientation come to meditate. They pray for themselves, their families,

the Earth and the unborn.

The women met when Tilghman came to Arizona from California in 1998 with some friends and camped out in Frainé's front yard. She heard Frainé's laugh and knew she wanted to be with her.

They were married Nov. 5, 2000, in a traditional Jewish ceremony at Temple Emanu-El. Frainé, who used to work in a flower shop, made the cake topper and Tilghman's bouquet and her own boutonniere. "I had an excuse to go crazy, so I did."

"We felt we wanted it to be more than just dating and caring for each other. We just wanted something more on a spiritual level," Tilghman said. Whether society recognizes them or not, they consider themselves married. They signed the ketubah, which is a Jewish contract that spells out marital duties.

"We answer to a higher authority," Frainé said.

The two think heterosexual opponents are being hypocritical when they speak of the sanctity of marriage.

"Look at the mess heterosexuals have made of marriage," Frainé said. "Half of all marriages end in divorce and we're jeopardizing that?"

She was raised by a heterosexual couple in an upbringing that came with abuse and neglect. Two failed heterosexual marriages left her missing teeth and the hearing in her left ear. Tilghman chimes in, "No one should have the right to deny a person their civil rights. To say that we'll mess up marriage, well, excuse me, but they've done it themselves."

Frainé said traditionally, her Native American culture respected Gay people

and called them "two spirit people" for carrying both male and female aspects within them. Tilghman, who is black, didn't have it as easy. The message she heard growing up in urban Philadelphia, she said, was that she was expected to get married and have children.

Still, they haven't been subjected to much overt prejudice. When Tilghman had a pulmonary embolism and almost died in the hospital, the hospital staff gave Frainé full visiting privileges.

"If God was so hateful and so furious at us," Tilghman said, "he would have let me die right then."

Mother's Day gets a bit out of control for fourth-grader Brennan Cain-Nuccio.

The 9-year-old starts making cards and gifts days in advance for her biological mother, Shannon Cain, Cain's partner of seven years Karin Uhlich, and her dad's wife.

Brennan, a self-assured brunette, a few months ago founded COLAGE, Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere. The meetings usually include pizza and games like Twister. "The main idea is to make children feel like they're in a safe place to express their feelings," she said.

She hasn't had any trouble with teasing at the Montessori school she attends. But she's read enough to wonder if her future will hold more difficult times. "It seems a lot of kids get tossed around and made fun of because they have Lesbian or Gay parents and I don't see why."

Brennan has been raised in an untraditional household. For one thing, her parents and their partners share holidays and Sunday night dinners. Cain and Uhlich also live in co-housing, for a total of five adults and three children in the house.

And Brennan learned concepts that other children her age didn't have to think about. She learned the word "Lesbian" at 4. By the time she went to kindergarten, her parents

explained that some people don't think it's OK for two women to be together.

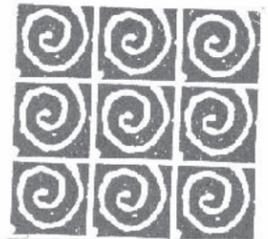
"Sometimes, when parents of children are stigmatized, the children soak that into their little hearts, so it's important to us that we live our lives with pride and integrity and honesty," said Uhlich, 40, who runs the nonprofit Southwest Center for Economic Integrity. So the two don't shrink from a kiss at the airport.

"We took each step seriously because of Brennan. We understood that each step of the way, we were creating a family," Uhlich said.

That family isn't always recognized. A reporter once interviewed Cain, a 40-year-old author, about a nonprofit she and Uhlich supported with a \$10,000 donation. When the story came out, the reporter just split the donation down the middle and said Cain donated \$5,000. There was no mention of Uhlich. "That wouldn't have happened to a married couple," Uhlich said. It's not just the reporter: while their finances are entirely intermingled, tell that to their banks, credit card companies and the Internal Revenue Services.

"I really can't get my head around what's so threatening about love," Cain said.

Uhlich said she doesn't need the sanction of society, but she does feel misunderstood. "While I think that the protesters are well-intentioned on some level, what they're really doing is robbing individuals of committed love and relationships."



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